



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

Kilkenny

KILKENNY County Council

Plenary Meeting 19th Dec 2022

Climate Change Update



where medieval meets modern



Topics for Today

1. The National Policy context
2. The Regional Players
3. The Role of Local Government & Kilkenny County Council
4. Progress to date
5. Next Stages

International/National Policy Docs

Paris Agreement (2015)

**Agenda 2030
(Sustainable Development Goals)**

**National Adaptation Framework
2018**

European Green Deal (2019)

**Climate Action and Low Carbon
(Amendment) Act 2021**

**National Climate Action Plan
2021**

Local Actions:

**Kilkenny County Council Climate Adaptation
Strategy 2019 -2024**

**Local Authority Climate Action Plan
2023-2028**



- **Southern Regional Assembly**

- Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES)



- **South East Energy Agency (SEEA)**

- Providing services for all
- Energy transition
- For carbon neutral region



Regional Actors & Policy

The RSES

Three priority areas:

- **Decarbonisation;**
 - Objective to develop a Regional Decarbonisation Plan to provide a framework for action on de-carbonisation across all sectors.
- **Resource Efficiency,**
 - Using the Earth's limited resources in a sustainable manner while minimising impacts on the environment.
- **Climate Resilience;**
 - Support measures to build resilience to climate change throughout the Region



- **Four Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO)**

- Established under Action 8 of the National Adaptation Framework

- **CARO deliver the Local Government sector's obligations**

- provides guidance, advice and support to L.As.
- Over six key areas
 - Adaptation,
 - Mitigation,
 - Citizen engagement,
 - Training/education,
 - Knowledge development,
 - Governance & partnership



Regional Policy & Actions

Kildare is the lead authority for the Eastern & Midlands CARO. (E&M CARO)

17 Local Authorities in the E&M CARO

Kilkenny is a Partner County

The CAROs coordinate climate action at regional and local levels

17,000 LA staff received training to date by CARO

The KCC Adaptation Strategy 2019 was part of the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which resulted from the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.



Local Government

A. Local Authority Climate Action Charter 2019

B. Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 (CCMA)



C. Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines (Draft Oct 2022) CARO

Implications

A :

Commits L.As to actions for climate change.

B:

Six strategic goals:

1. Foster governance, leadership and partnerships
2. Achieve our carbon emission and energy targets for 2030 and 2050
3. Deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience
4. Mobilise climate action in local communities
5. Support transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy.
6. Achieve a 'just transition'

C: Guidelines on the preparation of Action Plans



KCC Examples of Progress to Date

Kilkenny County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

PLEEP

- KCC leading on upgrade of 75,00+ public lights
- Facilities Projects
- Fleet transition to Biofuels
- Energy savings in buildings
- A 33% improvement in the councils' energy efficiency already achieved.

Flood Relief Schemes

- Graiguenamanagh, Ballyhale,

Development Plan policies

- Significant changes to Policy for mitigation & adaptation,(e.g. wind energy, biodiversity)

KCC a signatory to:

EU Covenant of Mayors & Climate Alliance



Next Steps

Climate Action Plan

- **Mitigation**
- **Adaptation**
- **A 5 year plan.**
- **National Targets to local actions**
- **Decarbonisation Zone**
- **LA in consultation/engagement with stakeholders**
- **12 month timeline**



Climate Action will IMPACT:

County Development Plan

Spatial issues such as:

- Transport policy
- Drainage policy
- Flood relief
- Settlement policy
- Energy policy(wind energy, solar energy, biomass)

Energy potential & security for the South East Region

Local Economic & Community Plan

Corporate Plan

Biodiversity Plan

Cultural Plans (Heritage, Arts, Libraries)

Tourism Strategy

Environment Policy/Action (surface water disposal farm inspections, nitrates)

Waste Management/Circular Economy



Kilkenny Climate Action Plan 2023-2028

Advance Planning Stage

- Support & Governance
- Climate Team
- Steering Committee
- Establish baselines
- Report to Council and SPC

Initiation

- Evidence Base
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Report to SPC /Council

Draft Plan

- Drafting of Plan
- Publish Draft Plan
- Public Consultation
- Submissions collated
- Report to SPC, Council

Completion

- Report on submissions
- Circulated SPC and Elected Reps
- Adopt & Publish

Implement, Monitor & Report

12 Month Statutory Plan Making Phase

From Q1 2024

We are here

Minister to trigger Statutory Phase

Plan Published

- Challenge
- Culture change across society
- Ambitious
- Leadership
- Structures & supports
- Evidence based approach
- Line of sight to targets
- Trusted Information

By 2030: 51% emissions

By 2050

- ❖ climate resilient
- ❖ biodiversity-rich
- ❖ environmentally-sustainable
- ❖ climate-neutral economy
(Net ZERO)

THANK YOU