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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

Prepared for:
Kildare County Council



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Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement for the Kildare Local Authority Climate Action Plan to Kildare 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).

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Kildare County Council (KCC) have adopted the Kildare 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 shave 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)¹. 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'*²

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'*.

¹ 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).

² 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)



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 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 Guidelines³. 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.

³ 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>
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	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	Appropriate regard was had to these baseline geological and hydrogeological data during the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report for the LACAP



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

Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
1.10	Prepare and apply a protocol to enable and require a pre-set standard for 'Climate Proofing' including energy efficient, accessible and water sensitive urban design of all local authority led capital plans, purchases and investment for example; projects funded under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme, Active Travel Scheme, Urban Regeneration and Development Fund etc.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring the protocol has appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements, environmental sensitivities such as European Sites, biodiversity and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits.
1.11	Update the Kildare County Council Major Emergency Plan to ensure that all climate change risks to the human, natural and built environment (including heritage) are suitably addressed and a resilient response is available.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity.
2.2	Promote the Midlands Retrofit Programme to ensure that existing council-owned houses are retrofitted to a minimum Building Energy Rating of B2 (or to a cost-optimal level).	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.
2.3	Promote the National Retrofitting Scheme to private householders to highlight the package of supports to make it easier and more affordable for homeowners to undertake home energy upgrades.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.
2.4	Communicate details of case studies and guidance on the upgrade of traditional building to promote as exemplar.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring appropriate guidance is provided on the protection of architectural and heritage value and protected species associated with such buildings during upgrade works.
2.5	Develop projects to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures - using exemplar retrofitting projects and carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value and publish relevant case studies.	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to the need to protect and conserve the architectural or cultural heritage value that may be associated with such buildings, and protected species that may be present in such buildings.

⁴ For clarity, this reference was the reference assigned to the Action in a draft version of the LACAP which was published during prescribed consultation.



Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
2.6	Build climate resilience and improve energy performance of architectural and archaeological heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Historic Structure Fund, Historic Towns Initiative, Irish Walled Towns Network and Community Monuments Fund.	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to the need to protect and conserve the architectural or cultural heritage value that may be associated with such buildings, and protected species that may be present in such buildings.
2.7	Prepare and implement a programme of measures for Council Buildings/Facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in non-electrical related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and to improve adaptation to climate change. This will be assisted by Building Information Modelling (BIM) and adhere to the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) requirements.	Attach the following text to the action: Prepare and implement a programme of measures for Council Buildings/Facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in non-electrical related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and to improve adaptation to climate change; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species that may be present in such buildings, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures. This will be assisted by Building Information Modelling (BIM) and adhere to the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) requirements.
2.10	Ensure all developments including car parks are designed in such a manner as to support EV charging, promote carbon sequestration, green infrastructure, and nature-based surface water drainage solutions. Work with relevant bodies to identify optimum locations and provide suitable EV charging points for Public Transport Vehicles in town centres and key points on inter rural bus routes.	Attach the following text to the action: Advocate and exert influence and control, as appropriate, to ensure such development promotes climate action co-benefits and does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
2.12	Identify roads and streets within the County that are suitable for road space reallocation. Prioritise roads and streets currently or likely to be used by public potential town bus services. Work towards ensuring network options are developed between active travel options and public transport routes.	Attach the following text to the action: Identify roads and streets within the County that are suitable for road space reallocation, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage. Prioritise roads and streets currently or likely to be used by public potential town bus services. Work towards ensuring network options are developed between active travel options and public transport routes.
2.13	National Sustainable Mobility Policy to increase provision of park and ride/share at transport interchanges and community hubs and support the development of Town Bus Services and park and ride/share locations to maximise connectivity for the highest number of residents.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure such development promotes climate action co-benefits, including SuDS and nature based solutions, and does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
2.15	Develop and publish a cycle network plan [LK3] for the County. Where possible, ensure the cycle network is planned on the principle of 'origin and destination' that prioritises connectivity to places of education, employment and public. Develop secure bike / mobility parking options that aligns to route options and trip attractor locations.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure the cycle network is planned in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage.



Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
2.16	Expand the greenway network in the County establishing linkages with towns and villages in line with the strategic national cycle network and avoid locating greenways in sensitive natural/biodiversity areas.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure greenway infrastructure is planned and developed in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage.
2.18	Deliver the Pathfinder Projects identified for County Kildare under the National Sustainable Mobility Policy such as the Naas Mobility Network Integration and Energy Performance and Building Directive initiatives.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.
2.21	Develop an Electric Vehicle Network Plan to identify charging points including high powered charging hubs across the County.	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.
2.22	Promote and implement the Safe Routes to School Programme to create safer walking and cycling routes within communities, alleviate congestion at the school gates and increase the number of students who walk or cycle to school by providing safe infrastructure.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure supported active travel development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology, existing traffic and transport conditions and amenity value.
2.24	Establish a comprehensive and integrated network of remote working hubs throughout the County to support remote working and reduce commuter travel in line with the National Remote Work Strategy and Kildare Hub Strategy.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring such hubs are located and planned in a manner that does not cause unintended, negative local traffic and transport related impacts.
3.1	Develop Green Infrastructure Plan (as defined by the EU as 'A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity') including a green infrastructure network for the County that incorporates climate change mitigation and adaptation to increase climate resilience.	Attach the following text to the action: climate action co-benefits and environmental protection requirements.
3.3	Introduce and implement a policy in relation to how Council owned spaces are managed to improve biodiversity and water quality levels in keeping with the 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan' and as part of this to develop and implement pesticide reduction policy for lands and areas managed by the Council.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring these substances are only used to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.
3.4	Prepare a guidance document and training on the importance of, quality rating and sustainable management of the hedgerows and riparian areas, for Council staff and external stakeholders including farmers/landowners.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to hedgerow and riparian area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation.



Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
3.6	Commission the 'Local Authority County Wetland Survey', develop a Wetland Restoration Plan, this shall identify priority areas for habitat restoration, carbon capture and water and biodiversity benefits, along with phasing for restoration.	Attach the following text to the action: This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.
3.7	The Council will seek to prioritise the delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme identified flood schemes in the county and promote nature-based solutions and integral to these schemes.	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.
3.8	Develop integrated programme to address Invasive Alien Species.	Attach the following text to the action: This programme shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage and prevent the spread of invasive species.
3.9	Develop a plan of action to protect, conserve and enhance the wetlands identified in the County Kildare Wetland Survey 2012-2014.	Attach the following text to the action: This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.
3.10	Prepare guidance document and training on quality rating and management prescription of hedgerows in open space for Council staff and developers.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to hedgerow and riparian area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation.
3.14	Devise a county tree management plan which seeks to retain existing trees, support the planting of trees and identify sites for large scale native and mixed woodland planting. Set targets to maintain existing and plant new native trees in urban and rural areas, to enhance carbon storage, biodiversity and landscape, air quality, and urban heat island mitigation. Increase range of edible native provenance locally sourced fruits, flowers and vegetables in Council Parks, rooftops and open spaces.	Attach the following text to the action: Devise a county native tree management plan which seeks to retain existing native trees, support the planting of native trees and identify sites for large scale native and mixed woodland planting. Set targets to maintain existing and plant new native trees in urban and rural areas, to enhance carbon storage, biodiversity and landscape, air quality, and urban heat island mitigation. Increase range of edible native provenance locally sourced fruits, flowers and vegetables in Council Parks, rooftops and open spaces.
3.15	Deliver the enhanced rehabilitation of former industrial peatlands within the County in line with Irelands National Recovery and Resilience Plan.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.



Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
3.16	Engage with Bord na Móna to explore the appropriate and sensitive diversification of former cutaway peatlands and development of alternative uses such as rewetting and recreational facilities under the brown to green agenda under the National Strategy on Outdoor Recreation.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
3.17	Engage with Bord na Móna to develop a Green Infrastructure Masterplan to inform the delineation of core areas, steppingstones and corridors to support the development of the Bog of Allen Nature Reserve, Special Amenity Area Order and/or National Peatlands Park.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
3.22	Provide technical supports to farming enterprises in the development of biomethane from Anaerobic Digestion.	Attach the following text to the action: including guidance on planning and environmental protection requirements.
3.24	Develop pesticide use policy for the City or County Council.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring these substances are only used to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.
4.8	Ensure the continued incorporation of Flood Risk Management and Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plans into the spatial planning of the County to meet the requirements of the EU Floods Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and to promote a climate resilient County.	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.
4.9	Implement all Area Specific Recommendations presented in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.	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.
4.12	Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of Transport funding (Drainage programme, Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works, OPW Minor Works Scheme) incorporating Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to promote 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.
4.13	Support and inform a climate proofing programme for natural water resources, and to better manage flooding at the catchment level, the Council will identify a sub-catchment where water quality objectives are not being met, and where there is an established flood risk.	Reword to the following: Support and inform a climate proofing programme for natural water resources. To better manage flooding at the catchment level, the Council will identify a sub-catchment where water quality objectives are not being met, and where there is an established flood risk.



Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
4.14	To carry out a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.	Attach the following text to the action: Depending on the outcome of the assessment, implement any protective and remediation measures for waterbodies that may be identified.
4.18	Implement the Local Just Transition Plan for West Kildare to support and advance sustainable social, economic, and environmental development in the transition to a low carbon future in the West Kildare region.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities in the area such as European Sites, noise, landscape and visual amenity, cultural heritage and biodiversity related sensitivities.
4.19	Support the programme for a free energy report for householders in the Just Transition area to provide advice on options for retrofit and free support for accessing grants such as the 'better energy communities' and 'national retrofit' grants.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure appropriate regard is had to the need to protect and conserve biodiversity, air and water quality, European Sites, and protected structures during retrofitting.
4.20	Support Just Transition projects with a climate focus, such as the Midlands Bioenergy Development Project within the County.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
4.22	Explore the creation of local authority apprenticeship programme in use of traditional materials and skills to assist in carrying out conservation of traditional structures to increase their climate resilience and raise awareness of the importance of traditional skills and materials.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst incorporating appropriate training to mitigate against any environmental and biodiversity impacts that may arise on sites.
5.1	Prepare and implement an overall Renewable Energy Strategy for the County that is informed by the national Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework to support sustainable development of onshore wind and solar within the County.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
5.2	Implement the Kildare County Council Wind Energy Strategy.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
5.3	Support local community-based renewable energy projects and new micro-generation and small-scale generation renewable energy projects.	Attach the following text to the action: where it is confirmed through appropriate environmental assessment that associated renewable energy development will not have any significant environmental effect.
5.4	Support ongoing expansion and improvements to the electricity grid infrastructure within the County to support renewable generation and supply.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value, water and air quality.



Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
5.6	Undertake a feasibility study on integrating solar photovoltaic at Kildare County Council owned car parks and on the roof tops of publicly owned buildings throughout the County.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental considerations. If considered feasible, the project should have appropriate regard to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria.
5.7	Support Bord na Móna with the redevelopment of the headquarters at Newbridge with a view to promoting the area as a Green Energy Hub.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value, water and air quality.
5.8	Require data centres to include strong energy efficiency measures (including demand management, energy efficiency or auto generation) to reduce operational carbon footprints through the use of sustainable sources of energy generation in the first instance and then the use of renewable sources of energy to power operations.	Attach the following text to the action: where it is confirmed through appropriate environmental assessment that associated renewable energy development will not have any significant environmental effect.
5.9	As part of the operational maintenance of all public lighting in the County, Kildare County Council shall develop and implement the phased introduction of energy-efficient lighting systems on all public lighting while having due regard for the impact on protected species such as bats.	Reword to the following: As part of the operational maintenance of all public lighting in the County, Kildare County Council shall develop and implement the phased introduction of energy-efficient lighting systems on all public lighting while having due regard for the impact the spectrum of light used will have on nocturnal species such as bats.
5.11	Implement a wider roll out of segregated brown bin collection systems across the County to capture this resource for treatment in Anaerobic Digestion plants for recovery of biomethane in line with the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value, water and air quality.
5.12	Support the circular initiatives such as prevention, reuse, repair and recycling of resources to minimise waste treatment at waste to energy plants or landfills. Undertake a feasibility study to create a 'Bring/Take' centre within a key hub in the County.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning, waste management and environmental requirements, considerations and constraints.
Maynooth DZ		
1.7	Collaborate with Maynooth University to align climate action initiatives within the town.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to opportunities to promote climate action co-benefits and environmental protection requirements.
2.3	Engage with educational premises to promote the Climate Action Fund to provide photovoltaic panels (up to 6kW output) in all schools.	Attach the following text to the action: where it is confirmed through a glint and glare assessment that such solar development will not have any potential glint and glare impact on sensitive receptors, or otherwise, where it is confirmed that such solar development constitutes exempted development under the Planning and Development Regulations by virtue of its size or location outside a Solar Safeguarding Zone, and having due regard to all other environmental sensitivities that could be impacted by such development.



Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
2.4	Deliver the retrofit of all social housing in the town to achieve a Building Energy Rating B2.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
2.5	Promote retrofit to Building Energy Rating B2 or Nearly Zero Energy Buildings for private properties in the commercial and community sector.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
2.6	Support Maynooth University in the introduction of new-zero energy student accommodation within walking/cycling distance of the campus.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
2.7	Support remote working through the development of office hubs and co-working spaces in Maynooth to aid in reduced daily commuter travel outside the town.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring such hubs are located and planned in a manner that does not cause unintended, negative local traffic and transport related impacts.
2.8	Prioritise transport policy in Maynooth to support safe active travel (pedestrians and cyclists) and public transport and to discourage private car use within the town (e.g., through car parking charges or car free days).	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring policy has appropriate regard to all planning and environmental protection requirements, including the need to protect biodiversity, flora, fauna, important habitats and European sites.
2.9	Promote active travel initiatives in the town to enable greater uptake of walking and cycling with a focus on strategic hubs such as the train station, the university and the town centre. Link with 2.10	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.
2.10	Enable enhanced access to Maynooth train station, such as through improved footpaths, safe cycle lanes, local bus services, Park and Ride, etc., to maximise the modal shift potential of the local rail network.	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.
2.11	Engage with bus companies to enhance the local bus services through delivery of an appropriately designated bus terminal in the town as well as associated infrastructure for improved bus services both in the town for linkages to other urban centres.	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.
2.12	Support the development of electric vehicle charging points at strategic points in the town and supercharge points and incentives for electric vehicle users.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.



Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
2.14	Undertake a feasibility study to assess the potential for a Park and Ride facility outside of the town centre that would support the reduction of road traffic volumes through the town centre and promote active travel or public transport options as an alternative.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure such development promotes climate action co-benefits, including SuDS and nature based solutions, and does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
3.2	Support green infrastructure projects such as those providing linkages to open spaces for biodiversity such as the Carton Avenue Masterplan, the Harbour Field Improvement Works, the Lyreen River, the Rye River, the Royal Canal Greenway or via the Outer Orbital Route.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value, and the potential to enhance ecological connectivity.
3.5	Develop a landscaping plan for the town to enable the Council, citizens and businesses to coordinate the enhancement of biodiversity and any future native planting in the town.	Attach the following text to the action: Develop a landscaping plan for the town to enable the Council, citizens and businesses to coordinate the enhancement of biodiversity, ecological connectivity and any future native planting in the town.
3.6	Support carbon sequestration through strategic planting of native species for all new developments, underutilised lands or farms to promote biodiversity gain within Maynooth.	Attach the following text to the action: Support carbon sequestration through strategic planting of native species for all new developments, underutilised lands or farms to promote biodiversity gain and ecological connectivity within Maynooth.
3.7	Enhance green infrastructure in the town to support the development of sustainable urban drainage systems/swales/rain gardens to improve climate resilience.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects and does not result in adverse effects to European sites and biodiversity.
5.1	Enable the replacement of fossil fuel through supports for the development of micro-generation, small-scale and community-owned renewable generation within Maynooth.	Attach the following text to the action: where it is confirmed through appropriate environmental assessment that associated renewable energy development will not have any significant environmental effect.
5.2	Liaise with ESB Networks to ensure prioritisation of the upgrade of the Maynooth electricity grid network to enable the required renewable energy generation capacity in the town.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving noise, soils and water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage
5.3	Undertake a feasibility study of the potential for district heating or energy in Maynooth.	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring such a report as appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.
5.4	Upgrade all public lighting in Maynooth to energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lights or equivalent.	Attach the following text to the action: while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.



Draft LACAP Action Reference ⁴	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
5.6	Promote the concept of a sharing, reuse and repair society including waste resource exchanges for key products (tools, toys, etc).	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring all reuse and repair promotion activities are carried out in accordance with good waste management practices; and accord with, or support the public's accordance with the provisions of the Waste Management Act.
5.8	Support the development of sustainable and circular infrastructure to manage organic wastes such as anaerobic digestion or composting in the town.	Support the development of sustainable and circular infrastructure to manage organic wastes such as anaerobic digestion or composting at an appropriate location in the vicinity of the town; whilst ensuring: 1. Appropriate regard is given to planning and environmental protection constraints and considerations during the development planning process; 2. Such development does not cause unintended, significant, negative environmental effects in the area; and, 3. Such facilities operate in accordance with the provisions of the Waste Management Act.

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.
Support opportunities to support peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan.



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
Councillor Padraig McEvoy	It would be helpful elected members to have key performance indicators that demonstrate whether particular choices are consistent with climate friendly approaches, of whether the choice goes against the greater common good. The strategic environmental assessment reports that are inform plans and spatial policies are the clearest examples that are available, when writing this submission.	Tracking measures have been defined for each defined Climate Action in the Kildare Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP). These tracking measures constitute Key Performance Indicators used to measure climate action delivery, efficacy and performance. They will indicate whether particular actions create positive effects on climate. Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) have been defined in the Draft SEA Environmental Report (ER). A Monitoring Framework of SEOs, Indicators and targets will be used to measure the environmental effects of plan implementation. The SEA Monitoring programme for the LACAP has been defined in Table 9-1 of the Draft SEA ER.	None.	None.
Sea Fisheries coordination DAFM	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 a key a part of Government Policy. Food Vision 2030 recognises and values the role of primary food producers.	Noted. It is noted that Kildare 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 is noted that defined Climate Action in Kildare's LACAP does not promote or support marine development. The county is non-coastal.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	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 (Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan) 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 Draft 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 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.	It is noted that Kildare is a non-coastal which does not have a seafood sector.	None.	None.
Lorraine Benson	<p>Title of Natura Impact Report</p> <p>This may be a forgivable error but the description of the Natura Impact Report as a Nature Impact Report is misleading in the extreme. The Natura report does not deal with the impact of the Climate Action Plan on nature in Kildare.</p> <p>Rather, the Natura Impact Report describes the impact of the Plan on the very limited number of areas in Kildare designated for the protection of specific species or habitats under EU legislation. The land area covered by these sites is less than 3% of the total county.</p>	<p>The title of the Natura Impact Report for the LACAP produced is correct.</p> <p>Kildare County Council should correct the typo on their website which terms the Natura Impact Report a Nature Impact Report.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	This error should be corrected immediately on the website to avoid misunderstanding.			
	<p>Governance and Leadership</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) drafted by the consultants refers to the Local Authority's role in "advocacy and exerting influence to ensure co-benefits". They also recommend "the alignment of objectives and actions for climate, water and biodiversity to maximise impact and efficiency".</p> <p>While this may be implicit in the Chapter on Implementation and Reporting it would repay explicit mention with appropriate text drawn from the SEA.</p>	<p>The SEA produced recommended attaching the following environmental consideration text to Action 2.10</p> <p>'Advocate and exert influence and control, as appropriate, to ensure such development promotes climate action co-benefits and does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.'</p> <p>One main objective of the LACAP, as defined by Kildare County Council is as follows:</p> <p>'Align objectives and actions for climate, water and biodiversity within Local Authority work programmes to maximise impact and efficiency from existing resources and collaborate with other local authorities to encourage climate action initiatives.'</p> <p>The above environmental consideration text and main objective defined by Kildare County have been included in the appropriate sections of the SEA.</p>	None.	None.
	<p>Monitoring and Reporting</p> <p>The quotation from the Hieroglyphic Stairway at the beginning of the Draft is poignant;</p> <p>"it's 3:23 in the morning and I'm awake because my great great grandchildren won't let me sleep my great great grandchildren ask me in dreams what did you do while the planet was plundered? what did you do when the earth was unraveling? surely you did something when the seasons started failing? as the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?"</p> <p>It is also recalled that the Government and Kildare County Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity emergency.</p> <p>In this context the following is noted :</p> <p>"6.4.1 To ensure that delivery is timely, the implementation of the Plan will be monitored via an in-house monitoring system. The local authority will also facilitate reporting to Elected Members on an annual basis".</p>	<p>Noted. In the context of the SEA, annual monitoring of the environmental effects of plan implementation is appropriate. Existing SEA monitoring frameworks should be utilized to avoid duplication, where appropriate (i.e. the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 SEA Monitoring Framework)</p>	Noted.	Noted.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>While we do not wish to overburden the Council with reporting we suggest that quarterly reporting to elected members would be more consistent with the concept of a climate emergency.</p> <p>We therefore suggest that the word “annual” be replaced with the word “quarterly”</p>			
Nathan Flaherty	<p>While there is reference in SP 3.14 to "native provenance locally sourced fruits, flowers and vegetables", there is no such stipulation about provenance when tree planting is referenced.</p> <p>There should be a stipulation in the section (and other sections where planting is referenced) that all trees and plants should be native and of Irish provenance, preferably local provenance. Trees, plants and seeds should not have spent any time outside of Ireland.</p> <p>This is important to reduce the risk of new and existing pathogens being imported to Ireland.</p>	<p>The SEA produced recommended attaching the following environmental consideration text to Action 3.14</p> <p>‘Devise a county native tree management plan which seeks to retain existing native trees, support the planting of native trees and identify sites for large scale native and mixed woodland planting. Set targets to maintain existing and plant new native trees in urban and rural areas, to enhance carbon storage, biodiversity and landscape, air quality, and urban heat island mitigation. Increase range of edible native provenance locally sourced fruits, flowers and vegetables in Council Parks, rooftops and open spaces.’</p> <p>It is also noted that the LACAP is underpinned by the following Environmental Governance Principle.</p> <p>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.</p>	None.	None.



2.5 SEA and Plan Modifications

KCC 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.

The Plan modifications documented in the CE Report were screened for SEA and AA. The Plan modifications 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 then 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 SEA and AA documentation.



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 DLACAP 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.

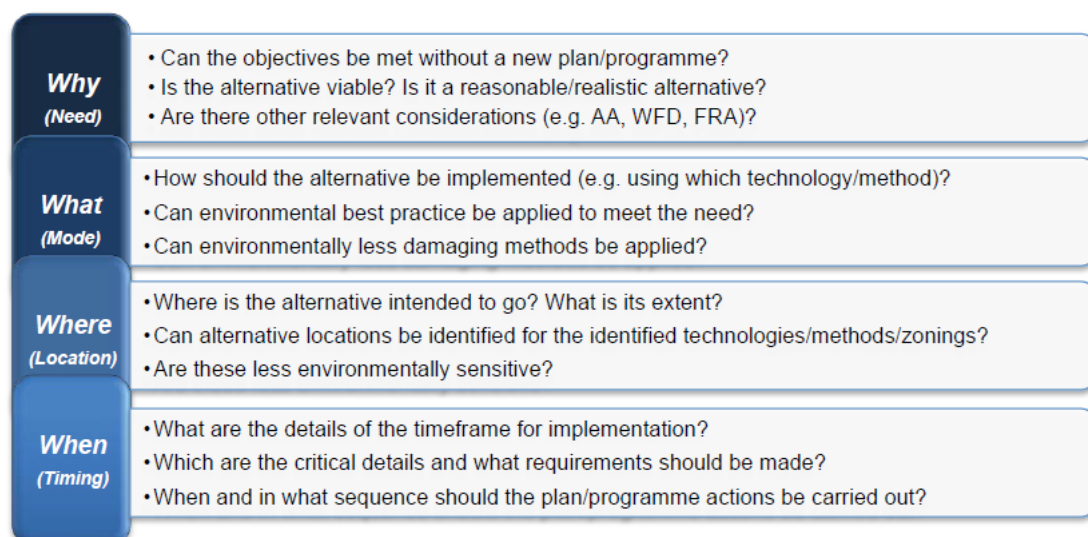


Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).

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
Alternative 1 - The Pareto Approach: Prioritize reducing GHG emissions from largest GHG emitting sectors to mitigate against climate change impacts.	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.	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. This alternative would be relevant to the county of Kildare County. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).
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.	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.	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. This alternative would be relevant to the county of Kildare County. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).
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.	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.	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. This alternative would be relevant to the county of Kildare County. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).



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 of lead to some positive environmental effects and would of resulted 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 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.

Kildare County Council 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 Kildare 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 4-1. 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 4-1: 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 planning policy and climate action policy is aligned.	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.
	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. Planning 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 km2 /length metres). Number and geographical distribution of Species or Species population trends impacted by climate change.	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
			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>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>Planning 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 ⁵ .	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.</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 publications regarding the status of European sites.</p>

⁵ '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 (km2).</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 minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites 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.</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 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	Go beyond biodiversity protection to deliver biodiversity enhancement, wherever possible, in response to the biodiversity emergency.	<p>Compliance of development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined the CDP.</p> <p>No. of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p> <p>Improved biodiversity areas (Area km2 /length metres).</p>	<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>Increase quantum of improved biodiversity areas.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p>



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



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
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.
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.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.	<p>Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse air quality impacts on sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Number of exceedances of ambient air quality standards in the County, as monitored under the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network.</p> <p>Improvements in air quality status in the county.</p>	<p>No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse air quality impact on sensitive receptors.</p> <p>All development supported by the plan should adhere to relevant Development Management Standards defined in the CDP relating to the protection of air quality.</p> <p>Minimise ambient air quality standard exceedances in the County.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA.</p> <p>Review of EPA Air Quality Monitoring undertaken in the County.</p> <p>Review of EPA annual 'Air Quality in Ireland' Report</p>
	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.
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface waters.	<p>Status of surface water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive (WFD)</p> <p>Status of bathing waters as monitored under the Bathing Water Directive.</p>	<p>Number of Pollution Incidents detected due to poor bathing water quality results.</p> <p>Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status.'</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the national River Basin Management Plan.</p>	<p>EPA surface water monitoring data and reports.</p> <p>EPA bathing water monitoring data and reports.</p> <p>Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application</p>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	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.	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.	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.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA.
	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 permission 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.
	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.	No non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023.	EPA Drinking Water Quality Reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application
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 on 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.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
					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 (m2).	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.
	MAI4	Promote sustainable waste management.	Tonnes of hazardous waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of W.E.E.E. waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of Bulky waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of garden waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.	Increase waste recycling in the County. Reduce waste generation in the County.	EPA Waste Statistics. Consultation with the EPA.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	MAI5	Promote sustainable water use and drainage management.	Level of water use in the County. Compliance with Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) related development management standards defined in the CDP.	Reduced water use in the county. All development (supported by the plan) must comply with SuDS related development management standards defined in the CDP.	CSO water consumption data. Internal monitoring of flood risk associated with development projects and development project compliance with relevant flood risk and management related development management standards.
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.	Level of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the County. Level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.	Reduce GHG emissions associated with the Energy sector in the County. Increase the level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County. Megawatt hour (MWh) output from renewable energy infrastructure in the county.
	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.
	CF3	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.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	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 planning consent.	Increase the number of blue and green infrastructure measures included as part of development projects that have been granted planning consent.	Review of granted planning consents.



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