



Fingal County Council

# Climate Action Plan



2024  
2029

Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan  
2024-2029

Annual Progress Report 2024

## Acknowledgements

Fingal County Council Climate Action team has prepared this Annual Progress Report for the Climate Action Plan in conjunction with the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency and in partnership with the Climate Action, Biodiversity and the Environment Strategic Policy Committee and the Elected Members of Fingal Council.

The Fingal County Council Climate Action Unit wishes to acknowledge the dedication and support for climate action by the various service areas of Fingal County Council under the stewardship of the Executive Management Team (Climate Action Steering Group). The work and assistance of the Elected Members and the Climate Action, Biodiversity and the Environment Strategic Policy Committee is also acknowledged and appreciated.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Codema, who have supported us in embedding climate action across the organisation and compiling this first report on the Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

	Executive Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Climate Action Plan Overview	3
3.0	Update to Climate Policy and Legislation	5
	Climate Change Advisory Council 2023 Review	5
	The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24)	5
	Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2023	6
	Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050	6
	Ireland's Annual Report 2023 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance	7
4.0	Leadership and Governance	7
4.1	Fingal Climate Action Office (CAO)	9
4.2	Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)	9
4.3	Climate Actions and UN Sustainability Goals	14
4.4	Local Authority Climate Action Framework	14
4.5	Codema	14
5.0	LACAP Monitoring and Reporting	18
6.0	Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan Update	20
6.1	Energy and Buildings	20
6.2	Transport	29
6.3	Flood Resilience	38
6.4	Nature Based Solutions	42
6.5	Circular Economy and Resource Management	45
6.6	Community Engagement	53
6.7	Balbriggan Decarbonising Zone	61
	Appendix I: Action Progress Report 2024	65
	Appendix II: Action Status Definitions	94
	Appendix III References:	95
	Appendix IV Acronyms	96
	Appendix V: List of Figures and Tables	98

## Executive Summary

The Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 represents a strategic and ambitious response to the global climate emergency, aligning local action with national and international climate objectives. Approved, by the Council, in February 2024, the Plan sets out a detailed roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, enhancing climate resilience, and fostering a just transition across Fingal. This first Annual Progress Report covers implementation activities undertaken between January and December 2024 and provides a comprehensive account of the progress made across the Plan’s thematic areas.

The Climate Action Plan identifies 162 discrete actions structured under six key thematic areas: Energy and Buildings; Transport; Flood Resilience; Nature-Based Solutions; Circular Economy and Resource Management; and Community Engagement. These actions are further guided by Fingal’s designation of Balbriggan as a Decarbonising Zone—a pilot area for the integration of low-carbon technologies and climate-resilient planning at a local scale.

In 2024, significant progress was achieved across all thematic areas. Fingal County Council improved its organisational energy efficiency by 54.8% relative to its 2006–2008 baseline and reduced energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 44.9%, placing the Council on a promising trajectory towards its 2030 targets. Social housing retrofits continued under the national Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, with 94 homes upgraded to higher energy performance standards. Major investments in energy infrastructure included ongoing implementation of Energy Performance Contracts and 100% public lighting has been converted to LED with a reduction in energy on public lighting by over 57%.

In the area of sustainable transport, the Council continued to prioritise the integration of land-use and transport planning with a focus on active travel and modal shift. Infrastructure delivery included the completion of 4.9 kilometres of protected cycleways, additional pedestrian and cycling crossings, and expansion of secure bike parking facilities across the county. The electrification of the Council’s fleet progressed steadily, with 40% of its commercial vehicles now powered by electricity.

Flood resilience efforts were bolstered through collaboration with the Office of Public Works (OPW), the preparation of a Coastal Flood Risk and Erosion Risk Management Plan for Portrane, and the development of minor works schemes informed by sustainable drainage and nature-

based approaches. The Council also participated in a national coastal monitoring pilot project, supporting evidence-based responses to coastal change.

Nature-based solutions were a central element of the Council's adaptation strategy. In 2024, seven Green Flag awards were retained for excellence in park and landscape management, and the Council expanded its pollinator-friendly meadows to over 125 hectares. The implementation of wildfire management strategies in Howth, green roof installations on public buildings, and marine restoration efforts in Malahide Estuary reflected Fingal's commitment to enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Circular economy and resource management initiatives advanced under a variety of programmes, including the "Keen to Be Green" initiative, the Replay Instruments Project, and the development of the Circular Cities Action Plan. The Council continued its partnership with the Rediscovery Centre to promote the reuse and upcycling of waste materials such as paint and bicycles.

Community engagement remained a cornerstone of the Council's approach. Over 45 public events were delivered as part of Dublin Climate Action Week, and the Community Climate Action Programme Fund allocated €1.2 million to support 25 local projects aligned with five core climate themes. Climate literacy training was delivered in 10 secondary schools, and the Council supported 133 schools participating in the Green-Schools programme.

The Balbriggan Decarbonising Zone, a national testbed for innovative local climate action, progressed through detailed emissions profiling, project planning, and the launch of the EU-supported E2-CUTIES initiative. This project aims to support the development of community energy projects, build local governance capacity, and accelerate climate action at the neighbourhood level.

With 91 actions completed, 46 in progress, and 25 yet to be initiated, Fingal County Council has laid a strong foundation for the ongoing implementation of its Climate Action Plan. The Council remains committed to delivering on its climate commitments through continued investment, cross-sector collaboration, and the empowerment of communities to take action. This report provides not only a record of progress to date but also a clear indication of the scale and ambition of climate action in Fingal.

## 1. Introduction

The Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 was approved by Elected Members at the County Council meeting on February 12th, 2024. The CAP sets out mitigation and adaptation measures to create a low-carbon and climate-resilient County. The Plan outlines the strategic approach for tackling climate change within the Fingal County Council over the next five years.



The Plan focuses on how the Council will reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency across its properties, facilities and fleet, and build climate resilience across the county. The Plan also focuses on how the Council, through its actions, actively influences, facilitates and advocates for climate action across other sectors and communities in the Fingal area.

This inaugural annual 'Progress Report' for the Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 covers the implementation period from January 2024 to December 2024. The report summarises the Council's climate action progress throughout 2024, showcasing the extensive range of initiatives delivered across various Council services.

## 2. Climate Action Plan Overview

The Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 comprises 162 actions, along with opportunity areas and actions for the Balbriggan Decarbonising Zone (DZ).

The Plan is centred around actions in six thematic areas that collectively address the four key targets of this plan, Figure 1, which are framed by the Climate Action

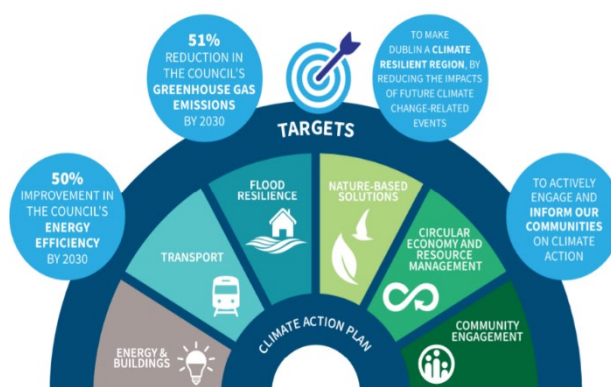


Figure 1 CAP 2024-2029 Targets and Thematic areas

and Low-Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the National Climate Action Plan 2023:

- 50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030;
- 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030;

- To make Dublin a climate-resilient region by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events; and
- To actively engage and inform our communities on climate action.

## 2.1. Thematic areas

The Climate Action Plan contains 162 actions across 6 thematic areas with the following action distribution across the themes, shown in Figure 2. The actions were created after thorough consultation with all service areas within the Council, Elected Members, the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC, stakeholders, and the broader public. They were also shaped by baseline data on climate risks to Fingal County Council's service delivery, alongside information on the Council's energy usage and emissions.



Figure 2 No of actions per Thematic area

## 2.2.Types of Actions in the Plan

The plan's actions address climate mitigation, climate adaptation (actions that prepare for the impacts of climate change), and a combination of both. Figure 3 shows the number of actions per action type.

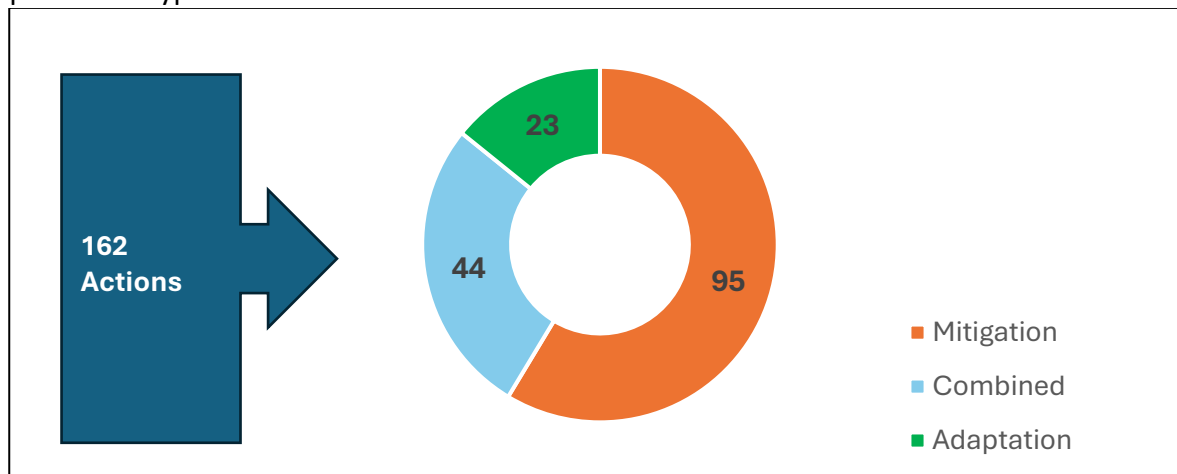


Figure 3 Number of actions per action type.

## 3. Update to Climate Policy and Legislation

**The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24):** CAP24, published in May 2024, builds on the 2023 Plan and provides a roadmap for Ireland to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050, in line with the commitments set out in the Climate Action and Low-carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. The supplementary Annex of Actions highlights the new, high-impact measures. At the same time, the complete roadmap of actions to achieve the country's climate targets is detailed in the main Climate Action Plan.

**Climate Change Advisory Council 2023 Review:** The Climate Change Advisory Council published its 2023 annual review in late September. One of the Council's main tasks is to review the progress made over the previous year across all sectors in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient, and sustainable economy and society by 2050. In its "traffic light" assessment of sectoral adaptation progress, the Local Government Sector was rated as having made 'Good Progress.' The report highlighted the effective collaboration on risk identification and measures with various sectors, including heritage, transport, flood risk, and Met Éireann. It also noted the development of specific risk identification tools, such as the semi-quantitative climate risk and vulnerability (SQRVA)



methodology and the WIRE App. It emphasized that climate change risks are now being considered in infrastructure projects' planning and design stages. These are seen as innovative approaches, with a suggestion to explore the expansion of the WIRE App to cover vulnerability aspects and the outcomes of adaptation interventions.

The report further pointed out that local authorities are highly engaged in planning and implementing adaptation and mitigation actions. However, it noted that more attention is needed regarding the human and financial resourcing of the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) and local authorities, especially considering the need to develop the Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs) and ensure their successful implementation.

**Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2023:** In July 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency published Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions report for 1990-2023. The report revealed that provisional total national greenhouse gas emissions for 2023 (excluding LULUCF) are estimated to be 55.01 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq), which is 6.8% lower (a reduction of 4.00 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq) compared with emissions in 2022, which were 59.00 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq. The comparison follows a 2.0% decrease in emissions reported for 2022. Notably, emissions in 2023 are 1.2% lower than the historical 1990 baseline, marking the first time in 33 years that this has occurred.

**Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050:** In May 2024, the EPA published Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050<sup>1</sup>. It assesses Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2023 to 2050, using the latest inventory data for 2022 as the starting point. The assessment focuses on 2030, given the current national and EU 2030 climate targets. Extended projections out to 2050 are also provided. Key findings include:

- Ireland is not on track to meet the 51 per cent emissions reduction target (by 2030 compared to 2018) based on these projections, which include most 2024 Climate Action Plan measures.

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1. Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050, EPA May 2024

- The first two carbon budgets (2021-2030), which aim to support the achievement of the 51 per cent emissions reduction goal, are projected to be exceeded by a significant margin of between 17 and 27 per cent.

**Ireland's Annual Report 2023 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance:** Ireland's Annual Report 2023 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance<sup>2</sup>, published by The Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland, showed non-electricity greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 3.9% below the baseline (2016-2018 average), while total greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 17.3% below the same baseline.

## 4. Leadership and Governance

**Fingal Climate Action Unit (CAU):** Was established with the support of funding from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and includes the following roles, Figure 4:

- Climate Action Coordinator
- Climate Action Officer
- Community Climate Action Officer
- Climate Action Graduate

The Climate Action Unit is supported by the Climate Action Steering Group (CASG), which is chaired by the Chief Executive and includes members of the Executive Management Team. The CASG provides strategic direction and oversight to the Climate Action Unit (CAU) and the Climate Action Plan Implementation Team (CAPIT).

The CAPIT comprises senior staff from all service areas and serves as a network of climate change advocates within their respective departments. Their primary responsibilities include implementing the actions that are set out in the Climate Action Plan and reporting on progress.

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2. Public sector energy efficiency performance report 2023, SEAI

The Fingal CAU is further supported in the delivery of the Plan by the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency. Codema provides advisory and technical services to the Council, including the monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

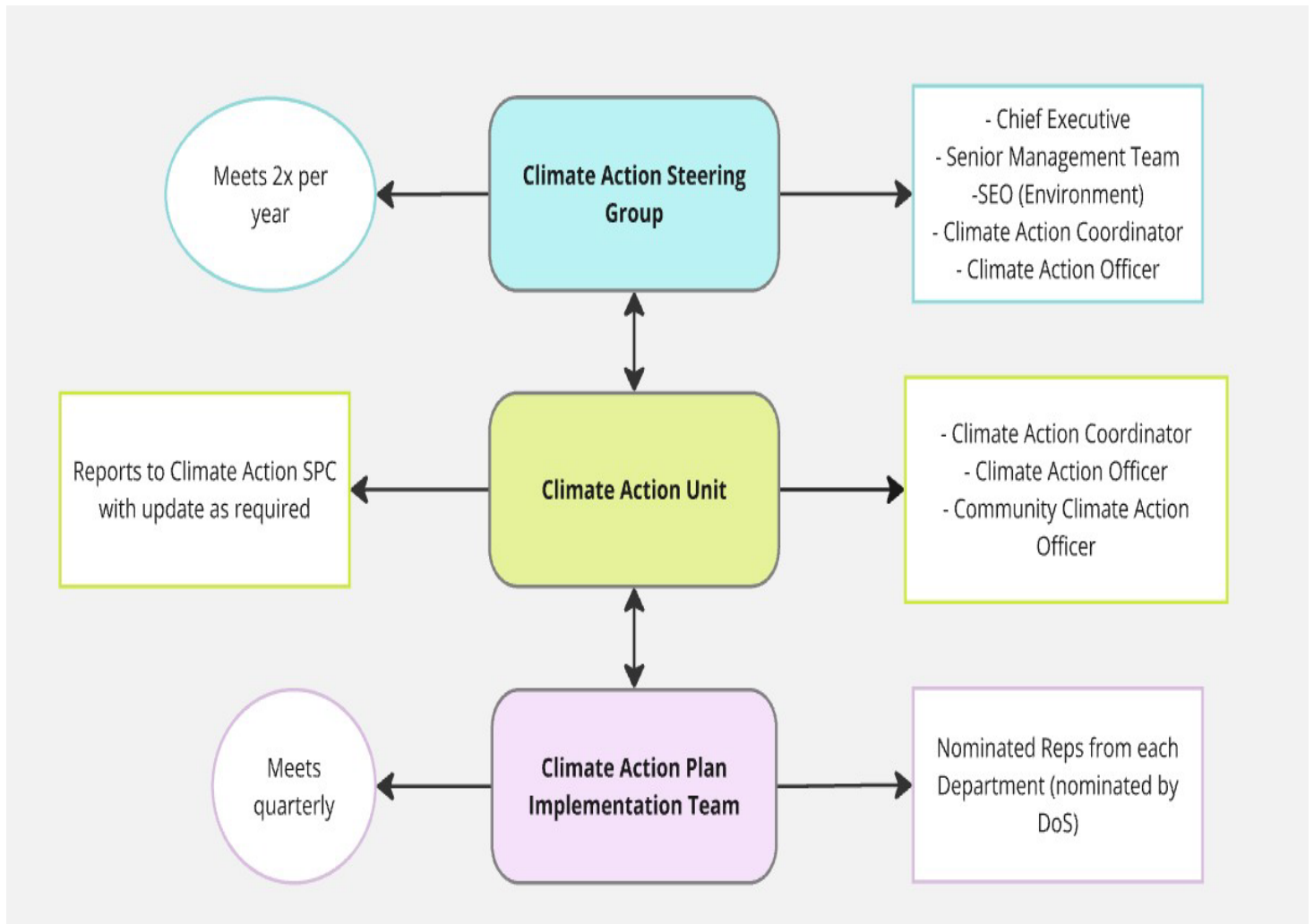


Figure 4 Governance Structure of the Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

**Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office**

**(CARO):** The Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) were established in 2018 in response to Action 8 of the 2018 National Adaptation Framework (NAF) – *Planning*



*for a Climate-resilient Ireland.* The offices are mandated to coordinate engagement across the varying levels of government and help build on existing experience and expertise in climate change and climate action. The offices have a role in driving climate action at both regional and local levels, including supporting the implementation of local adaptation plans/Climate Change Action Plans.

The composition of the four Climate Action Regions has been determined by the geographical and topographical characteristics, vulnerabilities and shared climate risks experienced across local authority areas. The four CARO regions, constituent local authorities and associated lead authorities are shown in Table 1 and Figure 5.

Climate Action Region	Local Authority function area	Lead Authority
Dublin Metropolitan	Dublin City, Dun-Laoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin, Fingal	Dublin City Council
Eastern and Midlands	Carlow, Cavan, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow	Kildare County Council, with support from Kilkenny County Council
Atlantic Seaboard North	Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Galway City & County	Mayo County Council
Atlantic Seaboard South	Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork City & County.	Cork County Council

*Table 1 Climate Action Regional Offices*

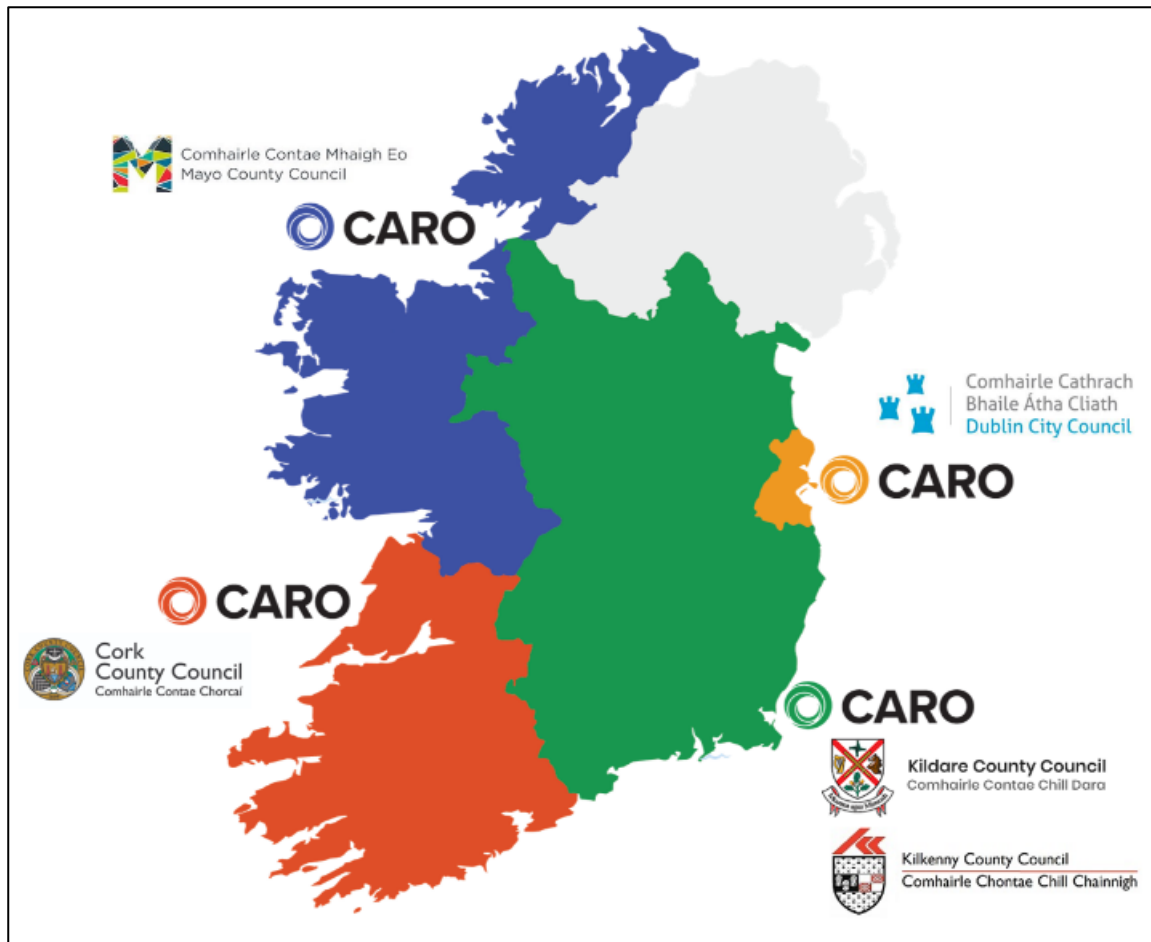


Figure 5 Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs)

The Dublin Metropolitan CARO has been working closely with the four Dublin Climate Teams and Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency, to support the implementation of their Climate Change Action Plans. The Dublin CARO has a regional steering group comprising the four Directors of Services of the Dublin Local Authorities and colleagues from Codema and the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly.

**CARO Work programme:** Examples of projects across the six key areas of the CARO work programme are listed below:

- **Management and Governance**
  - National, Regional and local climate team meetings
  - Participation in sectoral adaptation steering groups and working groups
  - Preparation of a detailed business case to support climate action for the local authority sector

- Participation in relevant CCMA/LGMA and Government working groups on Climate Action
- **Climate Adaptation**
  - Assisting local authorities with the implementation and reporting of Climate Action Plans, including implementation guidance
  - Preparation of guidance such as guidance document for adaptation of regional and local roads
  - Working with Government Departments and agencies on the implementation of sectoral adaptation plans
  - Collaborating with key climate actors such as Climate Ireland, Universities
  - Participation in National Working Groups such as the new Coastal Change Strategy Steering Group
- **Climate Mitigation**
  - Participation in Regional and National Electric Vehicle (EV) working groups
  - Collaboration with energy agencies and SEAI on energy-related projects
  - Identifying and assisting local authorities with projects eligible for the National Climate Action Fund
- **Communications and Citizen Engagement**
  - Presentations to Councils, Government Departments and Agencies, youth organisations and the general public
  - Supporting individual local authorities with community engagement events, including climate action workshops
  - Collaboration with key stakeholders such as GAA on Green Clubs Programme, Comhairle Na nOg, Age Friendly Ireland, etc.
  - Maintenance of the CARO website and social media communication channels
  - Preparation of submissions on climate-relevant public consultations

- **Training and Education**

- Preparation and rollout of a comprehensive Climate Action training plan for the LA sector across all levels (see below for further details)
- Identification of external training and upskilling opportunities in climate action for the Local Authority Sector
- Collaboration with expert organisations and representative bodies for tailored workshops and training seminars

- **Knowledge Development**

- Development of an online Weather Impacts Reporting App (WIRE) for Local Authorities
- Preparation of guidance and position papers on climate action areas
- Identification and communication of funding opportunities for climate action projects in local authorities and assistance with the application process
- Participation in relevant climate action research projects from the Environmental Protection Agency research programmes and other funding programmes
- Engaging with local authorities and Regional Assemblies on planning issues relating to climate action

- **Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme:**

A key focus of the recent CARO work programme has been the rollout of

climate action training across the local authority sector. The CAROs have developed this training plan in collaboration with partners such as the Local Authority Environmental Services Training Group (LASTNG), Climate Ireland, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Met Éireann, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Institute for Public Administration and others. Training has been targeted at all staff levels and focuses on the following six pillar areas;



**LOCAL AUTHORITY  
Climate Action**  
Training Programme

- Climate Action Leadership – aimed at all elected members and senior staff
  - Climate Action Awareness Training – aimed at building capacity across climate action teams
  - General Awareness Building – online training for all indoor staff to raise awareness of climate action
  - Practical Climate Action – training for all outdoor staff to assist them in delivering practical climate action measures
  - Behavioural Change Training – to empower staff to promote positive change both internally and across the community
  - Specific and Targeted Training – training arising from specific knowledge gaps or individual policy/role requirements, such as spatial planning, flood risk management
- **Strengthening communications:**  
This has been primarily done by developing the CARO website, which has more than 86,000 users. The most popular sections of the website include projects, research, local authority climate action, training and academic courses.
  - **Community outreach:**  
Working with the four Dublin Local Authorities and Codema, a significant amount of work and events were undertaken as part of the Dublin Climate Action Week in September to deliver a programme of in-person and online events to showcase climate action. Additional outreach will be achieved by delivering recorded webinars on the CARO website for future use. Significant work was also undertaken with other partners through the GAA Green Clubs Phase 1 programme<sup>3</sup>. Other events have included working with partners such as Age Friendly Ireland, An Taisce Climate Ambassadors and 3<sup>rd</sup>-level universities to participate in events and workshops on climate action.

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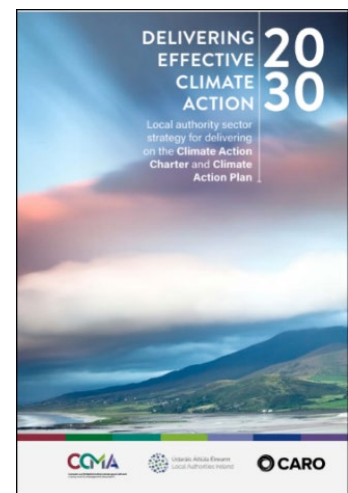
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/community-and-health/green-clubs-sustainability>



**Climate Actions and UN Sustainability Goals:** The Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications (DECC) holds overall responsibility for promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). There are 17 SDGs, and the successful implementation of all is crucial for ensuring a sustainable future. While Action 17 focuses explicitly on Climate Action, achieving many other SDGs is also essential for the sustainable development of the county. There is a strong, cross-departmental awareness of the SDGs, and they are consistently integrated into the development of new policies and service delivery. For instance, the SDGs, including Climate Action, are deeply embedded in key documents such as the Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029, Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, the Fingal Local Economic and Development Plan 2023-2028, and the Fingal Corporate Plan 2025-2029.



**Local Authority Climate Action Framework:** The CAP implementation fulfils commitments outlined in the local authority framework for climate action. This framework includes the national Climate Action Plans, the Climate Action and Low-carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, the Local Authority Climate Action Charter (2019, currently under review), and the Local Government roadmap for climate action, Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030: Local Authority Sector Strategy for Delivering on the Climate Action Charter and Climate Action Plan.



**Codema:** Codema is Dublin's Energy Agency committed to leading Dublin's low-carbon transition towards 2030 and 2050. They act as the energy agency to the four local authorities in Dublin - Dublin City Council (DCC), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC), Fingal County Council (FCC) and South Dublin County Council (SDCC).



Codema works closely with all four Dublin Local Authorities (DLAs) to support them in achieving their public sector obligations, including meeting energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets and the implementation of their Climate Action Plans. They support the Fingal County Council to achieve energy management standards through ISO 50001 certification, and to monitor and achieve the public sector targets. Codema works with Fingal's Energy Performance Officers (EPOs) and Energy Team to help them identify and implement the best energy-saving opportunities in their organisations and develop a pathway towards achieving our 2030 targets.

Areas of work where Projects where Codema supports Fingal County Council include:

- **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting:** Codema assists in the direct energy management within Fingal County Council, completing the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting to show the authority's progress towards its energy efficiency improvement target of 51% by 2030. A key aspect of this role involves participating in the regular energy team meetings and preparing monthly energy reports for each Significant Energy User (SEU) designated within Fingal County Council.
- **Project Implementation Unit:** Codema was awarded significant funding from the EU Horizon 2020 Programme in 2021 to develop a Project Implementation Unit for developing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Dublin over the next four years. Under this DeliveREE project, 21 FCC facilities have been proposed for energy projects within the pipeline. In conjunction with this, Codema is working with the four Dublin Local Authorities to develop a Pathfinder funding application with SEAI, which could provide up to 50% capital funding for these projects.
- **Display Energy Certificates (DECs):** The information from Codema's energy database and energy surveys is used to prepare Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for each publicly accessible local authority building with a floor area greater than 250m<sup>2</sup>, as required under the regulation S.I. 243 of 2012. In 2022, seven DECs were generated for public buildings. Codema has guided Fingal County Council through the procurement process for its first Energy Performance Contract for the Blanchardstown Civic Offices

and Swords County Hall. DEC's allow for comparing a building's energy performance against a standard benchmark and are updated annually with the actual energy consumption over the previous 12-month period. The comparison allows the building's energy performance to be tracked from year to year.

Codema assists Fingal County Council with the certification of public buildings and issues certificates to the managers of all these buildings, along with information on how much energy would need to be saved in the following year to improve their energy rating. This information is entered into the SEAI system. Each building manager also receives a copy of Codema's 'Guide to Display Energy Certificates in Local Authority Buildings' to accompany these certificates and encourage direct action.

- **Blanchardstown District Heating:** Code with the support of Fingal County Council (FCC) is proposing to implement the Blanchardstown District Heating Scheme (BDHS). The system proposes to utilise a low-temperature waste heat source from a nearby data centre through a large-scale heat pump to supply space heating and hot water to a university campus, public hospital, and a national sports facilities campus in its first delivery phase. The system will also have the capacity to supply other nearby interested customers in the public and private sectors in the following phases. This innovative district heating scheme will provide low-carbon, low-cost heat to the Blanchardstown area. It will be only the second of its kind in Ireland, following the example of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme in South County Dublin.
- **DeliveREE:** In early 2021, Codema was awarded funding under the Horizon 2020 Project Development Assistance call for the DeliveREE project. DeliveREE aims to create an innovative project finance and delivery structure for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the Dublin region, across the four Dublin Local Authorities, using various performance-based contracting structures. By creating a structured approach, DeliveREE can accelerate the formation of large-scale projects by standardising the project development process, allowing projects of various types and sizes to be aggregated to create scale. This enables the use of energy performance and energy

supply contracts whose performance guarantees are both critical for achieving value for money and providing a mechanism for the involvement of private capital.

- **E2-CUTIES:** Engaged Energy-Communities in Urban areas with Technology Integrated Energy Systems (E2-Cuties) is a 4-year Interreg North-West Europe project in which Codema, with the support of Fingal County Council, were successful in securing funding in Q4 2024 with the support of Fingal County Council. This project will commence in January 2025. E2 Cuties aims to enhance energy efficiency in urban areas by empowering local energy communities to implement integrated energy-efficient measures and by strengthening cooperation models between energy communities and the local authority. This project features Codema and Fingal County Council as the local Dublin partners, alongside associated partner Balbriggan Sustainable Energy Community. It will directly support Fingal's climate goals by implementing strategies to reduce energy consumption within the Balbriggan Decarbonising Zone.

## 5. Local Authority CAP Monitoring and Reporting

**Climate Action National Key Performance Indicators:** The government collects annual data on the performance of local authorities regarding their climate action obligations. This data is organised into themes, such as mainstreaming, mitigation, adaptation, internal behavioural change, and capacity building. It is compiled into an annual Climate Action Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) report by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), as shown in Figure 6.

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

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

Figure 6 Ten National KPIs for Climate Action

**Status of Actions - CAP 2024-2029:** In 2024, out of the total 162 actions in the CAP, 91 were completed, 46 are currently in progress, and 25 have not yet been started. Of the completed actions in 2024, 83 are classified as recurring, which have an annual work programme, and the 2024 work programme for these actions has been completed, see Figure 7. Table 2 provides details of progress on actions in 2024 per thematic area.

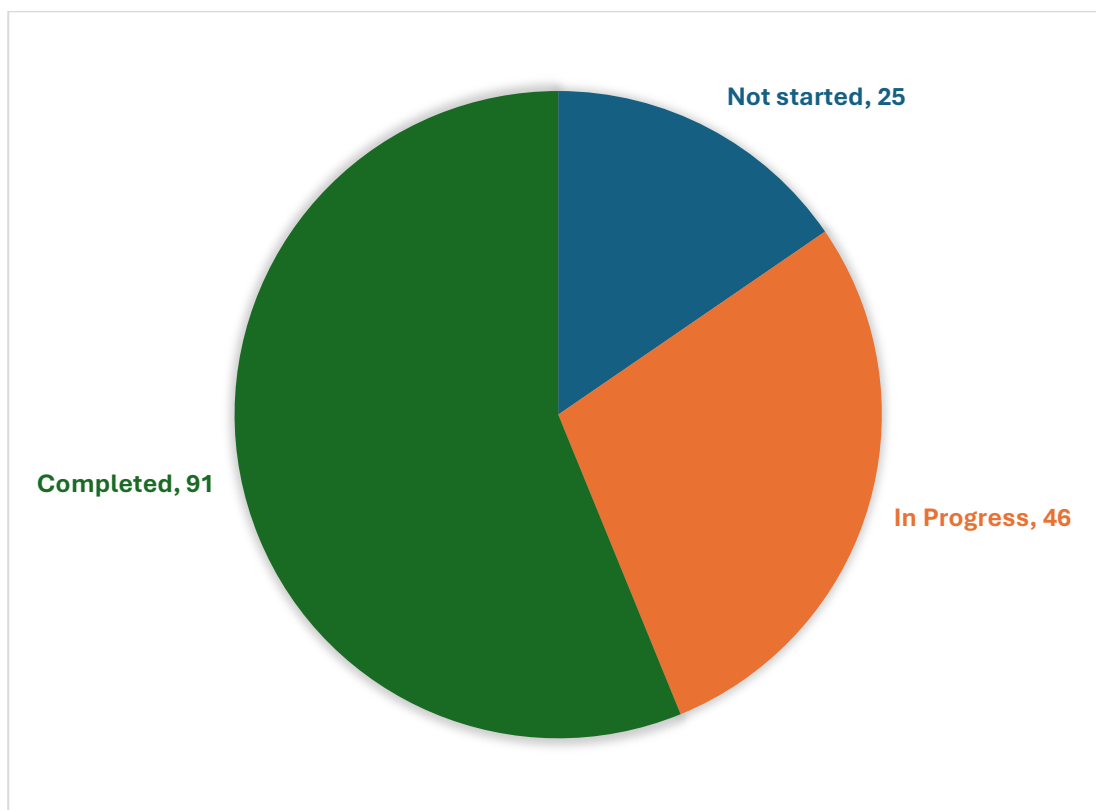


Figure 7 Implementation Status of LACAP actions (1st Jan 2024 to 31st Dec 2024)

Thematic area	Completed (2024) and in progress	Actions not started
Energy and Buildings	28	4
Transport	31	4
Flood Resilience	26	3
Nature-Based Solutions	8	11
Circular Economy and Resource Management	21	2
Community Engagement	23	1

Table 2 Actions implemented per theme 2024

## 6. Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan Update

### 6.1. Energy and Buildings

With energy prices continuing to rise, there is a renewed emphasis on reducing both European and national reliance on fossil fuels for heating and powering homes and buildings. The public sector, including local authorities, is expected to intensify efforts to improve energy efficiency and cut greenhouse gas emissions by adopting renewable heating solutions in buildings.

**ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management:** ISO 50001:2018 is an international standard that provides a structured approach for organizations to develop, implement, maintain, and continually enhance an energy management system (EnMS). It supports efforts to increase energy efficiency, cut energy usage, reduce operational costs and minimise environmental impact.

Certification Europe awarded Fingal County Council ISO 50001 certification for its Energy Management System in June 2020. A comprehensive Energy Management System has been implemented across the organisation to help reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions in Council operations. As part of this initiative, Fingal County Council has established an Energy Team comprising staff representatives from our SEUs. This team meets quarterly to support and drive energy efficiency efforts.

#### **Energy Efficiency Improvement and Upgrades**

Fingal County Council is required to achieve a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) carbon emissions, based on a 2016-2018 baseline, and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency, based on a 2009 baseline, by 2030<sup>4</sup>.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system offers a platform for tracking progress on these emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. It provides an annual assessment of the 'Gap to Target' necessary to meet these goals.

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<sup>4</sup> Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 (No. 32 of 2021)

According to the Energy Review Report prepared by Codema on behalf of Fingal County Council in November 2024, by the end of 2023, FCC had improved its energy efficiency by 54.8% compared to the baseline (average 2006-2008). The average glide path to 2030 is presented in Figure 8 below and represents a 2.27% annual improvement in energy performance to 2030. In 2023, FCC's Total Final Consumption of Energy was 28.11 GWh, producing 7,184 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> across three principal energy categories: electricity, thermal and transport fuels. The estimated cost associated with this energy use is approximately €5.69 million for the year. The SEAI M&R system shows that FCC has reduced its annual energy consumption by 21.7% between the baseline (average of 2006-2008) and 2023. It is a decrease of 9.7% compared to the previous year, representing a 3 GWh reduction of energy.

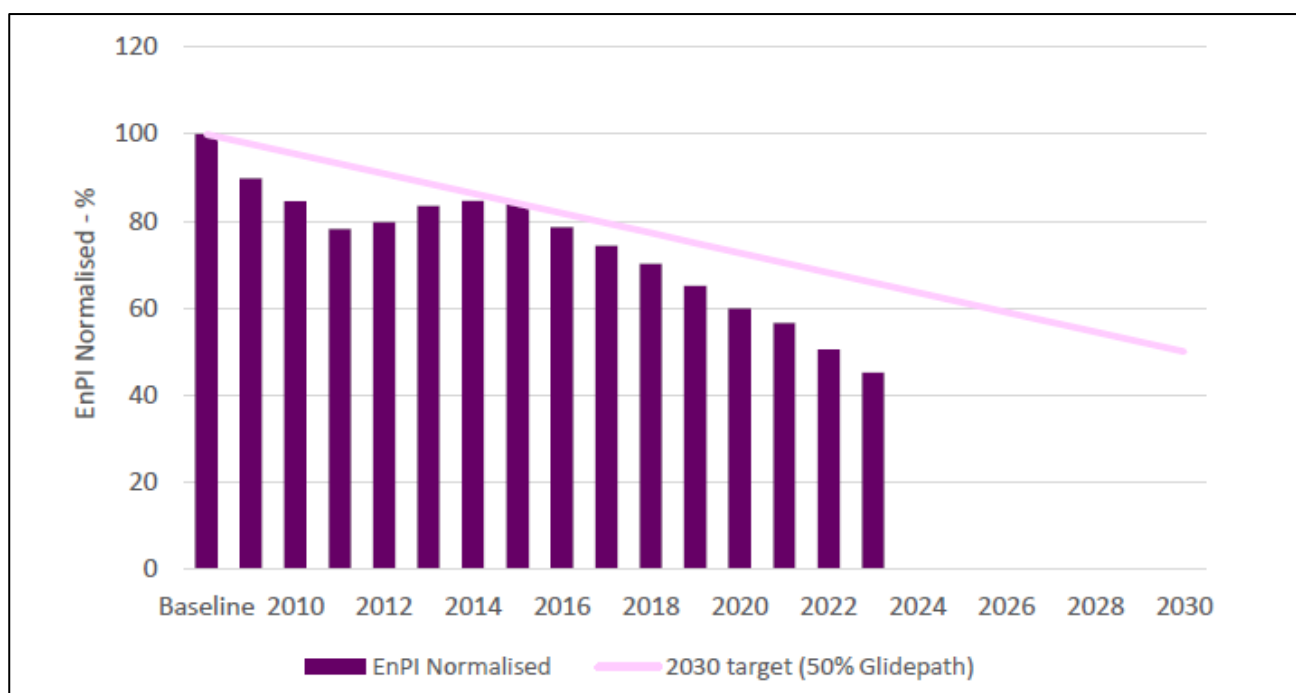


Figure 8 Annual Energy Efficiency target compared to 50% Glidepath.

**Green House Gas Emissions:** As part of the SEAI's monitoring and reporting 2030 framework, a statutory GHG emissions target must be met by Public Bodies. The 2023 Government Climate Action Plan has set a 51% absolute reduction in energy-related GHG emissions by 2030, and a 51% reduction in direct (thermal and transport fuels) related GHG emissions based on a 2016-2018 average baseline<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Fingal County Council 2023 Energy Review, November 2024, Codema



Preliminary results for 2023 indicate that FCC's total energy-related emissions were reduced by 44.9% compared to the baseline, amounting to 5,860 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Looking at direct GHG emissions, there has been a 7.3% reduction in thermal and transport emissions, equivalent to 227 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, as plotted in Figure 9. The reduction results in 1,367 tonnes of direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that need to be eliminated by 2030.

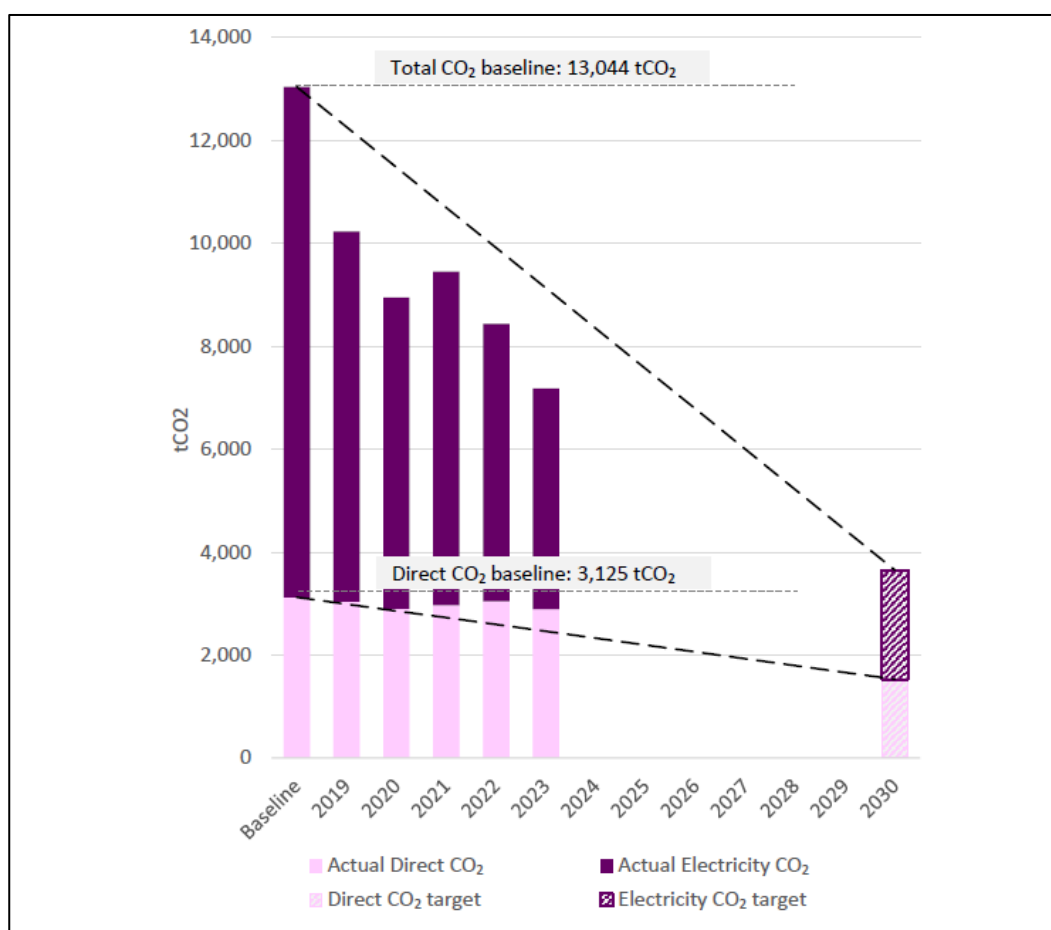


Figure 9 Total & direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

A GHG gap-to-target chart visualises the difference between projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the emissions reduction targets needed to achieve a specific climate goal. FCC is expected to meet the direct emissions target with County Hall in Swords, Civic Offices in Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown Library and Draiocht, smaller buildings and fleet upgrades. Energy upgrades to offset future construction planned by FCC will be required to ensure the pathway to Net Zero by 2050. Considering all these projects, a revised GHG Gap to Target chart is shown in Figure 10.

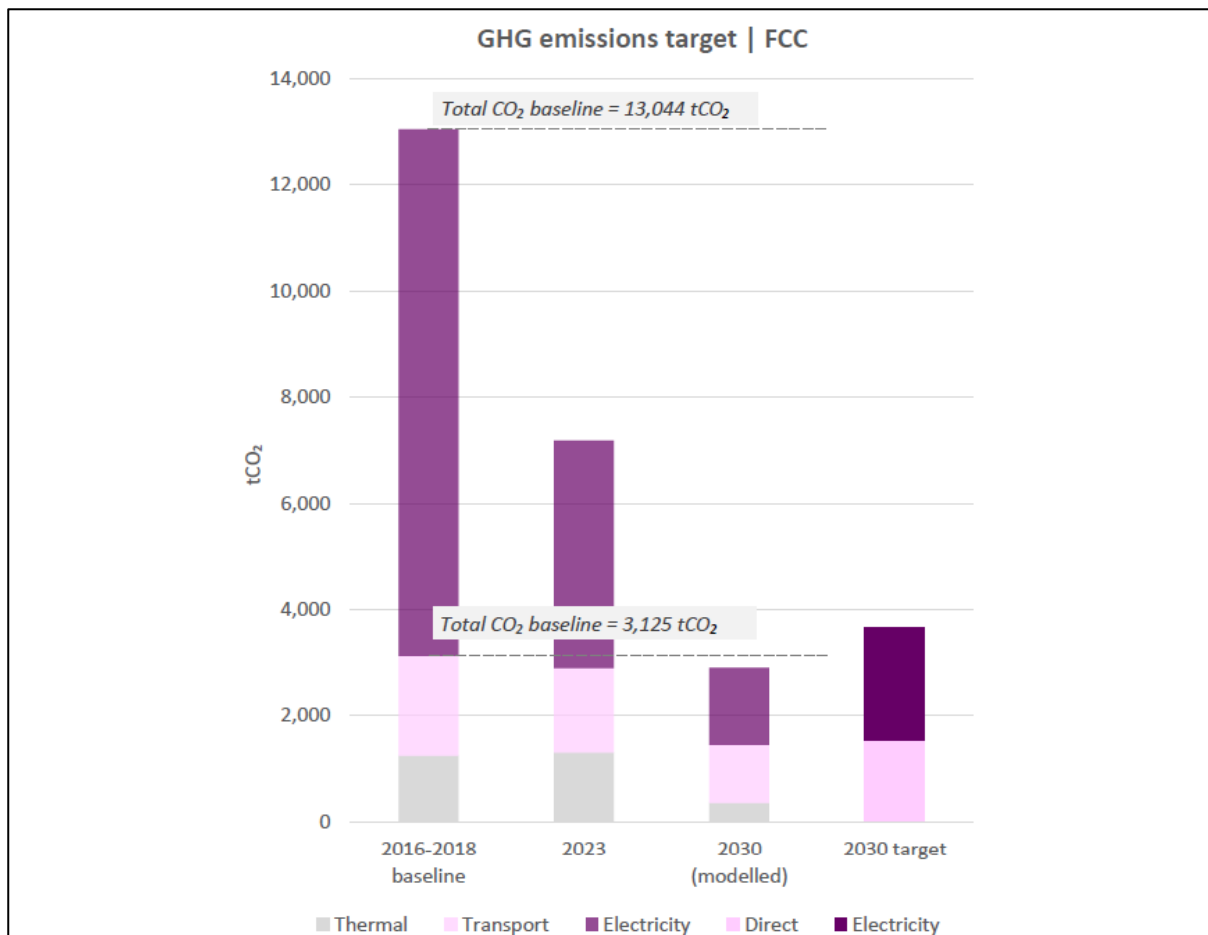


Figure 10 Gap-to-target analysis GHG emissions

Codema is working with FCC to address the GHG emissions target through a Building Decarbonisation Strategy. The Building Decarbonisation Strategy is a process to identify a pipeline of suitable energy efficiency and renewable projects based on meeting 2030 targets, refining the pipeline, and classifying these projects into appropriate project development routes. The strategy is an iterative process, and the pipeline will continue to evolve depending on the status of buildings and the current gap to target. The buildings included in the FCC pipeline are County Hall Swords, Civic Offices Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown Library and Droiccht.

Codema is working with FCC to bring some of these projects through the EU Horizon 2020-funded DeliverEE project, under which a dedicated Project Implementation Unit has been established within Codema.

**Energy Performance Contract (EPC):** In February 2022, an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) project was conducted by Codema at County Hall in Swords and the Civic Offices in Blanchardstown, implementing several energy upgrades that affected energy consumption. To assess performance before and after the upgrades, 2019 was selected as the baseline. The baseline is reviewed on an annual basis.

Figure 11 reveals an overall improvement in performance due to the EPC implementation. Overall, electricity performance experienced a substantial improvement of 28% in electricity performance, which equates to a reduction of 489 MWh of energy.

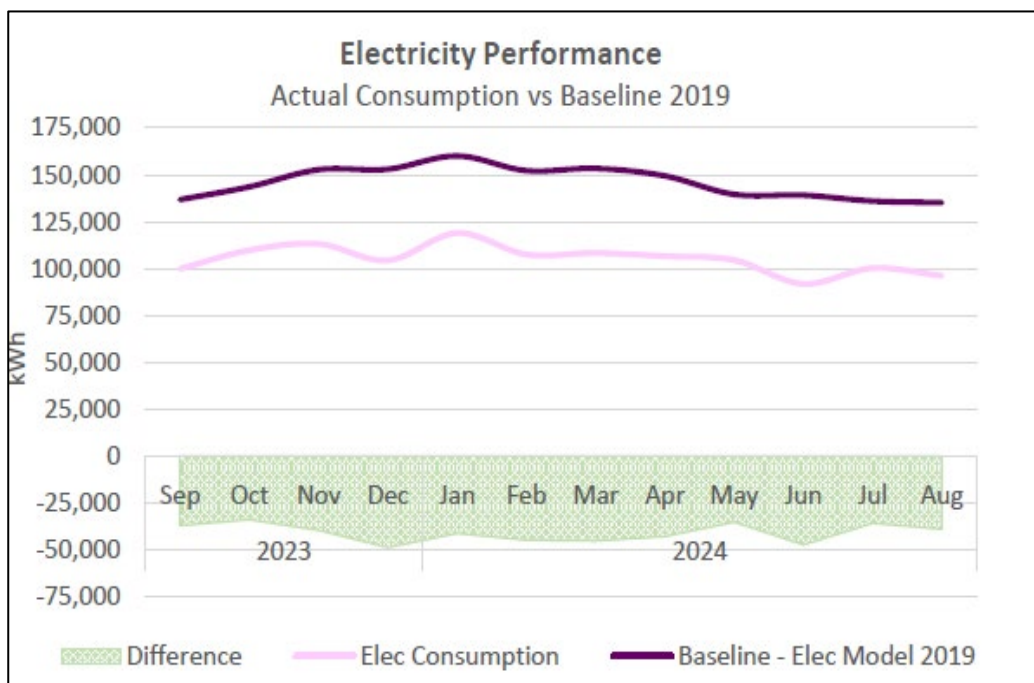


Figure 11 Large Offices Electricity Performance

### Public Lighting Replacement Programme:

In June 2024 Fingal County Council completed Ireland's largest public lighting LED replacement project, replacing all existing lights with energy-saving LED technology across roads, residential areas, and public spaces. This initiative began in 2016 and has been a major part of Fingal



County Council's commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency. Since 2016, annual energy use on public lighting in Fingal has been reduced by over 57%. There have now been 35,315 environmentally friendly LEDs installed. Public Lighting has enhanced its energy performance by 7.3% compared to the 2022 baseline year, according to its Energy Performance Indicator (EnPI). This improvement equates to an absolute reduction of 567 MWh of energy and 411 tonnes of CO2.

In 2024, approximately 200 lights were successfully upgraded to LED technology, and by the end of June, 100% of the total streetlights were upgraded to LED. The EnPI since the baseline (average 2006-2008) is illustrated in Figure 12. It shows that energy performance has steadily improved since 2016 due to the LED replacement program, which has delivered tonnes of carbon savings. The LED lights are also easier to maintain, particularly as they are expected to last significantly longer – those installed in Fingal are specified to have a design life of 20 years or 80,000 hours minimum. The neutral white light emitted by LEDs also enhances the visibility of road markings and signs, meaning the council saves money and energy, and increases safety and visibility in Fingal's communities and public spaces.

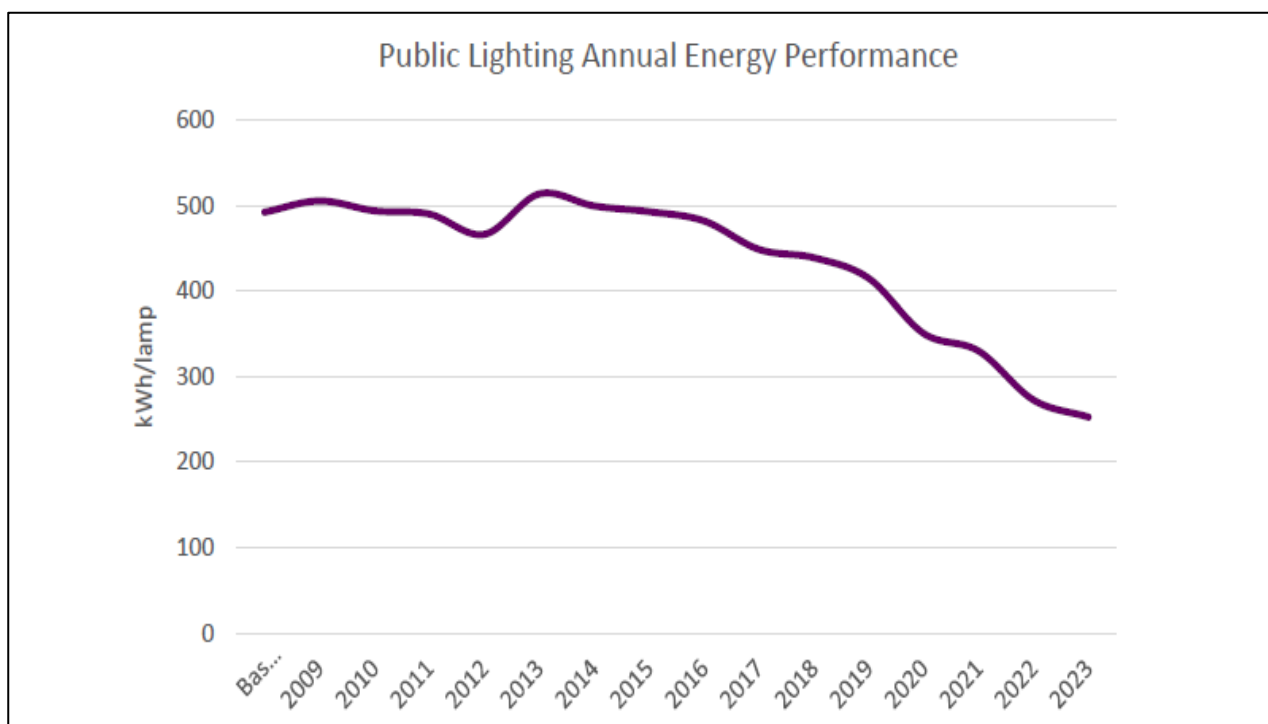


Figure 12 Public lighting Annual Energy Performance

## **Social Housing Upgrades**

2024 marks year 4 of the 10-year Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme in Ireland, part of the National Retrofit Plan, which aims to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings significantly. The goal is to retrofit the equivalent of 500,000 homes to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2 or higher by 2030.

This year, the Council successfully retrofitted 94 homes under this programme with an allocation of €3,196,000. The scope of retrofit works includes the installation of external wall and attic insulation, solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, replacement of doors and windows, the provision of air-to-air or air-to-water heat pump systems, mechanical ventilation, the sealing of fireplaces, and the installation of low-energy lighting.

These energy efficiency measures have resulted in substantial cost savings for Council tenants while significantly enhancing comfort levels and the overall quality of living within their homes.

**Irish Green Building Council Home Performance Index:** Assessments were conducted for four new social housing developments led by the local authority: North Street in Swords, Mourne View in Skerries, Remount in Lusk, and the Fortlawn Infill Sites.

## **Energy Planning and Renewables**

**District Heating:** Codema has studied the potential of a district heating system in the Dublin 15 area. The proposed scheme will take waste heat from a data centre and upgrade it through a large-scale heat pump to supply heat to Blanchardstown IT, Connolly Hospital, and the national sports campus in the first phase. The first phase of the project will require an estimated €42 million in capital costs to establish the ten-kilometre core network pipeline and energy centre. The Council have worked with Codema on an ELENA (European Local ENergy Assistance) funding submission to the European Investment Bank. The Phase 1 application was successful, and we are working on a Phase 2 application. The proposal should allow for a detailed feasibility study and the development of an operational and business model. The first Project Board meeting was held in December 2024.

**Viable Renewable Energy Projects:** The council has been engaging with various stakeholders on potential renewable energy projects on council lands in the county, including solar, wind, hydrogen and district heating projects.

## **Energy Awareness**

**Climate Resilience for Older Buildings:** Fingal County Council remains dedicated to enhancing the resilience of older building stock against the challenges posed by climate change. In 2024, FCC allocated funding to support conservation works and repairs through the following schemes:

- **Stitch in Time Grant:** Grant assistance was provided to a value of €39,563 to 28 projects. 25 projects carried out minor repairs to the property, primarily works to patch repair thatch to extend out the lifespan of the thatched roof. Three projects obtained grants for conservation advice, including one property for a report on addressing coastal erosion to the property line.
- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme:** Nine projects were awarded funding of €96,000 for moderate-scale repairs, including roof or rainwater good repairs and external wall repairs.
- **Historic Structures Fund:** The grants awarded to three projects for a total value of €105,000 for larger scale works, including full re-covering of a thatch roof, repair of large brick chimneys, and repair of unusual timber tracery windows.

## **LEO Supporting Energy Efficiency in Business**

Fingal Local Enterprise Office has worked with the SME sector to promote energy-efficient adaptations through Green for Business and the Energy Efficiency Grant.

- **Green for Business:** Fingal LEO supported 35 grant applications in 2024. This complimentary programme is designed to support small enterprises in initiating their journey towards greater sustainability. Participants gain access to the expertise of a dedicated green consultant, who will provide tailored guidance on practical, achievable changes that can significantly enhance both business performance and environmental impact.



- **The Energy Efficiency Grant:** Fingal LEO supported 7 grant applications in 2024. This grant provides financial support to enterprises implementing sustainability measures recommended in a Green for Business Report, GreenStart



Report, or SEAI Energy Audit. Covering 75% of eligible costs, the grant ranges from €750 to €10,000. The scheme aims to reduce environmental impact and enhance the sustainability and resilience of businesses. Support is intended explicitly for actions identified in the relevant reports. Enterprises should consult the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for appropriate grant assistance for building-related upgrades.

## 6.2.Transport

The transport sector represents the largest source of energy demand within the Irish economy and is among the leading contributors to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions nationally. In 2023, it accounted for just over 43% of Ireland's total energy demand and 21.4% of its GHG emissions<sup>6</sup>.

Ireland's transport sector remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels, with approximately 94% of its energy derived from these sources<sup>7</sup>. This dependency is primarily on diesel and petrol, which constitute most transport fuels. Private cars remain the primary consumers of transport energy, comprising 39.9% of the sector's total energy demand in 2023.

**Planning and Strategic Infrastructure:** A core objective of the Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029 is to enhance the integration of land-use and transport planning, with a strong emphasis on expanding infrastructure for walking, cycling, and public transport. The Plan outlines several policies and objectives aimed at decarbonizing transport by encouraging a shift to sustainable modes, fostering modal transitions, managing demand, and expanding active travel networks such as greenways. The Plan supports the development of a connected, sustainable transport network that is inclusive and accessible to everyone. These measures aim to ensure that towns and villages are well-connected and serviced, supporting sustainable travel options that reduce reliance on cars, enhance residents' quality of life, and increase Fingal's attractiveness to visitors.



The Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department prioritises the integration of transport and land use planning, emphasising compact growth underpinned by high-quality public transport systems. To achieve this, the Council collaborates closely with key partners to

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<sup>6</sup> Irelands Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions (1990-2023), EPA July 2024

<sup>7</sup> Energy in Ireland, SEAI, December 2024



support the implementation of sustainable public transport solutions for both new and existing developments. This includes active partnerships with the National Transport Authority (NTA), Irish Rail, and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to drive forward major initiatives such as Metrolink, DART+, and BusConnects.

As part of the Council's broader sustainable transport infrastructure programme, the Strategic Infrastructure section and the Active Travel team are progressing a number of high-quality greenways and cycleways. Several projects are progressing through various design, planning, and construction stages. Examples of these are:

- Harry Reynolds Road Pedestrian and Cyclist Route,
- Royal Canal Urban Greenway, t
- Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian and Cycle Route,
- Kinsealy Walking and Cycling scheme,
- Fingal Coastal Way
- Broadmeadow Way Greenway
- Church Fields Link Road
- Donabate Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge
- Portmarnock Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge
- N3 M50 to Clonree Bus Priority Measures

The Council prioritises the delivery of these greenway projects due to their extensive benefits. They improve quality of life by offering active travel and sustainable transport options alongside recreational opportunities. These initiatives also promote cleaner air, better public health, reduced carbon emissions, and bolster the county's reputation as an attractive tourism destination.

**Active Travel Team:** Fingal County Council developed an Active Travel Strategy in 2022, accompanied by a substantial programme of works aligned with the strategy's six strategic themes. These include developing and enhancing a protected cycle network across the county, the rollout of the Safe Routes to School programme, the delivery of infrastructure

improvements to strengthen connectivity, active travel initiatives in towns and villages to improve accessibility, and measures to support mobility and encourage behavioural change.

### Development of Protected Cycle Lanes and Walkways

In 2024, the Active Travel Unit continued to progress the delivery of high-quality pedestrian and cycling infrastructure across the county. A total of 650 metres of new footpaths were constructed in Donabate, Santry, Blanchardstown, and Swords, supported through funding from the National Transport Authority's (NTA) Connectivity Fund.

Two significant cycling infrastructure schemes were completed during the year, delivering 4.875 kilometres of protected cycle lanes. These schemes were located at St. Cronan's / Brackenstown Road, Swords and the R132 corridor from Blakes Cross to Quickpenny Lane.

In addition, 80 metres of cycle lane was constructed locally in Northwood, Santry, as part of a community-level improvement project. A number of further schemes are currently undergoing detailed design, with construction scheduled to commence in Dublin 15 and Swords in 2025. These projects form part of Fingal County Council's ongoing commitment to enhancing sustainable mobility and providing safe, accessible routes for all road users.



### Active Travel Connectivity

In 2024, Fingal County Council delivered targeted improvements to enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity. A 45-metre section of new footpath and a boundary wall were constructed along Beaverstown Road, Donabate, effectively closing a gap in the local pedestrian network. In addition, three kissing gates were removed in Dublin 15 to improve permeability and accessibility for all users, particularly those with mobility challenges.

A total of 11 new pedestrian crossings were installed during the year. These were implemented under the Safe Routes to School Programme, the Permeability/Connectivity Tracker, or as part of independent Active Travel projects. Key locations include:

- Scoil Chormaic Community National School, Balbriggan
- St. Benignus National School, Balcadden
- Scoil Choilm, Porterstown
- Scoil Ghrainne, Hansfield
- Brackenstown Road / St. Cronan's Avenue, Swords

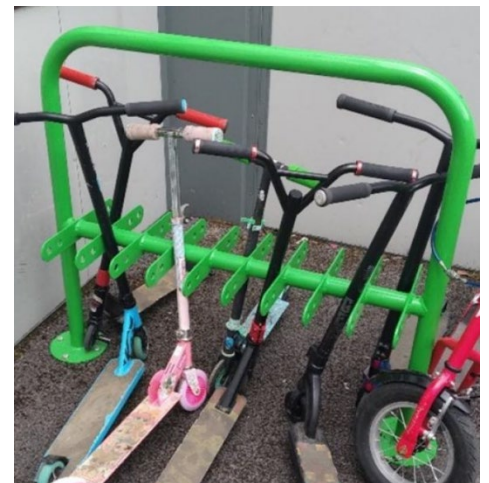
To further enhance pedestrian safety, 27 junction arms were built out across the county to reduce crossing distances for vulnerable road users. These build-outs were completed at various strategic locations, including the R132, residential areas in Swords, Offington Estate in Howth, Mulhuddart, and Riverwood.

### Active Travel- Mobility

In 2024, Fingal County Council provided a programme of cycling Infrastructure and sustainable mobility initiatives. The council installed an additional 82 bicycle parking stands across the county, providing secure parking for 164 bikes. This expansion brings the total number of public bicycle parking spaces across the seven Electoral Areas to 1,884.

To further support active travel in schools and local communities, 30 'toast rack' bicycle stands and 34 scooter racks were delivered to educational institutions, sports clubs, and community centres.

As a result, 1,150 private bike racks are now in place across the Fingal County Council area.



Over the course of the year, more than 26,000 bike-share journeys were recorded within the county. However, journey numbers were reduced in the latter half of the year due to the withdrawal of TIER, the eBike share operator, from the Irish market. This led to a gradual decrease in the availability of eBikes between August and December. Eight pilot schemes were launched in 2024 to support innovation and sustainable transport. These initiatives aimed to encourage greater adoption of active and e-mobility and included:

- eCargo bike trials
- Tandem cycling
- Adult cycling lessons
- Children's cycling lessons
- Science & Cycling camps
- Staff eBike loan programmes



These pilots reflect Fingal County Council's ongoing commitment to promoting active travel and supporting the transition to more sustainable modes of transport.

**Proposed Road Reallocation Schemes:** Fingal County Council is progressing the design of eight road reallocation schemes, collectively representing approximately 9 km of proposed interventions. These schemes aim to enhance active travel infrastructure and prioritise more sustainable modes of transport. The projects are located at the following sites:

- Baldoyle Village
- New Street, Malahide
- Feltrim Road, Kinsealy
- Seatown Road, Swords
- Harbour Road, Skerries
- Balbriggan Town

- Auburn Avenue, Castleknock
- Clonee to Blanchardstown

### Active Travel- Modal Shift

**Quiet Streets Initiative:** In 2024, Fingal County Council commenced works on a pilot Quiet Streets Initiative to enhance neighbourhood environments and encourage active travel. The initiative will focus on three selected locations across the county, where filtered permeability measures will be trialled.

These measures are designed to reduce through-traffic on residential streets, thereby creating safer, more accessible public spaces for walking, cycling, and other non-motorised travel. The trial seeks to reallocate road space for community use, promoting a stronger sense of place and contributing to improved quality of life for residents.



**Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme:** The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme is currently being implemented nationwide, following the success of an initial pilot project in Malahide, Fingal. An Taisce administers the programme on behalf of the National Transport Authority (NTA) and is being delivered in collaboration with local authorities.

SRTS aims to create safer, more accessible, and more appealing walking and cycling routes for school communities. By delivering targeted local interventions, the programme seeks to encourage students, parents, and staff to choose active travel options for their daily commutes. The programme focuses on three core objectives:



- Accelerating the delivery of walking and cycling infrastructure along key access routes to schools.
- Implementing “front-of-school” treatments to prioritise the safety and visibility of children accessing school grounds.
- Increasing the provision of bicycle parking to support greater uptake of cycling among students.

## Safe Routes to School for Scoil Ghrainne CNS

Find details of your school plan at [www.fingal.ie/activetravel/srts](http://www.fingal.ie/activetravel/srts)



Through these measures, the SRTS Programme

supports the broader goal of promoting sustainable travel, improving road safety, and fostering healthier, more active lifestyles within school communities.

In 2024, Safe Routes to School Round 1 saw the successful delivery of treatments to five schools. For Round 2, consultant engineers have been appointed to advance the design concepts for additional schools.

Looking ahead, a School Street is planned for implementation in Rush in 2025. A public consultation held in 2024 garnered highly positive feedback. The potential for extending this initiative to more schools will be explored in the coming years.

### Shared Mobility

There are currently 97 Shared Cars in operation within the Fingal area. Additionally, 1 Community Car is available for use in Skerries, Co. Dublin. The feasibility of introducing similar facilities in other locations is being actively explored.



## EV Charging Infrastructure

The Electric Vehicle Regional Working Group, comprising the four Dublin Local Authorities, the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), and Smart Dublin, launched Dublin's first Electric Vehicle Strategy in June 2022. This strategy is designed to support and accelerate the transition to electric vehicles across the region and deliver tailored, effective solutions for each local authority area.

In October 2024, a Charge Point



Operator was appointed to oversee the initial contract to install up to 200 Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) across 50 local authority-owned sites within the four Dublin Authorities. These sites include local authority car parks, libraries, public parks, and community centres, with up to 14 sites designated within Fingal County Council (FCC).

The works contract is scheduled for completion within two years. By December 2024, an initial list of sites had been surveyed in collaboration with the ESB, and site designs are currently under development and agreement. ESB connection applications have been submitted, and construction on the first sites is expected to begin in early March 2025, with an operational launch planned for April or May 2025.

## Staff Travel

Fingal County Council remains committed to advancing the national public sector remote working strategy. Various digital solutions enable staff to meet virtually to reduce the need to travel to meetings. In 2024, two dedicated FCC GoCars were actively utilised, with an average of 24 trips per month. Additionally, an informational page has been made available to staff, offering guidance on the use of electric vehicles (EVs).

## **Fleet Electrification Progress**

The Council is actively transitioning its commercial fleet to electric vehicles (EVs), with 40% of the current fleet already converted. This includes a range of fully electric machinery such as mini diggers, dumpers, ride-on mowers, and woodchippers.

To support this transition, EV charging points have been installed at staff car parks and operational depots. Additionally, a dedicated EV charging hub is now fully operational at the Coolmine facility, enhancing the Council's capacity to manage and maintain its growing electric fleet.

## **Bike Week 2024 in Fingal**

Bike Week 2024 took place across Fingal from 11 to 19 May and was a great success, drawing large crowds to a variety of engaging events. The Active Travel Section coordinated the awareness week and organised a wide range of virtual, staff, and public activities at multiple locations throughout the county.



Highlights of the week included:

- A Family Fun Day in Millennium Park
- A bike decorating session and parade for children
- The exciting Street Velodrome experience
- An inclusive cycling session in The Phoenix Park, held in collaboration with Dublin City Council and The OPW
- A picturesque Sunset Cycle
- A fun and educational Balance Bike Buddies session on the new Learn 2 Cycle Track in Millennium Park

Bike Week 2024 successfully promoted active travel and cycling in the community, offering opportunities for all ages and abilities to participate.



## 6.3.Flood Resilience

Fingal County Council plays a key role in all areas of flood risk management—from prevention and preparedness to emergency response and long-term recovery. Its work spans the development of climate-informed policies, close collaboration with the Office of Public Works (OPW) on major flood defence initiatives, and the direct delivery of smaller-scale flood protection projects. The Council also employs nature-based solutions to mitigate flood risks, activates emergency flood response plans when needed, and leads the reconstruction of infrastructure impacted by extreme weather events.

### Flood Risk Management

Ongoing meetings between Fingal County Council and the Coastal Liaison Group are focused on advancing the integration of climate adaptation strategies into the Council's policies.

### Flood Defences

A Coastal Flood Risk and Erosion Risk Management Plan (CFRERM) has been prepared to address the long-term impacts of coastal change in the Rogerstown Outer Estuary. This plan has been submitted to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for approval under the Maritime Area Consent (MAC) process (ref: MAC20240007).



If consent for the CFRERM is granted, the Council will proceed with an application to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission to implement the proposed coastal protection measures. These measures include the installation of specially designed Y-shaped groyne structures, combined with beach nourishment and flood embankments at the Burrow, along with a floodwall in Rush.

The Council continues to advance flood alleviation schemes in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW). Scheme viability reviews have been completed for Bissett Strand and The Green, Malahide Village.

Ongoing collaboration with the OPW and neighbouring local authorities is helping to progress further studies of flood-prone areas within Fingal. This includes working on the assessment and development of suitable schemes, such as the Dublin City Council-led Santry River Project, which is currently under review, and the Liffey Flood Risk Assessment at Chapelizod.

The Council is also progressing minor works schemes to address recurring flood issues, prioritising the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and nature-based solutions where feasible. The following schemes were completed in 2024:

- Carpenterstown Road Stormwater Sewer Refurbishment
- Ongar TIC Stormwater Remedial Works

The following schemes are currently in progress:

- Beaverstown Surface Water Scheme
- Burrow Beach Stormwater Outfall Pipeline Repair
- Clonsilla/Mulhuddart Surface Water Network
- Howth Surface Water Culvert Replacement
- Lusk Surface Water Network

The Council is actively participating in a pilot Coastal Monitoring Project, managed by the OPW, which is scheduled for completion in 2024. This project is expected to contribute to the establishment of a national coastal monitoring programme and will assist Fingal County Council in effectively monitoring coastal change along the Fingal coastline.

A total of 12 flood defence features have been identified for removal or relocation to increase the flood capacity of rivers and estuaries. These locations include Malahide Estuary (3 sites), Rogerstown Estuary (7 sites), Ballyboughal River (2 sites) and Rush (1 site). With the exception of one site, all are in private ownership. Land acquisition is required to proceed with this project.

### Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

In 2024 Fingal County Council published a “A Householder's Guide to Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) - Managing Rainfall more naturally in Fingal”, a concise resource designed to help homeowners explore more sustainable methods for managing rainfall.

In 2022, the Council completed a countywide Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (sFRA), which influenced the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029.

Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs), Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) and a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Strategy developed

early in the forward planning process for all Local Area Plans and Framework Plans aim to assess current flood risks and identify opportunities to implement nature-based drainage solutions. Several housing developments and public buildings, including Baldoyle Community Centre, Skerries, and Swords Cultural Quarter, were evaluated for the feasibility of installing green roofs. Green roofs have been successfully implemented on the following Local Authority buildings: Meakstown Community Centre and the County Hall bin store.



## Resilience of Archaeological and Heritage Assets

As the impacts of climate change become more evident, ensuring the resilience of archaeological and heritage assets is crucial. Ongoing maintenance and timely repairs are vital to enhancing the ability of these monuments to withstand environmental changes.

**Community Monuments Fund:** Fingal County Council secured funding of €405,639.75 through the Community Monuments Fund to support the preparation and execution of essential reports for five key structures in the Fingal area: St. Columba's Tower, Swords; Lanistown Castle; Balrothery Tower House (figure 12), St. Fintan's Church and Graveyard; and St. Doulagh's Church and Graveyard.

**The Fingal Heritage X Climate Project** is examining the ongoing impacts of climate change on the county's heritage sites, including assessing the risks it poses and planning for their future preservation. The Fingal Heritage X Climate Toolkit equips participants with the necessary tools to monitor the effects of climate change on the county's heritage assets. This citizen science group meets bi-weekly to continue their work. In 2024, the focus shifted to coastal heritage sites, which included a significant discovery of Mesolithic artefacts.



Figure 12 Illustration from the Irish Penny Magazine of Balrothery church and tower house by Samuel Lover, 1833.



Figure 13 Fingal Heritage X Climate Toolkit



## 6.4. Nature Based Solutions

Fingal County Council continues to implement a range of Nature-Based Solutions to protect and enhance local ecosystems and biodiversity while also delivering a variety of climate benefits. Fingal is fortunate to have an abundance of these green spaces, which play a crucial role in the county's resilience to climate change and contribute to the health and well-being of its residents.

In 2024, Fingal County Council retained seven Green Flags, an award that highlights the sustainable management of the following parks and demesnes: Millennium Park, Hartstown Park, Santry Demesne, Newbridge House and Farm, St. Catherine's Park, Malahide Demesne and Ardgillan Demesne, —figure 14.

### Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure refers to a strategically planned network of natural spaces, such as parks, rivers, and open areas, that work together to preserve ecosystem services. This approach supports climate adaptation and resilience while also delivering social and economic benefits. Fingal County Council continues to promote and expand this network.

Ongoing efforts include the implementation of the Fire Management Strategy for Howth Head, featuring the creation of wildfire breaks on the Ben of Howth. The Council has also renewed its contract for the Old Irish Goats grazing project, which helps maintain wildfire breaks at Redrock, Bellingham's Farm, Carrickbrack Road, and Shielmartin. This project, run by the Council in partnership with the Old Irish Goat Society, serves a dual purpose: reducing the risk of wildfires on Howth Head and supporting a breeding programme for Old Irish Goats. Over the past year, the herd has grazed on large volumes of vegetation, significantly reducing the presence of flammable plants such as gorse. The combination of goat grazing and the strategic creation of firebreaks is helping to limit the potential spread of wildfires in the area.



## Importance of Trees

The Council has been using CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees), which assigns a monetary value to the amenity benefits trees provide in public spaces. This tool is used to calculate the replacement value of trees that have been damaged or need to be removed by statutory bodies, with the goal of securing compensation to help cover the cost of replacement. Several Fingal staff members have recently completed training on the updated version of CAVAT



The initial phase inventory of the Council's Independent Tree Management Systems 'Arbortrack' has highlighted potential planting locations which is informing subsequent planting. This data is currently being used to plan planting for winter 2024/2025 in the Swords Area.

Additional tree-related initiatives include; Woodland Creation at Nevitt (near Lusk), an Oak Orchard plantation at Ardgillan and a comprehensive planting list developed by the Council's Tree Officer, who also advises operational teams and community groups.

## Preservation and Conservation

UCD's School of Biology and Environmental Science, with support from Fingal County Council, has submitted a proposal to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority for ecological restoration at Malahide Estuary and Ireland's Eye. The project includes introducing native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) and installing eco-engineered habitat units with suitable substrates (Ref: MUL230032). As part of the FCC Biodiversity Plan, the Operations Department supports Local Town Biodiversity Plans by planting high-biodiversity trees and shrubs, establishing open community orchards, and implementing varied grass maintenance regimes. These initiatives are delivered through the Council's annual Programme of Works, approved by elected representatives.

Since 2014, FCC has expanded its managed long grass areas in line with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. To date 125 hectares of meadows (short and long flowering) have been developed and 118,000 m<sup>2</sup> (11.8 hectares / 30 acres) of residential and roadside grass areas have been planted with pollinator-friendly bulb mixes.

Currently, the Council is mapping and categorizing all managed grass areas, distinguishing between regularly maintained areas, short flowering meadows, and long flowering meadows. This will give the Council a baseline into the quantity of grass it maintains and the volume of managed grass meadows within this.

### Food and Agriculture

FCC continues to manage three public allotments and five community gardens. The allotment plots are allocated on an annual basis by the council with an active management committee operating each site. The community Gardens are managed completely by the individual management committees who have a management lease on each site.

Recognising the significant efforts of local community groups, Santry Community Garden and The Rock Garden in Swords were honoured with Community Awards under the prestigious Green Flag Award scheme. This global initiative celebrates and rewards excellently managed parks and green spaces, establishing a benchmark for the effective management of recreational outdoor areas worldwide.

## 6.5.Circular Economy and Resource Management

## Reduce Waste & Increase Recycling in Fingal County Council



**Keen To Be Green:** is a Fingal County Council Community Development initiative designed to support the implementation of practical, sustainable, and climate-focused actions within local communities.

As part of this initiative:

- 30 community centres are participating in the Keen to Be Green programme, which is delivered across five stages.
- A Water Audit and Waste Management Review was completed for 30 community centres.
- Participating centres are required to submit monthly water usage figures throughout 2024, which will be reviewed in Q1 2025.
- The collected data will be analysed and used to inform a Keen to Be Green Awards Event focused on Water Conservation, scheduled to take place in Q2 2025 to coincide with Climate Action Week.

### Waste Reduction / Circular Economy

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2023–2029 outlines five national priorities, all of which were addressed through the Council's RMCEI Environmental Inspection Plan. This plan included 76 specific tasks covering key areas such as Producer Responsibility Initiatives, Waste Data and Waste Flows, Commercial and Household Waste, Construction and Demolition Waste, and Tackling Significant Illegal Waste Activities. It also addressed Planning, Waste Facility Permits, Waste Collection Permits, and the management of End-of-Life Vehicles.



To reduce the use of single use plastic 18 public Water Drinking Stations across whole Fingal area were installed in 2024. These stations have been supported as part of an Uisce Eireann pilot project, which has provided free water connections for 11 of the newest installations. By the end of 2025 Fingal will have a total of 33 public drinking fountains located mainly within public open spaces across the county.

### Waste Prevention

**Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Management Plans** The Council assessed 192 (C&D) Waste Management Plans for proposed developments to ensure that all potential waste streams were identified early and that appropriate measures were in place to support waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and recovery, in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Following the initial review, 42% of the plans were deemed compliant. Non-compliant plans were referred back to Planning for further action, requiring developers/applicants to revise and resubmit their plans for reassessment. Full compliance (100%) is mandatory before any site works can commence.

**Waste Segregation and Reduction:** Initial contact was made with 20 management companies responsible for 53 apartment complexes across Fingal to raise awareness around food waste management and the provision of brown bins for residents. The aim was to encourage the adoption of best practices for food waste segregation and reduction, and to ensure that brown bins are made available for proper disposal. However, significant follow-up is required due to limited engagement from management companies to date. Ongoing efforts are focused on securing compliance with waste legislation and promoting the segregation of food waste by residents, followed by collection through authorised waste collectors.

**Audits of Waste Collection Permits (WCP) and Waste Facility Permits (WFP):** As part of efforts to enhance the traceability of waste streams, the Council carried out desktop validations and on-site audits of Waste Collection Permit (WCP) and Waste Facility Permit (WFP) holders' Annual Returns (ARs). A total of 110 desktop annual return validations were completed for Waste Collection Permits along with 10 on-site AR verification audits and 10 compliance inspections. Of the 110 returns, 93 were validated, while 17 were deemed inconclusive, requiring further follow-up in 2025. An overall 90% compliance rate with WCP conditions was recorded. 22 desktop annual return validations were carried out of Waste Facility Permits: with 20 returns validated and 2 requiring further follow-up in 2025 due to inconclusive data. In addition, 41 on-site inspections were conducted to improve compliance with WFP conditions.

An assessment of commercial premises across Fingal was carried out to ensure compliance with the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws and the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, with a particular focus on waste segregation and food waste management. 58 premises were inspected, with a total of 80 inspections conducted. Initial compliance was recorded at 48%, which improved to 76% following a second inspection.

Further follow-up inspections are scheduled for 2025 with the objective of achieving 100% compliance.

### Promote and Facilitate Circular Economy

**Circular Cities:** In 2024, staff from the Economic Development Office engaged in Circular Cities webinars and successfully completed MODOS Circular Economy training. These efforts have strengthened internal capacity and deepened their understanding of circular economy principles.

The MODOS Circular Economy Training Programme, funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, supports micro and small enterprises in overcoming challenges related to adopting sustainable business practices. Delivered through the local authority sector, this training is now offered free of charge to eligible SMEs and micro-enterprises. Specifically tailored for Irish businesses, the online course provides participants with practical tools and knowledge to integrate green practices and circular economy models into their operations.

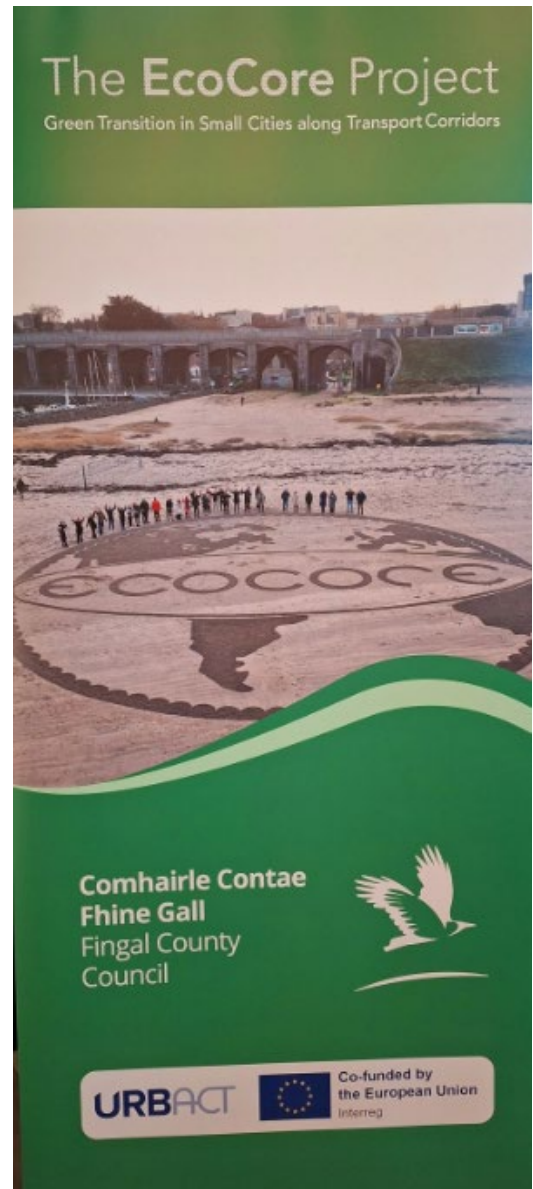
Additionally, the Council took part in a European Urban Initiative (EUI) Exchange in 2024, collaborating with the City of Nokia in Finland and representatives from the ECO3 Park. This initiative aimed to enhance understanding of circular economy strategies and innovative approaches.

**EcoCore Network.:** To support the delivery of the Circular Cities Action Plan and Sustainable Fingal, Fingal County Council is acting as the lead partner in the Urbact EcoCore Network. This European initiative is focused on exploring sustainable approaches to industrial development, green innovation, investment attraction, and active mobility. Throughout 2024, the Council led a number of masterclasses and participated in transnational meetings with partner cities to exchange knowledge and best practices.

As part of its efforts to integrate circular economy principles into economic development, the Council collaborated with the Balbriggan EcoCore Local Stakeholder Group to co-create an Investor's Guide. This guide outlines sustainability-focused criteria for prospective investors and aims to encourage environmentally responsible development in Balbriggan.

Under the EcoCore Project, the Council produced and shared two promotional sustainability videos featuring local Balbriggan businesses. These were disseminated via the Council's social media channels to highlight positive examples of circular practices in action.

In 2024, the Council also partnered with Fingal Chamber, Balbriggan Chamber, and Malahide Chamber to deliver a series of sustainability-focused business briefings, supporting the local business community in embracing sustainable practices.



**Circular Economy Hackathon:** As part of the EcoCore initiative and in collaboration with Smart Balbriggan, the Council hosted a Circular Economy Hackathon on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The event was well attended, with several innovative concepts developed by participating teams. The winning idea proposed the creation of a circular economy digital platform to map, track, and share data on local material flows—promoting more efficient resource use and reuse.

To expand the reach of the Sustainable Fingal initiative across businesses, communities, and organisations, while promoting circular economy principles and supporting a Just Transition to a net-zero, climate-resilient economy, Fingal County Council is currently preparing tender documentation for the appointment of consultants to develop a comprehensive Sustainable Fingal Strategy. The development of this strategy is being shaped by insights and best practices gained through the Council’s participation in Circular Cities webinars, MODOS circular economy training, the Urbact EcoCore Project, and the Interreg SKYLA Project.

Fingal County Council continues to lead by example in the transition to a circular economy. This is evidenced by the application of circular economy thinking in shaping the sustainable development of the Council’s strategic industrial landbank in Balbriggan, including the creation of a dedicated Investors Guide which promotes sustainable investment aligned with circular principles.

**Future Fingal: Economic Development Strategy:** The strategy was adopted by the Council in 2024. The Strategy outlines 6 grand opportunities, one of which is Sustainability where the Council aims to develop the local economy in accordance with a broadened Sustainable Fingal Initiative which facilitates and supports businesses in the transition to Net Zero. The Strategy has moved to implementation on the eight actions listed under the Sustainability Theme.



**Guide for Sustainable Events:** In support of Fingal County Council's Climate Action Plan and to help reduce the carbon footprint associated with Council-supported events; the Events Unit has developed a Guide for Sustainable Events. This guide offers practical advice and actionable steps to assist organisers in delivering environmentally responsible events that align with the County's wider sustainability and climate objectives. It aims to encourage best practices in waste management, energy use, transport planning, and resource efficiency.

**Replay Instruments Project:** In 2024, the Replay Instruments Project successfully repaired 60 musical instruments, using them as a tool to promote community engagement with the circular economy. This innovative initiative demonstrates how sustainability can be embedded into cultural and educational programming.



Fingal County Council is proud to partner with Music Generation Fingal and Crosscare to deliver this unique programme. The project collects quality, pre-loved instruments, refurbishes them, and redistributes them to young people and community groups across Fingal. This not only supports access to music education and creative expression but also diverts waste from landfill—illustrating the circular economy in action.

As part of the programme, community-based sustainability guitar lessons have been introduced. These lessons go beyond music instruction by educating participants about the lifecycle of a guitar, the importance of reuse, and the broader environmental impact of consumption.

By supporting Replay Instruments, Fingal County Council is helping to reduce barriers to music participation, foster local talent, and instil values of sustainability and reuse within the community.

### Recycling and the Circular Economy

**Partnership with the Rediscovery Centre:** Fingal County Council's ongoing partnership with the Rediscovery Centre (RDC) and Fingal's recycling centres continues to support the circular economy by promoting reuse and repair. In 2024, a total of 167 bikes were collected from Fingal recycling centres, repaired, and given a new lease of life through reuse initiatives.

Additionally, the RDC collected 4,209 kg of paint from the Estuary Recycling Centre. Of this, 1,619 litres of upcycled paint were used to support community projects across Fingal, demonstrating the environmental and social benefits of resource recovery.

This collaboration highlights the Council's commitment to waste prevention, reuse, and community enrichment through circular economy practices.

## Land Use and Acquisition

Fingal County Council is actively reviewing its landbank to identify opportunities for the development of sustainable projects focused on renewable energy and biodiversity enhancement.

Discussions are ongoing with Dublin City University (DCU) and daa regarding potential collaborative projects in the vicinity of Dublin Airport. The Council is also engaging with a range of state agencies and private sector stakeholders to explore energy initiatives, including those related to solar, wind, and hydrogen technologies. In addition, the Council's three Enterprise Centres have identified several potential sustainability-focused projects. Work is underway to evaluate appropriate funding streams to support the delivery and implementation of these initiatives.

Fingal County Council is committed to advancing renewable energy, green infrastructure, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and other sustainability-focused initiatives across its landholdings and buildings. A number of projects located on Council-owned land are currently at the preliminary assessment stage, being developed in collaboration with partners from the education sector, private enterprise, and state agencies.

In 2024, roof and façade restoration and insulation works were completed at Newbridge House and Ardgillan Castle. These energy efficiency upgrades have already resulted in a reduction in energy usage at these significant heritage properties, demonstrating the potential of combining conservation with climate action.

Fingal County Council continues to identify and pursue opportunities for the acquisition of land and building, to support projects related to renewable energy, regeneration, active travel, greenways, and green infrastructure. Key developments include the Royal Canal Urban Greenway Project, Broadmeadow Greenway Project, Turvey Avenue Footpath Enhancement Project, Sutton to Malahide Greenway, St. Catherine's Park Extension, Lucan. The Council is also engaged in negotiations on additional land parcels across the county to support the development of green infrastructure and related initiatives.



## 6.6. Community Engagement

### **Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW) 2024:**

was organised and delivered by the partnership of Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Codema – Dublin's Energy Agency and the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO). The week featured a diverse range of events aimed at engaging communities and promoting climate action. Over 45 public events were held across Dublin, including Fingal, under themes such as Citizen Engagement, Energy & Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions, and Resource Management.



Highlights included nature walks and workshops that educated participants on sustainable practices and the importance of biodiversity. Climate festivals brought communities together to celebrate local initiatives, while youth conferences empowered younger generations to take action against climate change. Practical sessions offered advice to businesses and individuals on reducing energy bills and accessing grants.

These events provided opportunities for residents to connect, learn, and contribute to a sustainable future. The week showcased Fingal's commitment to climate action and its efforts to inspire meaningful change within local communities.





**Community Climate Action Programme Fund In 2024:** Fingal County Council launched the Community Climate Action Programme Fund (CCAP Fund), with a total allocation of €1,127,000 provided by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). The fund aims to empower community-led climate action by supporting projects delivered in partnership with local nonprofit and voluntary organisations. These initiatives vary in scale and focus, reflecting the diverse needs and strengths of communities across the county.

Projects funded under the programme addressed five core themes:

- Community Energy
- Sustainable Travel
- Food and Waste Management
- Shopping and Recycling Practices
- Local Climate and Environmental Actions

Fingal County Council was awarded €1,127,000.00 to support 25 community projects, as outlined in Table 3.

	Group Name	Project Overview	Theme(s)
1	Donabate Portrane Community Centre	LED lights, bicycle lockers and repair station, sewing machines, clothes rails, reusable cups, gardening	Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling, Local Climate and Environmental Action
2	Kinsealy United	Solar PV panels for internal lighting 2 gazebos for kit swap events, tree planting in local park, tools for tree planting, bike repair stand and Reusable sports bottles for Reuse campaign	Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling, Local Climate and Environmental Action
3	Turvey Allotments	PV Panels for charging of gardening tools, Industrial bulk containers for storing harvested rainwater, Reusable Seed Trays and compostable seed trays, water butts for rainwater harvesting	Community Energy, Shopping and Recycling, Local Climate and Environmental Action
4	Balbriggan Golf Club	Solar PV to address the Community Energy needs of the golf club	Community Energy
5	Castleknock GAA	Solar PV, A New Bike Repair station for the club, and a tree planting and gardening project for pollinators	Community Energy
6	Coolmine Therapeutic Centre	Solar PV, bike rack, rainwater harvester, composting project	Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Local Climate and Environmental
7	Dogs Trust	Solar PV, biodiversity survey, tree planting and waste management	Community Energy, Local Climate and Environmental Action
8	Howth Yacht Club	Solar PV & Bike EV Charging	Community Energy
9	Baldoyle Community Centre	Building Renovations	Community Energy
10	Sutton Dinghy Club	Roof insulation, bike repair, composter, rainwater harvesting €33,450.20	Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Local Climate and Environmental Action
11	Blakestown Mountview Youth Initiative	Install Solar PV, and upgrade lighting in the community building, install bike lockers, water butts, vegetable trugs and shrubs for pollinators	Community Energy, Travel,
12	Lusk Community Network	Composters, solar panels, project delivery/ guidance & permits, bike shelter	Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Local Climate and Environment Action
13	Naomh Mearnóg GAA	Solar PV, Bike Shelter, Trees Swap Shop	Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling, Local Climate and Environmental Action
14	St. Maurs GAA	Solar Panel LED lights, reusable cups, tree planting, Bike Hub	Community Energy Travel, Food and Waste, Local Climate and Environmental Action

15	Brackenstown Scout Den (164 <sup>th</sup> Brackenstown Scouts)	Attic/Wall insulation, doors windows, bike repair, flowers/shrubs, bird boxes, wardrobe vacuum pack for clothes food storage reusable bottles	Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling, Local Climate and Environmental Action
16	98th Dublin Scouting Ireland - Skerries Sea Scouts	Improvements to scouts building, solar PV, insulation, replace lighting to LEDs and change the large window to improve building efficiency.	Community Energy
17	Ballyboughal GFC	Install Solar PV on GAA Club building, replace old doors and windows, install bike lockers, plant shrubs, bulbs and dig a new pond in the community garden	Community Energy, Local Climate and Environmental Action
18	Fingallians GAA	Solar PV, LEDs, Hall Diffraction Fans to improve heating circulation, Insulation and under sink water heaters for hot water needs, Bike shelter for club users	Community Energy, Travel
19	Portmarnock Sports & Leisure Centre	Replace old windows, upgrade boiler for swimming pool, install scooter parking racks, install food waste compactor, develop community garden in arch club	Community Energy, Travel, Local Climate and Environmental Action
20	Rivervalley & Rathingle Community Centre	Solar PV Panels on community building, replace old community centre doors, Bike repair station and bike lockers, waste management bin stations, Planting of native trees and shrubs and materials for swap shops	Community Energy, Travel, Local Climate and Environmental Action
21	Balbriggan SEC	Solar PV on Meals on Wheels building, replace draughty door in GAA Club, LED upgrade, new water butts and bike lockers and planting for biodiversity	Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Local Climate and Environmental Action
22	Balrothery Group Tennis Club	Solar PVs for Tennis Club, Insulation on Community Centre, Water Refill Stations, Bike lockers, Extend Community Garden, planting native hedges and introduce a composting project in the community garden	Community Energy, Travel, Local Climate and Environmental Action
23	Bayside Community Centre	Solar PV and LED lighting, new windows, insulation and hand dryers for Community Centre, Community Garden design, Bike Hub tools and gazebo, bike shelter, bike repair station	Community Energy, Travel, Local Climate and Environmental Action
24	Millbank Theatre Rush Dramatic Society	Solar PVs on Millbank Theatre in Rush, Rechargeable electric gardening tools for Tidy Towns, LED Lights, Bike repair Hub for Bike rack, Outdoor and indoor water refill stations in Rush, water butts, bee pollinator planting projects, swap shop for and Reusable Party kit	Community Energy, Travel, Local Climate and Environmental Action
25	St Brigid's GAA	Insulate the clubhouse, introduce a bike shelter and Bike Repair Stand, Plant Trees and bulbs for pollinators, eliminate single use cups in the club	Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling, Local Climate and Environmental Action

Table 3 Fingal Community Climate Action Fund recipients 2024

**Media Campaigns:** The Climate Action and Environmental Awareness Team continues to deliver targeted social media campaigns throughout the year, highlighting best practices and marking national and local environmental awareness events.

To highlight the environmental damage caused by disposable cigarette butts and vapes—particularly their impact on marine life—a cinema campaign was launched, reaching an audience of 438,534 viewers. This initiative aimed to raise public awareness about the harmful consequences of improper waste disposal on ecosystems.

The Environmental Awareness Officer also coordinates two dedicated newsletters—one for community groups and another tailored to schools. These newsletters provide updates on environmental initiatives, educational resources, and upcoming events across the county.

To improve accessibility and encourage broader engagement, the public can now sign up to receive the newsletter via the Fingal County Council website.

The Council’s environmental webpage is also regularly updated with the latest news, campaigns, and events, helping to keep residents informed and engaged in building a more sustainable Fingal.

In 2024, Fingal County Council initiated updates to its Climate Action webpage to enhance public access to information on the Council’s Climate Action Plan and related initiatives. The revised webpage will serve as a central platform providing:

- Detailed information on the Climate Action Plan and progress updates
- Practical guidance for individuals and communities on taking climate action
- Access to climate education materials and event listings

Additionally, in 2024, an internal catalogue of climate action-themed books and eBooks available from Fingal Libraries was developed to support education and awareness in alignment with the Council’s climate goals.

## Climate Awareness in Schools

In preparation for the introduction of the new secondary school subject *Climate Action and Sustainable Development* by the Department of Education in September 2025, Fingal County Council's Climate Action Department delivered Climate Literacy Training to ten secondary schools across the county in 2024. This training was provided through Education for Sustainability and reached a total of 263 students and 10 teachers.

Fingal County Council continues to manage and support the Green-Schools Programme in partnership with An Taisce. In 2024, 133 schools were registered under the programme, and 29 schools were awarded Green Flags in recognition of their commitment to environmental education and action.

The Environmental Awareness Officer has maintained a strong focus on promoting waste management and circular economy principles within schools. Key initiatives during the 2023–2024 academic year included the Composting for Schools Programme, Seasonal Workshops and Relove Fashion Competition

Funding was allocated to 15 schools to support a range of sustainability projects, including seed collections, biodiversity signage, materials for community gardens, polytunnels, and wormeries. These programmes collectively support Fingal's broader goals of embedding sustainability education in schools and empowering young people to lead environmental action.

## Community Awareness & Engagement through Partnerships

In 2024, Fingal County Council worked collaboratively with partner organizations to enhance awareness of climate action and promote sustainable living across the county. Key initiatives included impactful public engagement events, program partnerships, and community-led projects.

**Public Engagement during Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW) 2024:** As part of DCAW 2024, the Council joined forces with Codema and SEC mentor Eric Dennis to host public engagement

events, such as Home Energy Advice Clinics and a Pop-up Stand at the Climate Action Festival in Millennium Park. These events provided practical guidance on reducing household energy usage through small, actionable changes.

**Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Programme:** Fingal County Council continues to serve as the Lead Partner Applicant for the SEAI-led SEC Programme, with 31 SECs established in Fingal to date. The Council's Climate Action Team works closely with the SEAI-appointed mentor and regional coordinator to advance the program. A highlight of 2024 was the launch of the Energy Master Plan by Balbriggan SEC, marking a key milestone in community-led energy planning.

**Community-Based Projects and Partnerships:** The Council collaborated with community groups and initiatives to drive localized climate action:

- **GAA Green Clubs Programme:** Continued support for Fingal clubs participating in sustainability-focused efforts covering Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity, and Transport.
- **Tree Planting Initiatives:** Coordinated orchard planting in 16 community centers during Tree Week, alongside tree planting with local Tidy Towns groups and community gardens.
- **Keen to Be Green Projects:** Supported community awareness programs such as bike repair workshops, clothes swap events, green festivals, and community gardens. Highlights included three Green Festivals (Flemington, Donabate, Mulhuddart), four bike repair events, five clothes swap shop events, and two food waste prevention.
- **Circular Economy Activities:** Organized visits, workshops, and a new Bike Library in Ongar.
- **Waste Management and Recycling Efforts:** to enhance waste and recycling practices included distribution of brown bin caddies, compost workshops, and funding for upgraded waste and recycling systems in six community centers. Two WEEE recycling drop-off events were hosted in Flemington and Donabate.
- **Marine Cleanup and Awareness:** The Climate Action and Environmental Awareness Section coordinated 10 marine cleanup and awareness events in partnership with Clean Coasts, Explore Your Shore, and Education for Sustainability.

- **Global Action Plan and Community Involvement:** In 2024, the Council worked with Global Action Plan (GAP) to further develop the Climate Action Heroes program across 17 community groups.
- **Sports Grants Program:** In 2024, a total of 34 grant applications incorporated circular economy and sustainable initiatives, which have become mandatory for all clubs moving forward.

Through these diverse initiatives, Fingal County Council successfully fostered community engagement and environmental awareness, paving the way for sustained climate action across the region.

### **Promote the development of green skills across all economic sectors**

Fingal County Council has completed the review of its Skills Strategy with the adoption of Future Fingal: *Fingal Skills Strategy 2024–2029* in November 2024.

This new Strategy builds on insights and best practices gained through the Council's participation in the Interreg SKYLA Project, which focuses on upskilling for the twin transition - digital and green.

The Strategy emphasises the growing need for digital and green skills, underlining the critical importance of upskilling and lifelong learning. It outlines a series of actions for implementation across five strategic themes.

### **Climate Awareness Training**

Fingal County Council is committed to embedding climate awareness across all levels of the organisation. Climate Action training is now mandatory for all new staff, and efforts are ongoing to provide training for existing personnel and elected members.

In 2024, 93 staff members completed Climate Action training, including 57 indoor and 36 outdoor staff. Opportunities to further integrate climate awareness across all departments continue to be identified and implemented.

## 6.7. Decarbonisation Zone- Balbriggan Update

Balbriggan has been designated a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) under Fingal County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024–2029. A DZ is a defined area selected by a local authority to trial and implement a suite of low-carbon, climate-resilient solutions. These zones contribute directly to Ireland's national climate objectives, which include a legally binding target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Decarbonising Zones serve as innovation testbeds designed to meet the specific needs of local communities while delivering measurable climate action. The approach integrates planning, engagement, and project delivery at a local scale.

### Key Features of Decarbonising Zones

- Localised Climate Action:

DZs facilitate tailored interventions such as renewable energy generation, energy efficiency retrofits, and low-carbon mobility solutions that directly address the characteristics and needs of the area.

- Alignment with National Targets:

All actions within DZs are guided by Ireland's national climate commitments, ensuring coherence between local measures and national policy.

- Community Engagement:

The success of a DZ hinges on active and inclusive participation from residents, community groups, and businesses. Collaboration fosters resilience, climate awareness, and sustainable behaviours.



## Progress to Date

In partnership with Codema and as part of the Climate Action Plan development, significant groundwork has been completed for the Balbriggan DZ, including:

- A comprehensive spatial emissions profile, mapping emissions sources and identifying local low-carbon assets.
- Projections to 2030 showing potential emissions trajectories based on various intervention scenarios.
- Cost analysis and identification of investment requirements across different climate pathways.
- A gap-to-target analysis to quantify the shortfall in achieving the 51% reduction.
- A Register of Opportunities outlining a portfolio of potential decarbonisation projects and corresponding funding sources.

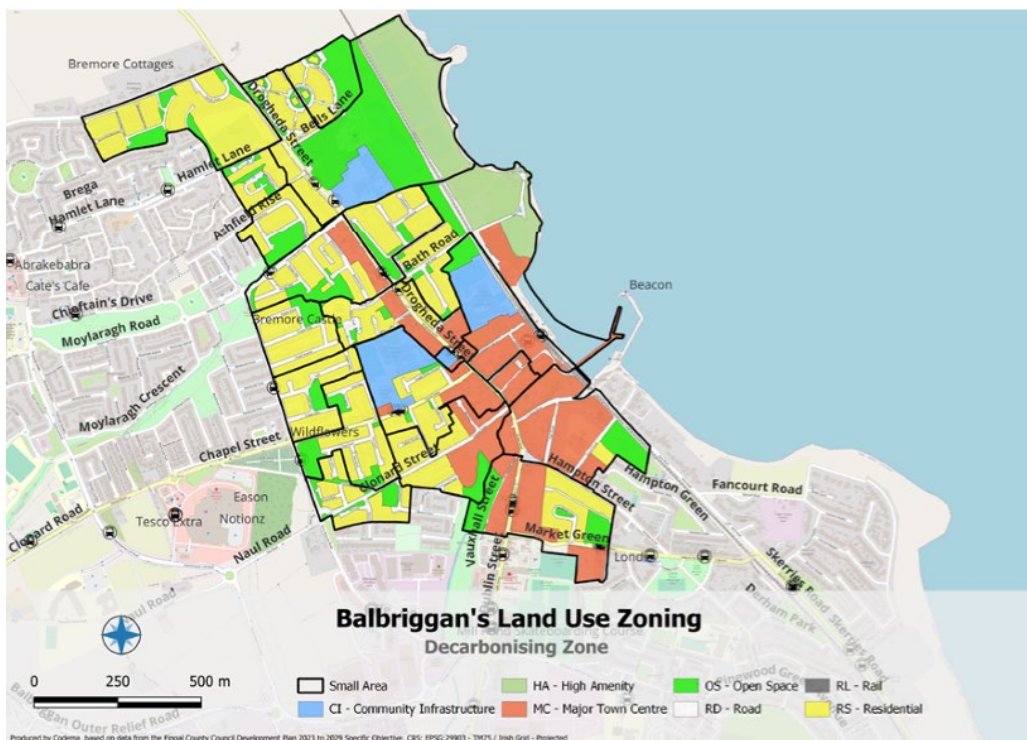


Figure 15: Balbriggan Decarbonisation Zone Map

## **Next Steps**

The Register of Opportunities will now inform the development of strategic priority areas and action pathways for implementation over the plan's duration. These priorities will be refined through targeted stakeholder consultation. A key enabler in delivering these actions will be Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs).

## **Role of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs)**

A Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) is a group of citizens, organisations, and stakeholders working collaboratively to improve how energy is used and generated locally. The SEC model promotes a whole-of-community approach to sustainability and energy transition. While many SECs have developed Energy Master Plans to guide their actions, a significant number struggle to progress from planning to implementation. Common challenges include:

- Limited community engagement and volunteer fatigue
- Funding constraints and financial risk
- Gaps in technical expertise and project development capacity
- Difficulty navigating administrative and regulatory processes

## **E2-CUTIES: A European Support Framework for Balbriggan's DZ**

Fingal County Council and Codema are partners in E2-CUTIES (Engaged Energy Communities in Urban areas with Technology Integrated Energy Systems), an Interreg North-West Europe project. E2-CUTIES provides a robust framework to address barriers faced by SECs and strengthen the capacity of local energy communities.

The project aims to:

- Develop roadmaps and investment strategies for community energy projects
- Produce toolkits that address governance, inclusion, finance, legal, and technical needs
- Pilot integrated energy systems in European partner cities such as Leuven and Strasbourg
- Deliver a capacity-building programme for communities and local authorities

### **How E2-CUTIES Support the Balbriggan DZ**

- Empowering Communities: Enhances SEC capacity through training, tools, and mentoring
- Delivering Local Projects: Facilitates the rollout of practical energy actions (e.g. retrofits, solar PV, EV infrastructure)
- Roadmap & Monitoring: Supports planning, data analysis, and progress tracking
- Strengthening Governance: Builds alignment and cooperation between the local authority and the community

E2-CUTIES positions Balbriggan as a model for community-led climate action and provides the tools needed to make real progress toward its decarbonisation goals.

## Appendix I Action Progress Report 2024

Ref	Action	Tracking Measure	2024 Progress	Status
	<b>Energy Management</b>			
E1	Continuous Improvement by maintaining ISO 50001 energy management system	ISO 50001 Compliant	Ongoing. Surveillance Audit successfully completed in March 2024	
E2	Annual Monitoring & Reporting to SEAI	FCC's energy use monitored and reported	M&R completed and submitted to SEAI in November 2024 for 2023 reporting period	
E3	Publish Fingal County Council's Energy Review Periodically	Review published, # of recommendations implemented	Energy Review for 2022 completed in 2024 with recommendations outlined.	
	<b>Energy Efficiency Improvements &amp; Upgrades</b>			
E4	Continuous Improvement through the Energy Performance Contract for County Hall (Swords) and Civic Offices, during the service stage	Measurement & Verification of energy savings	Reconciliation Period 2 (March – August 2024) has shown significant energy improvements for the Energy Performance Contract across both County Hall, Swords and Civic Offices, Grove Road. The total electrical cost reduction achieved through this period is 32% based on the agreed contract rates. Thermal energy supply for this period is a decrease of 30% in gas usage across the two office facilities. The combined total energy savings achieved amounted to 31%, which represents a reduction of 172 tonnes of carbon emissions.	
E5	Procure upgrades through an Energy Performance Contract for Draíocht Arts Centre and public library in Blanchardstown with potential of including Balbriggan Town Hall & Library/ Watery Lane Depot/ Ballycoolin Training Centre	EPC Awarded	Procurement planned for 2025 on further EPC Blanchardstown library and Draíocht	
E6	IES Building Energy Modelling to be completed in County hall and Grove Road offices. Further modelling of digital assets to be included in other EPC projects.	# Number of models completed	County Hall and Grove Road IES modelling completed	

E7	Refurbishment programme for Fingal Corporate buildings to include energy reviews and retrofits as standard in line with Public Sector targets for 2030.	# of buildings upgraded	<p>1. Baldoyle Library - in construction due for completion Q2 2025</p> <p>2. County Hall - tender documents prepared for 395 m2 of upgrade works due on site 2025</p> <p>3. Donabate Library - Balisk House retrofit - tendered 2024, due on site Q1 2025</p> <p>4. Malahide Castle - M&amp;E upgrade completed 2024</p> <p>Other FCC Assets</p> <p>5. Mourne View Community Centre - retrofit upgrade completed November 2024 including PV panels.</p> <p>6. Hartstown Community Centre - retrofit including PV panels in progress, due for completion Q2 2025.</p> <p>7. Corduff Community Centre - retrofit due for Stage 3 tender end 2024.</p> <p>8. Rush Multipurpose Youth Facility - upgrade works completed 2024</p>	
E8	Engage with independent BREEAM assessor and utilise Building Assessment Methodology throughout delivery of Swords Cultural Quarter flagship project; and extend the assessments under the various indicators from BREEAM and the Build Upon Energy Renovation Framework to Public Buildings. BREEAM is a leading validation and certification system for sustainable built environment.	Ongoing reviews of design and construction process to target independent certification on completion	<p>1. Swords Cultural Quarter = 69.04% achieved score of target 75.96% Bream Excellent assessed so far. Works commenced on site 2024.</p> <p>BEAM assessment method for future projects currently under review.</p>	
E9	Undertake a feasibility study on utilising the existing Bore Hole with heat pump technology in County Hall Offices to provide heating, and to provide cooling to IT Comms room.	Feasibility study to be completed	Investigation works have been undertaken, feasibility study to follow	
E10	BER Audits to be carried out on corporate buildings and libraries to determine BER ratings	# of BER Audits carried out	4 completed. Energy Audits with BER findings.	
E11	Roll out of real time check metering and energy monitoring platform across significant energy using buildings to analyse and understand usage.	# of sites metered and monitored	11 Locations are currently metered and monitored. 30 meters across 11 locations.	
E12	Implementation of identified DeliveREE/ Pathfinder projects across FCC premises to include the decarbonisation of significant energy using buildings.	# of Projects implemented / packages prepared through DeliveREE/Pathfinder funding; and associated emissions reductions.	Pathfinder funding has been finalised December 2024. Funding to be drawn down.	

E13	Feasibility study for retrofit/fabric upgrades across the 2 Civic Offices	Feasibility study and use of IES Models	Ongoing	
E14	Targeted LED upgrades across smaller FCC premises, not suitable for EPC	# of LED upgrades	Baldoyle Library currently under construction to inc LED upgrade. Skerries Library upgrade nearing completion included LED upgrades. Single Party Framework being procured. Baldoyle Library upgrade on site construction to inc PV array.	
E15	Targeted M&E upgrades across smaller FCC premises, not suitable for EPC. Identifying projects and packages through Planned Preventative Maintenance	# of M&E Upgrades	Baldoyle Library currently under construction to inc M&E upgrade package. Skerries Library upgrade nearing completion included M&E upgrades.	
E16	Renewal of remaining 1.5% of public lighting stock & pitch lighting	# of units converted to LED	100% of public lighting converted to LEDs. Pitch Lighting inventory check to be carried out with a view to converting any non-LED lights to LEDs. Single Party Framework being procured. Baldoyle Library upgrade on site construction to inc PV array. Since 2017, we have reduced our annual energy use on public lighting by over 57%.	
	<b>Social Housing Upgrades</b>			
E17	Continue to make energy efficiency retrofits to social housing under the DHLGH-supported Energy Retrofit Programme. Ensure FCC's social housing stock has a B2 or cost optimal energy rating where feasible by 2030 (subject to programmes and funding support).	# of units upgraded annually	94 EERP properties this year. We will continue to roll this out if the grant funding is available. With an allocation of €3,196,000.	
E18	Complete Pilot programme in Strandmill Estate, Portmarnock, in conjunction with SEAI and REIL offering retrofit upgrades to private homeowners, availing of economies of scale when coupled with public housing upgrades. Partially funded by SEAI government grants.	# of units completed under pilot project.	This project was piloted in Strandmill the SEAI and Contractor meet with the residents in areas where we are carrying out retrofits. They communicate with residents and issue the grants. We have very little involvement in the actual process. I think the uptake is low enough but can get actual figures across to you if needed.	
E19	Build on the pilot roll out of EnergyCloud to c. 60 social homes in Swords in 2024 with further roll out to social homes across the county	No. of homes availing of Energy Cloud	The pilot scheme for Energy Cloud was rolled out in 2023. In Drynam Avenue and Russell's Terrace. There are no plans to continue this programme.	
E20	IGBC Home Performance Index Assessments carried out and where feasible certification obtained for all new social housing projects developed by the local authority.	# Registered and assessed	1. North Street, Swords - Assessed but not registered yet. 2. Mourne View, Skerries - Assessed but not registered yet. 3. Remount, Lusk - Assessed but not registered yet. 4. Fortlawn Infill Sites - Assessed but not registered yet.	

E21	Pilot study to research and potentially futureproof new build social housing schemes for district heating	Study Complete	Not commenced	
	<b>Accreditation &amp; Compliance</b>			
E22	Green Procurement - Design Team appointments to include a sustainability specialism capable of informing all stages of the design process and documenting the required evidence to achieve accreditation under a recognised Building Assessment Method such as the IGBC Home Performance Index, BREEAM and LEED	Appointments Made	<b>Housing</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New Road Donabate (Ballisk Park, 175 houses &amp; apartments) - Thornton O'Connor Town Planning appointed on 15/02/2024 to prepare a Climate Action Energy Statement.</li> <li>2. Mourne View, Skerries (14 dwellings) - FLN appointed 15/03/2024 to provide HPI services.</li> <li>3. Remount, Lusk (18 dwellings) - FLN appointed 15/03/2024 to provide HPI services.</li> <li>4. Fortlawn Infill Sites (21 dwellings) - BCE appointed 16/07/2024 to prepare a climate Action Energy Statement. Procurement for HPI services on receipt of planning approval.</li> </ol> <b>Public Buildings</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bridge Street, Balbriggan design team appointed 2024</li> </ol>	
E23	In accordance with the incoming embodied carbon amendments to the Construction Products Regulations, the Building Control Authority will encourage compliance and monitor/enforce the display of carbon footprint on all construction products.	Compliance with the annual market surveillance campaign	Not progressed	
	<b>Energy Planning &amp; Renewables</b>			
E24	Continue to develop a strategic approach to town centre regeneration through Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns and by utilising existing buildings and unused lands for new development, promote residential occupancy in our rural towns and villages and provide for a mix of uses within these areas.	# of existing buildings and sites developed and occupied.	Action is ongoing through P&SI (Development Management and SPU) in conjunction with work being undertaken by Town Regeneration Office EETD	
E25	Deliver Blanchardstown District Heating Scheme	On Site completion	Codema have studied the potential in the Dublin 15 area. The proposed scheme is to take waste heat from a data centre, upgrade it through a large-scale heat pump to supply heat to Blanch IT, Connolly Hospital, and national sports campus in first phase. The first phase of the project will require an estimated €42 million in capital costs to establish the ten-kilometre core network pipeline, and energy centre. We have worked with Codema on an ELENA( European Local ENergy Assistance) funding submission to the European Investment Bank. The Ph1 application was successful, and we are working up a Ph2 application. This should allow a detailed feasibility study and develop an operational &	

			business model. The first Project Board meeting was held in December 2024.	
E26	Assess potential for viable renewable energy projects on a temporary/permanent basis, on council controlled lands	Assessment complete	<p>EETCD has been engaging with various stakeholders on potential renewable energy projects in the county – including solar, wind, hydrogen and district heating projects. End.</p> <p>Environment Dept: Preliminary Assessment for Project Viability is on-going. Access to Grid and Planning Regulations are the limiting factors. Also is the project financially feasible-detailed study required looking at Community &amp; Commercial options. FCC have identified options which could make the project viable. I estimate it will take the most part of 2025 to determine whether potential options for project go-ahead are realised. FCC requires a change in grid connection policy to allow for a hybrid grid connection (power source from 2 different energy streams) and existing policy doesn't allow for this. We are opening discussions seeking a hybrid connection policy. We are also going to open discussions with BIOVERDA who have an existing connection to the Grid at Balleally. This connection would be suitable if a hybrid connection policy was in place.</p> <p>There is another option of Small Scale Solar which we haven't looked at yet as we are focussing on the 5 MW Option but the 200 kW seems a feasible interim measure</p>	
E27	Install PV panels on suitable Council roofs such as civic offices, libraries and community buildings	# of panels installed	Single Party Framework being procured. Baldoyle Library upgrade on site construction to inc PV array.	
E28	Develop Wind Energy Strategy	Strategy prepared	Not started	
E29	Review Energy Statements for planning applications.	Energy Statements reviewed.	<p>Conducted as part of Development Management functions of L.A. Policy CAP12, Objective DMSO262 of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029</p> <p>Policy CAP12 – Climate Action Energy Statements All new developments involving 15 residential units and/or more than 1,000 sq. m. of commercial floor space, or as otherwise required by the Planning Authority, will be required to submit a Climate Action Energy Statement as part of the overall Design Statement to demonstrate how low-carbon energy and heating</p>	



			solutions, have been considered as part of the overall design and planning of the proposed development.	
	<b>Energy Awareness</b>			
E30	Work with SMEs to promote energy efficient adaptations through Local Enterprise Office initiatives including Green for Business and the Energy Efficiency Grant.	# of SMEs availing of Green for Business and the Energy Efficiency Grant	LEO managed the following grant allocation to SME sector in 2024. Energy Efficiency Grant 7 Grants Green for Business Consultancy 35 Grants	
E31	Conduct research into the Council's historic building stock that consider pre- and post-works energy performance and devise advise on of appropriate and sensitive retrofitting/energy upgrading of traditional buildings to inform works to other Council-owned properties and to guide private owners	# of advisory notes completed	Architects Dept will review the OPW technical guidance document "Approaches to Improving the Energy Performance of Heritage Properties in State Care" (published 2024) to determine how FCC could establish its own approach energy upgrade of FCC owned heritage properties and historic buildings. For private owners the Dept HLGH issued guidance in Dec 2023 "Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings: Guidance for Specifiers and Installers" which helps advise on the considerations for historic buildings.	
E32	Promote and encourage routine maintenance and good housekeeping to maintain the older building stock of the county in good condition in order to reduce energy consumption and extend the building's life-cycle (e.g. Fingal's Stitch in Time Grant, National Schemes of Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Historic Structures Fund, Community Monument Fund).	# of buildings upgraded	In 2024 FCC awarding funding for conservation works or repairs under the following schemes: •Stitch in Time Grant - grant assistance provided to value of €39,563 to 28 projects. 25 projects carried out minor repairs to the property, primarily works to patch repair thatch to extend out the lifespan of the thatched roof. 3 projects obtained grants for conservation advice, including one property for a report on addressing coastal erosion to the property line. •Built Heritage Investment Scheme - 9 projects awarded funding of €96,000 for moderate scale repairs, including roof or rainwater good repairs, and external wall repairs. •Historic Structures Fund – grants awarded to 3 projects to a total value of €105,000 for larger scale works, including full re-cover of a thatch roof, repair of large brick chimneys, and repair of unusual timber tracery windows.	
	<b>Active Travel - Protected Cycleways/Walkways</b>			

T1	Increase the meterage of high quality walkways in the county and improve the meterage of existing walkways in the county.	m of walkways delivered and improved per year, captured through the pavement management system.	<p><b>Active Travel</b> 650m of new footpaths were constructed in 2024 in Donabate, Santry, Blanchardstown and Swords and funded through the NTA connectivity fund.</p> <p><b>Operations</b> As per 2024 POW a number of new footpaths were introduced in Howth/Malahide LEA in urban areas and open spaces e.g. Howth pathways, Portmarnock Sports Centre, Kinsealy Lane and open spaces in residential areas.</p>	
T2	Increase the km of protected cycle lanes and off road cycle lanes and greenways in the county annually; in line with the Greater Dublin Cycling Network Plan, and the FCC Greenway Plan - including Fingal Coastal Way, the Sutton to Malahide Cycleway, the Broadmeadow Way, Church Fields Link Road, and the Royal Canal Urban Greenway, etc.	km of Protected Cycle Lanes and Off Road Cycle Lanes and Greenways delivered per year. # of schemes completed.	<p><b>Active Travel</b> 2 large schemes were completed in 2024 by the Active Travel Unit, delivering 4.875km of protected cycle lanes at 2 locations, namely St Cronans/Brackenstown Road Swords and the R132 from Blakes Cross to Quickpenny Lane. A further 80m was delivered in Northwood Santry at a local level. A number of other schemes are in detailed design with construction due in Dublin 15 and Swords in 2025.</p> <p><b>Operations</b> As per 2024 POW a number of new footpaths were introduced in Howth/Malahide LEA in urban areas and open spaces e.g. Howth pathways, Portmarnock Sports Centre, Kinsealy Lane and open spaces in residential areas.</p>	
	<b>Active Travel - Connectivity</b>			
T3	Deliver/alter infrastructure to improve connectivity/permeability in order to promote active travel	Number improved annually	45m of new footpath and boundary wall was installed on the Beaverstown Road Donabate connecting existing footpaths where there was a gap in the network. 3 no. kissing gates were removed in Dublin 15 in 2024 to improve permeability for all users.	
T4	Deliver new pedestrian / cycling road crossings, which give priority to pedestrians and cyclists. Develop and implement a work programme for the replacement of pedestrian crossings with ones which give priority to pedestrians & cyclists.	# of crossing delivered	<p><b>Active Travel</b> 11 new pedestrian crossings were installed in 2024, either as part of the Safe Routes to School program, from the Permeability/Connectivity tracker or as part of a separate Active Travel project. These locations include: Scoil Chormaic Community NS Balbriggan, St. Benignus NS Balcadden, Scoil Choilm Porterstown, Scoil Ghrainne Hansfield and Brackenstown Road/St Cronans Avenue Swords.</p> <p><b>Operations</b> As per the 2024 POW a number of signalised pedestrian crossings or zebra crossings was introduced countywide e.g. Millbank, Rush, Church Road, Swords etc.</p>	

T5	Install junction build outs in accordance with Design Manual for Urban Roads & Streets 2020, increasing safety to users.	no. of upgraded arms of junctions installed	<b>Active Travel</b> 27 no. arms of junctions were built out across Fingal to shorten the distance vulnerable road users must cross. Locations include the R132, residential areas in Swords, Offington estate Howth, Mulhuddart and Riverwood.  <b>Operations</b> As per the 2024 POW a number of junctions were built out in accordance to DMURS e.g. Castleknock Elms/Laurel Lodge Road	
	<b>Active Travel - Mobility</b>			
T6	Increase the quantity of bicycle parking and virtual parking bays in the public domain.	No. of bicycles facilitated in the public space	A further 82 bicycle parking stands were installed across the County in 2024 with space for 164 bikes. There are now 1884 spaces available across the 7 Fingal Electoral Areas.	
T7	Assist in the provision of bicycle stands in private community space, such as community centres, sport clubs etc.	# of bicycles facilitated in private/community spaces	30 Toast Racks & 34 Scooter Racks were delivered to schools, clubs and community centres in 2024. There are now 1150 private bike racks in place within Fingal County Council.	
T8	Continued provision of Bike Sharing Schemes across the county	# of bikes provided, # of bike journeys	There were 26,000 bike share journeys across Fingal in 2024. Unfortunately, TIER, who operate the eBikes have withdrawn from the Irish market. The drop in journey numbers in relation to 2024 can be explained by a gradual reduction in the number of eBikes in use from August to December.	
T9	Provision of E scooters across the county	# of scooters provided, # of bike journeys	Bye laws are currently being considered which would enable E scooter companies to provide a service in Fingal. It is hoped to progress a pilot scheme in 2025.	
T10	Implement pilots schemes for mobility/emobility to promote sustainable mobility by encouraging creativity and innovation in the county.	# of pilots implemented per year.	8 pilot schemes were implemented in 2024 for mobility/emobility to promote sustainable mobility by encouraging creativity and innovation in the county. These schemes include eCargo Bikes, Tandem Cycling, Older Adult Cycling Lessons, Children's Cycling Lessons, Science & Cycling Camps and staff eBike loans.	
	<b>Active Travel - Modal Shift</b>			
T11	Identify opportunities for reallocation of existing road space to promote active travel and improve public space.	km of road reallocation identified.	A number of schemes in design have proposed road reallocation totalling 9km. These 8 projects are at Baldoyle Village, New Street Malahide, Feltrim Road Kinsealy, Seatown Road Swords, Harbour Road Skerries, Balbriggan Town, Auburn Avenue Castleknock and Clonee to Blanchardstown.	
T12	Enhancement / reallocation of roads & street space to promote active travel and improve public space. Implement in all 3 LEAs	km of existing road space reallocated. # of schemes	Fingal County Council has commenced works on a trial Quiet Streets Initiative aimed at enhancing community living and promoting active travel. The initiative will identify 3 separate locations across the county where filtered permeability measures will be implemented. This trial is designed to reduce vehicular traffic on residential streets, creating safer and more accessible spaces for walking, cycling, and other active travel modes. By reclaiming road space for the	

			community, the scheme seeks to foster a stronger sense of neighbourhood and improve the overall quality of life for residents.	
T13	Implement traffic calming programme. To include provision of infrastructure for encouraging modal shift (Ramps, VAS, Pedestrian Crossings etc)	# of traffic calming measures	As per 2024 POW traffic calming measures such as ramps or VAS were implemented nationwide e.g.Damastown Way, Mulhuddart and Seapoint, Balbriggan	
T14	Assess the feasibility of re-allocating existing Pay & Display spaces to bike parking where ample Pay & Display parking.	# of spaces reallocated	Operations Department met monthly (approx) with Active Travel regarding various issues	
T15	Introduction of Pay & Display schemes in accordance with adopted bye-Laws to discourage car use (To decrease car dependency)	# of locations	No new P&D locations were progressed in 2024	
T16	Provide programmes and initiatives that support community-wide adoption of active travel modes e.g. Learn 2 Cycle with a Disability lessons, Adult Cycling lessons, Walking Buses, Cycling Buses; and opportunities for marginalised groups to engage in Active Travel	# of programmes/initiatives provided per year	In 2024 we ran programmes across the county including several new programmes such as Balance Bike Buddies, Sofa to Saddle and Tandem Cycling Courses. 44 courses were provided in 2024.	
T17	Examine the potential for 30 km/h speed limits in towns and villages in line with the Road Safety Plan recommendations.	Increase in kilometres of road network with a 30kmph speed limit	Work has commenced in relation to National Speed Limit implementation.	
	<b>Active Travel - Modal Shift - Safe Routes To School</b>			
T18	Implement Safe Routes to School programme	# of schools with measures implemented.	Safe Routes to School Round 1 - 5 no. schools had Safe Routes to School treatments delivered in 2024. Safe Routes to School Round 2 - Consultant engineers have been commissioned to progress design concepts for schools in Round 2.	
T19	Implement the School Streets initiative	# of schools participating	A School Street is proposed to be delivered in Rush in 2025. A public consultation was held in 2024 with very positive feedback. Further schools will be considered for implementation in future years.	
	<b>Public Transport</b>			
T20	Support the development and expansion of existing public transport services including MetroLink, BusConnects and DART expansion to Balbriggan	Public transport supported	Delivery by State Agencies. FCC supports through policies/objectives contained within Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 and through engagement in the statutory planning process e.g. Rail Order conducted for MetroLink, DART+ projects, LUAS Finglas etc.	

T21	To facilitate the provision of Park and Ride facilities in appropriate locations at transport nodes and along strategic transport corridors in accordance with the NTA Strategy, and encourage the inclusion of EV charge points and bike parking.	Policy developed and sites identified	The NTA have identified a number of sites for the provision of P&R at the N2,N3 & M1. The provision of bikes parking and EV charging will be provided for. It is anticipated the NTA will submit a planning application for the M1 P&R in Q1 2026	
	<b>Shared Mobility</b>			
T22	Promote and facilitate additional car sharing schemes	# of cars provided	There are currently 97 Shared Cars operating in the Fingal area.	
T23	Promote and facilitate additional community car sharing schemes	# of cars provided	1 Community Car is available to the community in Skerries, Co. Dublin. Further locations are being considered as to their feasibility.	
	<b>EVCP Provision</b>			
T24	Implement the DLA EVCP strategy through delivery of sufficient EVCP's	# of chargers provided	Charge Point Operator appointed in Oct 2024. Initial contract is for the provision of up to 200 EVCP's at 50no local authority owned sites across the four Dublin Authorities. These sites are typically local authority carparks, libraries, public parks and community centres. Up to 14 sites in FCC. The works contract should be complete within two years. Initial list of sites have been surveyed with the ESB and site designs are being developed and agreed at present (December 2024). ESB connection applications have been made. The first sites should commence construction in early March 2025 and go live in April / May 2025.	
T25	Expand availability of EV charging points for Council staff and operational vehicles	# of charging points	There are 100 EV charging points across various Fingal County Council depots and staff car parks	
T26	Provide EV charging infrastructure (in addition to 20% charge points) to development plan standards, for new social housing developed by the Local Authority. Provide Electric vehicle charge points in car parking for new Fingal Corporate buildings.	# of EV charge points provided	<p>Housing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Church Fields - 10% EV provision and 20% ducting provision agreed with ZEVI &amp; ESB. first 40 units including 8 social for handover 2024 . Planning brought forward under previous Development Plan.</li> <li>2. Balmoston - 19 no. social units handover in 2024 with EV charging infrastructure to in curtilage parking only, chargers to be installed tenants. 45 no. Affordable units handed over in 2024, with EV charging infrastructure to in curtilage parking only, chargers to be installed home owners (private).</li> <li>3. Bowden Court - 2 no. chargers (4 bays) installed (28%). Infrastructure for future chargers to 10 bays (72%)</li> <li>4. Mourne View - Street parking. Ducting for EV to be provided &amp; 2 no. chargers (4 bays).</li> <li>5. Remount Court - Street parking. Ducting for EV to be provided &amp; 2 no. chargers (4 bays).</li> </ol> <p>Public Buildings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meakstown Community Centre completed</li> </ol>	

			2024 - 3 Nr EV spaces 2. Corduff Community Centre to tender 2024 - 2 No. EVs to tender 3. Baldoyle Community Centre in construction 2024 3 Nr EV spaces not including adjacent carpark	
T27	Continued electrification of the Council's vehicle fleet as market technology develops	% of total fleet converted to EVs	40% of current commercial fleet converted to Eves. Fully electric mini diggers, dumpers, ride on mowers and wood chippers. Charging hub in Coolmine is now operational.	
	<b>Roads Construction &amp; Maintenance</b>			
T28	Maintenance and upgrade of public footpath network and regional and local roads to encourage modal shift to walking and cycling	Km of footpaths and roads maintained that facilitates modal shift	On going	
T29	Explore the use of sustainable methods of road surfacing that minimise the use of raw materials.	Study alternatives and # of pilots undertaken.	Not commenced	
	<b>Staff Travel</b>			
T30	Continued implementation of the national public sector remote working strategy	Enabling IT solutions in place. # of staff availing of the scheme	On going	
T31	Aim to reduce kilometres travelled by private ICE vehicles within work hours and incentivise modes such as cycling, electric vehicles.	% modal shift from private car.	2 dedicated FCC GoCars – average of 24 trips per month in 2024. Information page on SharePoint for staff regarding EV usage.	
T32	Prepare and finalise the Smarter Travel Workplace Strategy for staff of Fingal County Council, and engage on the implementation of the strategy	Strategy prepared # of recommendations enacted per year	On going Preparation of Smarter Travel Workplace Strategy for staff has commenced.	

T33	Promotion of Cycle-to-Work Scheme for Council staff	# of staff availing of scheme	Cycle to work promoted through staff messages. 35 applications processed in 2024.	
T34	Provide eco driving training to Council drivers	# of staff trained	Not started	
T35	Implement carbon offset programme for official flights and investigate an appropriate offsetting scheme for the Council's other business travel emissions.	Carbon Offset Programme implemented	Carbon emission offset for air travel in 2023 returned and fee paid. Offsetting of 2024 air travel to be done in Q1 2025.	
	<b>Flood Risk Management</b>			
F1	Update Council Emergency Response Plans to include flood event response	Plans reviewed and updated yearly	Working draft of Air Incident plan in place. Oil spill contingency plan with consultant for updating. Consultant engaged to update severe weather plan and flood plan commencing January 2025.	
F2	Ensure annual update of the specific risks to service provision in each FCC Department that may be impacted by Climate Change, building on the Climate Change Risk Assessment developed for the CAP.	Annual Risk Review	Not Started	
F3	To engage with the Fingal Coastal Liaison Group with the integration of adaptation strategies into planning policies, etc.	x2 meetings held each year	Meetings between Fingal County Council and the Coastal Liaison Group are ongoing to advance the inclusion of Climate Adaptation strategies in the Council's Policies.	
	<b>Flood Defence</b>			
F4	Develop and implement Coastal Protection Plan for Portrane	Plan produced and actions implemented	A Coastal Flood Risk and Erosion Risk Management Plan CFERM has Plan has been prepared and submitted to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for approval through the Maritime Area Consent (MAC) process.	
F5	Progress Flood Alleviation schemes in conjunction with the OPW - including Mill Stream Skerries, Bissett Strand and The Green Malahide Village, Portmarnock Bridge,	Projects completed	Bissett Strand and The Green Malahide Village, Scheme Viability Review done	
F6	Continued engagement with the OPW to progress further studies of areas within Fingal at risk of flooding, and development of suitable schemes such as Strand Road Sutton and Santry	Schemes identified	Dublin City Project on Santry River under assessment. Dublin City Liffey Flood risk assessment- Chapellizod initiated	

F7	Progress appropriate minor works schemes to resolve recurring flood issues, where possible, ensuring the schemes are designed and implemented to promote SUDs / nature based solutions.	# of schemes progressed	For 2024 two were completed – 1. Carpenterstown road Storm water sewer refurbishment 2. Ongar TIC Storm water Remedial Works (using sequestered bond from developer) Schemes in progress – on site or design stages – 3. Beaverstown Surface Water Scheme – pumps and flood risk alleviation - design 4. Burrow Beach Storm water Outfall pipeline Repair – consents and procurement stages 5. Clonsilla/Mulhuddart Surface Water Network – various locations - site 6. Howth Surface Water Culvert Replacement Design – design stage continuing 7. Lusk Surface Water Network – various locations - site. 8. Surface Water Pumping Stations Capital Improvements – asset investigation and management/upgrades 9. Surface Water Works Improvement Programme (Misconnection Works) – investigation and structural repairs arising from environmental pollution	
F8	Develop a coastal monitoring programme to measure coastal erosion along the Fingal coast	Monitoring programme set up	The Council is participating in a pilot Coastal Monitoring Project being managed by the OPW and due to conclude this year. It is expected that this will assist Fingal County Council with monitoring Coastal Change along the Fingal coastline	
F9	Facilitate the development of a National Coastal Monitoring Survey Programme	Survey programme facilitated and developed	The Council is participating in a pilot Coastal Monitoring Project being managed by the OPW and due to conclude this year. It is expected that this will lead to the adoption of a countrywide coastal monitoring programme.	
F10	Identify sites where flood defence features can be removed or relocated to increase flood capacity of rivers and estuaries	# of sites identified	12no Sites identified at Malahide Estuary (3), Rogerstown Estuary (7), Ballyboughal river (2) and Rush (1). All sites, except one, are in private ownership. Land acquisition required to progress this project	
F11	Restore St Ita's wetlands to maximise water attenuation capacity and nature conservation benefits	Construction haul roads and fill removed from wetland	Project completed.	
	<b>Surface Water Management</b>			
F12	Record on a GIS layer the council surface water system and make it available to all relevant staff from Operations & Planning. This must include all SuDS systems and flood embankments	Surface water system recorded on GIS layer	Ongoing	
F13	Prepare a maintenance register for the entire surface water system within the county, including SuDS, pipes and culverts to aid proactive maintenance, alleviate flooding and maintain water quality	Maintenance register created & updated annually	Information being collated from manufacturers and from TIC/TIM safety files where available.	



F14	Develop an improved maintenance plan for SuDS assets that are taken in charge by FCC, ensuring their continued operation.	Maintenance plans developed	A tender to issue for a complete survey and cleaning of two underground storage tanks TIM. This will give valuable information to enable forming a maintenance plan for assets.	
	<b>Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems</b>			
F15	Promote and encourage community involvement in the retrofit of SuDS in existing developments, maintaining community rain gardens, discourage hard paving in gardens and retrofit raingardens / water butt installations	No of promotional initiatives (social media posts, articles etc) and engagement events per year.	<a href="https://www.fingal.ie/surface-water-and-flooding">https://www.fingal.ie/surface-water-and-flooding</a>	
F16	Develop a Blue/Green Roof Guideline to assist both internal and external stakeholders implement these systems as per the County Development Plan objectives	Guideline Produced	Contract has been awarded to consultants and is due for completion Q2 2025.	
F17	Ensure the inclusion of water conservation and SuDS measures in all developments, to reduce the level of surface water run-of, improve water quality and contribute to adaptation to climate change through nature based solutions.	Appropriate SuDS incorporated into all developments in the Planning process	Promotion of SUDS included in Bloom Garden 2024. Ongoing implementation through Development Management process and implementation of Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 policies and objectives. Publication of 'A Householder's Guide to Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) - Managing Rainfall more naturally in Fingal' 2024	
F18	Drive the implementation of SuDS in FCC Capital projects, including new builds, retrofits etc, and monitor the level of implementation.	# of schemes progressed	Promotion of SUDS included in Bloom Garden 2024. Ongoing implementation through Development Management process and implementation of Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 policies and objectives. Publication of 'A Householder's Guide to Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) - Managing Rainfall more naturally in Fingal' 2025	
F19	Create a case study of SuDS at Local Area Plan level	Case study complete	Feasibility stage	
F20	Ensure new Local Area Plans feature Urban Greening Proposals.	Local Area plans with Urban greening measures.	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment(SFRA) and Sustainable Drainage Strategy conducted for LAP's as appropriate. Ongoing.	

F21	Assess the feasibility of green roofs on all new Fingal public, operational and social buildings and provide where viable and appropriate. Evaluate data from CARO / UCD project on Green Roof substrates.	Assessments completed and provided	<p><b>Housing:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Woodside, Swords. Planning 2024. Green roof included on Apartment Building, approx 310m2.</li> <li>2. Fingerpost, Malahide. Pre-planning 2024. Assessing green roofs for biodiversity pilot project (Action 35 of the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan). Approx 140m2.</li> <li>3. New Road Donabate (Ballisk Park, 175 houses &amp; apartments) - Green roof assessed, viable for Apartment Building, included in tender works requirements. Sedum roofing - min 60% of apartment roof area, approx 980m2.</li> <li>4. Mooretown, Swords. Planning 2024. Green roof included on Apartment Building, 60% roof area, approx 735 m2.</li> <li>5. Fortlawn Infill Sites. Pre-Planning 2024. Green Roof included on the bin and bike stores. The houses and apartments had pitched roofs, therefore they weren't suitable.</li> </ol> <p><b>Public Buildings:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meakstown Community Centre completed 2024 with approx. 1,120 sq. m. Green Roof, 80% of roof area.</li> <li>2. Baldoyle Community Centre in construction 2024 through 2025, with approx. 1,120 sq. m. Green Roof, 80% of roof area.</li> <li>3. County Hall bin store completed 2024 with approx. 30m2 green roof, 60% roof area when parapets and gutters are included.</li> <li>4. Skerries Library, on site 2024 due for completion 2025, 150m2 green roof, 50% roof area.</li> <li>5. Swords Cultural Quarter, on site 2024 due for completion 2026, 550m2 green roof, 30% roof area.</li> </ol>	
<b>Improve resilience of Infrastructure</b>				
F22	Assess resilience of regional and local roads in line with Climate Adaptation Strategy issued by the Department of Transport	# of assessments	Not commenced	
F23	Assess Resilience of Bridge Infrastructure vulnerable to impact of climate change	# of Inspections carried out	A competition to be ran 2025 to replace term of framework consultant which expires 2025.	
<b>Resilience of Archaeological and Heritage Assets</b>				
F24	Develop maintenance and condition survey programmes for Council owned historic buildings and ancient monuments that are informed by climate change impacts.	No of projects complete annually	Annual programme implemented	

F25	Archaeological and heritage assets to form part of all climate risk assessments including opportunities for integration of cultural heritage in adaptative mitigations e.g. green infrastructure, cycle ways, nature-based solutions etc.	Assets included in risk assessments as part of the Planning & Development processes	Ongoing. Heritage officer has inputted on opportunities for integration into of cultural heritage into the Fingal Coastal way and other initiatives.	
F26	Use the findings of the Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Risk Assessment to prioritise and pilot adaptative and palliative measures for heritage assets in Council ownership	Number of pilot projects identified and delivered	Co-ordinated with Community Monuments Fund.	
F27	Support and develop citizen science projects such as Fingal X Heritage as a means of monitoring climate change impacts on Fingal's heritage assets and raising public awareness	# of projects developed with community engagement	Ongoing. Citizen science group continue to meet on a fortnightly basis. In 2024 the focus was on the coastal heritage sites and included significant Mesolithic artefact find.	
F28	Identify projects and opportunities for collaboration with relevant stakeholders to assess and prioritise cultural heritage sites vulnerable to climate change	# of projects participated in	Membership of the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage Planning Team Working Groups whose remit includes collaboration with relevant stakeholders.	
F29	Build climate resilience of archaeological and built heritage in public and private ownership through the Community Monuments Fund	Number of sites in Fingal per year funded through CMF	Five projects received a total of €405,639.75 in funding in 2024.	
	<b>Green Infrastructure</b>			
N1	Prepare and implement multi-functional management plans for the Rogerstown, Malahide and Baldoyle Estuaries and their surrounding lands	Management plans prepared and # of actions implemented	No progress made	
N2	Map and survey all significant/historic stands of woodland within the county e.g. in excess of 5ha, and review the effectiveness of the protection offered under the Green Infrastructure Network Zoning of woodlands in the County Development Plan	Map & Survey & Review completed	No progress made	
N3	Review measures to improve Biodiversity nett gain on all projects, including Biodiversity pilot programme on new build housing. Architects will adhere to Biodiversity officers protocol for nesting boxes.	Carry out exercise on all projects	Design of pilot project on biodiversity housing started in Malahide.	

N4	Develop SUDS demonstration sites in the Tolka Valley, Ward River Valley, Balbriggan town Park and Rogerstown estuary	# SUDS project implemented	No progress made in 2024. Tender to issue in early 2025 for SUDS scheme in Ward River Valley. SUDS scheme in Balbriggan to be part of Matt River restoration scheme which is to be tendered in early 2025 too.	
N5	Implement wildfire fire management strategy for Howth Head	# of actions implemented	Strategic wildfire breaks created on Ben of Howth. Final wildfire break to be created at Nose of Howth. All others are in place. Goat grazing project contract to maintain wildfire breaks at Redrock, Bellinghas Farm, Carrickbrack road and Shielmartin renewed for another 3 years.	
N6	Explore funding models for carbon offsetting to fund wetland and woodland development	Study Complete	Study to be undertaken in 2025	
	<b>Importance of Trees</b>			
N7	Commission a study to report on the ecosystem services/nature-based solutions provided by Fingal's trees with reference to their economic/climate change adaptation benefits	Study Complete	The Council has been using CAVAT to calculate replacement value of trees that have been damaged or that require removal by statutory bodies with the intention of receiving compensation which in turn will help pay towards replacement cost. A number of Fingal staff have attended training in the recent updated version of CAVAT.	
N8	Assess and adopt tree valuation methods for compensatory / replacement planting, e.g. CAVAT, iTree	Valuation method adopted	The initial phase inventory of the Councils Independent Tree Management Systems 'Arbortrack' has highlighted potential planting locations which is informing subsequent planting. This data is currently being used to plan planting for winter 24/25 in the Swords Area. The Council is also working on the proposed Woodland Creation on Public Lands at Nevitt (near Lusk), as well as an Oak Orchard plantation at Ardgillan	
N9	Initiate a programme of targeted Strategic Annual Tree Planting including identifying and mapping priority locations, to include sites suitable for woodland creation. Reviewed in an annual works programme, presenting what is planned for the coming year. Taking advantage of government funding programmes such as the New Woodland Creation Scheme on Public Lands	Priority locations mapped, Ha of trees planted, € funding obtained.	The Councils Tree Officer has prepared a general planting list for wider use and has also been advising the various Operational areas internally as well as community Groups.	
N10	Prepare a list of suitable tree species recommended for differing situations / functions and make available to developers and other stakeholders following the Guiding Principle of 'right tree in the right place'	Right tree in the right place list prepared	Not commenced	
	<b>Preservation &amp; Conservation</b>			
N11	Undertake study to identify the habitats and species at risk of climate change	Study completed	Not commenced	

N12	Carry out feasibility studies of developing a Marine Protection Area along the Fingal Coast and on the restoration of Oyster beds, Shellfish beds, Seagrass beds and Kelp stands	# of studies undertaken	Not commenced	
N13	Restore marine ecosystem along Fingal coast by supporting restoration projects of Oyster beds, Shellfish beds, Seagrass beds and Kelp stands	# of restoration projects undertaken	Oyster restoration projects started in Malahide Marina by UCD. MARA application submitted for restoration projects at Malahide Estuary and Irelands eye. Awaiting result of application.	
N14	Prepare wetland and river restoration project for the Bog of the Ring and the Matt river corridor	Restoration project implemented	Not commenced	
N15	Increase pollinator areas in public parks and open spaces	Increased acreage in pollinator areas	<p>As part of the Fingal County Council (FCC) Biodiversity Plan, the Operations Department actively supports local Town Biodiversity Plans by planting trees and shrubs with high biodiversity value, establishing Community Orchards, and facilitating diverse managed grass maintenance regimes. All projects are implemented through the annual Programme of Works, which is approved annually by elected representatives.</p> <p>Since 2014, FCC has aligned its approach to grass management with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, significantly increasing its total managed long grass areas. Over this period, 125 hectares have been designated as short and long flowering meadows, promoting pollinator-friendly habitats.</p> <p>To further enhance biodiversity management, FCC is currently undertaking a comprehensive mapping of all managed grass areas. These areas are being categorized into regular maintenance zones, short flowering meadows, and long flowering meadows. This mapping process will establish a baseline, allowing FCC to quantify the extent of grass it manages and evaluate the volume of meadow areas dedicated to biodiversity enhancement.</p>	
	<b>Food &amp; Agriculture</b>			
N16	Continue supporting the use of public allotments and community gardens as a way communities can grow their own food, and lower food miles and food waste.	Increased awareness on the use of allotments	FCC continues to manage 3 public allotments and 5 community gardens. The allotment plots are allocated on an annual basis by the council with an active management committee operating each site. The community Gardens are managed completely by the individual management committees who have a management lease on each site.	
N17	Map and protect strategic agricultural land for national food security purposes	Resource mapped	Not commenced	

N18	Engage with the agri-food sector to gain an understanding of how Fingal might better support more sustainable farming practices	Sector engaged	Not commenced	
N19	Develop climate change initiatives in partnership with local farmers and other stakeholders	Initiatives developed	Not commenced	
	<b>Green Public Procurement</b>			
R1	Develop a Green Public Procurement (GPP) strategy	Strategy developed and adopted by Steering Group	Completed	
R2	Develop a monitoring and reporting tool to ensure GPP is embedded into all Procurements	Tool Developed and Approved by Steering Group	Commenced. Done as part etenders for full competitions not mini. Asking depts to include GPP.	
R3	Ensure GPP Monitoring & Reporting is undertaken to ensure Green Criteria is included in contracts.	# of contracts assessed for GPP inclusion	Commenced	
	<b>Reduce Waste &amp; Increase Recycling in FCC</b>			
R4	Implement Environmental Management System for Council buildings including reduction in waste and water usage, and increased recycling	EMS implemented	In Progress	
R5	31 Community centres to participate in FCC Keen to be Green initiative over 5 stages	Implementation of sustainable initiatives identified in each stage	Water Audit & Waste Management Review of 30 X Community Centres was completed. Community Centres required to submit monthly usage figure throughout 2024 for review during Q1 of 2025 . Information will be compared-collated and used for a KTBG awards event focusing on Water conservation in Q2 of 2025 to coincide with Climate action Week .	
	<b>Waste Reduction / Circular Economy</b>			
R6	Support and promote the implementation of the targets of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2023-2029	# of initiatives supported	5 National Priorities were dealt with under the RMCEI Environmental inspection plan comprising 76 specific tasks under Producer Responsibility Initiatives, Waste Data and Waste Flows, Commercial and Household Waste, Construction & Demolition Waste, Tackling Significant Illegal Waste Activities, Planning, Waste Facility Permits, Waste Collection Permits and End of Life Vehicles.	
R7	Establish a network of public drinking water fountains to help reduce plastic waste in partnership with Uisce Eireann	# of new points installed	In 2024 18 public Water Drinking Stations across whole Fingal Area were installed. These stations have been supported as part of an Uisce Eireann pilot project, which has provided free water connections for 11 of the newest installations. By the end of 2025 Fingal will have a total of 33 public drinking fountains located mainly within public open spaces across the county.	
	<b>Waste Prevention</b>			

R8	Assessment of Construction & Demolition Waste Management Plans for proposed developments to ensure all potential waste streams are identified at an early stage and appropriate measures put in place to promote prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste in line with the waste hierarchy. The segregation and management of different waste streams is also assessed.	# of assessments undertaken yearly and compliance with best practice guidance for C & D waste management.	192 C & D Waste Management Plans assessed during 2024. 42% deemed to be compliant following an initial assessment. Non-compliant C & D WMP's referred back to Planning for action - plans to be reviewed and revised by developers/applicant and resubmitted to Planning for assessment. 100% compliance required prior to any works taking place on site.	
R9	Assessment of all apartment complexes within Fingal on the management of food waste and use of brown bins. Engagement with apartment management companies to ensure compliance with legislation and to encourage segregation of food waste by residents and subsequent collection by authorised collectors.	# of apartment complexes engaged with and the # apartment complexes with brown bin collection service in place.	Initial contact made with 20 management companies regarding 53 different apartment complexes to raise the issue and request that brown bins be provided for apartment residents and information on best practices regarding food waste reduction and management. Significant follow up required due to a lack of engagement from management companies to date. Additional resources required.	
R10	Waste Collection Permit and Waste Facility Permit holders desktop annual return (AR) validation and on site verification audits to improve traceability of the various waste streams	# of compliant Annual Return validations/verifications completed	Waste Collection Permits - 110 desktop annual return validations undertaken, 10 AR on-site verification audits and 10 on-site compliance inspections. 93 annual returns validated with 17 deemed inconclusive which requires further follow-up in 2025. 90% compliance with WCP conditions noted. Extensive Waste Facility Permits - 22 desktop annual return validations undertaken, 20 annual returns validated with 2 deemed inconclusive which requires further follow up in 2025. 41 inspections undertaken to improve compliance with WFP conditions.	
R11	Waste Presentation Bye-Law Project - identify households who currently don't have a standard waste collection service in place, investigate and determine how they are managing their waste; encourage compliance with FCC Waste Presentation Bye-Laws and take legal action if required to ensure compliance	# of households engaged with and # of engagements resulting in bin service put in place	Reverse register identified ~ 10k households with no bin service in place however significant issued identified with data which required extensive further investigation (boundary issues with other LA's and multi-use developments - duplexes, houses and apartment complexes). Waste companies contacted and requested to update waste register data based on FCC findings. New waste register info to be requested from collectors in 2025 to facilitate development of an accurate reverse register. Waste Bye Laws are enforced as part of complaint investigation on a daily basis where no bins are in place.	
R12	Assessment of commercial premises within Fingal to ensure compliance with the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws and the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 in terms	# of commercial premises engaged with and the # of commercial premises with 3 bin system in place with an	58 premises inspected. 80 inspections undertaken. Initial compliance noted to be 48 % which increased to 76% upon 2 <sup>nd</sup> inspection. Further follow-ups scheduled for 2025 to ensure 100% compliance.	



	of waste segregation and in particular food waste.	emphasis on management of food waste.		
	<b>Promote &amp; Facilitate Circular Economy</b>			
R13	Prepare Circular Cities Action Plan	Circular Cities Action Plan Complete	<p>The Circular Cities Action Plan is still in development.</p> <p>In 2024 Economic Development staff have attended a number of Circular Cities webinars and MODOS training to improve knowledge of circular economy principles.</p> <p>The Council has participated in 2024 in an a European Urban Initiative (EUI) Exchange with the City of Nokia in Finland and representatives of the ECO3 Park to further understand the circular economy and innovation approaches.</p>	
R14	Implement measures under the Circular Cities Action Plan and Sustainable Fingal.	Measures Implemented	<p>Fingal County Council is lead partner of the Urbach EcoCore Network considering approaches to sustainable industrial development, green innovation, green investment attraction and active mobility measures. The Council has led a number of masterclasses for the network in 2024 and attended transnational meetings with network partners to share best practice.</p> <p>The Council is incorporating the principles of the circular economy into its approach to investment attraction to Balbriggan and in 2024 has co-created with the Balbriggan EcoCore local stakeholder group an Investors Guide outlining sustainable criteria for potential investors to encourage sustainable development in the area.</p> <p>Through the EcoCore Project the Council has developed 2 no. sustainability videos with local businesses in Balbriggan which have been posted on the Council's social media platforms.</p> <p>The Council also has worked in partnership with Fingal Chamber, Balbriggan Chamber and Malahide Chamber to deliver sustainability business briefings during 2024.</p> <p>As part of the EcoCore Project and in partnership with Smart Balbriggan the Council organised a Hackathon on the circular economy on 8th November 2024. There was good participation on the Hackathon with a number of ideas developed by teams - the winning concept related to the development of a circular economy platform to identify, map and share data on material flows.</p>	

R15	Broaden the scope of the Sustainable Fingal initiative to include businesses, communities and organisations, explore the concept of the circular economy, and lead on a Just Transition to Net Zero and a climate-resilient economy.	Review Completed	<p>The Council is in the process of preparing tender documentation for consultants to develop a Sustainable Fingal Strategy.</p> <p>The preparation of the tender documentation has been informed by information and best practices learned through participation in Circular Cities webinars, MODOS training, the Urbach EcoCore Project and the Interreg SKYLA Project.</p> <p>The Council is leading the way on the circular economy by using circular economy thinking to inform the approach to the sustainable development of the Council's strategic industrial landbank in Balbriggan through the development of the Investors Guide.</p>	
R16	Incorporate circular economy principles in FCC Economic Development Strategy	Circular Economy principles incorporated in Economic Development Strategy	<p>The Future Fingal: Economic Development Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2024.</p> <p>The Strategy outlines 6 grand opportunities, one of which is Sustainability where the Council aims to develop the local economy in accordance with a broadened Sustainable Fingal Initiative which facilitates and supports businesses in the transition to Net Zero.</p> <p>The Strategy has moved to implementation on the 8 actions listed under the Sustainability Theme.</p>	
R17	Reduce carbon footprint of Council supported events.	Carbon footprint reduced at events	<p>In support of Fingal County Council's Climate Action Plan, the Events Unit has developed a Guide for Sustainable Events.</p> <p>This guide provides practical steps and insights to ensure that events within the County are environmentally conscious and contribute to our broader sustainability goals. Link for guide here: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-05/green-festival-fingal_ver3.pdf">https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-05/green-festival-fingal_ver3.pdf</a></p>	
	<b>Recycling / Circular Economy</b>			
R18	Extending opening hours in Coalmine in line with Estuary Recycle Centre	Opening Hours extended	DOS has confirmed increased service charges for 2025. Works to increase opening hours at Coalmine in progress	
R19	Expand the bring bank network (bottles, cans & textiles) throughout Fingal by a minimum of 3 sites annually, giving consideration to new areas of populations and development.	# of new bring bank sites	Sites under consideration. An assessment of all bottles bank sites was undertaken in 2024 to ensure the sites are operating in an efficient and safe manner.	

R20	Provide paints, musical instruments and bicycles from Estuary & Coalmine civic amenity centres to community groups for re-use. Identify other used items that could be collected at the Civic Amenity Centres and re-purposed, re-imagined or repaired for re-use.	# of items re-used	The Replay project has repaired 60 instruments in 2024. These instruments have been used as a tool to engage communities in the circular economy. The council has engaged in a partnership with Music Generation Fingal who are working to deliver community based sustainability guitar lessons. These lessons include learning about the lifecycle of a guitar and the importance of reducing waste. By implementing this project communities are learning about the circular economy as a service and showing value base for community groups. To find out more about this project, click here: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/replay-instruments-project">HTTPS://www.fingal.ie/replay-instruments-project</a> . Our partnership with the Rediscovery Centre (RDC) and Fingal's recycling centres continue. In 2024 167 bikes collected from the recycling centres were repaired and reused. The RDC collected 4209kg of paint for reuse from the Estuary of that 1619 litres of paint was upcycled for community projects in Fingal	
	<b>Land Use &amp; Acquisition</b>			
R21	Assess Council lands & buildings for potential for renewable energy, biodiversity; green infrastructure, sustainable agriculture & other sustainable projects.	Land & building assessment complete	The Council has been examining its landbank for opportunities to develop sustainable projects in energy and biodiversity. Discussions have been held with DCU/daa regarding potential projects in the vicinity of Dublin Airport and with various state agencies and private entities regarding energy projects, including solar/wind/hydrogen. The Council's 3 Enterprise Centres have identified a number of sustainability projects and are assessing potential funding streams for implementation of the projects.	
R22	Develop renewable energy, green infrastructure, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture & other sustainable projects on Council lands & buildings.	No. of projects/measures implemented annually	A number of projects on the Council's landbanks are at the stage of preliminary assessment with partners in education/private business/state agencies. Assessment of various potential funding streams is in progress for the Council's 3 Enterprise Centres to progress sustainability projects. Roof and facade restorations and insulation projects at Newbridge House and Ardgillan Castle in 2024 are showing less energy usage in these heritage properties.	

R23	Identify opportunities for the acquisition of land and buildings by agreement/CPO for renewable energy/ regeneration/active travel/greenway / green infrastructure projects etc	Area of land (Ha) or no. of buildings acquired for Climate Action Projects	<p>1 acquisition by agreement is in progress for the Royal Canal Urban Greenway Project, with 7 additional plots for acquisition by CPO.</p> <p>There are 14 plots being acquired by way of CPO for the Broadmeadow Greenway Project.</p> <p>There are 8 plots being acquired by way of CPO for the Turvey Avenue Footpath Enhancement Project.</p> <p>There are 116 plots being acquired by way of CPO for the Sutton to Malahide Greenway Project.</p> <p>Lands at Bleach Green, Lucan (c. 29 acres) have been acquired for an extension to St. Catherine's Park, Lucan.</p> <p>The Council is in negotiations on a number of other plots of land across the county for the provision of green infrastructure.</p>	
<b>Community Awareness &amp; Engagement</b>				
C1	Promote & Administer Community Climate Action grants for 2023 - 2026. Approve grants to communities to deliver climate action projects across the thematic areas as per grant guidelines.	# of grants for climate action projects across each thematic areas,	25 applicants with 160 projects received grants in 2024	
C2	Deliver Climate Action Week program of events in conjunction with DLA	# of events held, # of citizens engaged	<p>Dublin Climate Action Week took place on September 9th -15th 2024. During this week we saw over 20 public and closed events take place in Fingal celebrating and demonstrating climate action.</p> <p>Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW) aims to showcase the great work that is taking place across the County and during DCAW we saw events take place that not only demonstrated that but also highlighted Community Climate Action and the 6 themes of the Climate Action Plan. Events in Fingal took place in multiple formats such as demonstrations, talks, festivals, film screenings, walks and hands-on workshops. These events helped raise awareness about climate change, inspire action and facilitated engagement with communities on climate action in Fingal.</p> <p>Dublin Climate Action Week 2024 was organised and delivered by the partnership of Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Codema – Dublin's Energy Agency and the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).</p>	

C3	Develop an annual calendar of climate action & environmental awareness days of significance which will include international and national days, such as the World Earth Day, World Sand Dune day, National Reuse Month, National Bike Week, Dublin Climate Action Week, All Dublin Clean up week. Targeted campaigns to promote activities as per calendar timeline.	Annual calendar of activities developed from January to December each year. # of activities promoted.	The Climate Action and Environmental Awareness Section developed an internal calendar of climate action and environmental days of significance. This calendar informed the workplan of the section. It is intended this this will continue into 2025 and a version of this calendar will be made available to the public.	
C4	Utilise various forms of media including FCC social media, FCC website, newsletters, & cinema campaigns to promote climate action awareness.	# of campaigns	A Cinema campaign was created to raise awareness about the impact of disposable cigarettes butts and vapes on marine life and environment, this campaign had 438,534 viewers. The Environmental Awareness Officer runs two newsletters; one for the community and one for schools. To increase accessibility to this information there is now a link to sign up to the newsletter on Fingal's website here: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/join-fingal-county-council-environmental-awareness-newsletter">HTTPS://www.fingal.ie/join-fingal-county-council-environmental-awareness-newsletter</a> Fingal's website is updated regularly with information about different environmental campaigns and events happening across the county.	
C5	Develop a library of climate material including webinars, books, articles and digital training resources covering Climate Science, Climate Action, Just Transition, the LACAP, National and Local on climate action and make available to the public through the Fingal's social media channels and Fingal Libraries.	# of supports for public, # of citizens engaged	The Fingal Climate Action Team have begun works to update the Fingal County Council website with information about the Climate Action Plan and Climate Action works across the County. It is intended that the updated webpage will provide information regarding the Climate Action Plan, its progress and advice on what the public can do for climate action as well as climate education resources and events. The new home page can be found here: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/ClimateAction">https://www.fingal.ie/ClimateAction</a> . The Climate Action and Environmental Awareness Team continue to run social media campaigns on best environmental practice and to celebrate national and local environmental campaigns. The environmental awareness officer puts out a newsletter to community groups and schools regularly to keep members of the community up to date with climate action events and educational information. A catalogue of climate action themed books and eBooks that were available from Fingal's libraries was created internally in 2024.	
	<b>Climate Awareness in Schools</b>			
C6	Engage with DLA to scope requirement for delivering Climate Action Awareness in Schools, through training providers, in advance of Climate Action Awareness being	Agreed programme scoped and delivered accordingly	The Department of Education will begin to roll out the subject Climate Action and Sustainable Development in Secondary Schools from September 2025. In 2024 Fingal's Climate Action Department provided Climate Literacy Training in 10 secondary schools in Fingal through the	

	mainstreamed within school curriculum.		provider Education for Sustainability. Through this 263 students and 10 teachers took part in the training.	
C7	Engage with schools and An Taisce and provide resources & funding to deliver green flags and achieve green schools status.	# of schools engaged, # of students participating	The Green-Schools programme is managed locally by Fingal, in association with An Taisce. There are 133 schools registered with the Green Schools programme. 29 Green flags were awarded in 2024,	
C8	Provide resources including funding to schools in Fingal as support to engage in resource management projects. Projects may include composting for schools, gardening and vegetable growing projects, resources packs and installation of water butts.	# of schools engaged, # of gardening projects, # of composting projects, # of resource packs provided, # of water butts installed	The Environmental Awareness Officer continues to promote waste management and the circular economy in schools. Fingal County Council has continued to deliver the Composting for Schools Programme in 2024. In the 2023-2024 school year, 5 online training sessions were conducted with 25 schools and 11 2nd site visit were conducted. 6 schools in Fingal received Halloween themed circular economy workshops. Fingal continued to support the Relove Fashion Competition. 20 schools took part toy upcycling workshops. 6 schools took part in Christmas decoration upcycling workshops. Funding was provided to 15 schools which supported a variety of projects such as seed collections, materials to support community gardens, signs for biodiversity, polytunnels and wormeries	
<b>Community awareness &amp; engagement through engagement with partner organisations</b>				
C9	Provide an annual energy awareness event in partnership with Codema, SEAI and other stakeholders	Annual event held	As part of Dublin Climate Action Week 2024, Fingal worked with Codema and our SEC mentor Eric Dennis to host a home energy clinic and information stand on Sustainable Energy Communities. A home energy advice clinic was hosted in the Pavilions Shopping Centre in Swords on September 10th and a pop up stand providing details of sea grants and information on Sustainable Energy Communities was at the Climate Action Festival in Millenium Park on September 14th. A home energy clinic was hosted in Blanchardstown Library on November 26th. These clinics provided members of the public with advice on how to save energy at home by making small changes.	
C10	Promote and support SEAI's Better Energy Communities and Sustainable Energy Communities	# of communities supported	Fingal has 31 SEC's. The Climate Action Coordinator and Officer meet with the Fingal SEC mentor on a monthly basis . One SEC launched their Energy Master Plan in 2024 which was Balbriggan SEC.	
C11	Pilot Climate Action workshops with Tidy Town committees to promote awareness of climate action at a local level.	# of workshops	Fingal County Council continues to support the GAA Green Clubs Programme. The Environmental Awareness Officer continues to promote the toolkit which contains resources, advice and guidance, tailored especially for GAA clubs and members, in the areas of Energy,	

			Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel & Transport.	
C12	Involve residents and community groups, e.g. Tidy Towns/community garden groups, in the establishment of newly planted trees in their area, e.g. watering	Number of people involved	The Council is assisting local Tidy Towns and Community Gardens Groups to prepare plans and to undertake tree planting and establishment work.	
C13	Guided by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the GAA and CCMA, towards working together on sustainability and climate action projects, engage with the Green Club Programme through a nominated lead, working with the CARO and GAA, in the promotion and support of projects by participating clubs, to meet the objectives, and during key phases, of the programme to 2029	# of clubs engaged, # of students participating	Fingal has 2 number of clubs partaking in the Green Clubs Programme	
C14	Keen to be Green Communities: supporting community groups to develop climate awareness projects such as Bike repair workshops, clothes swaps, community gardens, green festivals.	# of initiatives / projects supported and examples	Orchard Planting initiative was coordinated; 16 x Community Centres planted a variety of fruit tree saplings during tree week 3 x Green Festivals: Flemington, Donabate, Mulhuddart 4 Bike repair events: Flemington, Donabate, Mulhuddart, Meakstown 5 x Clothes Swap Shop events: Flemington, Donabate, Mulhuddart, Castaheany, Mountview 2 Food waste prevention workshops for Children: Flemington, Donabate Keen To BG Working group completed a research & development visit to the National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ireland Bike Library in Ongar Community gardens x 7: Bayside, Baldoyle, Broadmeadows, Santry, Baleskin, Fortlawn, Glas Tu Distribution of brown bin caddies for wood waste, dog waste bags, compost workshops, litter pickers at green festivals Funding secured for new waste & recycling bin systems for 6 community centres 2 WEEE recycling drop off events: Flemington, Donabate	
C15	Work with Global Action Plan on the further development of Climate Action Heroes programme across communities	Programme Supported Annually	17 groups participated in the Climate Action Heroes programme across Fingal	



C16	Promote LEADER Projects on sustainability	No. of LEADER Projects on sustainability	LEADER has issued 2 calls for project applications in 2024 - targeting social enterprises and digital optimisation projects and encouraging environmental projects. LEADER has provided training for capacity building for voluntary groups. DRCD also invited the Dublin Rural Leader Group to participate in a Food Sustainability Think Tank. LEADER has a number of EOI's for sustainability projects at various stages of assessment, with best practice case studies available on the LEADER website.	
C17	Provide resources including equipment and funding for marine clean-up and awareness events. Deliver an annual coastal event in the community such as awareness of and protection measures for sand dunes.	# of initiatives supported by the Council each year, One events per year delivered	In 2024 the Climate Action and Environmental Awareness Section organised 10 marine clean up and awareness events. These events were delivered through Clean Coasts, Explore Your Shore and Education for Sustainability	
C18	Sport Grants - Clubs must provide evidence of 'circular economy' and other sustainable initiatives as appropriate.	# of applications approved with evidence of sustainable initiatives	34 grant applications that had sustainable initiatives in their clubs in 2024. This has become mandatory going forward for all our clubs	
C19	Publish in annual progress reports of the LACAP, any publicly available figures relating to Dublin Airport emissions, and invite the daa to provide progress updates and plans to meet the national carbon neutrality objective.	Figures published annually	Published information available on line: <a href="https://www.seai.ie/sites/default/files/publications/Public-Sector-Annual-Report-2023-English.pdf">https://www.seai.ie/sites/default/files/publications/Public-Sector-Annual-Report-2023-English.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.daa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/ESG-Strategy-2024.pdf">https://www.daa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/ESG-Strategy-2024.pdf</a>  The DAA completed a major carpark lighting upgrade project with support from the EXEED Programme. Results in 80% savings.  <a href="https://planning.agileapplications.ie/fingal/application-details/96645">https://planning.agileapplications.ie/fingal/application-details/96645</a>	
<b>Promote the development of green skills across all economic sectors</b>				
C20	Review Fingal Skills Strategy which includes the development of green skills across all economic sectors	Skills strategy review completed	The review of the Fingal Skills Strategy is completed with the adoption of the Future Fingal: Fingal Skills Strategy 2024 - 2029 by Fingal County Council in November 2024. The new Strategy incorporates learnings and best practice from the Council's participation in the Interreg SKYLA Project which focuses on upskilling for the twin transition. The new Strategy highlights the need for digital and green skills and the importances of upskilling and life-long learning and sets out actions for implementation across 5 themes.	

C21	Expand participation in Green Skills Sub-Group under Fingal Skills Strategy	Group membership expanded	<p>The Green Skills Sub-Group of the Fingal Skills Strategy has maintained its membership and promote a number of new green micro-credentials courses in partnership with DCU and DDLETB (Baldoyle Training Centre). During Climate Action Week a Sustainability Business Briefing was held in association with Fingal Chamber and Balbriggan Chamber of Commerce where businesses were updated on green training available and invited to participate in the Green Skills Sub-Group. There was excellent participation and strong interest in the Sustainability Briefing.</p> <p>Economic Development also presented on sustainability measures for business and invited businesses to participate in the Green Skills Sub-Group and development of the new Sustainable Fingal Strategy at a Malahide Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Briefing in September 2024.</p> <p>The Green Skills Sub-Group participated in the development of the new Fingal Skills Strategy and in the Interreg SKYLA Project which focuses on upskilling for the twin transition.</p>	
C22	Establish an Agri-Food Skills Sub-Group under Fingal Skills Strategy to promote diversification within the Agri-Food Sector	Membership of group & number of initiatives promoted	The establishment of the Agri-Food Skills Sub-Group has been deferred while procurement takes place for a co-ordinator to oversee the implementation of the Tourism Strategy and Food & Drink Policy. Once the co-ordinator is appointed the Agri-Food Skills Sub-group shall be established and work in partnership with the co-ordinator on skills development in the sector.	
	<b>Staff Awareness</b>			
C23	Provide Climate Awareness training for all staff and elected members and identify opportunities to embed climate awareness across all departments	# of staff trained, # of councillors trained	On going all new staff are required to attend Climate Action training. In 2024 indoor Staff 57 outdoor Staff 36.	
C24	Develop climate action induction pack for all new staff.	Pack developed	Deferred to 2025	

## **APPENDIX II:      Action Status definitions**



**Not started:**

Action is set to start at a later stage or action for 2024 has not commenced



**Ongoing:**

Action is currently being implemented but has not yet been completed.



**Completed**

Completed in 2004 or wok programme for 2024 completed.

### **Appendix III:       References:**

Climate Action and Low-carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 (No. 32 of 2021)  
Codema (2024) Fingal County Council 2023 Energy Review, November 2024, Codema  
Department of Housing & Local Government & Heritage, (2021) Circular Letter LGSM01-2021  
EPA (2024) Irelands Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions (1990-2023), EPA July 2024  
EPA (2024) Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050, EPA  
SEAI (2023) Public sector energy efficiency performance report 2023, SEAI  
SEAI (2024) Energy in Ireland, SEAI, December 2024

<https://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/community-and-health/green-clubs-sustainability>

## **Appendix IV: List of Acronyms:**

BER – Building Energy Rating  
CARO – Climate Action Regional Office  
CCAC – Climate Change Advisory Committee  
CCAP – Climate Change Action Plan  
CCMA – County & City Management Association  
CSO – Central Statistics Office  
CO2 – Carbon Dioxide  
DAFM – Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine  
DECC – Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications  
DHPLG – Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government  
DLAs – Dublin Local Authorities  
DTTAS - Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport  
EMWR – Eastern & Midlands Waste Region  
EnPi – Energy Performance Indicator  
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency  
EPC – Energy Performance Contract  
ESRI – Economic & Social Research Institute  
EV – Electric Vehicle  
FCC – Fingal County Council  
GHG – Greenhouse Gases  
Fingal County Council Climate Change Action Plan  
ISO – International Standards Organisation  
LAP – Local Area Plan  
LEADER - Liaisons entre actions de developement de Léconomie Rurale  
LED – Light Emitting Diode  
LGMA – Local Government Management Agency  
NAF – National Adaptation Framework  
NBS – Nature Based Solutions  
NZEB – Nearly Zero Energy Building

NTA – National Transport Authority

OPW – Office of Public Works

PV – Photovoltaics

SEAI – Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

SEC – Sustainable Energy Community

SPC – Strategic Policy Committee

SuDS – Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

## **Appendix V: List of Figures and Tables**

### **Figures**

Figure 1	CAP 2024-2029 Targets and Thematic areas
Figure 4	No of actions per Thematic area
Figure 5	Number of actions per action type.
Figure 4	Governance Structure of the Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
Figure 5	Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs)
Figure 6	Ten National KPIs for Climate Action
Figure 7	Implementation Status of LACAP actions (1st Jan 2024 to 31st Dec 2024)
Figure 8	Annual Energy Efficiency target compared to 50% Glidepath.
Figure 9	Total & direct CO2 emissions
Figure 10	Gap-to-target analysis GHG emissions
Figure 11	Large Offices Electricity Performance
Figure 12	Illustration from the Irish Penny Magazine of Balrothery church and tower house by Samuel Lover, 1833
Figure 13	Fingal Heritage X Climate Toolkit
Figure 14	Swords, Tidy Towns receive Green Flag for the Rock Garden and Council staff receive Green Flag for Millenium Park

### **Tables**

Table 3	Climate Action Regional Offices
Table 4	Actions implemented per theme 2024
Table 3	Fingal Community Climate Action Fund recipients 2024