



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029

Progress Report 2024



'SETTING THE SCENE FOR GOING GREEN'

Environment and Climate Action
February 2025

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Acknowledgments

The Tipperary County Council Climate Action Office wishes to acknowledge the dedication and support for climate action by the various service areas of Tipperary County Council under the stewardship of the senior management team (Climate Action Steering Group). The work and assistance of the Elected Members and the Environment and the Climate Strategic Policy Committee is also acknowledged and appreciated.

Our Tipperary communities are highly aware of the need for progressive and positive Climate Action and its contribution to our social and economic wellbeing, and Tipperary County Council is appreciative of the support and engagement of the wider community and the stakeholders we serve.

We also wish to thank our partners in Third Level Educational facilities right across the country who have enabled and supported innovation in climate action. In addition, the support of the private and business sectors has been invaluable in providing impetus for, and enabling change.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) who have supported us in embedding climate action across the organisation and in compiling this first report on local authority climate action.

Finally, sincere thank you to all, and in particular, the Climate Action Team, Decarbonising Zone Working Group, Decarbonising Zone Advisory Group, the Tipperary Energy Agency and the Energy Management Team.

1 Introduction

The Tipperary County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 (LACAP) was adopted on the 12th of February 2024. The LACAP sets out how the Council is reducing energy use and increasing energy efficiency across its own properties, facilities and fleet, and also how the Council through its actions is actively influencing, facilitating and advocating for climate action across other sectors and communities in how they achieve their own climate actions and targets. The LACAP comprises 100 actions, along with opportunity areas and actions for the Tipperary 'Decarbonising Zone' (DZ).



This is the first annual 'Progress Report' of the LACAP. This progress report reflects the plan implementation period from January 2024 to December 2024. This report is a summary of climate action progress by the Council over 2024, and seeks to illustrate the range and breadth of climate action delivery across Council services. This report highlights the cross-departmental approach being taken to enable positive climate change by our staff and representatives across all aspects of local authority service delivery.

2 Leadership and Governance

2.1 Summary of Climate Action Governance and Structure

The Climate Action Office (CAO) was established in spring 2023 with the support of funding from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). In line with every other local authority, the core roles of the CAO comprise the following:

1. Climate Action Coordinator
2. Climate Action Officer
3. Community Climate Action Fund Officer

During 2024, the following additional roles were created:

4. Pathfinder South East Sub-Group Regional Energy Manager
5. Decarbonising Zone Stakeholder and Community Outreach Officer
6. Climate Action Assistant

The CAO is supported by the Climate Action Steering Group (CASG), chaired by the Chief Executive and comprised of the members of the Senior Management Team. The CASG provides strategic guidance and oversight to the CAO and the Climate Action Team (CAT). The CAT comprises of senior staff from all service areas, and it is their role to act as champions for climate change in their own service areas, and to deliver and report on the actions of the LACAP.

The Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA) provide advisory and technical services to the Council including the monitoring and reporting of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

Please refer to the County Council webpage for more details:

[Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan | Tipperary County Council](#)

2.2 Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)



The CARO coordinates and supports local authorities in delivering transformative change and measurable climate action. Tipperary is located in the eastern and midlands CARO region, this comprises of 17 counties each with common challenges in mitigating the effects of climate change and in adapting to climate change. Please refer to the CARO webpage for more details:

[Home - CARO](#)

2.3 Climate Action National Key Performance Indicators

The Government collects annual data on how local authorities are performing in terms of their climate action obligations. Data is collected under the following themes mainstreaming, mitigation, adaptation and internal behavioral change and capacity building and is collated in an annual Climate Action Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) report by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). Please refer to the dedicated website for more details:

[2023 Local Government Climate Action Key Performance Indicators Report | Local Government Ireland](#)

Local Government CA KPI Theme	Climate Action Theme	Data supplied by
1. Climate Action Staff	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
2. Climate Action Teams	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
3. Active Travel Projects	Mitigation	NTA
4. Social Housing Retrofit	Mitigation	LGMA (HDCO)
5. Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Mitigation	SEAI
6. Climate Action Plans	Adaptation / Mitigation	Local Authorities
7. Severe Weather Responses	Adaptation	Local Authorities
8. Community Climate Action Programme	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	DECC
9. Councillor & Staff Training	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	LASNTG
10. Green for Micro	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	Enterprise Ireland

Figure 1: Ten National KPIs for Climate Action

Data for 2024 was collected over the period January 15th - January 31st 2025 and will be published in summer 2025 by the LGMA. A new KPI (Number 6 - Climate Action Plans) has been included for 2024, and will collect an update on the delivery of LACAP actions from every local authority.

2.4 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

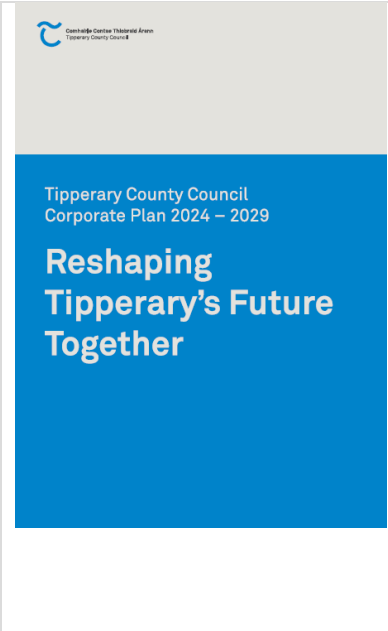
DECC has overall responsibility for promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). There are 17 SDGs and the implementation of all are key to our sustainable future. Action 17 relates to Climate Action, however, the achievement of many more are key to sustainable development of the county. There is significant cross-departmental awareness of the SDGs and they are routinely considered in the development of new policy and service delivery. For example, the SDGS (including Climate Action) have been deeply embedded in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, the LACAP, the Tipperary Local Economic and Development Plan 2024 and the Tipperary Corporate Plan 2024. The Council supports the annual national SDG week with events and activities across the county.

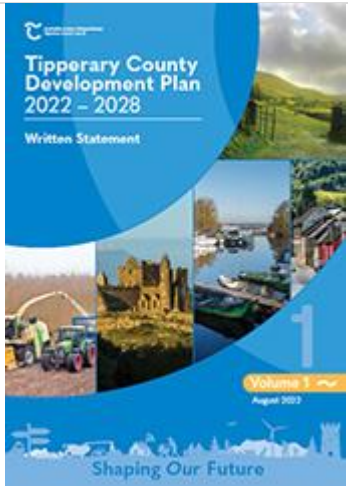
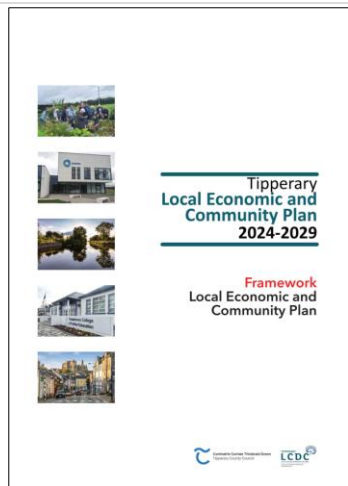


2.5 Mainstreaming of Climate Action in our Plans and Operations

Action 82 of the LACAP requires the Council ‘*In the development of new local authority plans, programmes or strategies to mainstream, as strategic objectives, the climate actions as set out in this LACAP (mitigation and adaption), the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Circular Economy concept*’

In line with this action, Climate Action objectives and actions have been integrated into the numerous policies, strategies and plans associated with Tipperary County Council. Listed below are some of the key strategic documents that will guide the county vision, functions and programmes and the social and economic progress of Tipperary.

	<p>Tipperary County Council Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029 ‘Reshaping Our Future Together’</p> <p>Core value Number Two Sustainability and Climate Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to enhancing and managing our environment • Ensure our practices are environmentally responsible • Adopt sustainable best practices in line with the UN SDGs • Minimise, through action, climate change and adapt to its effects • Support communities to be sustainable and resilient. <p>Corporate Plan Publication Tipperary County Council</p>
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	<p>Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028</p> <p>A Plan for resilience, and for recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, for sustainable towns and rural areas, and for self-sustaining and inclusive communities. The Plan is a proactive spatial planning framework for sustainable future growth, building on the strengths and assets of the county, its communities and its environment.</p> <p>5 ‘Core Ambitions’ integrate the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability and inform this Plan, including to the ambition to be a ‘Climate Resilient, Sustainable and Low-Carbon County’</p> <p>Tipperary County Development Plan 2022- 2028 Tipperary County Council</p>
	<p>Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029</p> <p>Sets out, for six years, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the county.</p> <p>High Level Goal 3: That Tipperary would be rich in biodiversity and, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that its households, communities, and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change, and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county. Climate adaptation and mitigation are important in underpinning quality of life, environmental health, and sustainable and positive economic development.</p> <p>Local Economic and Community Plan for County Tipperary Tipperary County Council</p>

3 LACAP Monitoring

3.1 LACAP Actions

The LACAP contains 100 actions across 5 thematic areas with the following action distribution across the themes:



Figure 2: LACAP Thematic Areas for Climate Action

Table 1: LACAP Actions by Thematic Area and Status Summary			
Theme	Number of Actions	Completed (2024) and In Progress	Actions Not Started
Governance and Leadership	29	24	5
Built Environment and Transport	26	23	3
Communities: Resilience & Just Transition	20	19	1
Sustainability and Resource Management	17	17	0
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	8	7	1
	100	90	10

Climate Actions as set out in the LACAP are delivered by the section assigned for the delivery of each action. A designed member of the CAT is responsible for annual reporting of actions to the Climate Action Coordinator.

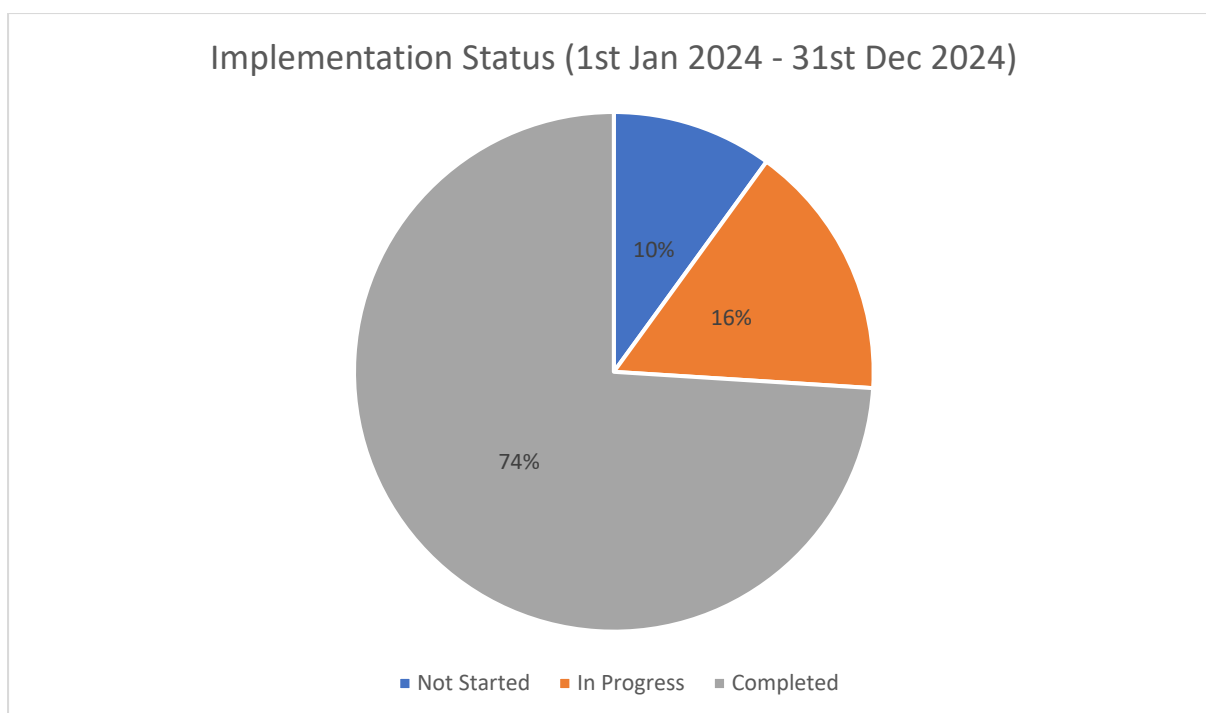


Figure 3: LACAP Actions Implementation Status

It was found that for the period 2024, 74 LACAP actions were completed, 16 were classified as 'In progress' (with delivery timelines that extend to a period greater than a 12-month period) and it was found that 10 actions had yet to commence. Out of 100 actions in the LACAP, 70 of these are actions that reoccur annually.

3.2 Decarbonising Zone Actions

The National Climate Action Plan requires local authorities to plan for a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) in their administrative areas. A range of climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures are to illustrate decarbonising and positive climate action at a local and community level.

There are already programmes that support climate action such as the An Taisce 'Green Schools', Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland 'Sustainable Energy Communities', Local Enterprise Office 'Green for Micro', Transport for Ireland 'Local Link Tipperary, Teagasc 'Signpost' and many more. The Council works with these existing service providers and others to promote new learnings in delivering climate action, as well as associated economic and social benefits in areas such as Just Transition, biodiversity, recreation and health.

The Tipperary DZ is centred around the National Bioeconomy Campus at the former Lisheen Mine site near Thurles. It has a wide rural hinterland, 12 villages and a community of approximately 7000 persons. The area is located within the EU JTF area where economic decline has been reversed by funding received under the EU JTF in areas such as Economic Diversification, Local Economic and Community Plan Schemes, Bioeconomy, Peatland Restoration, Networks of Trails, Sustainable Transport and Electric Vehicle Charge points.

Part of the vision for the Tipperary DZ is to enable co-benefits as a result of climate action, these may include new recreational opportunities associated with the restoration of industrial cut-over peatlands. Tipperary Tourism is working with the Council and Bord na Móna to

develop the ‘Littleton Labyrinth’, a new network of linked recreational trails that runs in a north east direction in the DZ in the extensive peatlands that characterise the area.

There are 10 ‘Opportunity’ areas set out in the LACAP (Section 6) that relate to the delivery of the vision for DZ area. There is a total of 37 individual actions outlined under these 10 opportunity areas. It was found that there has been progress in achieving the DZ actions with all except one opportunity area in progress or completed for 2024. Future progress is expected to be achieved in 2025 as a result of the appointment of a ‘Community and Stakeholder Outreach Officer’ for the DZ area. In addition, it is expected that guidance and support from the CARO in terms of the national network of DZs will be forthcoming in 2025.

Table 2: DZ Opportunity Area progress update

Number	Opportunity Areas	Adaptation or Mitigation	Reoccurring	Status
1	Support and promote the development of the National Bioeconomy Campus located at Lisheen, Co. Tipperary.	Combined	Yes	Completed
2	Support and enable the villages in the area to participate in a village network, to help them access supports such as the SEAI SECs, Energy Communities Tipperary Co-operative and similar collaborative actions to facilitate climate action, village regeneration, active travel, biodiversity, community and economic development etc.	Combined	Yes	Not Started
3	Actively seek funding through the EU JTF programme.	Combined	Yes	Completed
4	Enable sustainable renewable energy development, research and development in the area both at the commercial and community scale.	Combined	Yes	In Progress
5	Roll-out relevant LACAP initiatives in the area including existing programmes relating to public lighting, local authority housing retrofit programmes etc.	Combined	Yes	In Progress
6	Co-ordinate multi-agency collaboration through stakeholder (local authority and external) identification and the maintenance of a collaborative, targeted and active stakeholder group.	Combined	Yes	In Progress
7	Advocate for sustainable travel and mobility in the area and the better connectivity of the area with regional and national transport networks.	Mitigation	Yes	In Progress
8	Help to support and build overall awareness (community, public and businesses) and capacity around	Combined	Yes	In Progress

	positive and effective climate actions that they can undertake in the area.			
9	Consider the development and implementation of a collaborative/innovative approach to nature-based, land land-use diversification and biodiversity rich solutions, on a catchment basis to support water quality improvement, carbon capture, the bio-economy and flood risk management.	Combined	Yes	In Progress
10	Support Sustainable Tourism using the natural, cultural and historical assets of the area.	Combined	Yes	Completed

3.3 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

LACAP actions are classified by whether they relate to Mitigation of climate change, Adaptation to climate change or actions that achieve both outcomes. It was found that 31% relate to mitigation, 15% relate to adaptation and 54% will contribute to the delivery of both.

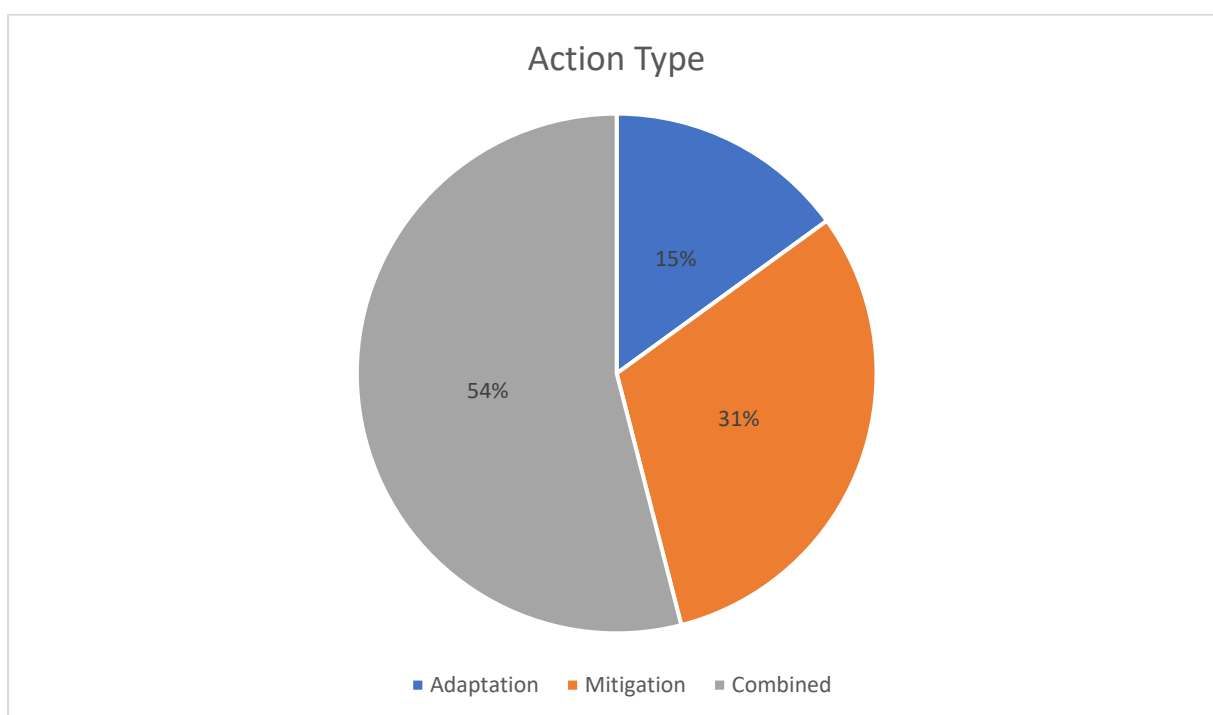


Figure 4: LACAP actions by action type

A key requirement of the Council is climate change mitigation in the form of reduced GHG emissions and increased energy efficiency (Actions 30, 31 and 32 of the LACAP) across its own organisation. For further detail on this refer to Section 3 Energy Performance Update. In addition to this, there are many more actions that will enable the mitigation of climate change through service delivery.

The Tipperary County Council Climate Change Risk Assessment, 2023 (CCRA) provides a review of the extreme weather events that occurred in the county over the past 30 years. It is indicated that severe windstorms often combined with extreme precipitation, were the most frequently occurring climate hazards. Future Climate Hazards and Impacts are outlined below.

	Hazard Type	Projected Frequency	Projected Frequency (Score)	Asset Damage	Health and Wellbeing	Environment	Social	Financial	Reputation	Cultural Heritage	Projected Impact
FUTURE IMPACTS	 River flood	Frequent	4	Major	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Major	3.57
	 Drought	Frequent	4	Moderate	Major	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Negligible	3.00
	 Severe windstorm	Very Frequent	5	Moderate	Major	Major	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Moderate	2.71
	 Extreme precipitation	Very Frequent	5	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	2.43
	 Pluvial flood	Frequent	4	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	2.43
	 Heatwave	Frequent	4	Minor	Moderate	Major	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	2.29
	 Above average precipitation	Frequent	4	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	2.00
	 Above average surface temperature	Frequent	4	Negligible	Negligible	Catastrophic	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	2.00
	 Cold spell	Occasional	2	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Minor	1.71
	 Heavy snowfall	Occasional	2	Minor	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Minor	1.71
	 Increase in Relative Sea Level	Occasional	2	Negligible	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Minor	1.29

Figure 5: Assessment of Future Climate Hazards and Impacts

The LACAP sets out specific actions that relate to ability for the Council to adapt to these emerging climate risks. The Tipperary County Council Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) is a high-level team that examine operational needs and risks around severe weather events (Action 25 of the LACAP). The SWAT team is constantly aware of, and monitors the risks associated with climatic changes and their relevance for securing the functional and operational needs of the Council. In 2024, the SWAT was convened 5 times in response to the following extreme weather event types:

- Wind (2),
- Snow/ice (2), and,
- Thunderstorms (1)

Section 7.8 sets out further details on the Councils emergency response to extreme weather events during 2024.

4 Energy Performance Update

4.1 Monitoring and Reporting of Energy Performance

Tipperary County Council is obligated to achieve a 51% reduction in GHG carbon emissions (based on a 2016-2018 baseline) and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency (based on a 2009 baseline) by 2030 under the Climate Action Plan 2023 set out by the Government.



The SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M & R) system offers a platform for all local authorities to report on their Emission Reduction and Energy Efficiency Targets, and the Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA) provide support to the Council in monitoring and reporting. In particular, it provides an annual breakdown of the 'Gap to Target' to achieve these targets. It should be noted that the 2024 figures are still provisional and have not been finally verified by SEAI, therefore final figures for 2024 are due to be published by the SEAI by end of Q2 2025.



For the purposes of this 2024 report a summary of Tipperary County Council energy performance for the period 2023 is outlined.

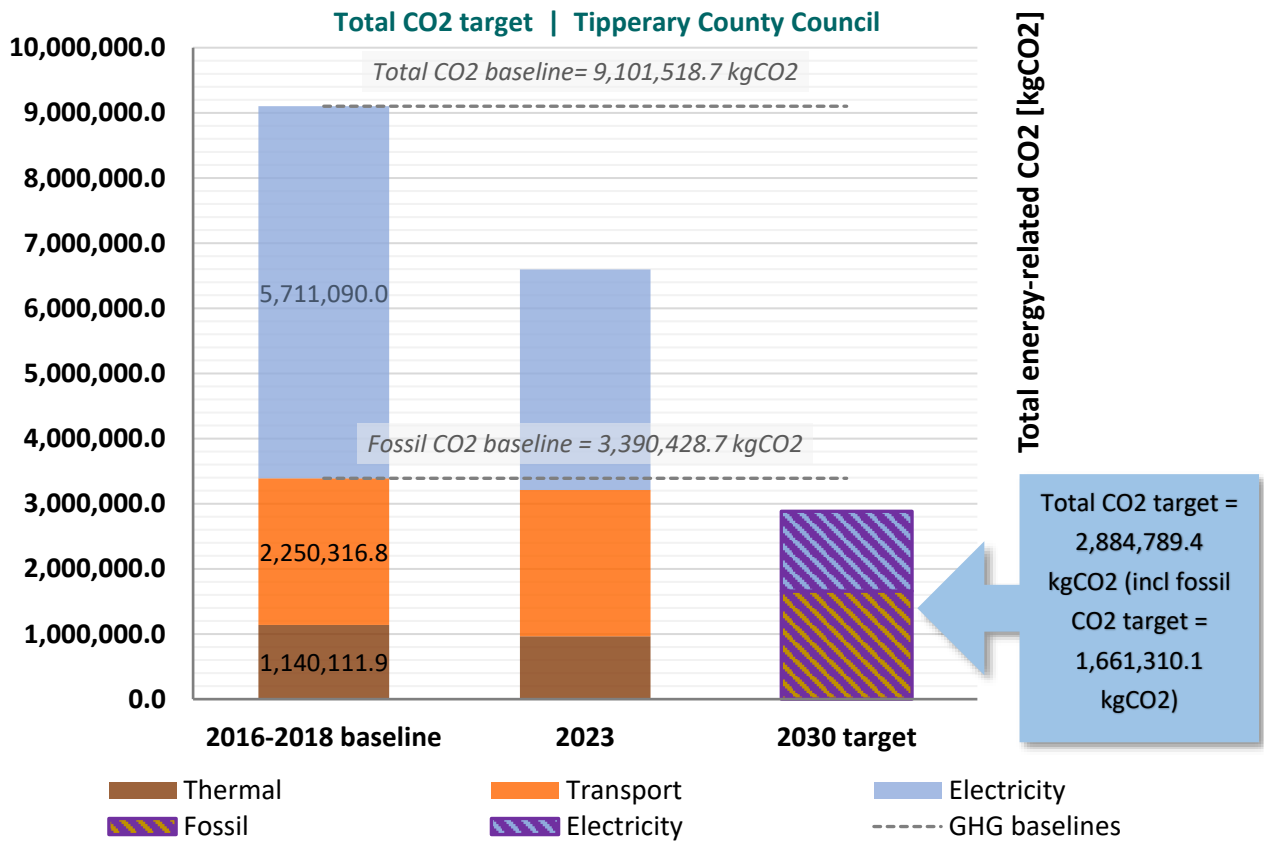


Figure 6: Tipperary County Council Total CO2 Gap-to-Target graph including baseline, 2023 Progress and the 2030 CAP targets

Total CO2 Emissions

In 2023, total CO2 emissions for Tipperary County Council were 27.5% below the 2016-2018 baseline. Based on the 2023 Gap-to-Target figure, Tipperary County Council must save an additional 3,712,040 kgCO2 in the next 7 years to reach the 2030 target of 2,883,094 kgCO2. To achieve this target, total CO2 emissions must be reduced by another 56.3%, from the 2023 level.

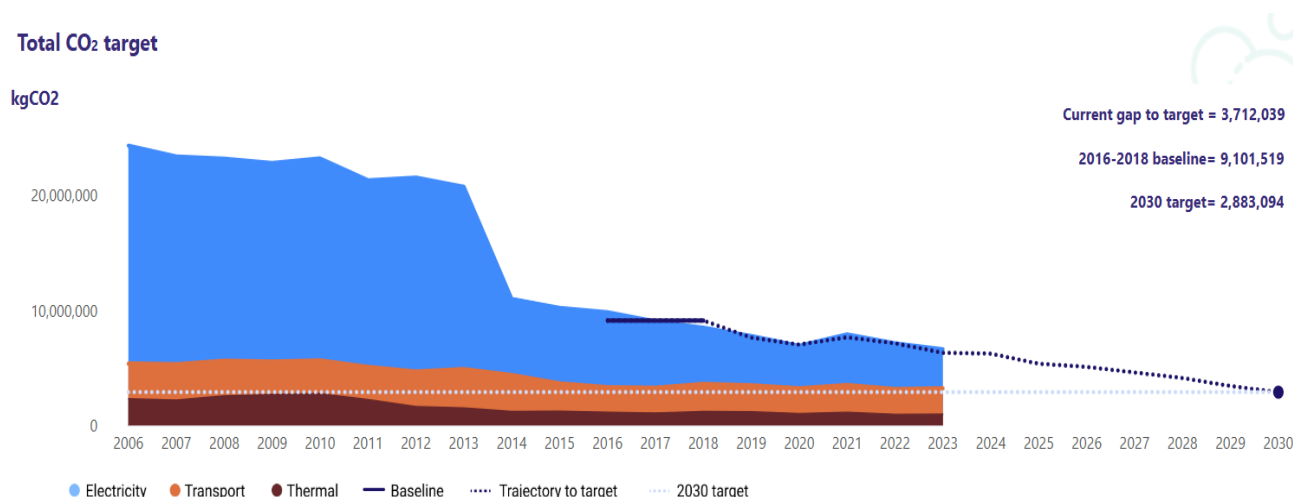


Figure 7: Tipperary County Council Total CO₂ Emissions Target

Fossil Fuel CO₂

In 2023, it was found that fossil fuel CO₂ was 5.3% below the 2016-2018 baseline. An additional fossil fuel CO₂ saving of 1,550,369 kgCO₂, or 48.3% reduction from 2023 levels, is required to achieve to 2030 targets.

Summary

A dedicated building energy efficiency and decarbonisation strategy and an organisational fleet decarbonisation strategy is essential in order that the Council can achieve its 51% reduction in GHG carbon emissions (based on a 2016-2018 baseline) 2030 target and to support good progress made in better energy efficiency across the organisation.

4.2 Our Property and Facilities

Ongoing monitoring of energy performance (Section 3.1) has established that there is a need for an organised response across the organisation to enable and lead progressive building energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects. During 2024, considerable progress has been achieved in this area.

4.2.1 Pathfinder - South East Regional Energy Unit

In 2024, Tipperary County Council with the support of CARO established (Action 33 of the LACAP) and took the lead role in a new South East Regional Energy Unit (one of 8 energy units) comprising the counties of Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford.

This Regional Energy Unit will guide the Local Authorities through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Pathfinder Programme, over a funding term 2025-2027. Within each Local Authority, and working with their respective Energy Agencies, Energy Officers have identified the most significant energy users (for example Leisure Centres, Civic Offices, Arts Venues etc). Carrying out retrofits on these buildings will have the highest impact in terms of achieving 2030 energy efficiency and decarbonisation targets. Through the SEAI Pathfinder Process, the most economical method of meeting the objectives of programme will be established for each building. These objectives of the SEAI Pathfinder process are to:

1. Contribute to meeting the 2030 emissions reductions and energy efficiency targets set out in the LACAP, including, among others:
 - a. 51% reduction in GHG in the public sector

- b. 50% primary energy efficiency improvement in the public sector
2. Align with the principles of the Pathfinder Programme Including:
 - a. Projects that improve energy efficiencies and reduce the GHG emissions from the public sector
 - b. Projects that support public bodies transition to net zero carbon emissions
 - c. Projects that prioritise and promote complete approaches to building retrofit, achieving a Building Energy Rating (BER) B and including the use of renewable heating
 - d. Projects that are consistent with a phased pathway towards a BER B and future-proof for renewable space heating systems (for example insulation upgrades, lighting upgrades)
3. Provision of human resources, related to the delivery of energy, decarbonisation and retrofit projects, and strictly on an agency/invoiced basis.
4. Projects that are consistent with a phased pathway towards Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB)/ZEB
5. Promote and support the implementation of Measurement and Verification, Commissioning and Post Occupancy Evaluation/Monitoring that is appropriate to the scale and extent of each project to report operational performance.
6. Promote and support the implementation of Energy Efficient Design Management (I.S.399) principles and best practice that is appropriate to the scale and extent of the each project.
7. Report operational impact of delivered projects and learnings to the public sector.
8. Promote the development of scalable models for energy and emission management and retrofit investment.

Further information may be found at [Pathfinder Programme | Non-Domestic Public Sector Building Retrofit | SEAI](#)

4.2.2 Property Management Unit and Building Selection

A new Property Management Unit was established in Autumn 2024 under the Corporate Affairs Directorate in order to deliver on Action 12 of the LACAP relating to enhanced facilities management to help meet GHG emissions reductions targets, underpin the SEAI Regional Pathfinder Programme and to meet Green Public Procurement (GPP) requirements across the Councils property stock. The Unit is supported by the TEA who provide emissions and energy use monitoring services to the Council along with expert support in devising a programme for emissions management. The criteria for building selection are set out in the Pathfinder Programme Procedure for Project Identification, Selection & Appraisal Document (SEAI). Data required for selection criteria is retrieved from the SEAI 'M & R' system which is updated annually by the TEA, Energy Audits and Property Management Systems.

A schedule of Council owned buildings and facilities have been selected that will be retrofitted and upgraded over the next 5 years to meet 2030 GHG reduction and energy efficiency targets. The following three buildings have been selected - Nenagh Civic offices, The Source, Thurles and Clonmel Civic offices for project initiation in 2025.

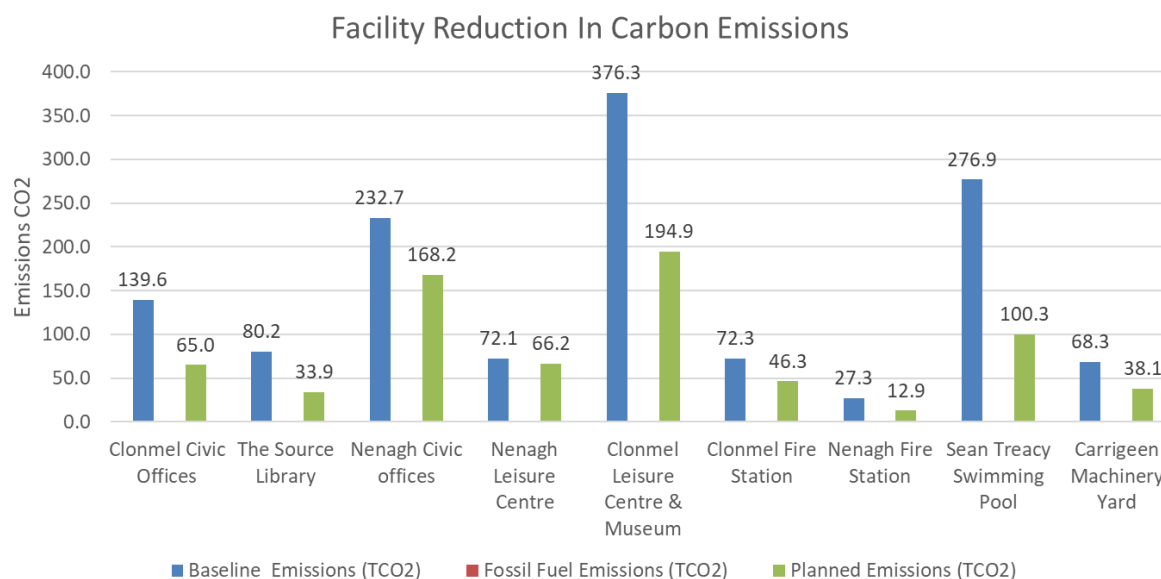


Figure 8: 2030 Retrofit Programme to be supported by the Pathfinder Programme

Table 3: Expected Outcomes as a result of the investment proposed in facilities

Outcome	Description
Contribute to meeting 2030 Targets	Works will contribute significantly to 51% reduction in total fossil fuel emissions. (Thermal and Transport)
Reduce Energy Consumption	Energy savings will lower operating costs.
Regulatory Compliance	Ensures compliance with current and future energy regulations and standards.
Enhanced Asset Value	Increase in asset value due to improved energy efficiency and reduced operating costs. Buildings will be future proofed to meet evolving energy standards and occupant requirements
Brand and Reputation	The Council will enhance image as industry leaders in environmentally friendly and innovative practices.
Enhanced Data and Analytics	Pathfinder will include the installation of monitoring and analytics tools to track energy performance, this will enable ongoing optimisation of building performance.

4.3 Our Fleet

Ongoing monitoring of energy performance (Section 3.1) has established that there is a need for an organisational fleet decarbonisation strategy in order to achieve the 51% reduction in GHG carbon emissions (based on a 2016-2018 baseline). During 2024, considerable progress has been achieved in this area.

Action 31 of the LACAP requires the Council, across its Fleet and Transport Management operations to achieve a 51% reduction in non-electrical transport GHG Emissions by 2030. This is a significant challenge as the Council operates over 250 vehicles of many types, ranging from lawnmowers, small cars and vans to large heavy vehicles such as road gritters and lorries, across a wide range of categories providing services across a range of areas.

In response, a programme of measures is set out to enable GHG emissions reduction across our fleet, measures include:

- Preparation of a "Fleet Decarbonisation Roadmap"
- A review of driver behaviour
- Education and training programme for Fleet Vehicle Drivers
- Review of fuel procurement procedures
- Move to alternative vehicles, including Electric Vehicles (EVs), and alternative fuel types including Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)
- Optimisation of road works programme
- Continue the exploration of acquiring more carbon efficient large vehicles
- Consider use of emerging technologies and materials
- Ensure that alternative fuel sources are sustainably sourced and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for EVs

The Council operates a fuel management system to keep track of fuel usage by these vehicles. Fuels used include Gas Oil, Diesel and HVO.

In addition, in line with its leadership role and Action 34 of the LACAP, Tipperary County Council has taken the lead on the development of a new Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy for region 5 of the Regional and Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan 2024 – 2030. As lead authority, Tipperary County Council will develop the strategy in collaboration with the local authorities of Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford.

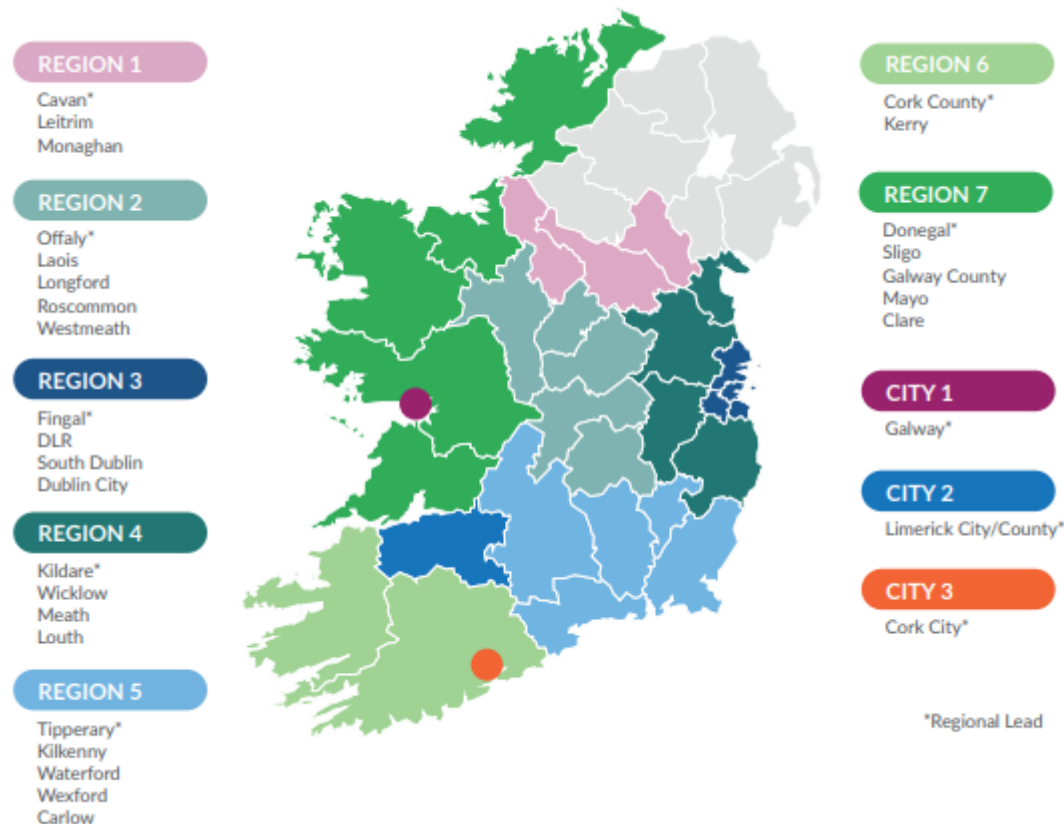


Figure 9: Region 5 comprises local authorities of Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford.

5 Staff Awareness and Training

5.1 Reduce your Use Staff Awareness Campaign



The Climate Action Officer role is dedicated to working with the staff of the Council to encourage and enable them to reduce their energy use both in the office and at home. As part of this the Council has signed up to the SEAI 'Reduce Your Use' engagement programme (LACAP Action 15). This programme is designed to encourage staff to think about their energy use and make positive changes to reduce waste and energy consumption.

Such changes include turning off lights and personal Information Technology (IT) equipment when not in use, reducing heat waste by only using heating when needed, recycling and better waste management etc.

In 2024, to support this campaign, a survey was carried out by the Climate Action Officer to see what energy and resource issues were important to staff. The survey identified the lack of recycling facilities as a staff concern. In response, better recycling facilities were introduced. For example, in Clonmel Civic Offices, new communal recycling bins were installed and individual waste bins removed. This led to a 15% increase in recycling and 15% reduction in general waste during 2024.



Figure 10: Council staff using their own branded keep-cups as an alternative to disposable cups

Another measure was the purchase of branded keep cups and water bottles for all staff to promote a more circular economy and provide an alternative to single use plastics. Communication with staff on a regular basis through the use of social media, internal correspondence and internal newsletters helps promote the value of ‘Reduce your Use’ both at home and in the office.

In 2025, further measures will be introduced to encourage staff to ‘Reduce Your Use’ these will include, climate action signage, for example, to encourage the “Switch off” lights and IT equipment. It is also planned to standardise waste collection and recycling facilities across the Nenagh and Clonmel civic offices and in the Municipal District Offices.



5.2 Climate Action Awareness as part of Induction of new Staff

Action 16 of the LACAP requires training and information to be provided to new employees, on the Council’s values and policies relating to Climate Action as part of their organisation induction programme. The purpose is to reflect the importance of the climate action ethos in the organisation.



Figure 11: Climate Action Officer briefing new staff in Nenagh Civic Offices

The Climate Action Officer engages with all new staff of the Council with a view to inducting them in the Climate Action mission and vision of the Council. As part of this, a climate action handbook has been produced to support staff awareness of the LACAP and the role of the Climate Action Team. Staff are enabled to make a positive impact, to better manage energy and resources and to have a leadership role, in particular, to show innovation in areas like alternative fuels, nature-based solutions and the circular economy.

In December of 2024, in-person training was carried out in Clonmel and Nenagh Civic Offices. New staff (60 new staff) met the Climate Action Officer and engaged in training.

From 2025 onwards, it is intended that a new Staff Induction Programme will be rolled out in the Council. Climate action awareness will be a key aspect of this programme reflecting its importance to the organisation.

5.3 Climate Action Formal Training programmes

The Local Authority Services National Training Unit (LASNTG) provide 'Raising Awareness' climate action training services to the staff of local authorities. The purpose of this training (online) is to:

- Increase the understanding and awareness of global climate change and what it means for Ireland and local authorities.
- Raise awareness of climate action, international and national climate action policy.
- Develop an understanding of the existing and planned actions being undertaken by the Local Authority sector in response to the challenges and opportunities posed by climate change.
- Build capacity to foster and demonstrate Local Authority leadership to other sectors and communities in developing and implementing local climate action measures.

By the end of 2024, 80 Tipperary County Council staff had completed the Climate Action Raising Awareness training. Participation in the training is now mandatory for all new Council entrants of Grades 3 to Grades 7.

In addition, 4 Staff completed the 'Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace' QQI level 5 training provided by the Tipperary Education and Training Board (TETB). This is a 10-week long course with 25 hours of tuition. It covered climate change, energy and water management, sustainable food management, circular economy, environmental management and green communities.

[Tipperary ETB's Environmental Sustainability Awareness in the Workplace - Local Enterprise Office - Tipperary](#)

6 Influencing Climate Action – A Closer Look

Climate action reaches across all Council services and functions. In this section, LACAP action delivery is demonstrated through 'case studies' or examples of where the Council is delivering on climate action through its day to day service delivery.

6.1 Community Climate Action Fund

2024 was the first year that the Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) (Action 67 of the LACAP) was offered to communities in Tipperary and the total allocations to the county from DECC was €750,000.

During the funding call 82 applications were received from all over the county, this was one of the highest numbers of applications in Ireland. After an assessment process, the Council was able to allocate the full €750,000 in the form of grant assistance to 25 community projects under the terms of the CCAF. The Community Climate Action Officer is working with the successful community groups on their projects that each have a focus on climate action.



Engagement also continues with groups who did not get approval for funding. This will help to ensure groups are ready for call two of funding which is due to happen in the coming months. It is expected that DECC, will make a second funding call in 2025 to enable a new grant application process. The Council wishes to thank the Public Participation Network (PPN) for its support in promoting the CCAF throughout 2024 and looks forward to working with them again in 2025. Further details are available on:

[Community Climate Action Fund | Tipperary County Council](https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/community-climate-action-fund)



Figure 12: Images from CCAF 2024

6.2 SustainableTipp

Action 18 of the LACAP requires the Council to *‘To fully utilise the existing networks, forums, relationships, influence and outreach of the Council, through its various services and functions to help relate the Climate Action message to stakeholders and communities and deliver on the collaborative outward facing actions as set out in this LACAP. In this respect, the Council will take a leading role in an outward facing committee of stakeholders (SustainableTipp) focused on the delivery of climate actions’.*

SustainableTipp (set up in 2016) is a group of key Tipperary-based stakeholders (organisations including TCC) who have a role in the delivery of climate actions and related activities through their own annual service delivery programmes (to the public, businesses, farmers etc) across various sectors in Tipperary. SustainableTipp is aligned with, and supports, delivery of the UN SDGs. The vision of SustainableTipp is:

Collaboration and shared learning through existing networks and organisations, each with their own public facing role and responsibilities, driving with a sense of urgency through a just transition towards a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and carbon neutral society and economy, where no-one is left behind.”

The Council facilitates this group through administration services, provision of venues and refreshments and the services of an external facilitator.



Figure 13: Logo for SustainableTipp

6.3 Tipperary Town Green Hub Initiative

Action 73 of the LACAP seeks to *‘Encourage a community response to enable biodiversity in the community, in association with groups such as the ‘Tidy Towns,’ through innovative measures such as competitions, events and training’.*

The ‘Tipperary Town Green Hub campaign’ was led in 2024 by Tipperary County Council in partnership with the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices. The aim of the initiative was to help business in Tipperary Town and surrounding areas to better manage their business waste, increase recycling rates and help reduce waste related costs. The focus was on the hospitality sector to help improve their waste management practices through mentoring and training supports.

As part of this initiative to help businesses better manage their waste, ECO friendly reusable cups were trialled at the Tipperary Racecourse at a race meeting held on Sunday 1st September. The aim of this circular economy initiative was to provide an alternative to single use plastic cups in an effort to reduce plastic waste. The cups are made from Polypropylene

and have a life span of 300 uses. The replacement of single use cups resulted in the reduction of plastic waste, reduced waste disposal costs and cleaning time. Cups were provided by Eco Friendly Cups who manufacture, brand, transport, wash, dry and store cups and can be reused for future events at Tipperary Racecourse.

Further Information may be found here:

[Tipperary Town Green Hub Launch | Tipperary County Council](#)



Figure 14: Image from the Tipperary Green Hub Campaign

6.4 Climate Action and Creativity

In 2024, the Tipperary County Council Arts Office, with the support of the Arts Council of Ireland funded a residency based in the Tipperary DZ. The artists were Artists: Katy Goodhue and Lucy Moore who worked with Moyne National School on a project called 'Our Brilliant Bogs'. This project encouraged and enabled children and their families to see the complexity, ecological value and beauty of their local bogs. The value of rehabilitating and rewilding these areas and enabling them to store rather than release carbon and their potential as recreational areas was evaluated. Resources used included:

- Materials from the Bog itself
- Natural materials, including plants to study and work from, collect some bog materials, e.g. sedges, bog myrtle (a good dye plant apparently), bog cotton, heather, birch, alder, willow etc.
- Books that we are using for reference. images of the animals & plants.
- Using the interactive white boards to show and share images in the classroom.



Figure 15: Creative work from the Children of Moyne National School

6.5 Climate Action and Local Enterprise

The Tipperary Local Enterprise Office (LEO) provide support for local enterprises that wish to engage in Climate Action. **‘Green for Business’** is a free programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving them access to a green consultant who will make recommendations on how energy efficiency changes can have a big impact on a company operation.



The **‘Energy Efficiency Grant’** supports all aspects of sustainability project expenditure associated with the operation of an enterprise including water, energy, circular economy, the investment in technologies and equipment of enterprises. It follows on from a ‘Green for Business Report’, a Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit with 75% of eligible costs from a minimum grant of €750 to a maximum of €10,000. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses, to operate in a sustainable manner. In 2024, 27 Tipperary businesses were supported through this programme to a value of €62,150.

The **Green for Business and Energy Efficiency Grant** is open to small enterprises (with between 1 and 50 paid employees) across business sectors involved in retail, hospitality, local services, food, manufacturing and internationally traded services throughout Tipperary. In 2024 10 business were provided with support through this programme to a value of €69,683.



Further information is available from the [Local Enterprise Office - Tipperary](#)

6.6 Libraries and Climate Action

During 2024 there was strong engagement between the Climate Action Office and the Libraries and Culture section of Tipperary County Council. Five libraries in south Tipperary, at Cashel, Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, Cahir and Tipperary were part of a regional south-east pilot programme of the 'Grow It Yourself' network in Waterford, whereby seeds were distributed across these libraries for community groups and individuals to participate in growing vegetables of their own. The seeds were provided by GIY and the programme was launched by Clare Lee, Climate Action Coordinator, at Cashel Library on 28th June 2024.

This was followed up by seed growing workshops in these libraries and also at Thurles, Nenagh and Roscrea Libraries as part of SDG week in 2024. Adrian O'Connor, Horticulture Consultant facilitated the workshops in south Tipperary, and Michael Maher, gardener at Ballyfinn House, Co. Laois, facilitated the workshops in north Tipperary. These workshops covered a wide spectrum of the communities and citizens of Tipperary and with the support of the Climate Action Office were important elements in engaging with communities and delivering the message of self-sustainability.

For national bioeconomy week, in mid-October 2024, the Climate Action Office assisted the library service in providing contacts with personnel at the National Bioeconomy Campus, at Lisheen, Thurles, so that engaging talks could be delivered to senior cycle science and Agricultural Science students in secondary schools within the catchment area of Cashel and Nenagh Libraries. Working also in conjunction with Majbritt Bolton-Warberg, Blue Economy Programme Manager at the Marine Institute, Oranmore, Co. Galway talks were scheduled with Naveen Kumar, European Project Manager, National Bioeconomy Campus.



Figure 16: Naveen Kumar addressing students

In December 2024, Eddie Meegan, Climate Action Officer, delivered a talk to library staff, to promote the whole area of climate action, and the role which libraries can play and disseminating material to the citizens of Tipperary, as well as being an area where people can come to, to source material and resources in relation to climate action.



Figure 17: Launch of the 'Grow It Yourself' Campaign at Cashel Library

6.7 Active Travel

Active Travel is defined as travelling with a purpose using your own energy. Generally, this means walking (including all users of footpaths) or cycling as part of a purposeful journey, and is an important aspect of low carbon travel. Action 36 of the LACAP requires the Council to continue to roll-out the Council's 'Active Travel Programme' maximising available funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA). Tipperary County Council has been very progressive in the delivery of active travel infrastructure across our towns and villages through its dedicated Active Travel Team. In 2024, €3.999 million was allocated to Tipperary by the NTA and a similar allocation is expected for the next number of years to 2030 for the active travel stream.

The Active Travel Team identifies an annual programme of projects for delivery each year and in 2024, 25 projects were identified for delivery all across the county. These included capital projects such as footpath construction, cycleways, greenways, footbridge linkages and plans and strategies such as Local Transport Plans for towns. The delivery of works under this programme is supported by public communications and consultations processes to help engage users and the public.

In addition, the Council works with the NTA 'Connecting Ireland Team' on the roll out of bus stop improvements across the County and the NTA funds an annual Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme. In 2024, €500,000 was received for bus stop improvements and delivery. This is an important support for public transport across the county (Action 95 of the LACAP).



Figure 18: New pedestrian crossing in Ardfinnan Village

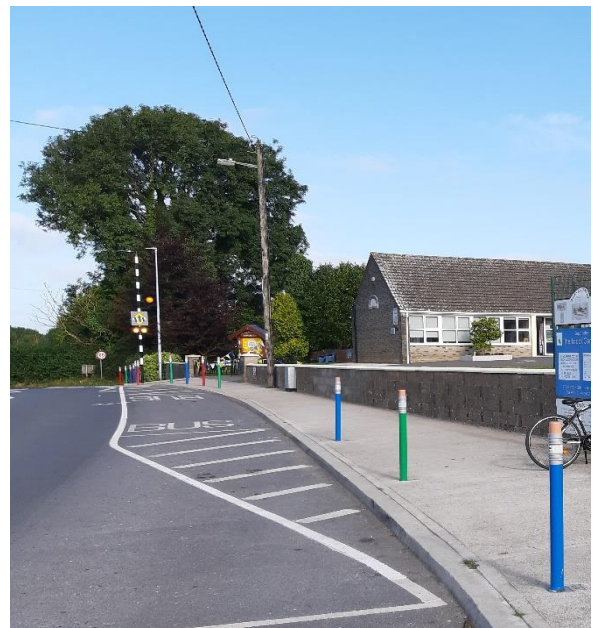


Figure 19: New Bus Stops and Footpaths at Tipperary National Schools

6.8 Emergency Response to Extreme Weather Events

Section 2.3 outlines the current and expected consequences of a changing climate in the form of severe weather events. The Tipperary Climate Change Risk Assessment predicts that the top 5 most frequent climate hazards are severe windstorms, extreme precipitation, pluvial flooding, above average surface temperatures and above average precipitation. For the emergency response services of the Council, extreme weather events may result in increased demand for services, and during 2024 extreme weather events contributed to incidents and demand for emergency services, outlined below.

Table 4: Extreme Weather Event Incidents 2024

Storm Isha and Joceyln	Attended 7 Incidents	Trees and Poles down blocking Roads
Storm Kathleen	Attended 20 Incidents	Trees and Poles down, Dangerous Building
Storm Ashley	Attended 10 Incidents	Trees down on Roads
Storm Bert	Attended 2 Incidents	Tress down on Roads
Storm Darragh	Attended 10 Incidents	Trees down on Roads



Figure 20: Council staff at work after a severe weather event

6.9 Nature Based Solutions and Biodiversity

Action 58 of the LACAP requires the Council to ‘*develop and implement a Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and integrated rainwater management protocol for both Council and private sector projects, and to prioritise NBS in line with national guidance parameters*’. In order to implement this action, the Council (Planning, Climate Action Office and Project 2040 Team) supported the Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO) in their development of a new national best practice interim guidance document called ‘Nature-Based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas Water’ - Best Practice Interim Guidance Document, 2024.

This Guidance Document is for urban planners and all built environment professionals involved in the planning process such as engineers, architects and landscape architects and shows how to move towards a more systematic and sustainable approach to urban planning and design that seeks to mimic the natural water balance of areas through “water sensitive urban design”. This can be achieved through the replacement of impermeable surfacing

with nature-based planted areas that are designed to absorb, retain, store, and treat urban runoff prior to discharge back into the environment. The successful integration of NBS for the management of rainwater and surface water runoff in urban areas requires a collaborative approach from a range of built environment professionals, both from the public and private sectors, from the earliest stages in the planning process.

The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 -2028 requires the implementation of water sensitive urban design as an integral part of the design of new developments to reduce the generation of storm water run-off, and to ensure that all storm water generated is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved storm water system.

The Council has over 2024 incorporated many examples of good practice in terms of NBS across its capital projects including Urban and Rural Regeneration Funding projects and Active Travel Projects. Notably, the Council applied for, and received funding for a number of LAWPRO funded NBS demonstrator projects, including in Clonmel, Fethard and Carrick-on-Suir.

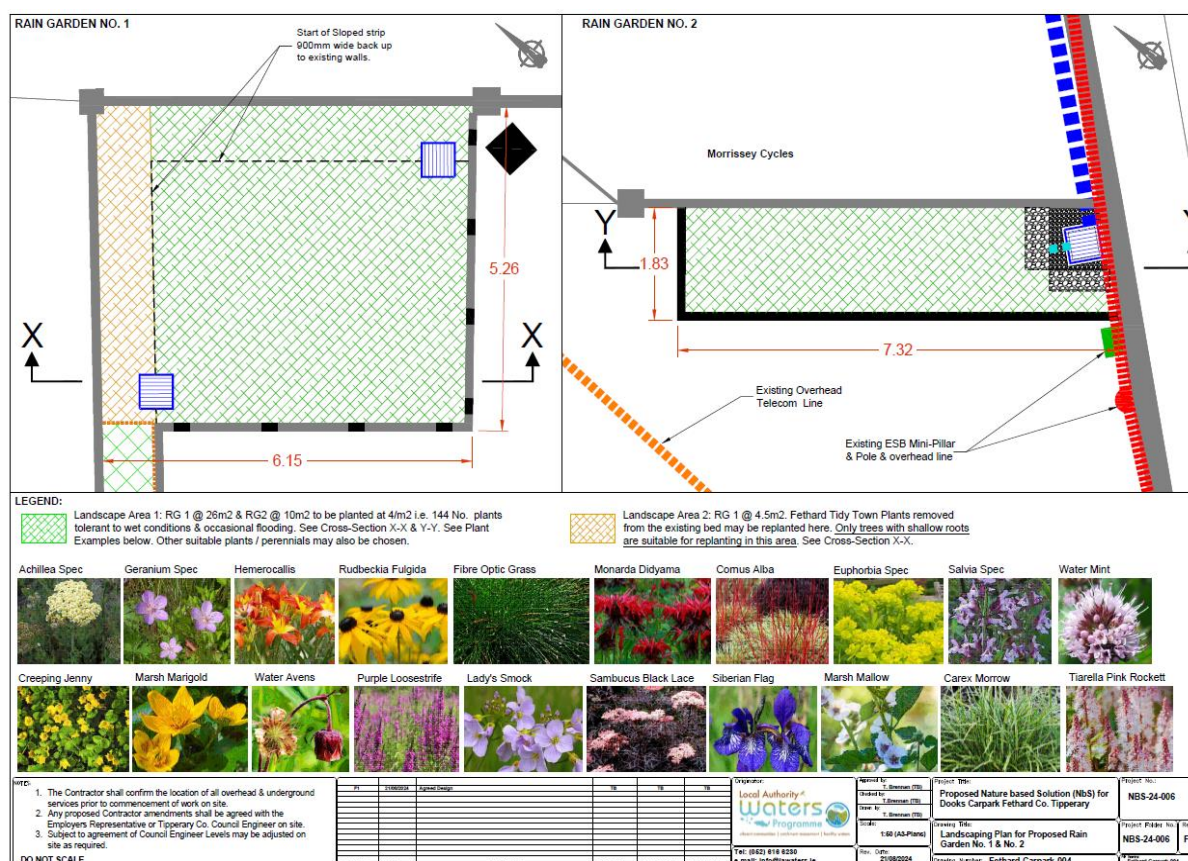


Figure 21: Design and Plan for new Rain-Garden in Fethard

The move towards NBS is also important in supporting and protecting our biodiversity. Examples of Council programmes and projects that support the National Pollinator Plan and biodiversity in general can be seen throughout the county, for example, in new tree planting in Carrick on Suir as part of the N24 Upgrade and the Carrick on Suir Rural Regeneration and Development project and through maintenance programmes for public spaces that allow biodiversity to thrive.



Figure 22: Thurles MD offices where biodiversity and pollinators flourished in summer 2024



Figure 23: Selective lawn maintenance by the Council to support pollinators

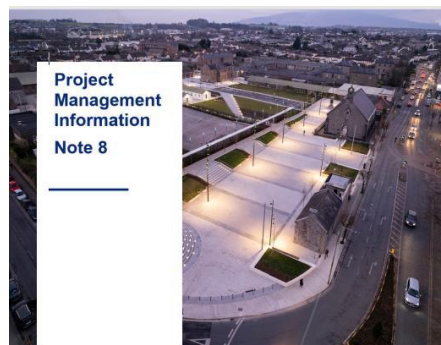
6.10 Climate Proofing our Projects

The Council delivers capital works at a number of different scales. Significant capital projects are delivered under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Department of

Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Department of Rural and Community Development, Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). Both of these funding streams have a requirement for Climate Action Measures to be integrated as part of the funding application process. This 'Climate Proofing' (LACAP Action 3) of capital development is the responsibility of all sections, and guidance on climate proofing is provided by the Planning Section and the 2040 Capital Projects team.

The Council ensures that the values of sustainability, inclusion and climate action are incorporated at early design stage in new development through the application of project management information notes including the following:

- ✓ Note 8 Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- ✓ Note 10 Incorporating Nature Based Solutions into Project Designs
- ✓ Note 22 Green Public Procurement
- ✓ Note 27 Green Public Procurement Action Plan
- ✓ Note 31 Urban Water Management Plans
- ✓ Note 33 Reducing Embodied Carbon in Cement and Concrete
- ✓ Note 34 Government Climate Communications Strategy
- ✓ Note 36 Green Public Procurement



6.11 Circular Bioeconomy

The bioeconomy is the part of our economy which uses renewable resources from agriculture, forestry and the marine to produce food, feed, materials and energy, while reducing waste, in support of achieving a sustainable and climate neutral society.

A vibrant circular bioeconomy in Tipperary will help to reduce GHG emissions by reducing demand for fossil fuel derived products. Action 100 of the LACAP requires the Council to *'actively support the development of the bioeconomy in Tipperary, including new and emerging technologies, both in the Decarbonising Zone (National Bioeconomy Campus) and elsewhere in the county in line with the National Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023 – 2025, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure bioeconomy related development and activities promote climate action and adaptation co-benefits, and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.'*

Tipperary is already leader in the emerging national bioeconomy, and the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF) has its headquarters in the National Bioeconomy Campus. Significant funding has been received by the Council under the EU JTF to support the development of the bioeconomy and the Council is working collaboratively with the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF), multiple research partners and the private sector to support the development of the bioeconomy.

The DZ has seen recent investment in circular economy and bioeconomy opportunities, thereby creating new jobs replacing those lost as a result of the closure of the peat industry. A notable example is the Trifol Resources facility which opened in summer 2024 at the

former Bord Na Móna briquette factory at Littleton. This Irish Company developed a process to transform old plastic into sustainable fuel, including sustainable aviation fuel and wax. The waste plastic being recycled at Littleton is mostly different types of polyethylene. Included in that is waste farm plastic, the kind that farmers use for silage and haylage cover.

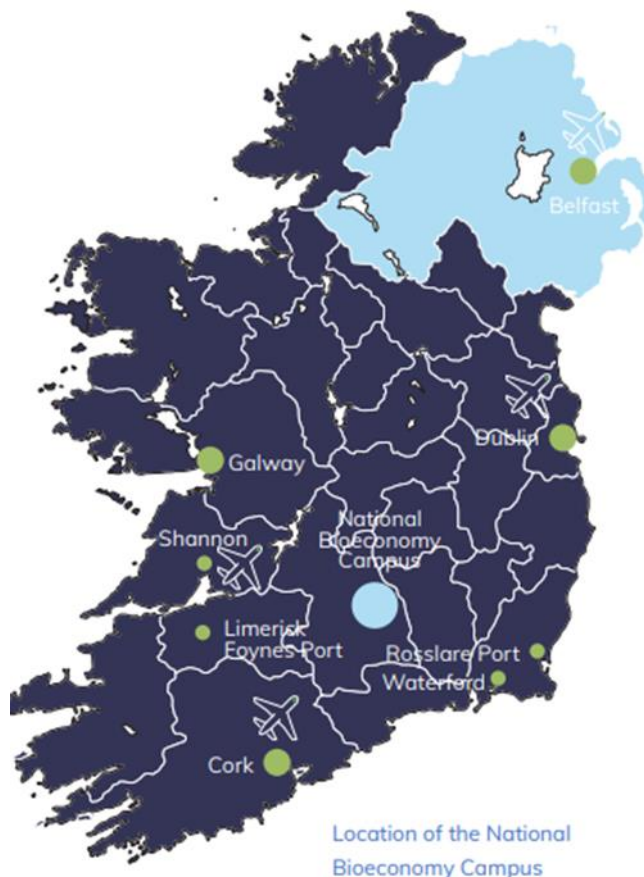


Figure 24: The Location of the National Bioeconomy Campus in Lisheen, Thurles, Co Tipperary

6.12 Green Public Procurement

Action 84 of the LACAP requires the Council to *‘Prepare, adopt and implement a ‘Green Public Procurement Strategy’ in line with Guidance from the EPA and DECC, and when procuring goods, services and works in accordance with the National Programme for Government ensure its mandatory application’.*

Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a process where public authorities seek to source goods, services or works with a reduced environmental impact. GPP is acknowledged as a vital policy lever in meeting environmental policy objectives. The implementation of GPP has an important role to play in delivering Ireland’s environmental and wider sustainable development objectives. In April 2024, the government published [Buying Greener: Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027](#) to drive the implementation of green and circular procurement practices across the public sector.

The Tipperary County Council ‘Green Public Procurement Strategy’ 2024-2026 was adopted by the Council Procurement Strategy Group on 15 January 2024. It was updated in April 2024 to accommodate reviewed targets and actions arising from DECC - Buying Greener - Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027.

6.13 Tourism and Sustainability

Action 92 of the LACAP requires the Council to ‘*in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, collaborate with tourism operators and stakeholders in Tipperary to assist them in embedding climate action and responsible tourism practices in county Tipperary*’. Examples of responsible tourism projects are outlined below.

EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism & Placemaking Scheme for Ireland’s Midlands 2023-2026

As part of its move towards a low-carbon economy, Fáilte Ireland is delivering its ‘EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme for Ireland’s Midlands 2023-2026’. In 2024, Tipperary County Council participated in this scheme through the work of its dedicated EU Just Transition Fund Activator role. The scheme is specifically aimed at tourism, and provides opportunities for funding support for projects that will:

- Develop sustainable accommodation
- Increase visitor experiences
- Increase dwell-time with options focused on E-Bikes, Heritage Experiences, Wellbeing etc

During 2024, 5 community groups and 26 private businesses were supported in Tipperary.



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchaitiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-fundaid by the
European Union



Bord Rannsóirí Éireann agus Lár na hÉireann
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly



Fáilte
Ireland

Littleton Bog Experience

The Thurles Municipal District Office has also partnered with Bord na Mona to unlock the sustainable tourism and biodiversity potential of the Littleton Bog.

Funding under the EU JTF has already supported the development of Phase 1 with the development of trails (7.2 km) and car-parking facilities that provide access to amenities such as Lough Doire



Bhuile. The vision is for a co-ordinated network of way-marked ways that will link with the villages in the DZ, leverage the heritage of the area, including the famous Derrynaflan, in

new tourism product embedded both in nature and in the restored bogs of the DZ. The vision for the area is being further developed by the production of a dedicated feasibility study of the area called the 'Littleton Bog Experience', to be published in 2025



Figure 25: Lough Doire Bhuile near Littleton

6.14 Climate Action and Just Transition

The Carrick on Suir and Thurles Municipal Districts are both located in the EU JTF areas and therefore, can avail of funding available to these designated areas. Action 99 of the LACAP states that *'it is an objective of the Council to seek the maximum available funding under the 'Just Transition Fund' for Tipperary with focus on Climate Action (mitigation and adaptation) measures and the role of the Decarbonising Zone'*. In 2024, the Council successfully worked with its partners to develop project concepts for funding under the EU JTF. As a result, in 2024, it was the lead partner on successful applications for funding under the EU JTF. These include the following:

Biomethane for Carbon and Community

'Biomethane for Carbon and Community', a capacity building and research project funded by the EU JTF programme to support the development of sustainable biomethane. See section 8.1 below.

Biomethane
for Carbon and Community

The Biomethane for Carbon and Community is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-2027.

Bio scale-up

In 2024, Tipperary County Council received funding under the EU JTF to provide funding to develop a centre within the existing National Bioeconomy Campus called the 'Lisheen Bioeconomy Scaleup Initiative' or 'BioScaleUp'.

It is expected that by early 2026, this facility be open to third level institutes, Research Performing Organisations and stakeholders to enable them to demonstrate and test (from laboratory scale, to bench scale and to test pilot/production scale) their innovative technologies at the national pilot biorefinery facility in Lisheen. Key processes will include

- Bringing technologies validated at lab scale to demonstration at industrial pilot scale
- Training and Public Dissemination
- Collaboration of Research Performing Organisations and Industry

This is a key Council-led innovation to support the development of the circular bioeconomy in Ireland, to enable the country to make the best use of its own resources and reduce reliance on imported goods and fossil fuel products.



BioScaleUP

"The BioScaleUp project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-2027."

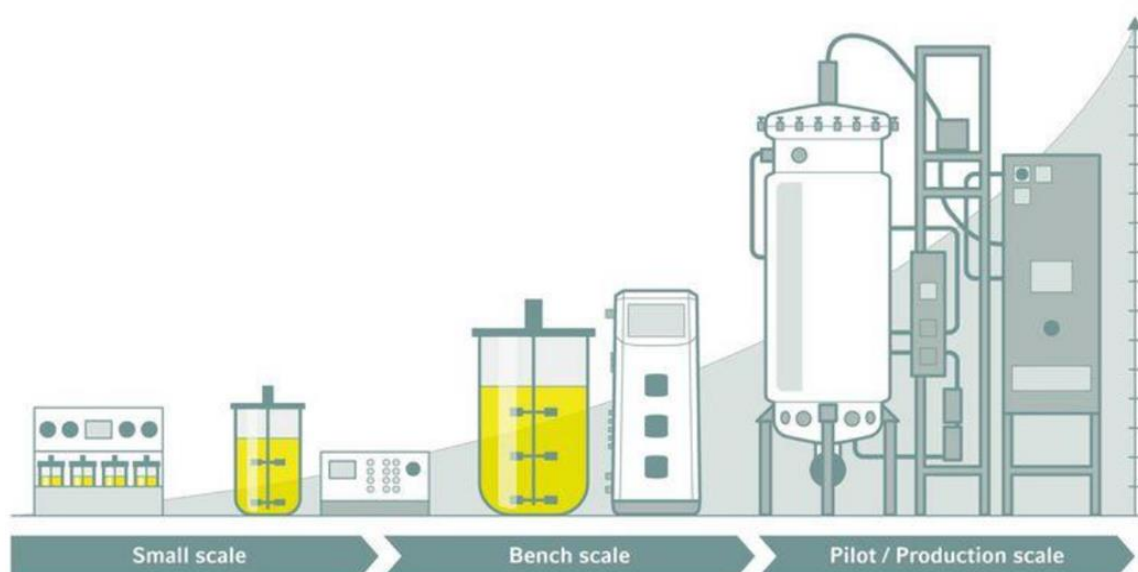


Figure 26: Model of the BioScaleUp concept.

7. Climate Action Research and Development

Action 80 of the LACAP requires the Council to *‘encourage, support and participate in third level education and research and development in the area of climate action and low-carbon technologies in conjunction with third level institutions, EU projects and the regional assembly’*. The Council has been very proactive in working with third level institutes and other partners in this area. Notable climate action related projects are set out below:

7.1 Biomethane for Carbon and Community

Tipperary County Council and its partners the Technological University of the Shannon, the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation and the Tipperary Energy Agency are partners in a collaborative project called ‘Biomethane for Carbon and Community’. This capacity building project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-2027. The project was launched in July 2024 at the Energy and Farmer Diversification Show at Gurteen Agricultural College.



Figure 27: Launch of Biomethane for Carbon and Community in July 2024

A new Biomethane Development Office has been established and is based in the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

The Biomethane for Carbon and Community Project is a research and capacity building project that will enable Tipperary and the wider region to respond to new national policy direction and support for biomethane development, including the National Biomethane Strategy 2024. It will help ensure that communities and businesses are at the forefront of biomethane development (with associated reduced reliance on fossil fuels and a focus on biodiversity and economic benefits in the form of local jobs) and will look to prepare the conditions for future investment with a supportive network of farmers/biomass suppliers in the area.



Figure 28: Members of the Team at the opening of new Biomethane Development Office in December 2024

Further details maybe found here [Biomethane for Carbon and Community - TUS](#)

7.2 ADAPTO

ADAPTO is an Interreg Europe Project with the aim of building climate resilient territories across the EU. Tipperary County Council and the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) are partners in the ADAPTO project. The Project is all about helping communities and regions across Europe adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. It brings together 8 partners from 5 European regions to share knowledge, develop smart strategies, and implement solutions that will make our territories more resilient to climate hazards like heatwaves, storms, floods, and rising sea levels. The other partners are:

- Cyprus Energy Agency (CY)
- Bretagne Development Innovation (FR)
- Kaunas University of Technology (LT)
- Lubelskie Voivodeship (P)
- Regional Development Fund Of North Aegean
 - Ypsonas Municipality



The focus is on interregional cooperation. By learning from each other's experiences and good practices, the aim is to strengthen climate adaptation policies and actions at all levels of governance, from local councils to national governments.

In October 2024, the EU partners visited Ireland for two days. On the first day the partners meeting was hosted in TUS Thurles. Each partner presented their local adaptation projects,

followed by an interactive session identifying good practice in each region. On day two the group visited the Cabragh Wetlands Education Centre and Conservation Project. On the day, Breda Maher from the CARO explained how Ireland has used a regional model to support the development of Local Authority Climate Action Plans. The second speaker was Shirley Clerkin Tóchar team in NPWS, who spoke about wetland restoration and how important it is to capture the cultural heritage associated with the landscape.



Figure 29: ADAPTO EU partners visiting Tipperary during October 2024

The ADAPTO website has more details on the project and latest news:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/adapto>

7.3 Pathways2Resilience



In 2024, the Council received funding (€210,000) to participate in an 18-month programme to support a transformative approach to climate adaptation and climate change resilience. The project is being delivered through a partnership with the Environment and Climate Action Section and the Economic, Community and Rural Development Section. This project will support delivery of Action 100 of the LACAP:

‘Seek to actively support the development of the bioeconomy in Tipperary, including new and emerging technologies, both in the Decarbonising Zone (National Bioeconomy Campus) and elsewhere in the county in line with the National Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023 – 2025, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure bioeconomy related development and activities promote climate action and adaptation co-benefits, and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects’.

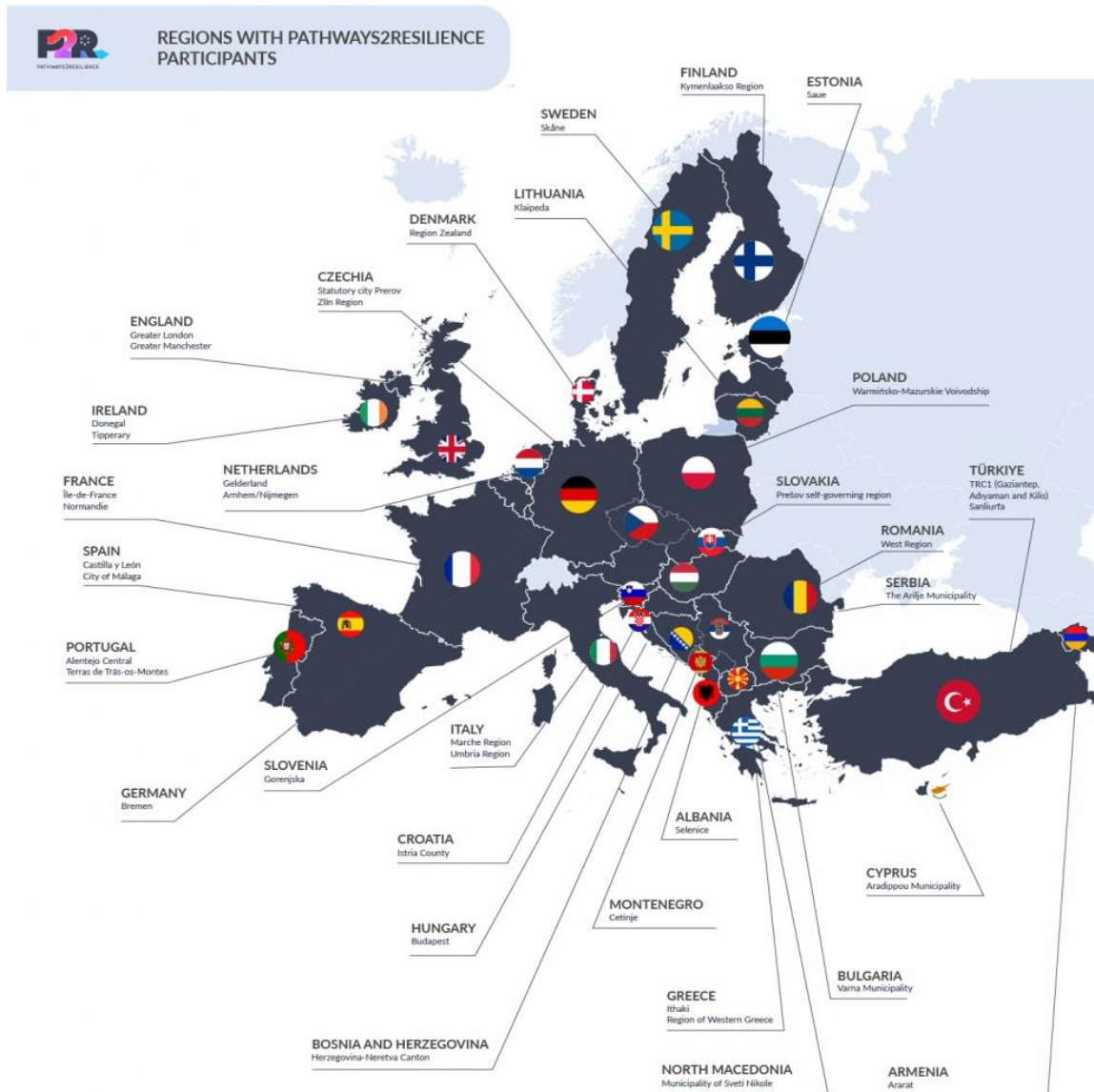


Figure 30: Pathways to Resilience participating regions



The Circular Bioeconomy presents opportunities to both improve climate change adaptation and resilience and to transform our society to move towards a more sustainable way of producing, managing and using our resources.

Tipperary County Council is one of 40 regions all across Europe in the programme and will be working with its Irish and European partners to build a resilient and progressive Circular Bioeconomy, centred on the work of the National Bioeconomy Campus at the former Lisheen Mine Campus, Lisheen, Thurles. This exemplary project has supported the appointment of a full time Circular Bioeconomy Outreach Officer based in Tipperary County Council. For further details on the P2R project and on the Bioeconomy please click on the links below.

- [40 Regions Unite to Build Climate Resilience for 53 Million Europeans - Pathway2Resilience \(pathways2resilience.eu\)](https://pathways2resilience.eu)

- [Home - Irish Bioeconomy Foundation](#)
- [gov.ie - Bioeconomy Policy \(www.gov.ie\)](#)

TIPPERARY CLIMATE ACTION WEBSITE
www.tipperarycoco.ie/climateaction

CLIMATE ACTION OFFICE
climateaction@tipperarycoco.ie

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND
communityfund@tipperarycoco.ie

OR CALL 081 806 5000

