Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Climate Action Charter

For Local Authorities and the Minister for Climate, Energy, and the Environment

May 2026



1 Purpose

The purpose of this charter is to set out commitments to guide an all-of-Government approach to climate action. It builds upon and expands on the first Climate Action Charter to reflect progress and changes in the climate policy landscape.

The parties to this charter are:

- The local authority
- The Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment

2 Our Commitments

The local authority will work in a collaborative and cohesive manner with central government to deliver on our climate action commitments.

3 The signatories share the common understanding that

The Local Authority Climate Action Plans are the primary mechanism to deliver on our local authority's climate action commitments, with the support of and in partnership with central government.

4 What we will achieve

4.1 Local Leadership

We will embed a climate action leadership culture within our local authority and through our local elected members to deliver effective local climate action by:

a) Fostering a positive climate action culture throughout all services and functions of our local authorities.

b) Practising good governance to support climate action throughout all established structures.

c) Promoting an evidence-informed decarbonisation, resilience and just transition framework in accordance with best available science, utilising credible data sources.

d) Building capacity and empowering our communities through education, public awareness, participation and cooperation.

e) Engaging in partnerships with stakeholders to enable, facilitate and support their ambition, objectives and responsibilities in addressing climate change.

f) Exercising accountability and transparency on our climate action progress and committing to reporting on delivery of Local Authority Climate Action Plans and Decarbonising Zones and related carbon emissions indicators on an annual basis.

g) Staying open to novel, innovative solutions to reduce emissions and build climate resilience.

4.2 Targets & Goals

The local government sector, with the support of central government, will strive to achieve its targets and goals and deliver the national climate objective to pursue the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by:

a) Meeting the local government targets of:

   I. A 51% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030;

   II. Net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050;

   III. A 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030;

   and supporting, facilitating and enabling others in achieving these goals.

b) Supporting, at a local level, the achievement of national sectoral targets as set by the Government under the Sectoral Emissions Ceilings.

c) Embedding biodiversity priorities, including nature-based solutions, into our work plans to achieve the climate action co-benefits of nature enhancement, recovery, climate resilience and restoration.

d) Promoting a just transition and just resilience for all our communities in the actions that we take to achieve these goals.

e) Achieving the actions and aims set out in our Local Authority Climate Action Plans and Decarbonising Zones.

4.3 Our Services

We, the local authority, will optimise the services we provide to our communities to secure a low-carbon, resilient, biodiversity-rich and sustainable future by:

a) Ensuring our services plan for continuity of delivery and increased resilience in a changing climate reality where extreme weather will become more severe and more frequent.

b) Building capacity within our organisations to achieve low carbon delivery of all our services.

c) Implementing green public procurement principles and protocols across all our operations.

d) Leveraging the circular economy to deliver climate action, biodiversity protection, and sustainability goals.

e) Exercising our planning and regulatory roles to help reduce emissions, climate risks and vulnerabilities in the wider community.

f) Considering the climate impacts during the development and adoption of County Developments Plans, including decisions relating to zoning and spatial planning.

g) Exploring opportunities to lead, partner and collaborate on climate action initiatives across the public, private and education sectors.

h) Harnessing the four Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) which were set up to support local authorities to address climate change across Ireland.

4.4 Our Communities

We, the local authority, will work in the interests of our communities to empower them to meet the challenges of climate change and the need to reduce emissions, while achieving a just transition, by:

a) Fostering climate-informed, empowered, sustainable, thriving communities that actively participate in climate action.

b) Cultivating active citizen engagement in the implementation of our Local Authority Climate Actions Plans and in the co-creation of climate action

initiatives.

c) Helping communities to secure funding for projects and initiatives from various sources, including the Community Climate Action Programme, and facilitating the implementation of those projects.

d) Seeking to embed climate action within the local economy.

e) Supporting local economic development and enterprise through Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) and Local Community Development Committees, Strategic Policy Committees, Local Development Companies, and Public Participation Networks (PPNs) to harness opportunities from meeting the challenges of climate change.

f) Actively participating in partnerships with enterprise, community and voluntary groups to grow the circular economy and reduce climate impact.

g) Engaging with third level institutions and the research community nationally and internationally to build capacity in climate action.

h) Developing links with young citizens to give voice to their understanding of and concerns on climate change and to enhance their awareness of actions they can take.

i) Promoting our public libraries as a valued and reputable source of information for the public on sustainable development and climate action.

j) Being transparent with the public on climate initiatives, combating climate misinformation, and using public fora to showcase best practices.

5 The tools and resources we will use

With the support of central government in achieving the commitments set out above we, the local authority, will use all relevant legislation, policies, reports, data, tools, and financial resources and expertise, including:

a) The national Climate Action Plans and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, as informed by international climate agreements and the EU Green Deal, EU legislation and policy; and all other national and regional documents pertaining to the achievement of climate action.

b) Dedicated Climate Action Teams.

c) Training and educational supports for our staff and elected members through the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme, ensuring our people have access to the latest climate science and policy assessments.

d) Maximise learning, funding and finance from alternative sources e.g. EU funding.

e) The Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO).

Signed on behalf of Government

Darragh O'Brien T.D.
Minister for Climate, Energy, and the Environment

Signed on behalf of [insert County Council name]

[insert name here]
Cathaoirleach

[insert name here]
Chief Executive