



Fingal County Council

Climate Action Plan



Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Annual Progress Report 2025

Acknowledgements

This Annual Progress Report on the Climate Action Plan has been prepared by the Fingal County Council Climate Action Team, working closely with the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency, and in collaboration with the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee and the Elected Members of Fingal County Council.

The Climate Action Unit wishes to express its appreciation to the various Council service areas for their ongoing commitment to advancing climate action, supported by the Executive Management Team through the Climate Action Steering Group. We also acknowledge the valuable contributions of the Elected Members and the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee. In addition, the continued guidance and technical support provided by CARO and Codema have been instrumental in embedding climate action across the organisation and in the preparation of this first Annual Progress Report for the Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024–2029.

0.0	Executive Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	11
2.0	Climate Action Plan Overview	11
3.0	Update to Climate Policy and Legislation	14
	Europe’s Environment 2025	14
	EU Climate Law:	15
	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD):	16
	Social Climate Fund:	16
	Critical Raw Material Act	17
	Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25)	17
	Le Chéile 28 Statement of Strategy 2025 – 2028	18
	Renewable Heat Obligation Bill:	18
	Private Wires Policy Statement:	18
	Ireland’s Annual Report Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance 2024	19
4.0	Leadership and Governance	19
4.1	Fingal Climate Action Unit (CAU)	19
4.2	Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)	21
4.3	Climate Actions and UN Sustainability Goals	26
4.4	Local Authority Climate Action Framework	26
4.5	Codema	26
5.0	LACAP Monitoring and Reporting	30
6.0	Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan Update	33
6.1	Energy and Buildings	33
6.2	Transport	51
6.3	Flood Resilience	64
6.4	Nature Based Solutions	69
6.5	Circular Economy and Resource Management	74
6.6	Community Engagement	83
6.7	Balbriggan Decarbonising Zone	97
	Appendix I: Action Progress Report 2024	101
	Appendix II: Action Status Definitions	128
	Appendix III References:	129
	Appendix IV Acronyms	130
	Appendix V: List of Figures and Tables	132

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, approved in February 2024, sets the strategic direction for Fingal’s transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient county. The Plan outlines 162 actions across six thematic areas—Energy & Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions, Circular Economy & Resource Management, Community Engagement, and the Balbriggan Decarbonising Zone (DZ). These actions support four statutory targets:

- A 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030
- A 51% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030
- Enhanced regional climate resilience.
- Active community engagement on climate action

This Annual Progress Report outlines delivery during 2025, highlighting achievements, challenges, and strategic progress across the organisation.

2. Governance and Strategic Framework

Effective delivery of the Climate Action Plan is supported by strengthened governance structures. The Climate Action Unit (CAU)—established in 2024—works with the Climate Action Steering Group (CASG) and the Climate Action Plan Implementation Team (CAPIT) to embed climate action across all departments. Fingal continues to collaborate closely with the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Codema, Dublin’s Energy Agency.

At national and EU level, policy updates in 2025 significantly shape the Council’s action landscape. These include the updated EU Climate Law setting a 90% GHG reduction target by 2040, the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) requiring all new public buildings to be zero emission by 2028, Ireland’s Climate Action Plan 2025, and emerging legislation on renewables, private wires, and critical raw materials. These policy shifts

confirm the urgency of accelerating energy transition and climate resilience across local authorities.

3. Progress Overview 2025

Of the 162 actions in the Climate Action Plan:

- 95 were completed,
- 51 were in progress, and
- 16 had not yet commenced.

A substantial portion (83) of the completed actions are recurring annual commitments.

Strongest progress was recorded in Energy & Buildings, Transport, and Flood Resilience, with all thematic areas delivering tangible outcomes.

4. Energy & Buildings

Energy and Buildings remain central to Fingal's decarbonisation pathway. Key 2025 achievements include:

Energy Performance

- FCC Energy Review report issued in Oct 2025 and is based on energy use in 2024.
- In 2024 Fingal exceeded its 2030 energy efficiency target early, achieving a 57.7% improvement (baseline 2006–2008) with 2.27 % improvement in 2024
- Energy-related emissions reduced by 3.5% in 2024 delivering a total reduction of 48.4% (2016-2018 baseline) equivalent to 6,319 tonnes of CO₂
- Fingal completed ISO 50001 recertification, affirming its commitment to continuous energy management improvement.

Capital Upgrades and SEU Performance

- Public lighting achieved 100% LED conversion, the first local authority in Ireland to reach this milestone.

- Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) delivered substantial savings, with County Hall and Civic Offices achieving up to 33% energy reductions.
- Libraries, depots, and large offices continued to reduce energy use through improved controls, LED upgrades, PV installations and heat pump integration.

Social Housing Retrofitting

- 119 homes were retrofitted in 2025, exceeding funding allocations.
- Measures included insulation, heat pump installation, PV systems, ventilation upgrades, and airtightness improvements.

Renewable Energy and District Heating

The Blanchardstown District Heating Scheme progressed with funding applications to the European Investment Bank and DECC.

Multiple renewable energy opportunities across Council lands have been identified, including solar, wind, and hydrogen projects.

5. Transport and Mobility

Transport remains Fingal's second largest source of operational emissions. In 2025, significant progress was achieved in sustainable mobility and fleet decarbonisation:

Active Travel

- 7.19km of additional footpaths, 7.41km of cycle ways, and 9km of road space was relocated for active travel in 2025.
- The delivery of the R132 walking and cycling scheme from Blakes Cross to Quickpenny Lane was delivered comprising of 3.7km of walking and cycling facilities on both sides of the road (7.4km in total) and the Ongar–Barnhill project delivered 2.5 km of footpaths, 1.3 km one-way, and 1.6 km two-way cycle lanes.
- 46 new public bike stands, and 450 additional school/community spaces were installed.

- The Quiet Streets initiative was launched in Drynam, enhancing permeability and calming traffic.

Shared Mobility and EV Infrastructure

- Two bike share schemes provided 190 bikes, generating over 18,000 trips since mid-2024.
- Carsharing expanded to 101 vehicles, including new EV share bays.
- 120 EV charging points are operational across depots and staff facilities, with public rollout scheduled from early 2026.
- 1500 plus trips made by the Skerries community car in 2025.

Fleet Decarbonisation and Staff Travel

- 50% of Fingal's commercial fleet is now fully electric (101 vehicles) Delivering estimated savings of 1.07 GWh and 295 tCO₂;
- Staff travel saw emissions reductions through eco-driving courses, Cycle-to-Work uptake, and use of EV GoCars, saving 10.7 tonnes of CO₂.

6. Flood Resilience and Climate Adaptation

Climate adaptation actions strengthened Fingal's flood resilience during 2025:

Flood Risk Management

- Emergency plans, including Severe Weather, Flood, Oil Spill, and Air Incident Plans, were updated.
- Collaboration with OPW advanced flood defence schemes and coastal monitoring.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

- SuDS principles are fully embedded in the Development Plan.

- Publication of the Green & Blue Roof Guide and a Householder's Guide to SuDS significantly improved public awareness.
- Green roofs were installed on Baldoyle Community Centre (80%), Skerries Library (50%), and are planned for Swords Cultural Quarter (30%).

Coastal and Heritage Resilience

- Completion of the OPW Coastal Monitoring Programme informs future coastal protection measures.
- The restoration of St Ita's Wetlands demonstrates successful nature-based flood attenuation.
- €70,000 supported heritage adaptation works at Abbottstown Church and Howth Castle.

7. Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

NBS delivered important co-benefits for biodiversity, resilience, and climate mitigation:

- Countywide woodland mapping completed; new management plans in preparation.
- 140 hectares of pollinator-friendly meadows maintained.
- Biodiversity Net Gain principles embedded across housing and public building projects, including green roofs, permeable paving, rain gardens, and bat sensitive lighting.
- Oyster restoration progressed with UCD; river restoration projects funded for delivery in 2026.

Wildfire management at Howth Head advanced through firebreak construction and a grazing programme.

8. Circular Economy & Resource Management

Progress accelerated across circular economy actions in 2025:

- Fingal delivered its first Green Public Procurement (GPP) Strategy, with monitoring systems under development.
- The Keen to Be Green programme expanded across all 31 community centres, with the Energy Theme commenced and Water Awards presented to community centres in 2025.
- Circular reuse initiatives included:
 - 98 musical instruments redistributed,
 - 132 bikes collected to be repaired and reused, and
 - 2,704 litres of paint collected of which 2,604 litres were upcycled
- Regulatory enforcement remained strong, with 1,710 inspections and 3,685 byelaw checks completed as part of the Waste Presentation Bye Laws

9. Community Engagement

Community engagement strengthened Fingal's climate leadership:

- Dublin Climate Action Week 2025 featured 20+ events hosted across Fingal.
- The Community Climate Action Fund supported 25 projects (€1.13 million) across energy, travel, waste, food, and biodiversity themes.
- 136 schools participated in Green-Schools; 19 earned flags.
- Home Energy Saving Kits were borrowed 1,338 times from libraries.
- The Council launched an online Climate Action Story Map, highlighting countywide initiatives.
- Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) grew to 31, supported by mentoring and networking events.

10. Skills, Training and Organisational Readiness

Building internal capacity remains essential:

- 52 staff completed mandatory climate training in 2025; 72 completed specialist courses.
- The Green Skills Subgroup (27 members) progressed the Skills Strategy, with dedicated training planned for 2026.
- Climate induction is now part of onboarding for all new staff.

11. Balbriggan Decarbonising Zone

Balbriggan continues to serve as Fingal's innovation hub for climate action:

- A full spatial emissions profile, 2030 projections, and GHG gap-to-target analysis have been completed.
- The E2-CUTIES EU project is enabling community energy systems, training, investment planning, and implementation pathways.
- Balbriggan's Register of Opportunities identifies renewable energy, retrofit, active travel, and community-based climate projects.

Progress was recorded across all thematic areas of the Climate Action Plan in 2025, including energy efficiency measures, fleet electrification, public lighting upgrades, active travel infrastructure, circular economy projects, community focused initiatives, and nature-based actions. Some areas continue to present challenges, particularly reducing direct emissions, addressing data gaps in flood risk management, and securing adequate resourcing for SuDS delivery and biodiversity planning. Despite these issues, implementation is moving in the direction required to meet 2030 and 2050 targets. Fingal County Council will continue to apply evidence-based decision-making, established governance structures, cross-departmental coordination, and engagement with external partners and communities as work progresses.

Energy and Buildings



Energy efficiency improved by 2.27% in 2024 delivering an overall 57.7% improvement against the baseline



Energy-related emissions reduced by 3.5% delivering a total reduction of 48.4%, equivalent to 6,319 tonnes of CO₂



PV Panels installed in Baldoyle Library, County Hall Offices. Hartstown Community Centre (286 panels)



119 homes were retrofitted in 2025



ISO 50001 re-certification, affirming its commitment to continuous energy management improvement.

Transport and Mobility



→ Parking for 92 bike parking spaces provided
1,976 spaces available across the 7 Fingal Electoral Areas.
→ 38 schools, clubs, Community Centres approved for bike and scooter racks



→ 14km of active travel infrastructure delivered;
→ 9km of reallocated road space was provided in 2025



EV charging points have been provided at Baldoyle Racecourse Community Centre (3), Mill St. Carpark Balbriggan (6) and Kellystown Cemetery (2)



Eco driving courses provided, 65 staff attended



The Skerries Community Car, backed by volunteers completed 1,500+ trips in 2025

Flood Resilience



Publication of the Green & Blue Roof Guide



Green roofs were installed on Baldoyle Community Centre Skerries Library and planned for Swords Cultural Quarter



Emergency plans, including Severe Weather, Flood, Oil Spill, and Air Incident Plans, were updated. Fingal Coastal Liaison Group meetings took place on Sept. 3rd & Dec. 18th



€70,000 supported heritage adaptation works at Abbottstown Church and Howth Castle

Nature Based Solutions



140 hectares of pollinator-friendly meadows maintained.



Wildfire management at Howth Head advanced through firebreak construction and a grazing programme



Woodland management plans completed for St Catherines Park and Newbridge Demesne.



Oyster restoration projects started in Malahide Marina

Circular Economy and Resource Management



- 98 musical instruments redistributed
- 132 bikes collected to be repaired and reused
- 2,704 litres of paint upcycled



Since 2024, 18 public water drinking stations installed



1,710 inspections and 3,685 bye-law checks completed under the Waste Prevention Bye Laws.



The Keen to Be Green programme expanded across all 31 community centres.

- Energy Theme commenced
- Water Awards presented to Community Centres in 2025.

Community Engagement



Dublin Climate Action Week 2025 featured 20+ events hosted across Fingal.



The Community Climate Action Fund supported 25 projects (€1.13 million) across energy, travel, waste, food, and biodiversity themes.



136 schools participated in Green-Schools; 19 earned flags.



Home Energy Saving Kits were borrowed 1,338 times from libraries.



52 staff completed mandatory climate training in 2025;
72 completed specialist courses.