



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &  
PLANNING

# LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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## Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

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**Prepared for:**  
Monaghan County Council



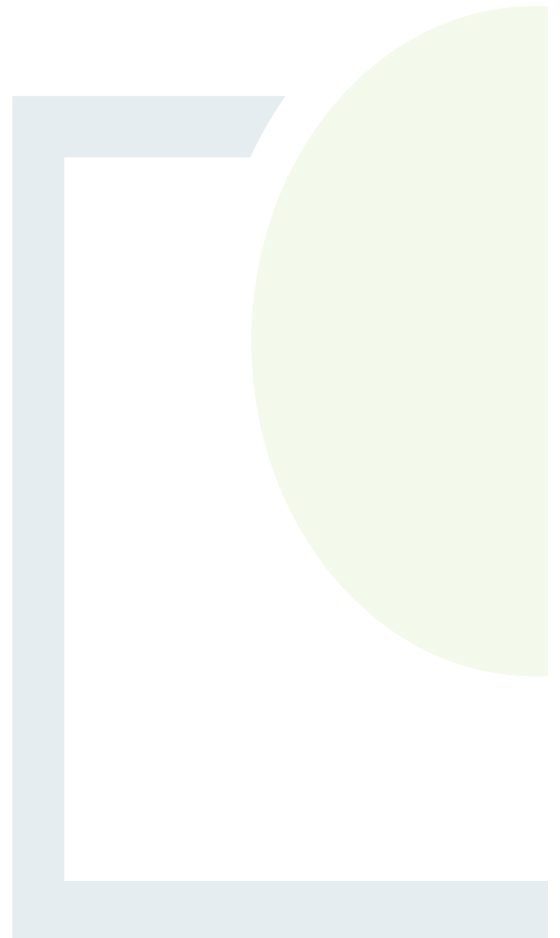
**Date:** March 2024

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773, Ireland

T: +353 21 496 4133 | E: [info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)

CORK | DUBLIN | CARLOW

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)



## Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

### REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
1	Final	RD/AMW/NSC	RD	BG	01/03/2024

**Client:** Monaghan County Council

**Keywords:** Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, SEA Statement, SEA Scoping, SEA Environmental Report, Local Authority Climate Action Plan.

**Abstract:** Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement for the Monaghan Local Authority Climate Action Plan to Monaghan for publication alongside the Plan. This Statement provided information on the decision in accordance with Article 16 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Legislative Context .....	1
2.	HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE INTEGRATED INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2029 .....	3
2.1	SEA Scoping .....	3
2.2	Environmental Assessment and Mitigation .....	6
2.2.1	Mitigation through consideration of alternatives .....	6
2.2.2	Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP .....	6
2.2.3	Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP .....	12
2.3	Appropriate Assessment .....	12
2.4	Consultation on SEA Environmental Report.....	13
2.5	SEA and Plan Modifications.....	35
3.	CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES .....	37
3.1	Introduction.....	37
3.2	Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives.....	37
3.3	Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives.....	38
3.4	Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives and Reasons for Choosing the Preferred Plan .....	40
4.	SEA CONCLUSION .....	41
5.	SEA MONITORING .....	42

## LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).....	38

## LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Table 2-1: Summary Detail on Scoping Consultation Submissions Received from Environmental Authorities.....	4
Table 2-2: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Additional text included in Plan actions relating to environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities.....	7
Table 2-3: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Environmental Governance Principles included in the plan .....	12
Table 2-4: Responses to Consultation Submissions .....	14
Table 2-5: Plan Action Modifications .....	35
Table 3-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the LACAP.....	39
Table 5-1: SEA Monitoring Programme.....	43



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Monaghan County Council (MCC) have adopted the Monaghan Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024 - 2029. This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the LACAP. This SEA Statement provides information on the following:

1. How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the LACAP.
2. How the SEA Environmental Report and consultation submissions and observations on it have been taken into account during the preparation of the LACAP
3. The reasons for choosing the LACAP as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.
4. The measures decided concerning monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the LACAP.

The EPA in their Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring (2023) succinctly summarize the role SEA Statement have under the SEA process, as follows: *'SEA Statements have the potential to play a central role in summarising the effectiveness of the SEA process. They can capture how environmental considerations have shaped the plan/programme (e.g., through policy wordings, revisited zonings and other measures) and how the process has contributed to making the plan or programme more sustainable'*.

### 1.2 Legislative Context

SEA is required under the EU Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive)<sup>1</sup>. The SEA Directive requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'*<sup>2</sup>

SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *'formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme'*.

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<sup>1</sup> Transposing Irish Regulations: S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



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Article 16 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended) requires that a competent authority provide information on the decision to approve a Plan that has been subject to SEA. Article 16(2)(b) requires that a statement is produced summarized, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme subject to SEA.



## 2. HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE INTEGRATED INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2029

### 2.1 SEA Scoping

The first stage of the SEA process was to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of the LACAP. It was determined the LACAP was a statutory Plan and had the potential to give rise to likely significant environmental effects and therefore SEA is required for the Plan.

The second stage of the SEA process was carrying out SEA Scoping. The purpose of SEA Scoping is to establish the spatial and temporal scope of the SEA and a decision-making framework that can be used to evaluate impacts of the LACAP. A SEA Scoping Report was produced to document the scoping process. The SEA Scoping Report outlined information on the emerging LACAP, including the need for the LACAP, its temporal and geographical area and overall objectives. It facilitated scoping the Environmental Components and understanding the environmental issues to be considered under the SEA process.

A copy of this report was made available to the statutory Environmental Authorities. Environmental Authorities made scoping submissions on the SEA Scoping Report. The SEA Scoping Report was finalized in light of these submissions. The SEA Scoping Report, along with SEA scoping consultation submissions and consideration of these submissions by the SEA process, helped communicate and define the scope of the environmental issues which are to be dealt with by the SEA, the methods which will be used to address these issues, and the level of detail required to address these issues, as per the SEA Guidelines<sup>3</sup>. Summary detail on the scoping consultation submissions received from Environmental Authorities and how these were taken into account during the SEA process is presented in Table 2-1.

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<sup>3</sup> Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004), Page 18: "It is recommended that at the end of the scoping procedure, the plan-making authority should prepare a brief scoping report of its conclusions as to what information is to be included in the environmental report, taking account of any recommendations from the environmental authorities."



**Table 2-1: Summary Detail on Scoping Consultation Submissions Received from Environmental Authorities**

Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	An overview on how climate resilience could be promoted in agriculture setting was provided (e.g., maintaining a fodder reserve, measures to promote biodiversity and carbon sequestration, measures to improve soil structure and function). An overview on invasive species risk associated with climate change and the need for appropriate need to promote resilience was provided	The content of this submission served to inform the focus of the environmental assessment of agriculture related action defined in the LACAP. It informed the nature and focus of mitigation measures defined for related climate mitigation and adaptation action defined in the LACAP. A number of Environmental Governance principles defined in the LACAP specifically reflect the recommendations contained in this submission.
EPA	<p>An overview of the nature of climate change challenges was provided. The EPA acknowledged the nature, focus and goals of the emerging LACAP was made. It was advised the SEA should seek to maximize climate action co-benefits for air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e. win-win solutions).</p> <p>Other measures advised on which were relevant to the SEA included: the need to consider the Plan influence on Greenhouse Gas (GHG emissions) the need to manage climate change influenced invasive species spread, the need to have regard to the receiving water quality and air quality environment during the plan-making process.</p> <p>In relation to the SEA specifically, commentary was provided on the approach to mitigation, and on how the plan should consider impacts on air and water quality, water resource, soils/geology, landscape and material assets.</p> <p>The EPA recommended integrating the environmental mitigation defined under the SEA into the Plan, and advised on other interrelated plans and programmes to consider during plan-making and SEA processes.</p>	<p>The recommendation to ensure climate action defined in the Plan created co-benefits underpinned the SEA process and the defined mitigation measures. Where relevant, mitigation measures ultimately defined serve to holistically maximize environmental benefits. The promotion of climate action co-benefits is embedded into the Environmental Governance Principle framework defined for the Plan.</p> <p>Appropriate regard was had to the need to consider the climate change influenced invasive species spread. This was considered when shaping defined climate action and also within the Environmental Governance principle framework defined under the Plan.</p> <p>The receiving water and air quality environmental were appropriately considered and evaluated during the SEA process, in light of the EPA's commentary on baseline water quality and air quality data and information.</p> <p>The nature, focus and level of mitigation measures defined in the SEA Environmental Report were informed by the EPA's commentary. All mitigation measures defined were integrated into the Plan itself. The wording of climate action defined in the Plan was shaped having regard to relevant environmental considerations. A set of Environmental Governance Principles were included in the Plan.</p>





Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
<p>Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications</p>	<p>Background information on the Geological Survey of Ireland was provided initially in this submission. An overview of county-level geoheritage and groundwater assets and databases was provided. Information was provided on geological, geotechnical, geothermal, natural resources, geochemistry and geophysical data sources. Specific advice on geological/hydrogeological considerations that needed to be taken into account during the making of the Plan was provided, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general.</li> <li>2. Geohazards should be considered during the Plan-making and development processes.</li> <li>3. Sustainable development of our natural resources should be an integral part of all development plans from a national to regional to local level to ensure that the materials required for our society are available when required.</li> </ol>	<p>Appropriate regard was had to these baseline geological and hydrogeological data sources and considerations during the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report for the LACAP.</p>



## 2.2 Environmental Assessment and Mitigation

Taking into account the scope detailed in the SEA Scoping Report which was produced for the initial draft version on the LACAP, the environmental effects associated with the implementation of the LACAP were identified, evaluated and described in a SEA Environmental Report.

This report defined mitigation measures to prevent adverse environmental effects due to the implementation of the LACAP. The following forms of mitigation have been adopted to ameliorate the negative environments of the LACAP and maximize potential positive effects of the plan:

- Mitigation through consideration of alternatives.
- Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP.
- Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP.

### 2.2.1 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives

A number of alternatives were considered at an early stage in the process. The environmental effects of these alternatives were evaluated during the SEA process. Detail on how Plan alternatives and their environmental effects were considered during plan-making is provided in Section 3.

### 2.2.2 Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP

The plan making process was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan making team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan making process. As necessary, environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the LACAP were developed and then integrated into the LACAP. Much of the environmental mitigation was embedded in the plan early on in the process as a result of this. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximizing identified positive environmental effects of the LACAP.

Mitigation measures were suggested that maximize the co-benefits of climate action for other environmental components such local air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e., win-win solutions).

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to a variety of defined actions in the plan. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during plan implementation. This text has also been shaped to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects. These text additions are presented in Table 2-2.

Several environmental governance principles were established to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects. These environmental governance principles shall underpin and guide plan implementation and shall apply to and be integrated into all actions/activities which result due to the implementation of the plan. These principles are defined in Table 2-3. The principles were incorporated into the plan itself.



These environmental mitigation measures were integrated into the LACAP and will prevent negative effects and maximize positive effects associated with the LACAP.

**Table 2-2: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Additional text included in Plan actions relating to environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities**

LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
BE 1	Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings to help deliver carbon reduction targets, maximising the use of renewable energy sources where possible.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
BE 2	Continue retrofitting council owned social housing to improve BER ratings.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
BE 3	Ensure all new council buildings where possible are built to at least NZEB standards.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to ensure renewable energy development supported by this action will not have any significant negative environmental effect.
BE 7	Promote adaptive reuse of historic structures in the county e.g., retrofitting projects and using carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
BE 8	Increase housing stock units and reduce vacancy and dereliction by administering the vacant property refurbishment grant. (Croi Conaithe)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
BE 11	Migrate IT workload from council premises to council IT cloud.	Attach the following text to the action: Steps will be taken to ensure the cloud provider chosen has sustainability- and carbon-goals that align with the overall objective of this plan.
BE 14	Complete a Town Centre First Plan for all major towns within the county and implement recommendations.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
T 2	Develop & implement a fleet decarbonisation roadmap as per guidelines within <i>Local Authority Fleet – Strategy to Decarbonisation</i> .	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles.
T 3	Expand pilot study on alternative “low carbon” pavement material for use on road network. Low Energy Bound Materials (LEBM) using Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) Pilot Project.	Reword to the following: Expand pilot study on alternative “low carbon” pavement material for use on road network; with a focus on implementation of the resulting recommendations. Low Energy Bound Materials (LEBM) using Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) Pilot Project.
T4	Participate in Rehabilitation of roads over peat working group to determine most environmentally appropriate intervention techniques.	Attach the following text to the action: while ensuring rehabilitation projects have due regard to peat, water levels, flood risk, biodiversity and European sites.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
T 5	Develop an EV charging strategy and implementation plan to support the roll out of EV charging.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
T 6	Provide shared council EV for staff to use for work related travel.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
T 7	Implement County Walking & Cycling Strategy (2021-2026)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage.
T 8	Deliver active travel and greenway projects to achieve transport modal shift by encouraging cycling, walking, and running as an alternative to travel by car.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality.
T 10	Deliver Safe Route to School Programme to encourage students and staff, to engage in active travel.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc.
T 11	Protect and maintain active travel infrastructure in accordance with National Sustainable Mobility Policy.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage
T 12	Continue Internal and external engagement to promote modal shift to active travel.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage.
T 13	Examine feasibility of a Park and Stride system at different locations in towns across the county.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring such a study has appropriate regard to all relevant planning and environmental protection considerations.
T 15	Continue to complete National Catchment -based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme within Monaghan to ensure all current and future flood risks are identified.	Attach the following text to the action: with a focus on implementation of the resulting recommendations; having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.
T 16	Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of transport funding. (Climate Adaptation & Resilience works, OPW Minor works scheme.)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
T 17	Maintain transport network to take account of risk of surface water floods.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to protect the environment, including European site and Biodiversity during the carrying out of maintenance works.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
T 18	Develop and implement a Sustainable Drainage Strategy for the county.	Attach the following text to the action: <b>having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.</b>
T 19	Advocate for and support the reconnection of rail services to the county in accordance with The All-Island Strategic Rail Review. (AISRR)	Attach the following text to the action: <b>whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage.</b>
NEGI 1	Develop a Green Infrastructure Plan at county and major urban area level, incorporating ecology, climate change mitigation and adaptation, to increase climate resilience, deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity.	Reword to the following: Develop a Green Infrastructure Plan at county and major urban area level, incorporating ecology, climate change mitigation and adaptation, <b>and environmental protection considerations</b> , to increase climate resilience, deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity.
NEGI 2	Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan to increase tree cover on Council-owned land, using appropriate species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. Aim to increase areas of public land under forestry through schemes such as “Forest Creation on Public Lands”.	Reword to the following: Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan to increase tree cover on Council-owned land, using appropriate <b>native</b> species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. Aim to increase areas of public land under forestry through schemes such as “Forest Creation on Public Lands”.
NEGI 4	Develop and implement a pesticide reduction policy for Monaghan County Council, using Monaghan Municipal Districts pilot programme of significantly reduced use of glyphosate and trials of scuffing machine, to meet or exceed Irelands target of 50% reduction by 2030.	Attach the following text to the action: <b>whilst ensuring these substances are only used to a degree and an extent that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.</b>
NEGI 5	Expand the sustainable management of ‘taken in-charge’ areas and the public realm, parks & green spaces by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing areas managed as meadow/wildflowers.</li> <li>Planting pollinator friendly trees and shrubs in accordance with the national pollinator plan.</li> <li>Supporting community groups to carryout related projects.</li> <li>Decarbonise machinery used to manage areas within the public realm, parks and green spaces when feasible and practical to do so. Subject to cost expand the use of low impact fuel where appropriate.</li> </ul>	Reword to the following: Expand the sustainable management of ‘taken in-charge’ areas and the public realm, parks & green spaces by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing areas managed as meadow/wildflowers.</li> <li>Planting pollinator friendly <b>native</b> trees and shrubs in accordance with the national pollinator plan.</li> <li>Supporting community groups to carryout related projects.</li> <li>Decarbonise machinery used to manage areas within the public realm, parks and green spaces when feasible and practical to do so. Subject to cost expand the use of low impact fuel where appropriate.</li> </ul>



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
NEGI 9	Develop and implement a Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage in the County.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive, and conserve protected structures.
CRT 8	Support the development and ongoing work of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs).	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported development does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
CRT 10	Use the Green Efficiency Grant to empower businesses to implement green technology solutions.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported renewable energy development does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
SRM 3	Support the development of biomethane potential within the county to generate sustainable energy and reduce the impact of organic manures on the environment.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure anaerobic digestion related development and activities promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
SRM 6	Expand composting facilities to all Council depots to deal with green waste arising from Council operations.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring such facilities continue to operate in accordance with best practice and the provisions of the Waste Management Act, and do not cause negative environmental effects.
SRM 7	Install rainwater harvesting facilities in all Council depots as appropriate, to reduce demand on mains network and reduce use of treated water.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure due regard is given to the need to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.
SRM 8	Promote upgrading of existing watermain networks by group water schemes to minimize leakage of treated water.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure due regard is given to the need to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.
SRM 12	Progress the authorisation and subsequent of remediation of historical landfill sites previously controlled by Monaghan County Council.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure the works have appropriate regard to planning, waste management and environmental requirements, considerations and constraints.
<b>DZ</b>		
DZ BE.1	Retrofit all social housing and local authority buildings in the Monaghan Town DZ to achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating of B2.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European site and heritage considerations.
DZ BE.2	Assess the feasibility and install rooftop solar PV on social housing and local authority property across the Monaghan Town DZ	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
DZ BE.3	Promote retrofit to Building Energy Rating B2 for private and commercial properties across the Monaghan Town DZ	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites, and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
DZ BE.6	Promote the use of nature-based solutions (NBS) to reduce the impact of flooding where possible	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities including sensitive human receptors, water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.
DZ BE.8	Undertake a feasibility study of the potential for district heating for Monaghan Town.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure that all associated development has due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites, and local population.
DZ BE.9	Complete a Town Centre First Plan for Monaghan town and implement recommendations.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
DZ T.1	Implement the decarbonisation of the local authority vehicular fleet as appropriate	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
DZ T.6	Identify suitable locations for EV charging points across the Monaghan Town DZ	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
DZ T.8	Engage with the relevant authorities to support the electrification of Local Link	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure sustainability and environmental protection considerations are embedded into the project.
DZ T.10	Increase pedestrianised space in Monaghan Town	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to environmental sensitivities such as traffic and transport constraints and aspects, the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.
DZ T.17	Promote and support the Safe Routes to School Programme to encourage staff and students in primary and post-primary schools within the DZ to walk and cycle.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage.
DZ NGI.1	Develop a green infrastructure masterplan for Monaghan Town to coordinate planning for the enhancement of the natural environment and to connect public green space and greenways within the DZ	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental protection considerations and opportunities for climate action co-benefits.
DZ NGI.4	Support green infrastructure and nature-based solutions such as sustainable urban drainage systems to improve climate resilience	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
DZ NGI.5	Promote rainwater harvesting, reuse of grey water and green roofs and walls.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.



**Table 2-3: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Environmental Governance Principles included in the plan**

Promote climate action projects that support and maximize environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have significant negative effects on the receiving environment shall be supported.
Flood projects, or related maintenance works, shall be carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and shall have due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species.
Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and do not result in unauthorized physical damage to cultural, archaeological or architectural features, or unauthorized or inappropriate alteration of the context of sensitive cultural heritage features.
Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action water quality co-benefits, and align with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.
Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, flood zones which contribute to green infrastructure.
Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
Ensure all projects supported by the council have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.

**2.2.3 Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP**

In addition to the environmental mitigation measures integrated into the LACAP, the development management standards and environmental protection measures defined in the CDP will serve to mitigate the environmental effects of any development proposals supported by the LACAP. These development management standards/environmental protection measures have been defined for the express purpose of ensuring proper planning and sustainable development in the County. The CDP has been subject to its own SEA and AA. The LACAP has been prepared having appropriate regard to the policies and objectives contained in the County Development Plan.

**2.3 Appropriate Assessment**

The environmental assessment for the Plan undertaken was carried out in accordance with an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment based methodology in accordance with EPA's guidance document entitled '*Final Report: Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance.*' (2012).





The methodology employed facilitated the integration of SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes relating to biodiversity impact assessment to ensure the effective and streamlined assessment of biodiversity impacts. The plan-making, SEA and AA processes - including scoping, baseline evaluation, impact assessment and mitigation/monitoring measure development processes - were carried out concurrently to facilitate holistic and complete assessment of biodiversity impacts. The effective communication and integration of scientific knowledge and analysis between assessments took place. The SEA was suitably informed by the analysis and conclusions in AA.

## 2.4 Consultation on SEA Environmental Report

A draft version of the SEA Environmental Report accompanied a draft version of the LACAP on public display as part of the statutory public consultation required under Article 13 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004. A draft version of the Natura Impact Report (NIR) produced under the AA process for the Draft LACAP also accompanied the Draft LACAP on public display. Environmental Authorities, relevant interested stakeholder and members of the public were notified of the Draft LACAP being placed on display and the opportunity to make consultation submissions in relation to the Draft LACAP. Members of public were made aware of the Draft LACAP and associated environmental reports through a notification published by the local authority on its website. Environmental Authorities and interested stakeholders were notified through notification correspondence.

Various parties made consultation submissions and observations on the Draft LACAP and associated environmental reports. Detail on submissions received relevant to SEA and AA issues and documentation, responses to these submissions, and any changes made to SEA Environmental Report (ER) and NIR documents on foot of these submissions, is provided in Table 2-4. Updates were made to the SEA and AA documentation where relevant following on from receipt and consideration of the consultation submissions.



**Table 2-4: Responses to Consultation Submissions**

Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
EPA	<p>You should also consider taking into account the EPA's 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' project in finalising the Plan. This research is part of the National Dialogue on Climate Action.</p> <p>We suggest that the Plan include a specific action to carry out "implementation monitoring" to ensure that progress achieving the actions and measures across the Plan is being monitored and reported on. The SEA should also assist in identifying ways to maximise the potential co-benefits of climate-related measures for air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e. win-win solutions)</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. It was noted that the SEA Environmental Report (ER) has defined Environmental Governance Principles and action amendment suggestions to ensure climate action co-benefit opportunities are maximized. Various defined mitigation measures serve to promote win-win solutions.</p>	None.	None.
	<p>We recommend that the findings of the SEA ER and NIS are fully reflected in the Plan, to ensure that the relevant recommendations are fully considered and integrated as appropriate.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Environmental mitigation measures in the form of Environmental Governance Principles and climate action amendment suggestions have been fully integrated into the Plan itself.</p>	None	None
	<p>Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency;</li> <li>• Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage;</li> <li>• Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications;</li> <li>• Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.</li> </ul> <p>If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly at c.omahony@epa.ie. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.</p>	<p>Noted. All listed Environmental Authorities have been consulted with as part of the SEA process.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council confirm receipt of this submission with Cian O' Mahony, if this has not been done already.</p>	None	None
	<p><b>Non-Technical Summary</b></p> <p>You should ensure that the Non Technical Summary includes the relevant information as required under Schedule 2 of S.I No. 434 Of 2004, as amended.</p>	<p>It was assumed that SI No. 434 was a typo and SI No. 435 is what was intended to be addressed with this statement.</p>	None	Updated the NTS to reflect the relevant information as required under Schedule 2 of SI No 435 of 2004 as amended.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		The requirements of Schedule 2 of SI No 435 have been noted and amendments to the NTS were made as appropriate.		
	<p><b>Relationship with other plans and programmes</b></p> <p>We acknowledge that the Plan has been prepared taking account of the key National plans including the National Climate Action Plan 2023. We also acknowledge that the Plan sets out the key plans, programmes and policies considered in preparing the SEA.</p> <p>The Plan should include a commitment to remain aligned with high level plans and programmes, Guidelines, and legislation over its lifetime. The Climate Action Plan 2024 is currently being prepared and work will be commencing on the review of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies also. Any relevant updates of these plans/strategies should be integrated as appropriate into the Plan as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>The Plan should include a commitment to consider any relevant updated actions, measures or recommendations that may arise in updates to the National Climate Action Plan (or the National Planning Framework) over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. It was noted that this is in reference to the LACAP and not the SEA ER or AA NIR documentation.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council includes a commitment in the Plan to remain aligned with high level plans and programmes if this isn't the case already.</p> <p>It was recommended the plan includes a commitment in the Plan to consider and appropriately integrate relevant updates to the national Climate Action Plan and National Planning Framework over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	None	None
	<p><b>Strategic Environmental Objectives</b></p> <p>We recommend that in considering strategic environmental objectives, they should where possible reflect the plan being prepared, rather than use more generic environmental objectives. This will help both in considering more specific monitoring and mitigation measures, when required.</p>	Noted. The Strategic Environmental Objectives defined have been very specifically defined to reflect the themes, goals, objectives and climate action contained in the plan and in light of the potential environmental effects associated with Plan implementation.	None	None
	<p><b>Alternatives</b></p> <p>We note the alternatives considered in the SEA and acknowledge the preferred option selected.</p>	Noted.	None	None.
	<p><b>Mitigation Measures</b></p> <p>Where the potential for likely significant effects has been identified, you should provide appropriate mitigation</p>	The SEA produced recommended a suite of mitigation measures in response to climate actions considered to have potentially significant environmental effects.	None	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>measures to avoid or minimise these. You should also ensure that the Plan includes clear commitments to implement the relevant mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Environmental Governance Principles have been defined for the purpose of underpinning and framing the defined climate actions. All activities and development supported by the defined climate actions shall be undertaken or influenced by the local authority, as appropriate, in accordance with these Environmental Governance Principles.</p> <p>Mitigation has also been achieved by the integration of environmental considerations into the defined LACAP climate actions.</p> <p>These mitigation measures have been wholly integrated into the LACAPs.</p> <p>Section 8 of the SEA ER provides full detail of these environmental mitigation measures.</p> <p>It was recommended the Plan provides a clear commitment to implement these mitigation measures, if this is not the case already.</p>		
	<p><b>Monitoring, Implementation &amp; Reporting</b></p> <p>The Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered. The monitoring programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities. If the monitoring identifies adverse impacts during the implementation of the Plan, then you should ensure that suitable and effective remedial action is taken.</p> <p>Guidance on SEA-related monitoring is available on the EPA website at <a href="https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategicenvironmental-assessment/06695-EPA-SEA-Statements-and-Monitoring-Report.pdf">https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategicenvironmental-assessment/06695-EPA-SEA-Statements-and-Monitoring-Report.pdf</a></p>	<p>The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the LACAP is contained in the SEA ER. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled '<i>Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring</i>' (2020).</p> <p>The monitoring programme is multi-faceted, broad in scope and has been designed to allow for a flexible and adaptive approach to SEA monitoring during Plan implementation.</p> <p>The monitoring programme has been designed to inherently measure cumulative effects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>This plan considers both positive and negative effects, as per the following statement from the SEA text:  <i>'Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the LACAP is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the LACAP</i></p>	None	<p>Updated the SEA monitoring programme to ensure SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1 accommodate the monitoring of positive effects arising due to plan implementation, where appropriate.</p> <p>Provided additional detail on monitoring programme data sources.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		<p><i>should take place and the LACAP should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LACAP implementation are not being adequately realized, the LACAP should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realization of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the plan.'</i></p> <p>It was noted however that additional opportunities exist in relation to monitoring the positive environmental effects of defined climate action – in connection with SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1. The SEA monitoring programme has been updated to ensure SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1 accommodate the monitoring of positive effects arising due to plan implementation, where appropriate.</p> <p>The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources to be used to monitor and measure progress. Some additional detail on data sources has however been provided to better guide the SEA monitoring to be carried out across plan implementation.</p> <p>A commitment to remedial action in the event SEA monitoring shows the implementation of the Plan is having adverse environmental effects has been made in the SEA.</p>		
	<p><b>EPA State of the Environment Report</b></p> <p>Our State of Environment Report, Ireland’s Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (SOER2020) identifies thirteen ‘Key Messages for Ireland’. Delivering Ireland’s long-term sustainable development and environmental objectives will involve many different stakeholders to address these key</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council make a commitment to take account of any relevant recommendations in the SOER 2024 report, once published, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.</p>	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>actions. The report prioritize the need for full implementation of existing environmental legislation and review of governance/coordination on environmental protection across public bodies. The EPA are currently preparing the next iteration of the SOER report, which will be published in 2024. We recommend that a commitment is made in the Plan, to take account of any relevant recommendations in the SOER 2024 report, once published, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.</p>			
	<p>SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”</p> <p>Once the Plan is adopted, you should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;</li> <li>• How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan;</li> <li>• The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and,</li> <li>• The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.</li> </ul> <p>You should send a copy of the SEA Statement with the above information to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	<p>Noted. An SEA statement has been produced and circulated to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p><b>Future Amendments to the Plan</b></p> <p>You should screen any future amendments to the Plan for likely significant effects, using the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Plan</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
Northern Ireland Environment Agency, DAERA	<p><b>General Comments</b></p> <p>DAERA are broadly content with the conclusions of the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement. We note that DAERA was not consulted at the SEA Scoping Stage of the Plan. Within section 7.2 of the environmental report, it states that the evaluation considers transboundary effects. However, the report does not include any environmental baseline information or detailed transboundary considerations in relation to Northern Ireland. We therefore assume all mitigation and monitoring measures outlined in the report will also apply to Northern Ireland. However, if this is not the case then a clear assessment of transboundary issues is required. We encourage continued engagement and co-ordination with DAERA.</p> <p>We would have preferred the SEA Environmental Report to contain a clear statement indicating the opinion about whether the implementation of the of the plan is likely to have a significant effect on Northern Ireland, in combination with any identified measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.</p>	<p>It was noted that all effects of the plan have been evaluated, including transboundary effects. Mitigation measures have been adopted to ensure that the environmental effects of Plan Action are controlled at the source.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>The SEA ER was updated to include a clear statement on transboundary effects, explaining how they were considered and mitigated.</p>
	<p><b>Natural Environment Division (NED) Comments</b></p> <p>NIEA Natural Environment Division works to ensure that Northern Ireland’s special natural environment, including its flora and fauna and landscapes, is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of this and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p><u>SEA Environmental Report</u></p> <p>NED note that in section 7.2 of the <u>environmental report</u> it states that the evaluation considers transboundary effects. As the environmental report does not contain a specific section on the consideration of transboundary effects on Northern Ireland, we therefore assume all mitigation and monitoring measures outlined in the ER in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna would also apply to Northern Ireland. However, if this is not the case then a clear</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Northern Irish plans and programmes have been reviewed and included in the NIR.</p>	<p>Northern Irish plans and programmes were reviewed and included in the SEA ER.</p> <p>Northern Irish data sources, indicators and targets have also been consulted and included in the report.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>assessment of transboundary issues is required. We <u>encourage continued engagement and co-ordination with DAERA.</u></p> <p>NED welcomes the inclusion of relevant plans and programmes relating to Northern Ireland. We would also suggest the inclusion of the following in the environmental report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended)</li> <li>• Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011</li> <li>• The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)</li> <li>• The Environment (NI) Order 2002</li> <li>• The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017</li> <li>• Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020 <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biodiversity-strategy-northern-ireland-2020-0">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biodiversity-strategy-northern-ireland-2020-0</a></li> <li>• Draft Environment Strategy <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/esni-public-discussion-document">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/esni-public-discussion-document</a></li> <li>• The Draft NI peatland policy: <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-peatland-strategy-consultation">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-peatland-strategy-consultation</a>.</li> <li>• The Draft Green Growth Strategy <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-peatland-strategy-consultation">Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland   Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>• Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 <a href="https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/energy-strategy-2050">Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050   Department for the Economy (economy-ni.gov.uk)</a></li> </ul> <p>NED welcome the mitigation and monitoring measures outlined in the SEA for biodiversity flora and fauna provided these will also apply to species and habitats in Northern</p>			





Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Ireland. DAERA would recommend the inclusion of Northern Irish data sources, indicators and targets to ensure that the environment within Northern Ireland is protected. The annual Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report and Northern Ireland State of The Environment Report should be included as monitoring indicators. These can be found at, <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/state-of-the-environment-report-2013">State of the Environment Report 2013   Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report">Northern Ireland environmental statistics report   Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)</a></p>			
	<p><b>Natura Impact Statement</b></p> <p>NED welcomes in the Natura Impact Statement a 15km buffer and the use of Source-Pathway-Receptor model for designated site selection and that National Site Network sites in Northern Ireland have been included in the assessment.</p> <p>We welcome that further environmental assessment including Appropriate Assessment will be required for future projects arising from the implementation of the Draft LACAP and that projects within the Draft LACAP area will be considered in combination with all lower tier projects that may arise. NED advise continued and early engagement with the relevant bodies in NI.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It was recommended the local authority consult with NI Authority early on during the carrying out of lower tier projects, as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p><b>Water Management Unit Comments</b></p> <p>Water Management Unit notes the SEA Environmental Report for the Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 for Monaghan County Council states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality data is collected by the EPA52. The County is located mainly within the Erne, Lough Neagh and Lower Bann, and the Newry, Fane, Glyde and Dee catchments. (Section 4.8)</li> </ul>	<p>Noted. The ER has been updated accordingly. It was noted that all effects of the plan have been evaluated, including transboundary effects. Mitigation measures have been adopted to ensure that the environmental effects are controlled at the source.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The SEA ER was updated to include a clear statement on transboundary aquatic effects, explaining how they were considered and mitigated.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key Issues Relating to the Draft LACAP: Potential pressures and impacts on water body status from the construction of renewable energy and blueway projects i.e. increased sedimentation, groundwater recharge and accidental spillages. (Section 4.8).1</li> <li>Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation: The evaluation considers potential transboundary effects. (Section 7.2)</li> </ul> <p><u>Water Management Unit cannot find any direct evidence in the report that the potential for transboundary impacts to the aquatic environment in Northern Ireland has been considered, including assessment of relevant baseline conditions, impacts and pressures, or cognisance taken of Northern Irelands River Basin Management Plans.</u></p> <p><u>Water Management Unit would as a minimum liked to have seen an unambivalent statement as to whether, or not, there is the potential for impacts to arise to Northern Irelands aquatic environment through implementation of the plan.</u></p>			
	<p>Air Quality Biodiversity Unit (AQB) Comments</p> <p>AQB acknowledges the objectives to reduce air pollution within County Monaghan, as set out in the SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p><u>Consideration should be given as to the potential impact of the Plan on other air pollutants such as agricultural ammonia, nitrogen oxides and resulting nitrogen deposition at designated sites and priority habitats in the Republic of Ireland and NI (transboundary impacts). Consideration of any co-benefits should be included. E.g. protecting and restoring of peatlands can help to increase resilience to other threats and pressures, including the impacts of ammonia and nitrogen deposition on the vegetation and habitat.</u></p> <p>Ireland is now included in the Air Pollution Information System (APIS) which provides information on the impacts of air pollutants, such as Nox, ammonia emissions and the associated reactive nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats</p>	<p>The SEA found the Plan does not support any development or activities that may generate air agricultural ammonia or nitrogen oxides.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>and species. The map feature within APIS enables detailed information to be provided on the Critical Levels/Loads for each qualifying feature and background levels of these pollutants: <a href="#">APIS app</a>   <a href="#">Air Pollution Information System</a></p> <p>Please contact the SEA Team at <a href="mailto:seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk">seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk</a> should you have any queries or require clarification.</p>			
Irish Wildlife Trust	<p><b>Action NEGI 1 Comments:</b></p> <p>A Green infrastructure plan for co. Monaghan is a very important step for future planning and it is great to hear this is being implemented by Monaghan County council. It would be great if the council would liaise from the start with all other public properties and publicly managed spaces in the county (ie. Schools, Government offices) and even interested private stakeholders and communities (such as 'tidy towns', GAA etc. to plan this infrastructure in a way that would design biodiversity habitats and corridors as <b>an interconnected network of green spaces</b> (ie. Akin to a 'roads system' for biodiversity). It would be important to get the balance between publicly accessible areas and 'wild' areas right for biodiversity to thrive.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Plan should take in existing and new developments in urban areas, as well as rural, one-off housing developments. Existing woodlands and hedgerows must be conserved and maintained in an ecologically sensitive manner, in addition to planting new native trees and hedgerows.</p> <p>Develop a Native Tree and Hedgerow Project as part of the Green Infrastructure Plan*. It would include a project that would promote the planting and effective maintenance of old hedgerows in the county as they are of high biodiversity value. There would be a focus on planting trees and shrubs of native/local provenance and a programme to distribute trees and seeds to get people growing trees which in a few years will be producing their own seeds giving people the impetus to collect seeds from their own gardens and farms</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>and to grow more trees. This would involve (1) some experienced native tree seed harvesters collecting seed for a 'seed bank' (2) running workshops on native trees and shrubs and how to collect native tree seed, store seed, sow seed and manage seedlings and young tree plants. (3) a programme to distribute locally grown native trees within Co Monaghan. Note that this project is also relevant to Actions 11, 12 and 13 below.</p> <p>*Note that this could be considered a separate Action under <b>Strategic Development Goal (SDG) 3</b></p>			
	<p><b>Action NEGI 2 Comments:</b></p> <p>It would be important for there to be a council policy to only use native tree and woodland species and ones sourced from the island of Ireland (in particular to avoid importing potential tree diseases such as happened with ash dieback). The planting would be best designed keeping biodiversity forefront in mind with a very diverse and well-informed planting scheme (Birch, hazel, oak, willow, alder etc. as well as smaller native woodland species and should be matched well to the different type of land areas being planted. It would be great to consider also 'wetland woodland' models and perhaps make and promote this a feature given the type of landscape of County Monaghan. Some public information/education program may be necessary to promote this (as more generic models of town park woodlands may not always be the most suitable for biodiversity).</p> <p>Tree and woodland cover need to be drastically increased. We also need to respect and protect our hedgerows – our 'linear woodlands'. Hedgerow management needs to be taken seriously – many are overmanaged while other have been removed completely. One -off houses, which are common across the county, should have to retain mature hedgerows as much as possible, and where removed, need to plant native hedging over species like Cherry Laurel. The Council needs to lead the way.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the use of Native tree and woodland species sourced solely from the island of Ireland should be prioritized for action NEGI 2.</p> <p>The mitigation measure identified by FT with regard to this action took account of the need to use native species.</p>	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p><b>Action NEGI 3 Comments:</b></p> <p>Yes, a biodiversity action plan and green infrastructure plan should be fully interconnected. It is important not to separate out issues like climate change mitigation and biodiversity protection and enhancement as both crisis points arise from same problems and threats.</p> <p>Needs to be realistic and targeted. Biodiversity Officer will need the backing of the whole Co Co and other relevant groups in the county for this to succeed</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
	<p><b>Action NEGI 4 Comments:</b></p> <p>Monaghan Co. Council could lead the way and trial a ‘zero-use of pesticides and herbicides in co-operation with community groups such as tidy towns and environmental groups to 1. Learn and devise alternative ways to manage public spaces and 2. Change perceptions as to how our social and urban and rural environments might ‘look’, encouraging an understanding of the value, richness and beauty of diverse and less overly managed/tidy spaces. A complete cessation of pesticide use could be accompanied by an encouragement of environmentally positive biodiversity strategies for pest management (such as barn owls/raptors etc.)</p> <p><a href="https://www.europarc.org/news/2020/07/case-study-without-pesticides-campaign-by-nature-park-our/">https://www.europarc.org/news/2020/07/case-study-without-pesticides-campaign-by-nature-park-our/</a></p> <p>People need to know the harm they cause to human health, water and wildlife. Pesticides should only be used on invasives, e.g. Japanese Knotweed, by trained professionals.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
	<p><b>Action NEGI 5 Comments:</b></p> <p>Semi-natural grassland and native planting would be a great addition to the management of public park spaces. It could be a chance for Monaghan Co Co and community and environmental education groups to develop interesting projects and promotion around a ‘wildflowers not weeds’...</p>	This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p><a href="https://littlegreenspace.org.uk/features/wildflowers-not-weeds.html">https://littlegreenspace.org.uk/features/wildflowers-not-weeds.html</a></p> <p>Linking in with Tidy Towns groups and the Tidy Towns Network would be a great way to do this.</p>			
	<p><b>Action NEGI 6 Comments:</b></p> <p>It would be great to have biodiversity corridors (rivers, pockets of woodland etc.) connecting the wider county public green spaces to Sliabh Beagh.</p> <p>The issue of illegal peat extraction needs to be addressed in Sliabh Beagh. The campaign a few years ago 'Eye Spy Wildlife on Sliabh Beagh' could be built upon here. High profile species like the Curlew and Hen Harrier can really capture people's imagination and their wish to conserve them and their precious habitats.</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p><b>Action NEGI 7 Comments:</b></p> <p>A really great way to encourage biodiversity and reduce flooding, etc. Natural methods and materials should be used where possible... Nature-based solutions.</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p><b>Action NEGI 8 Comments:</b></p> <p>Yes, Monaghan Co. Council could develop its branding and identity around Monaghan as a 'wetland' environment.</p> <p>Many people remain ignorant of the importance of wetlands.</p> <p>Our current way of farming has done much damage over the years, often government led. A wetland positive campaign might help, specific to the county.</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p><b>Action NEGI 9 Comments:</b></p> <p>Ensure that the Biodiversity Action Plan is not 'diluted' here. While heritage includes natural heritage, it should be emphasised are two separate plans - one for built and cultural heritage, the other focused on biodiversity. The two plans should complement each other of course, but now, seeing as there are two roles for heritage and biodiversity, the focus on nature should not be lost within the new</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>heritage plan. The two plans should have their own separate aims and actions.</p> <p>There is potential to link with above action point 8. By also including the historic 'crannóg' sites as they would be a great example of culture and natural heritage from historic wetlands heritage of Monaghan.</p>			
	<p><b>Action NEGI 10 Comments:</b></p> <p>Yes, great action plan...Monaghan Co Co could sponsor a local producer's market and utilise the heritage of Monaghan county's 'market town' buildings (for example, perhaps by the local and organic produce market visiting different market towns each week.) It would be important to emphasis the difference between small producer and factory/intensive food production.</p> <p>We need proper, larger scale farmers' markets in the county selling local produce. Far too much reliance on the supermarket model currently, which is unsustainable. People need to be given a choice. Seeing as Monaghan is an agricultural county, we should be making the most of this.</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p><b>Action NEGI 11 Comments:</b></p> <p>This would be great, but events can't be tokenistic or one-offs either. Farmers need to know how to diversify and where they might get practice advice and support to do this at the talks/workshops.</p> <p>Yes, linking this to above action plan 10. Could build a community of interest around the practices and promotion of HNV farming and again important to emphasis the difference between small producer and factory/intensive food production. A High Nature Value farming 'county fair' could perhaps be hosted by Monaghan Co Co which could include both demonstrations and exhibitions on old HNV practices, skills and techniques and new HNV practices. This could also tap into the interests in county in farming heritage and skills.</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p><b>Action NEGI 12 Comments:</b></p> <p>Very important. Links with Teagasc, Farming for Nature, etc should be explored. There are better ways to farm. It shouldn't all be about IFA rhetoric.</p> <p>Yes, many in the agriculture sector would be interested in re-engaging with a pride in heritage, skills and farmers and caretakers of land. If biodiversity enhancement was supported (directly in grant schemes for farmers, such as the education and encouragement and financial support to move to semi-natural grassland and leaving wetland areas undrained and hedgerow intact and expanded) this would help change attitudes to what is considered 'land improvement'.</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p><b>Action NEGI 13 Comments:</b></p> <p>Yes, and the water sources and systems could be developed with good planting and protection practices to become biodiversity corridors. This would both enhance biodiversity and provide buffer-zone riparian areas that would naturally help keep waters clean for all.</p> <p>Definitely. Knocknagrave Environmental Education Centre is a prime example of what can be achieved, along with other on-the-ground GWS projects</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p><b>Action NEGI 14 Comments:</b></p> <p>Yes, great idea for the Blue Dot(High Status) waterbodies. And it would also be great to identify and include 'wild public swimming' areas in lakes and rivers that may not be as High status in terms of quality but could be protected and water quality could become a priority as the public would be invested in having the waters clean for swimming etc.</p> <p>Important to keep them at this level. But many other water bodies in the county need improvement. The Blue Dot waters are a tiny proportion of the waters in the whole county.</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>





Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
DAFM Seafood	Ireland's seafood industry (fishing and aquaculture) is one of the key stakeholders operating in the marine area and plays a vital role in the sustainability of our coastal communities. Over 15,000 people are employed around our coast both directly and indirectly. Many of these communities have very limited alternative employment and economic activity options. It is therefore essential that the socio-economic reliance on the seafood sector is fully recognised and is factored into any Climate Change Action plan. Fishing and food security is as key a part of Government Policy. Food Vision 2030 recognises and values the role of primary food producers.	Noted. It was noted that Monaghan is a non-coastal county.	None	None
	The Seafood industry is experiencing a period of difficult change, arising from the ongoing consequences of the EU UK Trade and Co-operation agreement which are specific and impactful on Ireland's seafood sector. There is now ever-increasing demand on the marine space from Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE), Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and other environmental measures.	Noted. It was noted that defined Climate Action in Monaghan's LACAP does not promote or support marine development. The county is non-coastal.	None	None
	Our coastal communities and maritime sectors will continue to play a significant role in contributing to our climate goals and will continue to be consulted and supported in the transition to carbon neutrality.  The seafood industry, through both the Sectoral Adaptation Plan ( <a href="#">Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan</a> ) and the annual Climate Action Plan (CAP23) continue to support initiatives to improve understanding of our marine area and ensure sustainable resource use, including through bio and circular economy initiatives. These plans require consideration in the SEA process.	The National Climate Action Plan (2023) and Sectoral Adaptation Plans have been considered in the SEA Process.  The relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes has been defined in Appendix 1 of the SEA. Inter-plan cumulative effects have been evaluated in Section 7 of the SEA ER.	None	None
	Also for consideration in the SEA process is the European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package. This proposes the establishment of an Energy Transition Partnership (ETP) to develop a roadmap for the	It was noted that Monaghan is a non-coastal county which does not have a seafood sector.	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	energy transition of the sector towards climate neutrality by 2050. The roadmap will set out investment needs, sector initiatives and inform policy decisions to help achieve this transition. The ETP is a multi-stakeholder platform intended to promote co-operation, knowledge sharing and dialogue between private and public stakeholders in order to accelerate the energy transition in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This Partnership will help to shape the development of future transitional actions for Ireland’s seafood sector. Local authorities should include relevant steps to support a Just Transition for the sea fisheries and aquaculture sectors in their Climate Action Plans.			
Historic Environment Division	DfC Historic Environment Division (HED) operate via a Service Level Agreement with colleagues in DAERA in relation to SEA, whereby we provide authoritative comment and advice in relation to matters of Cultural Heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage. We make the following comments in respect of the documentation received by our office on 18/10/2023.	Noted.	None.	None.
	Given the intertwined nature of the historic environment with landscape and the natural environment, HED advise that consideration of the potential for transboundary impacts in the Cultural Heritage topic area, particularly with regard to potential impacts on setting of assets would be relevant. A large number of heritage assets predate the border itself and correlate to other assets in either jurisdiction, with interweaving views and settings, and some assets such as ancient earthworks, routeways and canals traverse it. In terms of consideration of potential measures and mitigation of such transboundary effects we advise that Northern Ireland’s historic environment digital datasets might be utilized during	It was noted that all effects of the plan have been evaluated, including transboundary effects. Mitigation measures have been adopted to ensure that the environmental effects are controlled at the source. It was recommended the local authority consult Northern Ireland’s historic environment digital datasets when progressing development projects, as appropriate.	None.	The SEA ER has been updated to include a clear statement on transboundary effects, explaining how they were considered and mitigated.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>future assessments or at project specific level to further understand potential for impacts, including those on setting of heritage assets. Historic Environment Digital Datasets Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) We also attach a link to our historic environment map viewer Historic Environment Map Viewer Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)</p>			
	<p>Datasets specific to Northern Ireland’s marine historic environment, including around wrecks and reported losses can be obtained through contacting colin.dunlop@daera-ni.gov.uk</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
	<p>We also take this opportunity to signpost our resources on Heritage and Climate Change   Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk), as we work in partnership with others who manage the historic environment, including through a North South Memorandum of understanding on Climate Action and Cultural Heritage.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
Uisce Eireann	<p>Sustainable Urban Drainage and Integrated Urban Wastewater Management Plans</p> <p>We would welcome in particular consideration of the following guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas – Best Practice Interim Guidance Document</li> <li>• National (Infrastructure) Guidelines and Standards Group recent NGS Circular 1 of 2023,</li> <li>• DMURS Advice Note 5 Road and Street Drainage using Nature Based Solutions Design</li> <li>• Greening and Nature-based SuDS for Active Travel Schemes National Transport</li> <li>• Guidance for Urban watercourses by Inland Fisheries Ireland</li> </ul>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>We would also like to highlight that the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD), as proposed, includes requirements for the preparation of Integrated Urban Wastewater Management Plans (IUWWMPs) for all agglomerations above 100,000p.e. by 2030 and for selected agglomerations between 10,000 and 100,000p.e. based on risk by 2035. IUWWMPs must include both wastewater and urban runoff drainage systems and therefore in the context of Ireland they will need to be integrated plans for assets owned by Uisce Éireann (wastewater network) and the Local Authorities (storm water network). The recast UWWTD includes obligations for the reduction of pollution load from both wastewater and storm water systems (Storm Water Overflows (SWOs) and Urban Runoff respectively). If adopted, the new UWWTD will require collaboration between UÉ and LAs on integrated drainage planning.</p> <p>IUWWMPs should provide the planning basis for climate resilient cities from a drainage perspective including maximizing the benefit from blue-green infrastructure and adoption of smart innovative solutions. Incorporation of blue-green infrastructure through enhanced water cycle circularity decrease water abstraction and enhance our rivers</p>	<p>This commentary relates to the core focus of the plan and does not address SEA or AA issues or documentation. It was recommended the local authority consider this submission, as appropriate.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Department of Housing, local Government and Heritage</p>	<p>The Heritage Division of the Department (National Monuments Service and National Built Heritage Service) is engaged with the local authorities through the departmental Climate Change Advisory Group and established Working Groups to ensure a consistent approach to protection and adaptation of heritage assets across the country and an alignment of policies, plans and actions across national, regional and local climate action. The Department anticipates ongoing engagement with the local authorities throughout the implementation of current and future sectoral adaptation plans.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	In the preparation and implementation of the local authority adaptation strategy, there are a number of issues regarding protection of built and archaeological heritage that we recommend be taken into account to identify the heritage assets at risk in its area, assess their vulnerability to climate change, increase their resilience and develop disaster risk reduction policies for direct and indirect risks. For example, it is recommended that the strategies should consider:	Noted.	None.	None.
	Identifying the built and archaeological heritage assets in the local authority area including, but not restricted to, structures and sites subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, or the Planning and Development Acts;	The SEA scoping report and SEA Environmental Report identify the built and archaeological heritage assets in the LA including structures and sites subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, and the Planning and Development Act (as amended). Exhaustive detail on built and archaeological heritage is held on record by the local authority and provided in the Country Development Plan already.	None.	None.
	Including objectives to carry out climate change risk assessments, including condition assessments, for the historic structures and sites in its area;	The local authority intends on completing climate change risk assessment for all heritage assets under its remit. Plan Action 1.7.1 is as follows: 'Continue a Climate Change Risk Assessment & Adaptation Assessment approach of local-authority owned heritage sites.' –	None.	None.
	Including objectives to develop disaster-risk reduction policies addressing direct and indirect risks to the built and archaeological heritage in its area;	Noted. The Plan defines actions that will serve to minimize and manage climate related disaster risk (e.g., flood risk) and improve the climate resilience of architectural and archaeological heritage.	None.	None.
	Including objectives to develop resilience and adaptation strategies for the built and archaeological heritage in its area;	Noted. The Plan defines actions that will improve the climate resilience of architectural and archaeological heritage.	None.	None.
	Developing the skills capacity within the local authority to address adaptation / mitigation / emergency management issues affecting heritage assets in order to avoid inadvertent	Noted. It was recommended that the local authority consider this as appropriate.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>loss or damage in the course of climate change adaptation or mitigation works.</p> <p>This Department will shortly be publishing a new guidance document Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings. This guidance will assist retrofitting installers and specifiers in how best to choose and apply energy efficiency measures to the historic building stock. The guidance is also intended to assist building owners and occupants in making decisions about upgrading their buildings, many of which are of architectural heritage significance. It is recommended that all proposed retrofitting projects undertaken or supported by the local authority to buildings of traditional construction should follow the principles and practice set out in that guidance.</p>	<p>Noted. It was recommended that the local authority consider this as appropriate. The SEA Environmental Report has defined mitigation measures within the plan to ensure that any retrofitting of buildings including protected structures is carried out in a manner that doesn't impinge on built heritage or protected structures.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None</p>



## 2.5 SEA and Plan Modifications

MCC prepared a Chief Executive (CE) Report responding to consultation submissions from Environmental Authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public.

The CE Report recommended Plan modifications in light of the consultations submissions received in relation to the Plan and associated environmental reports and subsequent consideration of these submissions. The CE Report was appropriately informed by recommendations made by the SEA (and AA) team on foot of their review of consultation submissions relating to SEA (and AA) issues and documentation. Recommendations were taken on board by the plan-making team as appropriate.

Plan modifications made were screened for SEA and AA. All Plan modifications made during the plan-making process were determined to be non-material and did not introduce any additional environmental effects not previously considered and mitigated during the SEA and AA processes.

An earlier draft version of the SEA Environmental Report was finalized having appropriate regard to the consultation submissions made during the SEA consultation period, recommendations made in the CE Report on consultation submissions, and the modifications made to the original draft version of the LACAP that was put on display for consultation. The updates made to the report were clerical or minor and non-material in nature and did not materially change the parameters of the environmental assessment undertaken or the environmental mitigation defined.

The CE Report on consultation submissions received on the Plan and associated environmental reports accompany the adopted Plan and this SEA Statement and provides exact detail on how consultation submissions were considered by the local authority during the plan-making process. This CE Report also documents the Plan modifications made by the local authority following its consideration of consultation submissions relating to both the content, focus and goals of the Plan and the environmental assessment of the Plan presented in the associated SEA and AA documentation. All Plan Action modifications are presented in Table 2-5. No further modifications affecting the SEA and AA processes were made upon Plan Adoption.

**Table 2-5: Plan Action Modifications**

Action	Summary of Modification
BE 8	Uisce Eireann to be added as a partner within action BE 8.
NEGI 1	LAWPRO and Capital Project section to be added as partners to action NEGI 1.
NEGI 2	NEGI 2 has been amended to read as follows: “Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan to increase tree cover on Council-owned land, using appropriate <b>native</b> species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. Aim to increase areas of public land under forestry through schemes such as “Forest Creation on Public Lands”
NEGI 2	This action has been amended to include the area metric “M2/Hectare of trees planted” within the KPI of NEGI 2.
NEGI 5	Action NEGI 5 has been amended to read as follows: “Decarbonise machinery used to manage areas within the public realm, parks and green spaces when feasible and practical to do so. Subject to cost expand the use of low impact fuel where appropriate.”
NEGI 10	NEGI 10 has been amended to read as follows: “Campaigns to promote locally produced and organic food and beverage produce highlighting the carbon intensity <b>and food miles</b> of imported food vs. locally produced food.”
NEGI 13	Community Groups to be added as partners for action NEGI 13.



Action	Summary of Modification
CRT 1	To Amend Action CRT1 to read as follows: "Include sustainability & climate action sections for event management plans to reduce the environmental impact of Council events, including but not limited to: removing single use plastic where possible, proper segregation of waste along with water stations and compostable cups. <b>Ensure event management plans are required to demonstrate compliance with current best practice policy in terms of Green/Sustainable festivals &amp; events.</b> "
SRM 1	Uisce Eireann to be added as a partner within action SRM 1.
SRM 15	To add the following action to SG5 (now SRM 15): "Enable improvement in air quality through enforcement of air related legislation, particularly; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Air Pollution Act.</li> <li>• The Solid Fuels Regulations.</li> <li>• The Deco Paints Regulations.</li> <li>• The Solvent Regulations</li> <li>• The Petroleum Vapour Regulations."</li> </ul>
Objective SG5	To amend objective under SG5 to read as follows: "Monaghan County Council will lead by example by reducing the councils production of waste to a minimum, use of non-essential goods, single use products, energy, and water."
CTR 11	Action CTR 11 has been removed due to duplication.
All Actions in SG4	All actions within this Strategic Goal have been renamed to 'CRT' due to typo.
SMR 7, SMR 8, SMR 9	These actions have been changed due to typo and are now referred to as SRM 7, SRM 8 and SRM 9.
CTR 5	KPI Changed to: "Number of engagements with Green clubs."
SRM 4	KPI changed to: "Development and Implementation of policy."
SRM 5	KPI changed to: "Number of stakeholders engaged. Quantity reduction in single use plastics."
SRM 6	KPI changed to: "Number of composting facilities successfully installed."
SRM 7	KPI changed to: "Number of rainwater facilities successfully installed."
SRM 12	KPI changed to: "Progress update/ Remediation work carried out."
GL 1	The words 'Corporate Plan' have been added to this action: "Embed Climate Action into all Council plans, policies and strategies including the County Development Plan, Corporate Plan, Annual Service Delivery Plan, Team Operational plans, individual Personal Development Plans, and section risk registers to ensure the delivery of climate actions across all departments."
T 16	The words 'and total spend' have been added to the action's KPI: "Number of projects completed, and total spend. Amount of funding secured."
BE 7	KPI changed to: "Implementation of App."





## 3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

### 3.1 Introduction

Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive states that: *'Where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.'*

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternative means of achieving the strategic goals of the LACAP (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of a plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Such reasonable alternative must be realistic and capable of implementation.

Reasonable alternatives to the LACAP were initially explored and examined during the SEA Scoping stage of the SEA process, having regard to the scope, function and strategic aims and main objectives of the LACAP, as defined in the Local Authority Climate Action Plan. This process facilitated the accurate identification of reasonable alternatives to the LACAP and also suitably informed the plan-making process, ensuring optimal environmental outcomes.

Reasonable alternatives were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be significantly affected by the LACAP.

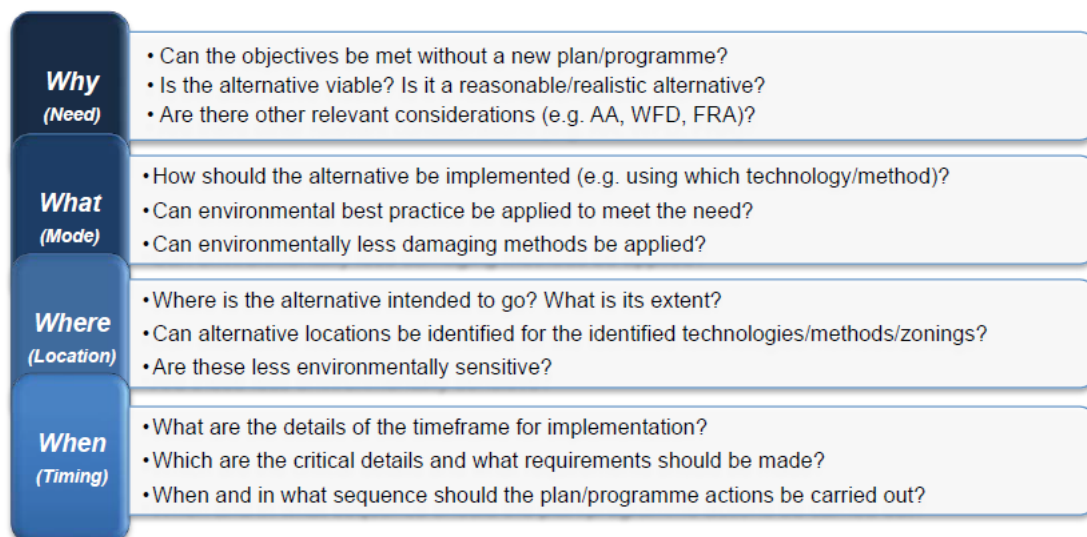
### 3.2 Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the LACAP were considered during the plan-making process. The approach for identifying reasonable alternatives to the LACAP is defined below:

1. Iterative communication was held between the plan-making and environmental assessment teams to identify the various alternative approaches and options being considered to achieve the vision of the plan - the reduction of GHG emissions at Local Authority organizational level and within the Community in support of Climate Action policy. This communication commenced early on during the plan-making process.
2. Reasonable alternatives considered were identified. For an alternative to be considered reasonable, it must be practical/functional, realistic and implementable. An evaluation of whether each alternative was practical/functional, reasonable and implementable took place. This evaluation considered the following factors:
  - 2.1. The vision of high-level objectives of the LACAP.
  - 2.2. The geographic scope of the LACAP.
  - 2.3. The actual powers and functions of the Local Authority.
  - 2.4. The climate action merits of the alternative.
  - 2.5. The genuine ability of the alternative to achieve the plan vision and high-level objectives.
  - 2.6. The technical feasibility of the alternative.
  - 2.7. The availability of resources, including financial resources to deliver the plan within the required timeframe.
  - 2.8. The policy hierarchy and the parameters placed around the LACAP by higher-level policy.
  - 2.9. The legislative context and the parameters placed around the LACAP by climate action and environmental related legislation.



The toolkit contained in the EPA's guidelines entitled 'Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance' (2015) was utilized when identifying reasonable alternatives. The 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model defined in the guidelines were used when framing reasonable alternatives, as shown in Figure 3-1.



**Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).**

### 3.3 Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives to the LACAP were identified. A description of these reasonable alternatives and the reasons for selecting these reasonable alternatives are presented in Table 3-1.

A 'Do Nothing' or 'Do Minimum' alternative was not a reasonable alternative in this instance as the preparation of an effective LACAP is a statutory requirement under Section 16 of the Climate Act.



**Table 3-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the LACAP**

Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative	Reasoning for selecting this Reasonable Alternative
<p>Alternative 1 - The Pareto Approach: Prioritize reducing GHG emissions from largest GHG emitting sectors to mitigate against climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that primarily focusses on climate mitigation and reducing GHG emissions associated with the largest GHG emitting sectors in the County that a local authority can reasonable influence having regard to the functions of a local authority - the Residential and Transport sectors.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that could achieve a significant reduction in GHG emissions by prioritizing and supporting climate mitigation related action for the Residential and Transport sectors. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>
<p>Alternative 2 - The Holistic Approach: Adopt a multi-pronged approach and focus on a range of priority areas to mitigate against and adapt to climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that has a balanced focus on both climate mitigation and adaptation across several theme areas and all socio-economic sectors.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that would have enhanced potential to reduce GHG emissions across multiple sectors, potential to offset GHG emissions, and greater potential to protect the local community and the environment from climate change related risks. Climate mitigation and adaptation actions across a wide breath of theme areas would be supported by the LACAP. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>
<p>Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach (Current LACAP): Adopt a multi-pronged approach - that has a strong community engagement emphasis - and focus on a range of priority areas to mitigate against and adapt to climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that has a balanced focus on both climate mitigation and adaptation across several theme areas and all socio-economic sectors, and which has a strong community engagement emphasis, which underpins, supports and drives the climate action contained in the plan.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that would have enhanced potential to reduce GHG emissions across multiple sectors, potential to offset GHG emissions, and greater potential to protect the local community and the environment from climate change related risks. Climate mitigation and adaptation actions across a wide breath of theme areas would be supported by the LACAP. The range of climate mitigation and adaptation actions defined in the LACAP is likely to have better community level and organizational support given its strong community engagement emphasis. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>



### 3.4 Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives and Reasons for Choosing the Preferred Plan

An evaluation of the potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. This evaluation is documented in the SEA Environmental Report for the LACAP. A summary of this evaluation and the reason for choosing the preferred Plan is presented below.

Alternative 1 - The Pareto Approach - would lead to some positive environmental effects and would result in the reduction of GHG emissions in the sectors that the local authority can control or exert substantial influence on that contribute most in terms of GHG emission in the County - the Residential and Transport sectors. It is less likely that this alternative would have delivered the wide-ranging climate mitigation and offsetting related action required to fully realize GHG emission reduction potential in the County. It is also less likely this alternative would have defined a wide range of climate adaptation measures that would fully protect biodiversity, heritage resources, environmental receptors and people from climate change risks. This alternative approach may have generated several negative environmental effects, which would not be counterbalanced by the positive environmental effects associated with Alternatives 2 and 3.

Alternative 2 - The Holistic Approach - and Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach - would have both broadly delivered suitably wide ranging and effective climate action. These alternatives have the potential to generate multiple positive environmental effects, including a reduction in GHG emissions at organizational, community and sectoral levels, in addition to a variety of other environmental benefits. These alternatives would have placed a balanced emphasis on both climate mitigation and adaptation action, ensuring climate change related environmental risks are adequately understood and managed at community level.

Alternative 3 had the best potential to deliver effective climate action given its holistic, wide encompassing nature; and given its strong community engagement emphasis, which supports better participation in climate action at community level. Alternative 3 had better potential therefore to fully realize potential environmental effects than Alternative 2.

**Reasonable Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach - therefore constituted the preferred alternative or preferred plan.**



## 4. SEA CONCLUSION

The reasonable alternative evaluation presented in the preceding section resulted in the development of a LACAP that achieves the best environmental outcomes in comparison to other reasonable alternative considered.

The adoption of the mitigation measures to be integrated into the LACAP, in combination with the continued adoption of the development planning and control related environmental protection measures defined in the CDP will prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the LACAP. No further mitigation measures are required for the LACAP.

With the adoption of the defined mitigation measures, the implementation of the adopted LACAP will not result in any likely, significant, adverse environmental effects.

All potential effects that may cause transboundary impacts will also be appropriately mitigated with the adoption of the defined mitigation. Mitigation measures have been adopted to ensure that the environmental effects of Plan Action are controlled at the source. Thus, it can be concluded that the LACAP will not have any likely, significant transboundary impacts.



## 5. SEA MONITORING

The SEA Directive requires that the environmental effects of the implementation of a plan are monitored in order 'to identify at an early stage unforeseen effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.'

A series of indicators and targets were established for identified SEOs to enable ongoing monitoring and measurement of LACAP implementation performance, the environmental effects of the implementation of the LACAP and the efficacy of environmental mitigation measures. Such monitoring will be carried out regularly to support plan implementation.

SEO indicators are simple and effective quantifiable indicators used to measure the environmental effects of implementing the LACAP and the progress of SEO objectives and targets. SEO targets set focussed, measurable aims and thresholds that the LACAP can support the achievement of.

MCC are responsible for implementation of the SEA monitoring programme. The environmental effects (including positive, negative and cumulative effects) of LACAP implementation will be monitored once every year over the course of the plan's five-year lifetime. This monitoring will be carried out by the Climate Action section of Monaghan County Council who will report on progress and performance to the relevant SPC annually. A monitoring report will be prepared to document monitoring outcomes. This report shall be made available for public inspection.

Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the LACAP is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the LACAP should take place and the LACAP should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LACAP implementation are not being adequately realized, the LACAP should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realization of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the plan.

The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the LACAP is contained in Table 5-1. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled 'Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring' (2020). The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources used to monitor and measure progress.

A stand-alone monitoring report on the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan will be prepared in advance of the plan review process. The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.



**Table 5-1: SEA Monitoring Programme**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Overall	O1	Ensure, where appropriate, that lower-level plans and projects contribute to overall environmental monitoring processes within the County.	Lower-level plan and project accordance with the plan.	Require all lower-level plans and projects have appropriate regard to and appropriately support all action and development proposals defined in the Plan.  Ensure alignment between the Plan and the County Development Plan.	Review of Local Area Plans.  Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.  Review of lower-level plan SEA documentation.
Population & Human Health	PHH1	Avoid or minimise impacts to population and human health.	Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	Consultation with the Health Service Executive (HSE)/Health Atlas Ireland and the EPA, and DAERA where appropriate).
	PHH2	Ensure the Decarbonising Zone avoids and minimises impacts to the existing economic activities within the area and does not compromise/conflict with existing land use objectives.	Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies and land use objectives protective/supportive of economic development in the county defined in the County Development Plan (CDP) or County Local Area Plans.	No contravention of policies and land use objectives protective/supportive of economic development in the county defined in the CDP or County Local Area Plans.  Consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development will be carried out in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives.  Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure Climate Action does not conflict with biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation.	Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP.  Condition of habitats impacted by climate change (Area km <sup>2</sup> /length metres).	No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP.  Ensure no habitats are impacted by the effects of climate change.  Ensure no reduction in the number of geographic distribution of species as a result of climate change effects.	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives.  Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity Action Plan.  Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			<p>Number and geographical distribution of Species or Species population trends impacted by climate change.</p> <p>Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with policy supporting biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p>	
	B2	Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species <sup>4</sup> .	Condition of European Sites and annexed species.	No adverse impacts on the condition of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species as a result of plan implementation.	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Consultation with the NPWS and DAERA (where appropriate).</p> <p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive.</p> <p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12.</p> <p>Review of NPWS and DAERA publications regarding the status of designated sites.</p>

<sup>4</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.





Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	B3	Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	<p>Condition of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.</p> <p>Linear meters of riparian corridors enhanced with native planting.</p> <p>Fragmentation or breaks in continuity of habitats and loss of wildlife corridors, stepping stones and connectivity (km<sup>2</sup>).</p> <p>Number of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p>	<p>No adverse impacts on the condition of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as a result of plan implementation.</p> <p>Increase linear metres of riparian corridor enhanced with native planting.</p> <p>Reduce habitat fragmentation or breaks.</p> <p>Increase number of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Plan.</p>
	B4	To avoid or minimize significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species.	<p>Condition of semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation.</p> <p>Status of listed species in the Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2012.</p>	<p>No adverse impacts on condition of semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation, as a result of plan implementation.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on listed species in the Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2012 as a result of plan implementation.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Plan.</p>
	B5	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency.	Compliance of development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP.	<p>No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP.</p> <p>Increase number of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			<p>No. of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p> <p>Improved biodiversity areas (Area km<sup>2</sup> /length metres).</p> <p>Compliance of development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>Increase quantum of improved biodiversity areas.</p> <p>No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with policy supportive of biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Plan.</p>
Landscape, Seascape & Visual Amenity	L1	Avoid or, minimise impacts to statutory landscape designations, including seascape designations	<p>Status of Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects.</p> <p>Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse impacts on Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects, or NI Areas of Outstanding Beauty.</p> <p>Number of areas in the local authority functional area designated for their landscape character or visual amenity.</p>	<p>All action and development proposals supported by the plan must comply with policy objectives relating to the protection of Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects defined in the CDP.</p> <p>No development supported by the plan should have an adverse impact on Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects, or NI Areas of Outstanding Beauty</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.</p>
	L2	Avoid or minimise adverse visual effects on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.	<p>Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.</p>	<p>No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse visual impact on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.</p>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
				All development supported by the plan should adhere to relevant Development Management Standards defined in the CDP, in particular standards defined in relation to physical and visual impacts.	
Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural	CH1	Avoid impacts upon archaeological heritage (including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)) and architectural heritage (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)).	Percentage of features contained in the RMP (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of this plan. Percentage of features contained in the RPS and NIAH (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of this plan.	No features contained in the RMP (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan. No features contained in the RPS and NIAH (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Review of Heritage Plan environmental effect monitoring
Soils	S1	Avoid or minimise effects on mineral resources or soils.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring, including the pollution, loss or degradation of mineral resources or soils, as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with Geological Survey of Ireland and review of published data on the soils environment.
Land Use	LU1	Avoid or minimise effects on existing land use.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of plan implementation.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of plan implementation.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Review of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry related Greenhouse Gas emissions calculated in the Baseline Emission Inventory.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Increase the number of people travelling to work or school via public transport or by non-mechanical means.	% change in modal split. Length of new sustainable transport routes developed.	Reduction in private car use. Extension and improvement of the sustainable transport network in the plan area.	Central Statistics Office (CSO) Population data - Commuting in Ireland. Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.	Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse air quality impacts on sensitive receptors. Number of exceedances of ambient air quality standards in the County, as monitored under the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network. Improvements in air quality status in the county.	No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse air quality impact on sensitive receptors. All development supported by the plan should adhere to relevant Development Management Standards defined in the CDP relating to the protection of air quality. Minimise ambient air quality standard exceedances in the County.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA. Review of EPA Air Quality Monitoring undertaken in the County. Review of EPA annual 'Air Quality in Ireland' Report
	AQN3	Avoid or minimise adverse noise impacts.	Number of sensitive receptors exposed to noise nuisance.	No sensitive receptors exposed to nuisance noise in the County.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Monitoring of internal noise complaint investigations undertaken. Consultation with the EPA and DAERA (where appropriate).
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface, transitional, bathing, and coastal waters.	Status of surface water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status of bathing waters as monitored under the Bathing Water Directive. Number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.	Number of Pollution Incidents detected due to poor bathing water quality results. Not to cause deterioration in the status of any water or affect the ability of any water to achieve 'good status.' No deterioration in the status of any bathing waters, having appropriate regard to bathing water mandatory and guidelines values defined in the Bathing Water Directive.	EPA surface water monitoring data and reports. EPA bathing water monitoring data and reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application Review of DAERA water quality data.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			<p>Status of transitional and coastal water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive (WFD).</p> <p>Status of Northern Irish Waters, as reported by DAERA.</p>	<p>Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the national River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Increase in number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters.	Status of groundwater bodies as reported by the EPA National Groundwater Monitoring Programme for the WFD.	No deterioration in the status of groundwater quality, having appropriate regard to Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values defined under Directive 2006/118/EC.	EPA groundwater monitoring data and reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application
	W3	Prevent impact upon the WFD status of surface waters and groundwater in line with the requirements of the WFD.	<p>Number of instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.</p> <p>Number of surface water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>No instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.</p> <p>Increase in number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA and DAERA.
	W4	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) consented within flood risk areas.	Minimise developments (supported by the plan) granted consent on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk, having appropriate regard to the Flood Risk Management guidelines.	Internal monitoring of development projects granted planning consent.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	W5	Prevent impact upon drinking water quality	Number of non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023. Number of non-compliances with Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland).	No non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023. No non-compliances with Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland)	EPA Drinking Water Quality Reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application. Review of DAERA Drinking Water Inspectorate reports on drinking water quality.
Material Assets	MAI1	Avoid or minimise effects on built/amenity assets and infrastructure	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.
	MAI2	Avoid or minimise effects upon existing and (where known) planned infrastructure.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater management, energy and transport infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned material assets infrastructure.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects, including monitoring of effects on other future planned or committed material asset infrastructure projects. Consultation with Irish Water, Gas Networks Ireland, ESB Networks and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
	MAI3	Promote sustainable transportation.	% change in modal split. Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network. Number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives (m <sup>2</sup> ).	Percentage increase in the number of public transport users in the County Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Increase Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives.	CSO Population data - Commuting in Ireland. Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	MAI4	Promote sustainable waste management.	<p>Tonnes of hazardous waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of W.E.E.E. waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of Bulky waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of garden waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p>	<p>Increase waste recycling in the County.</p> <p>Reduce waste generation in the County.</p>	EPA Waste Statistics. Consultation with the EPA.
	MAI5	Promote sustainable water use and drainage management.	<p>Level of water use in the County.</p> <p>Compliance with Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) related development management standards defined in the CDP.</p>	<p>Reduced water use in the county.</p> <p>All development (supported by the plan) must comply with SuDS related development management standards defined in the CDP.</p>	<p>CSO water consumption data.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of flood risk associated with development projects and development project compliance with relevant flood risk and management related development management standards.</p>
Tourism & Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise effects upon tourism and recreation amenities.	Visitor trips to local authority functional area	Stable or increasing number of visitor trips to local authority functional area	Fáilte Ireland Data on Tourism Performance
Climate Change	CF1	Delivery of the necessary action to support the national target of 80% electricity from renewable sources by 2030.	<p>Level of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the County.</p> <p>Level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.</p>	<p>Reduce GHG emissions associated with the Energy sector in the County.</p> <p>Increase the level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.</p>	<p>EPA National Emission Inventory.</p> <p>Baseline Emission Inventory for the County.</p> <p>Megawatt hour (MWh) output from renewable energy infrastructure in the county.</p>
	CF2	Actively support the delivery of all national climate policy as appropriate to the county with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.	Level of GHG emissions in the County	Reduce GHG emissions for all sectors in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	CF3	Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels.	Level of GHG emissions in the County. Level of GHG emissions in the Decarbonising Zone. Net addition of tree cover added.	Reduce GHG emission in the County to Net Zero. Reduce Decarbonising Zone GHG emissions to Net Zero. Increase level of tree cover in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County. Baseline Emission Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone.
	CF4	Deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation and adaptation measures in a specifically defined area through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.	Level of GHG emissions in the Decarbonising Zone.	Reduce Decarbonising Zone GHG emissions to Net Zero.	Baseline Emission Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone.
Inter-relationships	IR1	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes. Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement during adaptation to climate change.	Number of blue and green infrastructure measures included as part of development projects that have been granted consent.	Increase the number of blue and green infrastructure measures included as part of development projects that have been granted consent.	Review of granted planning consents.





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