



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

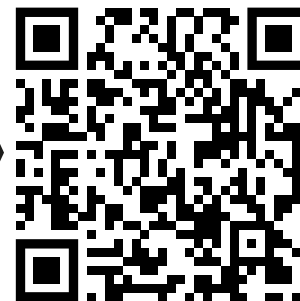
2024 - 2029



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



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<https://www.mayo.ie/environment/climate-action-plan>

This is an accessible document. Some graphics have been amended from the source to ensure accessibility.

Version 1:2 130324

FOREWORD

The Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan is framed around the future. A future in which Mayo is climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral. We know from our public consultation that the people of Mayo are worried about climate change and the impact of climate change on future generations is what motivates them to protect the environment.

The effects of climate change are already being felt throughout County Mayo. Over the past century our climate has warmed, rainfall patterns have changed, sea levels have risen, and more extreme weather events are occurring and through our Climate Change Risk Assessment we understand how Mayo will be impacted into the future.

While Mayo County Council has been improving the climate resilience and sustainability of the county for many years, we need to do more. This plan provides a clear roadmap for 2024-2029 that outlines our increased commitment to climate action and how we will accelerate our actions.

The plan has been broken into three sections outlining actions we will take to Future Proof our Council, and, how we will work with all sectors of society in Mayo to Future Proof our People and our Place.

This will be a challenging journey, but it is one we as a Council and as elected members are fully committed to. We are led by our vision of Mayo, a county that is Sustainable, Inclusive, Prosperous and Proud. By acting on climate as clearly set out in our Climate Action Plan we can truly meet this vision.

Cllr. Michael Loftus

Cathaoirleach

Mayo County Council



Kevin Kelly

Chief Executive

Mayo County Council



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Description
Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI)	The sum and categorisation of the total greenhouse gas emissions accounted for in a given area in a given year. This is the year against which future progress is compared.
Baseline year	This is the year in which the BEI was calculated, with which future progress in emissions reductions is compared.
Biodiversity	The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, and includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems;
Carbon sequestration	The uptake and storage of carbon. Trees and plants, for example, absorb carbon dioxide, release the oxygen and store the carbon.
Climate adaptation	The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects in order to moderate harm or take advantages of beneficial opportunities.
Climate hazard	Extreme weather events or natural disasters that are primarily caused by climate-related factors. They can cause harm to human health, livelihoods, or natural resources.
Climate justice	The requirement that decisions and actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the effects of climate change shall, in so far as it is practicable to do so, safeguard the rights of the most vulnerable persons and endeavour to share the burdens and benefits arising from climate change.
Climate mitigation	The process of reducing climate change which involves reducing the flow of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere either by reducing the sources of these gases or enhancing the sinks that accumulate and store these gases.
Climate neutrality	A sustainable economy and society where greenhouse gas emissions are balanced or exceeded by the removal of greenhouse gases.
Climate resilience	Climate resilience is the capacity of a system, whether physical, social or ecological, to absorb and respond to climate change and by implementing effective adaptation planning and sustainable development (including governance and institutional design) to reduce the negative climate impacts while also taking advantage of any positive outcomes. This will allow the system to either return to its previous state or to adapt to a new state as quickly as possible.
Climate Risk Assessment	A process for identifying and evaluating the potential impacts of climate change on various sectors and activities.

Term	Description
Decarbonisation Zone (or decarbonising zone)	A spatial area identified by the local authority. It is an area in which a range of climate mitigation measures can co-exist to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs.
Evidence-based	An approach that emphasises the practical application of the findings of the best available current research.
Extreme weather events	A time and place in which weather, climate, or environmental conditions rank above a threshold value near the upper or lower ends of the range of historical events.
Environmental sustainability	Protecting and preserving natural resources for future generations, through practices such as conservation, renewable energy and responsible waste management – ensures we are living with the means of your natural resources and not breaching replenishment rates.
Greenhouse gas emissions	Greenhouse gases (GHGs) trap solar energy and prevent the sun’s energy from bouncing back into space thus creating the greenhouse effect. The main GHG emissions are water vapour (H ₂ O), carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆). Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities compound the greenhouse effect, contributing to climate change.
Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP)	Plans to help local authorities address in an integrated way the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and climate adaptation. Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, each local authority is required to prepare a local authority climate action plan for its respective administrative area. Once adopted by the local authorities, each plan will be valid for five years and is subject to update at least every five years.
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry is a category of GHG emissions and covers the following sub-categories; Forest land, Cropland, Grassland, Wetlands, Settlements, Other land and Harvested Wood products. Across the EU-27 the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector has been a net sink for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, primarily due to extensive forest cover. Ireland’s LULUCF sector is currently a net source of emissions, and emissions reductions for this sector are set to become increasingly challenging, as the age profile of the forest stock matures and harvesting levels increase in line with projected forecasts.
Paris Agreement	A legally binding international treaty on climate change agreed in 2015 at UNFCCC’s COP21.

ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Term
AA	Appropriate Assessment
AT	Active Travel
ATU	Atlantic Technological University
BEI	Baseline Emission Inventory
BER	Building Energy Rating
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CAP23	Climate Action Plan 2023
CARO	Climate Action Regional Office
CCMA	County and City Management Association
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
CD	Corporate Development (MCC section)
CID	Community and Integrated Development (MCC section)
CO₂	Carbon Dioxide
Comms	Communications (MCC section)
DAFM	Department of Agriculture Food and Marine
DECA2030	Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DZ	Decarbonisation Zone
ECCA	Environment, Climate Change and Agriculture (MCC section)
EPD	Environmental Protection Declarations

Abbreviation	Term
EMP	Energy Master Plan
EU	European Union
EV	Electric Vehicle
EWI	External Wall Insulation
IEVOA	Irish Electric Vehicle Owners Association
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HR	Human Resources
HSE	Health Service Executive
HVO	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil
IBEC	Irish Business and Employers Confederation
IDA	Industrial Development Agency
INHFA	Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IS	Information Systems (MCC section)
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
IW	Irish Water (now Uisce Éireann)
IWI	Internal Wall Insulation
JCWL	Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
ktCO₂e	Kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents
LACAP	Local Authority Climate Action Plan

Abbreviation	Term
LAWPRO	Local Authority Water Programme
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
M and R	Monitoring and Reporting
MCC	Mayo County Council
MCF	Mulranny Community Futures
MD	Municipal District
MGV/HGV	Medium Goods Vehicle/Heavy Goods Vehicle
MSLETB	Mayo Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board
MSP	Mayo Sports Partnership
MT2030	Mulranny Towards 2030
NAF	National Adaptation Framework
NBS	Nature Based Solutions
NCV	Natural Capital Value
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NTA	National Transport Authority
OIGS	Old Irish Goats Society
OPW	Office of Public Works
POPI	Property Management, Organisational Change, Procurement and Internal Audit (MCC Section)

Abbreviation	Term
PPN	Public Participation Network
PV	Photovoltaic
RMO	Road Management Office
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland
SME'S	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
SWMDC	South West Mayo Development Company CLG
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
UCD	University College Dublin
UG	University of Galway
UÉ	Uisce Éireann
UL	University of Limerick
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WAN	Wild Atlantic Nature
WDC	Western Development Commission
ZEVI	Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland



1. INTRODUCTION

The Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) sets out how Mayo County Council (MCC) will be responsible for enhancing climate resilience, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, across its own assets, services, and infrastructure, for which it is fully accountable, whilst also demonstrating a broader role of influencing, advocating, and facilitating other sectors, to meet their own climate targets and ambitions.

This is necessary to ensure that the environmental, social, and economic benefits that come with climate action, can be fully realised. The LACAP sets a clear pathway for Mayo County Council to:

- Actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures;
- Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels; and
- Identify and deliver a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area, through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective “achieving a transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050.”

1.1 Need for Climate Action Plan

Local Authorities have an important role in the delivery of both climate mitigation and adaptation measures. This is reflected in the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021, which requires each Local Authority to prepare a LACAP, specifying the mitigation and the adaptation measures to be adopted by the Local Authority.

The LACAP strengthens the links between national and international climate policy and the delivery of effective climate action at local and community levels, through place-based climate action. Through its preparation and implementation, the LACAP offers an opportunity to bring together critical stakeholders across communities and businesses to build a vision for a climate neutral future.

The LACAP is part of longer-term efforts that require a sustained and planned response to support the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels. This LACAP provides a mechanism for bringing together both adaptation and mitigation actions to help drive positive climate action and outcomes across the local authority and its administrative area. The framework of climate actions set within the plan, configures the arrangement of climate actions within a defined structure that ensures alignment between on the ground actions and the high-level vision that the plan aspires to deliver.

This LACAP has been prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in March 2023.

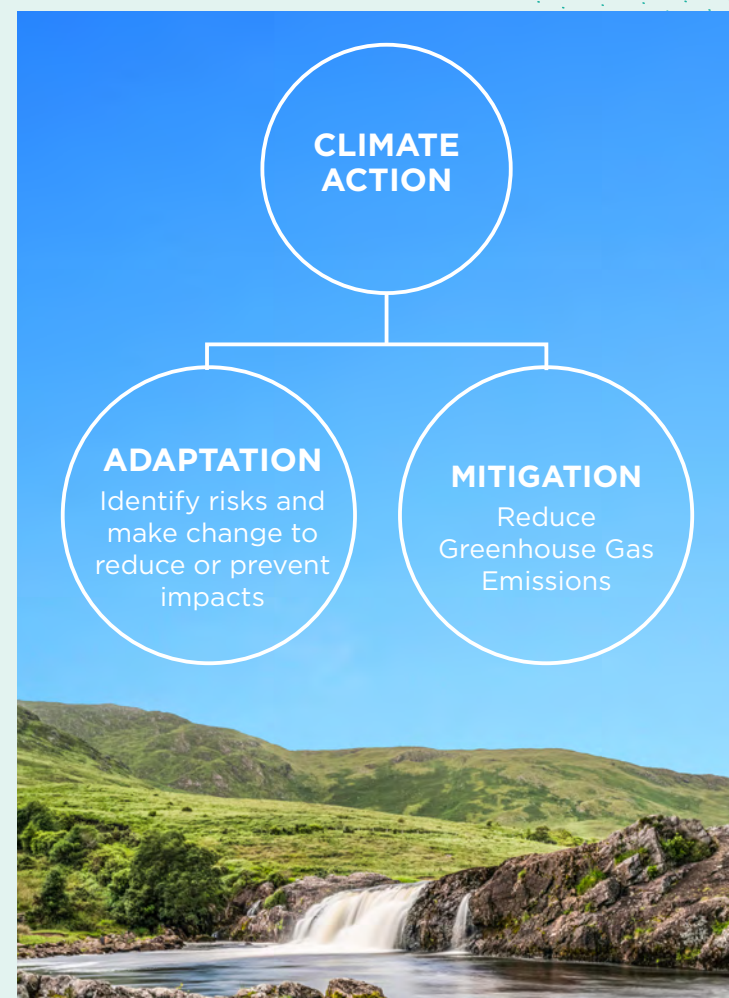


Figure 1 Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

1.2 Role of the Council in Climate Action

The Council has unique capabilities to deliver on a wide range of climate policy objectives. In order to clarify its role and scope in terms of climate action the Council has defined its areas and levels of responsibility:

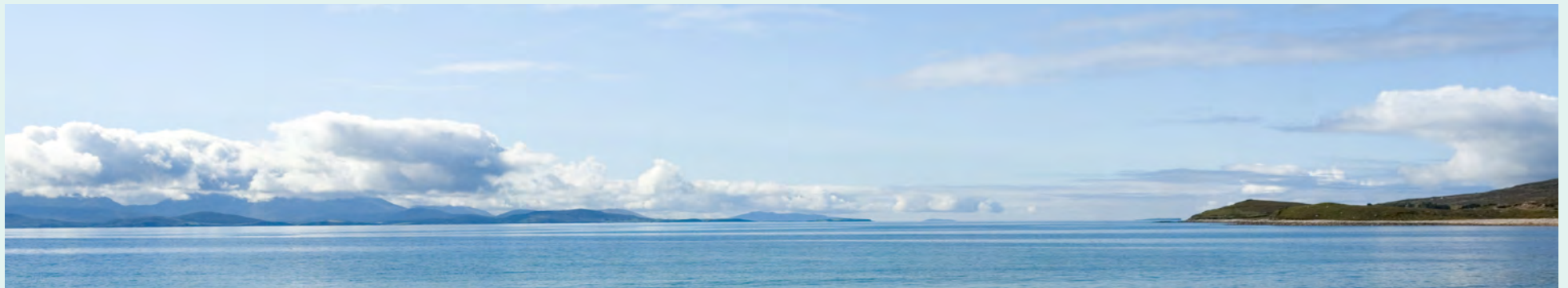
Full Accountability: The Council has full accountability for climate action within its own organisation and operations, to provide for emission reductions, energy use reductions, and in building resilience to the negative impact of climate change at an operational level.

Influence: Through the range of services and functions provided, the Council can influence sectors, businesses, communities, and individuals in the delivery of local climate action.

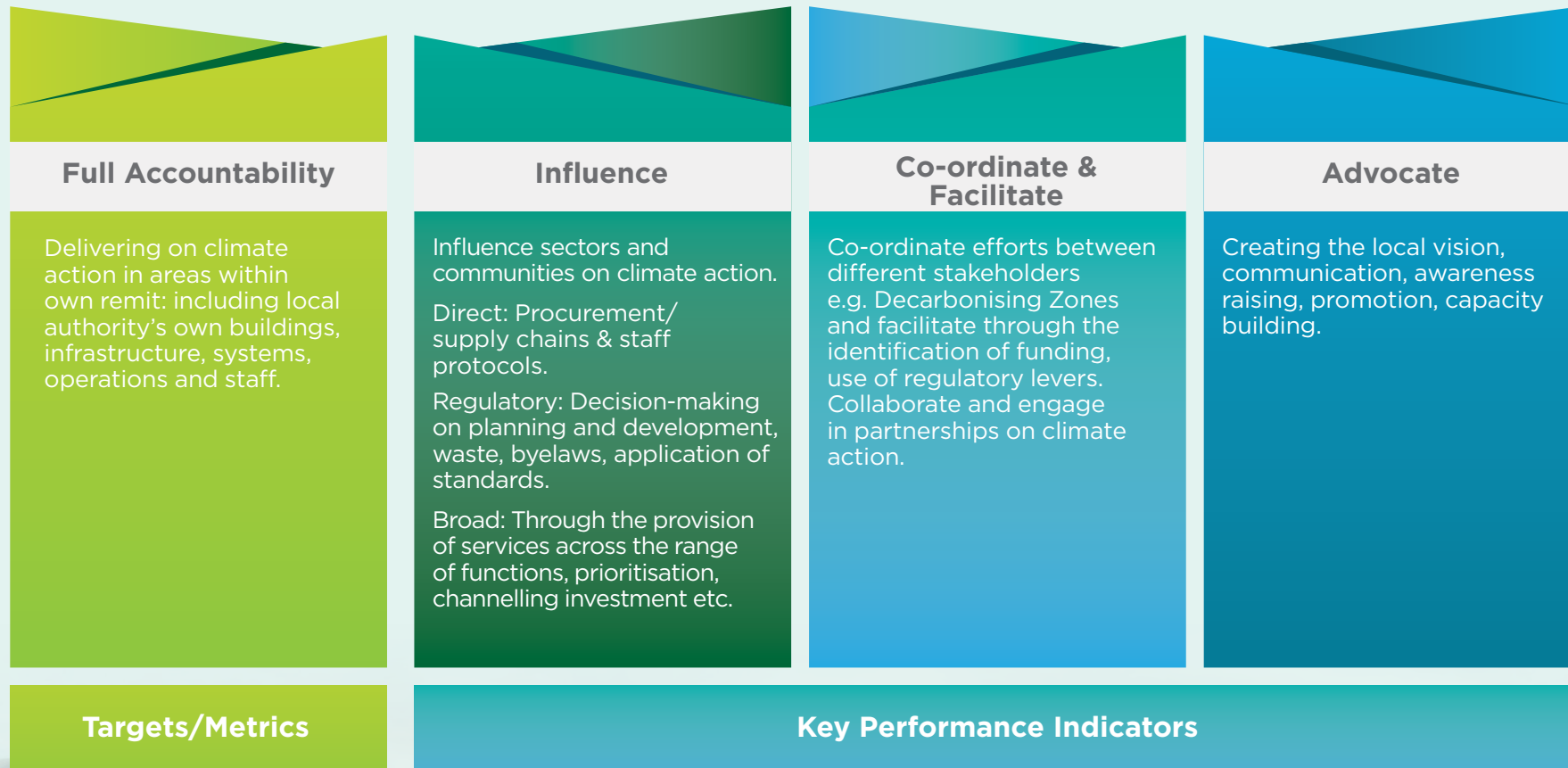
Co-ordinate and Facilitate: The Council can coordinate and facilitate, by working with sectors, business and communities and other groups bringing together stakeholders in partnership to achieve successful projects and outcomes which may not otherwise occur.

Advocate: The Council can advocate on climate action through raising awareness, communicating, informing, and engaging in open dialogues on climate related issues and responses.

Whilst the Council has an important role in climate action, it is not responsible for other sectors, for example business and enterprise, agriculture, renewable energy, transport etc in meeting their own national emissions reductions targets set out by the National Climate Action Plan.



↓↓ ADAPTATION ↓↓



↑↑ MITIGATION ↑↑

Figure 2 Local authority scope on climate action (source CCMA/CARO)

1.3 Structure of Climate Action Plan

This LACAP has been prepared with five main sections:

Section 1 Introduction:

Introducing the Mayo Climate Action Plan, the need for a CAP and the role local authorities play in Climate Action.

Section 2 Policy & Context:

Presents the local authority context and the specific context of County Mayo, the climate policy context, purpose of this plan.

Section 3 Plan making process:

Sets out the evidence-base that underpins this plan, the public consultation process and the environmental reporting required.

Section 4 Framework of Climate Actions:

This section comprises the overarching vision and mission of the plan, the strategic priorities and the climate actions set by Mayo County Council.

Section 5 Decarbonisation Zone:

Presents a summary of Mayo's DZ emissions profile, the DZ vision, register of opportunities and DZ actions broken down by strategic areas.

Section 6 Implementation and Reporting:

Sets out the approach to implementation, metrics for measuring progress and reporting requirements and arrangements.

Case Studies:

Case studies are included at the end of each chapter to give an example of climate action projects undertaken by Mayo County Council to date.

CASE STUDY 1

Mayo County Council Energy Efficiency and Emissions Reduction: PV Installations



Mayo County Council is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Over the past decade numerous projects have been undertaken to improve our energy efficiency ranging from behavioural change initiatives, energy efficiency projects and capital energy projects. An example of our commitment includes the installation of solar PV at Aras on Chontae, Derrinumera Landfill, Rathroeen Landfill, Castlebar Library and Swinford Court House. Combined these 5 installations produce on average 109MWh each year. This is the equivalent of the electricity used in 25 homes and saves 28 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

The solar PV installation at Mayo County Council headquarters, Aras on Chontae, Castlebar is 84kW in size, has 301 panels and produces approximately 68MWh of electricity each year. At the time of its installation in 2019, it was the largest PV array installed by any public body in Ireland.

Our commitment to date has allowed us to meet the 2020 public sector target of 33% energy efficiency. Action 1 of this plan outlines how we will further this commitment and meet the 2030 Public Sector targets of:

- 51% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (baseline 2018)
- 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030 (baseline 2006- 2008)
- Working towards net-zero emissions by 2050.



2. POLICY & CONTEXT

2.1 Profile of Co. Mayo

County Mayo is located on the west coast of Ireland in the province of Connacht. The county stretches from Lough Corrib and Killary Harbour in the south to the barony of Erris and Killala Bay in the north, and from the Atlantic Ocean on the west coast to the counties of Sligo and Roscommon on the east. Mayo is the third-largest county in area in the state and the second largest county in Connacht, in terms of size and population. Mayo has a population of 137,970 (CSO, 2022), Castlebar being the largest town has a population of 13,054, followed by Ballina (10,556), Westport (6,872), Claremorris (3,857) and Ballinrobe (3,148).

There is a distinct geological difference between the west and the east of the county. The west consists of large areas of extensive Atlantic blanket bog, whereas the east is largely a limestone landscape.

- Mayo has the longest coastline in Ireland, at 1,168 km or approximately 21% of the total coastline of the State.
- The highest point in Mayo (and Connacht) is Mweelrea, at 814 m (2,671 ft).
- The River Moy in the northeast of the county is renowned for its salmon fishing.

- Ireland's largest island, Achill Island, lies off Mayo's west coast. Other inhabited islands include Clare Island, Inishturk and Inishbiggle.
- Wild Nephin National Park in Northwest Mayo covers a vast 15,000 hectares of uninhabited and unspoilt wilderness, dominated by the Nephin Beg mountain range. To the west of the mountains is the Owenduff Bog, one of the last intact active blanket bog systems in Western Europe. The National Park is an International Dark Sky Park
- Mayo has Ireland's highest cliffs at Croaghaun, Achill Island, while the Benwee Head cliffs in Kilcommon Erris drop almost perpendicularly 900 feet (270 m) into the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Joyce Country and Western Lakes aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark covers an area of 1560km² in South Mayo and North West Galway. The Geopark is in the process of achieving the UNESCO Global Geopark (UGG) designation which will be the first in Connacht.
- Almost a third of County Mayo's land area is designated for the protection and conservation of flora and fauna.
- The northwest areas of County Mayo have some of the best renewable energy resources in Europe, if not the world, in terms of wind resources, ocean wave, tidal and hydroelectric resources.

The county possesses a strong community identity and a rich and diverse cultural heritage. Mayo's Gaeltacht region, comprising of three distinct areas (Erris, Achill Island and Tourmakeady), is the third largest in Ireland with 10,886 inhabitants, representing 11.5% of the total Gaeltacht population in the state. Significant progress continues to be made in the improvement of physical, social and community infrastructure in the towns and villages throughout the county, as it is recognised that social infrastructure and community development supports economic growth, provides employment opportunities, and improves the well-being and quality of life for the people of Mayo. The county contains an extensive national road network and rail network, which connects the towns of Ballina, Castlebar, Westport, Claremorris, Ballyhaunis and Foxford. The [Pobal HP Deprivation Index](#) for Mayo at county level is Marginally Below Average. Mayo County Council will publish Socio-Economic Statement as part of the Mayo County Council Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP 2023-29).



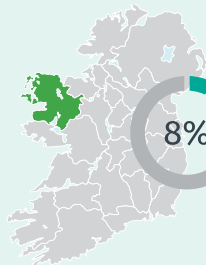
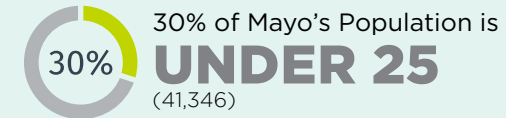
County MAYO STATISTICS



POPULATION 137,970

IRELAND TOTAL: 5,149,139
(Source: CSO Census 2022)

Mayo Population is 2.7% of national.
Mayo Population up **7,463** since 2016 (6%)



AREA MAYO: 5,588km²

MAYO AREA IS **8%** OF REP. OF IRELAND
Ireland: 70,276 km²
(Source: OSI)

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

(Source: CSO Census 2016)



Independent urban towns

29%



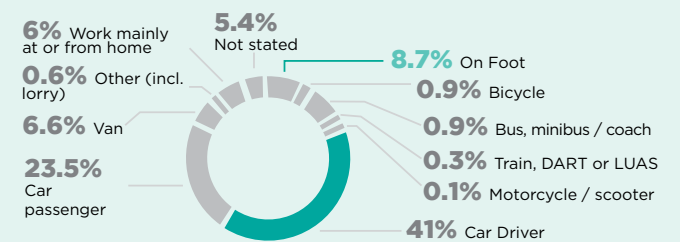
Rural areas

71%

MEANS OF TRAVEL

Population Aged 5 years and over by means of travel **TO WORK, SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR CHILDCARE**

TOTAL 90,711 (Source: CSO Census 2022)



TOTAL PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS 52,144

(Source: CSO Census 2022)

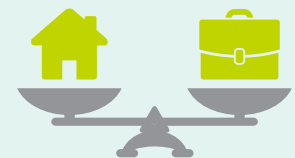
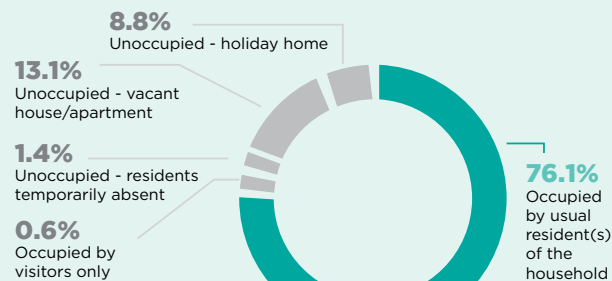


95%
House

5%
Flat/Apartment

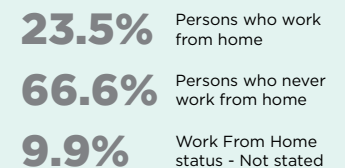
HOUSING STOCK BY OCCUPANCY

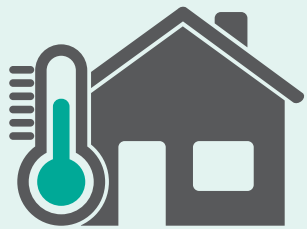
(Source: CSO Census 2022)



WORK FROM HOME

(Source: CSO Census 2022)

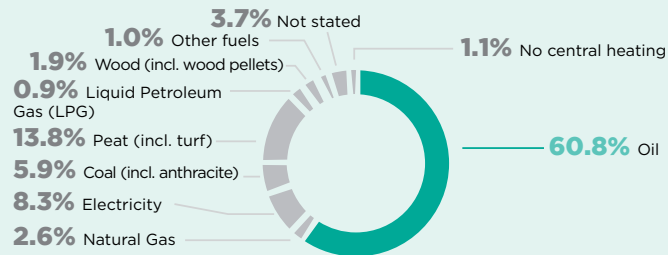




Mayo number of Households by HEATING TYPE

2022
2022 TOTAL
51,996

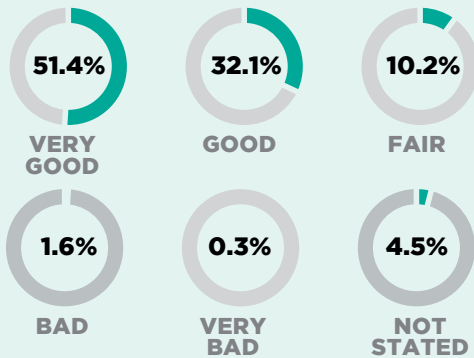
(Source: CSO Census 2022)



General HEALTH

2022

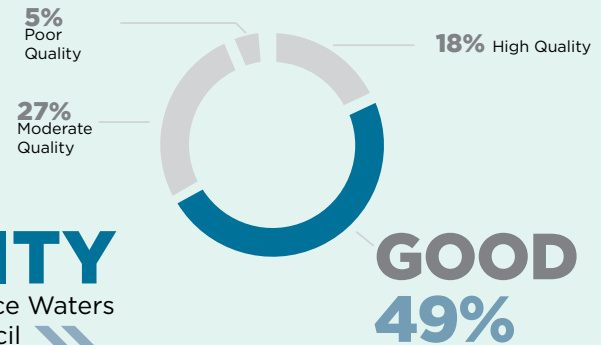
(Source: CSO Census 2022)



Water QUALITY

Status for All Surface Waters
Mayo County Council
SW 2016-2021

(Source: catchments.ie - Percentages have been rounded and may not total to 100%)



AVERAGE JOURNEY TIME TO WORK

25
MINUTES

(Source: CSO Census 2022)



TREE CANOPY COVER CO. MAYO

11%
(2022)

(Source: Bluesky National Tree Map)



Mayo
AIR QUALITY
Generally
Good

(Source: Airquality.ie)

2.2 Overview of Climate Change

Climate change is increasingly understood to be the most critical, long-term global challenge of our time, its impacts continue to be felt both worldwide and at home. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC's) Working Group Sixth Assessment Report, confirms overwhelming evidence that the climate has changed since the pre-industrial era and that human activities, through greenhouse gas emissions, are the principal cause of that change. It states the unequivocal cause of global warming has been human activities, with global surface temperatures reaching 1.1°C above 1850-1900, in the 2011-2020 period.

Ireland's climate is changing in a manner consistent with global trends and is experiencing warmer temperatures, with the past 8 years the hottest on record. Figure 3 compares the global temperature rise since 1900 to Irish temperatures. As a result of higher average temperatures, Ireland is also experiencing more intense weather events including droughts, storms, heavier rainfall, and stronger winds resulting in higher vulnerability and risk to the negative impacts of climate change.

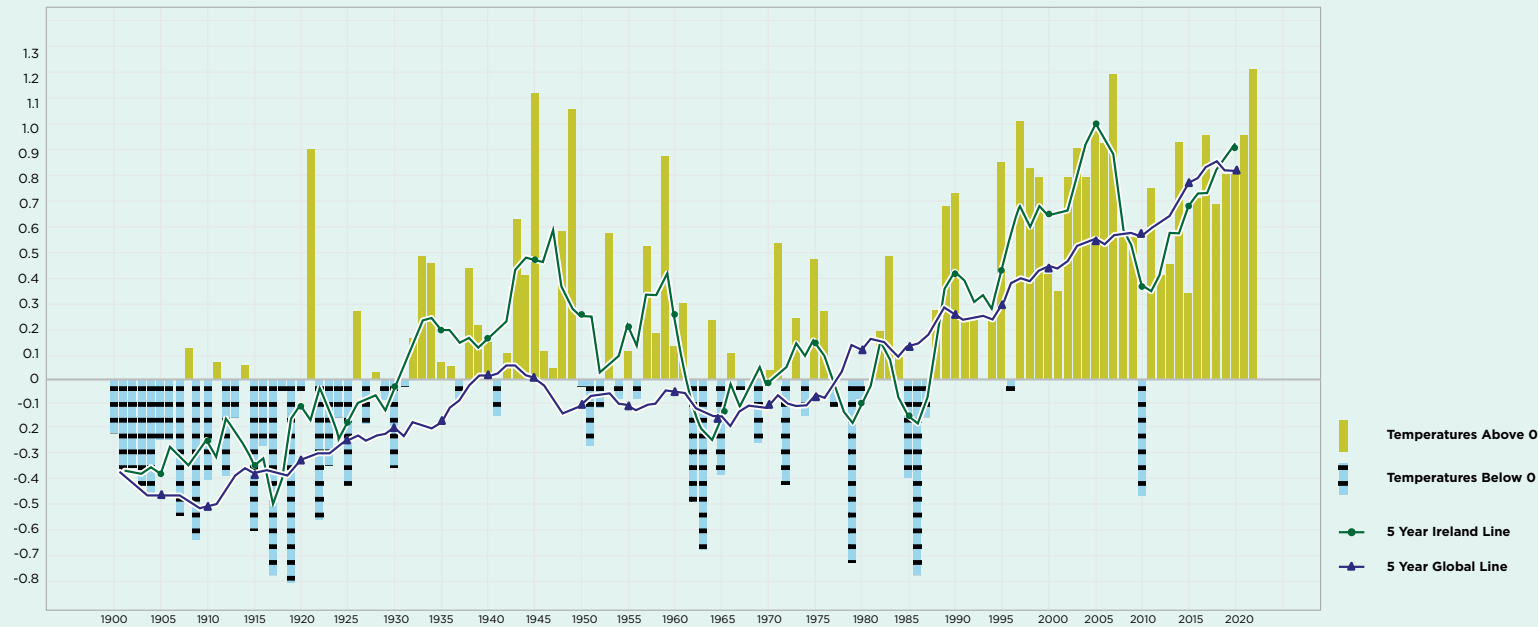



Figure 3 Provisional Island of Ireland 1900-2022 Temperature (°C) Anomalies (difference from 1961-1990) (Source: Met Éireann) Adapted from source for accessibility. Original graph available from Met Éireann [here](#)



To tackle global climate change, the level of greenhouse gases (GHGs) entering the atmosphere needs to be reduced and GHGs already in the atmosphere need to be removed. In addition, resilience to current and future climate change impacts needs to be increased.

Based on observed changes in climate and its impacts, Met Éireann, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other climate scientists, are able to make robust projections on future climate patterns in Ireland and globally. The EPA, Marine Institute and Met Éireann published The Status of Ireland's Climate Report in July 2021.

Further information on how Climate Change is impacting County Mayo currently, and will into the future, can be seen in chapter 3.

2.3 Climate Policy Context

This Climate Action Plan is set within a broader context of international, EU, national and sectoral climate policy.

The [Paris Agreement](#), a legally binding international treaty on climate change, sets progressive and ambitious goals for global climate action:

- Holding global average temperature increases to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels; and
- Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience.

Another International agreement closely linked with the Paris Agreement is the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) which was adopted by UN Member States in September 2015. At the agenda's core are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are illustrated in Figure 4.

These goals aim to 'end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere.' The 17 SDGs contain 169 targets to be achieved by 2030 and in 2019, world leaders called for a 'decade of action' to achieve the Goals within this timeframe.

All actions proposed in this plan, for both the county and for the Decarbonisation Zone, are aligned with the UN SDGs. A visual representation of how this plan meets the SDGs can be seen in Chapter 4 and 5.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

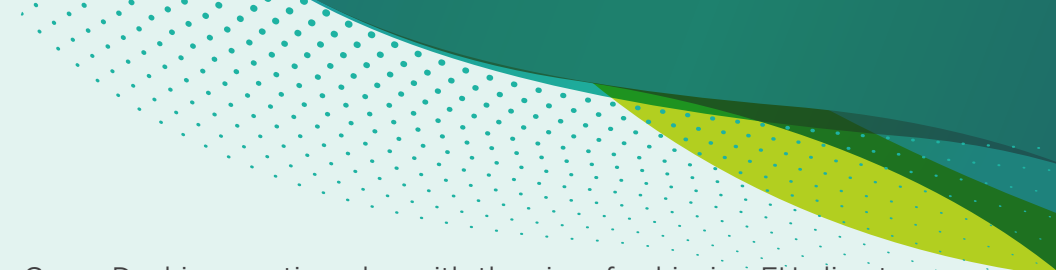


Figure 4 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goals	
SDG 1	No poverty
SDG 2	Zero hunger
SDG 3	Good health and well-being
SDG 4	Quality education
SDG 5	Gender equality
SDG 6	Clean water and sanitation
SDG 7	Affordable and clean energy
SDG 8	Decent work and economic growth
SDG 9	Industry, innovation and infrastructure
SDG 10	Reduced inequalities
SDG 11	Sustainable cities and communities
SDG 12	Responsible consumption and production
SDG 13	Climate action
SDG 14	Life below water
SDG 15	Life on land
SDG 16	Peace, justice, and strong institutions
SDG 17	Partnerships for the goals

Table 1: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals





The [European Green Deal](#) sets out Europe's response to the climate crisis. The Green Deal is an action plan with the aim of achieving EU climate neutrality by 2050 and sets the EU GHG emissions reduction target of 55% by 2030 relative to 1990 levels, in line with the Paris Agreement. This 2050 goal is enshrined into law by way of the European Climate Law. The law sets the direction of the EU's climate agenda and is enacted into Ireland's national agenda in the [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Act 2021](#). The Act requires local authorities to develop five-year Climate Action Plans (LACAPs) with mitigation and adaptation measures included.

Our Shared Future, the Irish Programme for Government, commits to a 51% reduction in Ireland's overall emissions from 2021 to 2030, and to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Ireland's [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\) 2023](#) provides an implementation plan for delivering on these commitments.

[Ireland's National Adaptation Framework \(NAF\) \(2018\)](#) sets out the context for key sectors and local authorities to assess climate-related risks and vulnerabilities, implement climate resilient actions, and mainstream climate adaptation measures into national, regional, and local policy. [Sectoral Climate Adaptation Plans](#) have been published across Government departments, in response to the National Adaptation Framework. Each Plan identifies the key risks faced across the sector and the approach being taken to address these risks and build climate resilience for the future.

[Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions](#) presents indicative pathways, beyond 2030, towards achieving carbon neutrality for Ireland by 2050. The Strategy builds upon the decarbonisation pathways set by the carbon budgets, sectoral emissions ceilings, and the national Climate Action Plan.

The [Local Authority Climate Action Charter](#), signed by Mayo County Council in October 2019, represents a commitment to scale up efforts and play a key role locally and nationally in delivering effective climate action. [Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 \(DECA 2030\)](#) is the local government strategy on climate action published in April 2021. The strategy is a roadmap for local authorities in delivering the required decarbonisation and adaptation responses to climate change.



Figure 5 Legislation and Policy Context for the Climate Action Plan {Source: Climate Action Regional Offices}

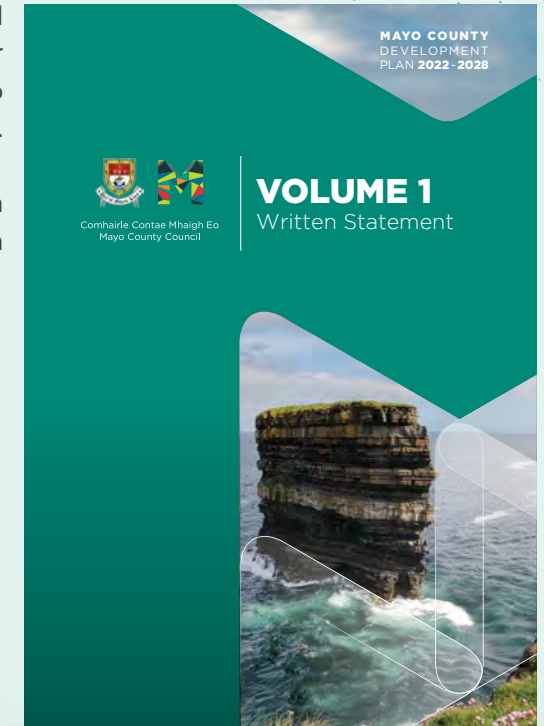
The Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out the roadmap for the overall proper planning and sustainable development of County Mayo over the plan period. While the Plan is in place for a six-year period, it is framed having regard to the long-term development objectives of the county up until 2040, to align with national and regional spatial plans. Climate change is an integral theme of the Development Plan.

Mayo County Council has adopted and is implementing the Mayo County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 which sets out strategic priorities, measures and responses for Climate Adaptation in Co. Mayo. This strategy will be superseded by the LACAP.

Vision of County Mayo

“To create a sustainable and competitive county that supports the health and well-being of the people of Mayo, providing an attractive destination, as a place in which to live, work, invest, do business and visit, offering high quality employment and educational opportunities within strong and vibrant sustainable communities, whilst ensuring a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient county that supports high environmental quality.”

Mayo County Development Plan 2022 - 2028



CASE STUDY 2

Flooding



Many Mayo communities have been impacted by flooding and as outlined in [Mayo Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) increased frequency and impact of flooding is projected. Mayo County Council is working in partnership with the OPW and consultants to progress and implement flood relief schemes helping to protect Mayo communities such as:

Westport Cois Abhainn / Ashwood Housing Estates:

In 2015 a total of 30 properties were impacted by flood water. The Cois Abhainn / Ashwood Flood Relief Scheme was completed in 2023 providing protection to 36 properties within both estates.

Ballina Town: The Ballina Flood Relief Scheme is nearing the submission of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The scheme will protect 301 properties.

Crossmolina Town: In 2015 approximately 120 properties were inundated by flood water in Crossmolina town. The Crossmolina Flood Relief Scheme will provide protection to 116 properties.

The Neale: The Neale Flood Relief Scheme when designed and constructed will protect 23 residential properties, 3 non-residential properties and 2 slatted shed complexes. The scheme will also protect 225 residential properties at risk of being cut off during flooding. Flooding when it occurs in this area can remain in place for up to 7 weeks.

Mayo County Council will continue to implement flood relief and further climate resilience projects under Action 9 of this plan.

3. PLAN-MAKING PROCESS

This LACAP has been prepared in accordance with the [Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines](#), published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in March 2023. The plan was developed following the stages highlighted in Fig 6 below.





STAGE 1

Baseline Emission Inventory

Climate Change Risk Assessment

Stakeholder Engagement Planning

Policy Mapping



STAGE 2

Pre-draft engagement

Developing the vision, objectives, actions, and key performance indicators

SEA/AA Reports

Public Consultation on draft LACAP (October to December 2023)



STAGE 3

Consideration of submissions

Finalising LACAP

Adoption of LACAP by Elected Members (February 2024)



3.1 Evidence Based Climate Action

The Climate Action Plan is based on evidence gathered by Mayo County Council and laid out in this chapter. This evidence consists of two elements.

- the countywide carbon Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI)
- the countywide Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)

3.1.1 County Mayo's Baseline Emissions Inventory



Understanding where GHG emissions are coming from at a local level provides an evidence base for developing the LACAP and the appropriate actions that are meaningful for the local context.

Mayo County Council's BEI is informed by the 'Technical Annex C: Climate Mitigation Assessment' guidance document, which provides a robust approach to baseline emissions inventory development across all local authorities. It is based on local and national data from 2019, on energy production and consumption and other GHG emissions in County Mayo, including insights into Mayo County Council's own emissions.

The national emission reduction target of 51% by the end of 2030 is based on the greenhouse gas emissions reported for the end of 2018, in the national greenhouse gas emissions inventory. Accordingly, 'Technical Annex C: Climate Mitigation Assessment' guidance document advises the collation of data to inform the local authority BEI should be relative to the baseline year of 2018, or as close to 2018 as possible. The calculations for the BEI were primarily made using a dataset from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called MapEire, which spatially mapped GHG emissions on a square kilometre scale. The closest available year for MapEire dataset is 2019 which has therefore been used as the baseline year for the Mayo BEI. The EPA report GHG emissions from electricity in a separate category called "Energy Industries". The Mayo BEI used data available from the CSO on metered electricity use to calculate GHG

emissions from electricity in the Residential, Commercial and Manufacturing sectors in Mayo. The Residential, Commercial and Manufacturing sectors in the Mayo BEI include GHG emissions from both thermal (heating) and electricity.

More detail on the approach, methodology and full summary of the results from our emissions baseline is available in the report which can be accessed [here](#). The following section provides a high-level summary of the sources of emissions across our county.

Table 1 provides a summary of Co. Mayo emissions in comparison to national emissions. GHG emissions for County Mayo in 2019 totalled 2,631 ktCO₂e, 4% of the national total. As Mayo is a predominately rural county emissions from agriculture and land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) form a higher percentage of our county emissions than the national average while industrial, commercial and transport are lower than the national average. This is to be expected as Mayo covers 8% of the size of the Republic of Ireland, but just 4% of the population resides in the county. Mayo County Council's own emissions account for 7 ktCO₂e, less than 1% of the county's emissions.

Emissions Category*	County Mayo Emissions (ktCO ₂ e)	National Emissions (ktCO ₂ e)	Mayo Emissions as % of National Emissions
Residential	357 (14%)	9,552 (15%)	4%
Commercial services	89 (3%)	4,618 (7%)	2%
Manufacturing	261 (10%)	6,737 (10%)	4%
Industrial processes	24 (1%)	2,267 (3%)	1%
Transport	220 (8%)	12,196 (19%)	2%
Waste	27 (1%)	991 (2%)	3%
Agriculture	1,132 (43%)	22,134 (33%)	5%
LULUCF	521 (20%)	6,657 (10%)	8%
Total	2,631 (100%)	65,152 (100%)	4%



Table 2 Summary of Mayo and national emissions by category

***Description of GHG Emission Categories below:**

Residential	Includes emissions from electricity, space and water heating in households.
Commercial Services	Includes emissions from electricity, space and water heating in commercial buildings.
Manufacturing	Includes emissions from the combustion of fuels used in manufacturing processes, such as food processing.
Industrial Processes	Includes emissions from various industrial processes such as in cement production
Transport	Includes emissions from domestic road, rail, air and maritime transport.
Waste	Includes emissions from the disposal and treatment of waste.
Agriculture	Includes emissions from livestock, fertilizer use and agricultural soils.
LULUCF	Includes both emissions and removals of GHGs associated with land use, land-use change, and forestry activities, such as the loss, gain and management of forests, peatlands and grasslands.

Table 3 Description of GHG Emission Category descriptions

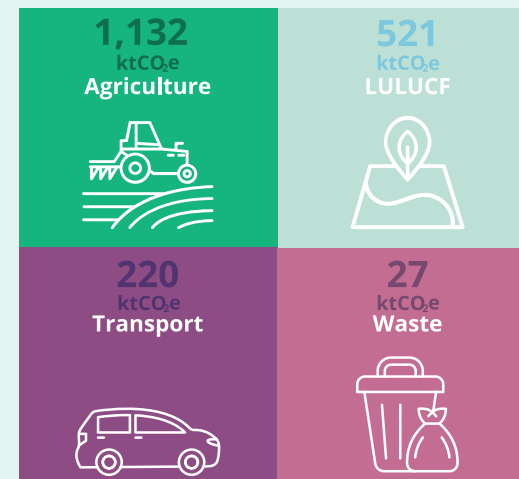
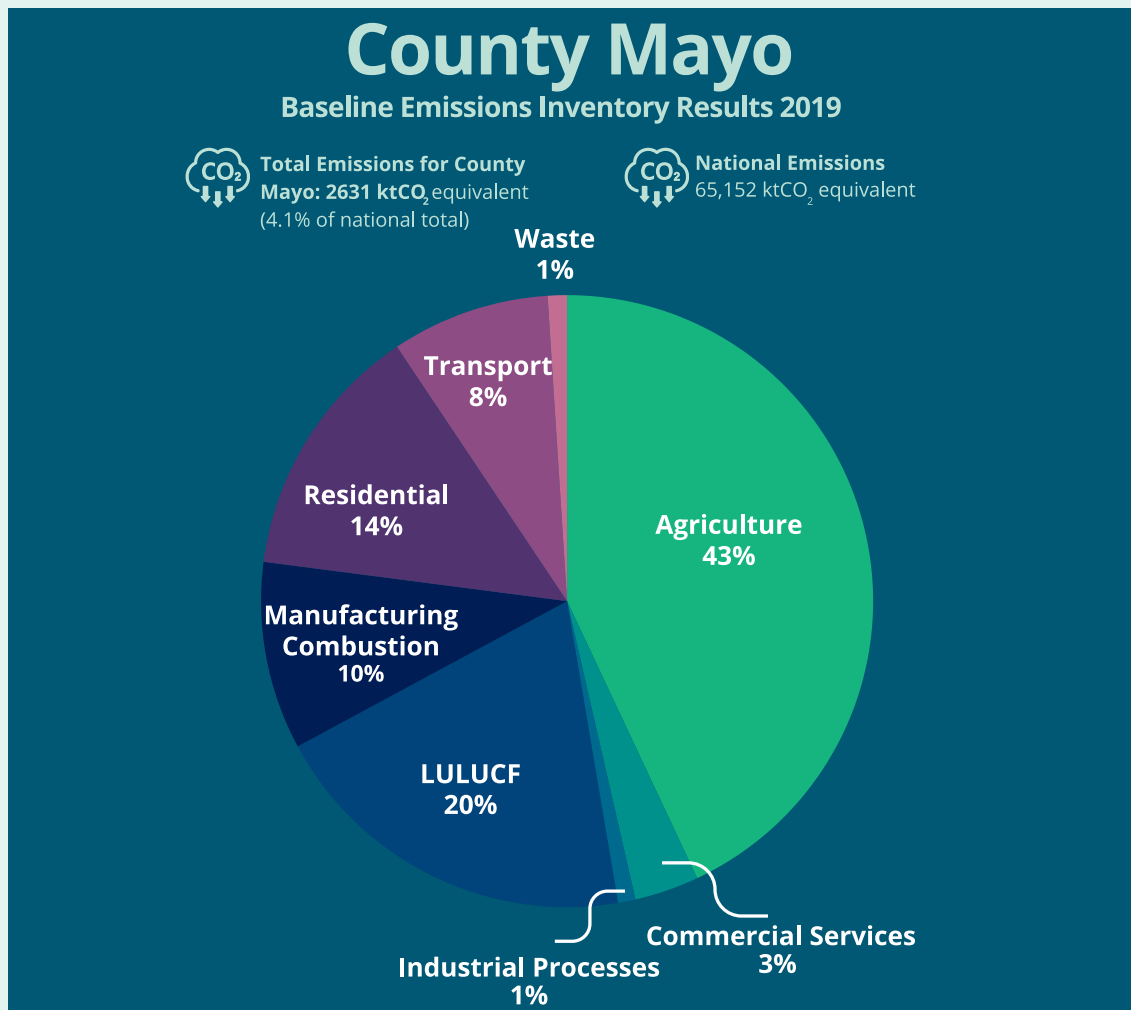


Figure 7 Summary graphic of Mayo BEI

Note: Energy industry emissions have been allocated to the categories where they are consumed

Local Authority Emissions

All public bodies in Ireland must achieve a 51% reduction in energy related GHG emissions and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. This is tracked through the SEAI's Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system, in which each public sector organisation reports the following:

- Annual energy consumption for all energy types.
- Annual value that quantifies the level of activity undertaken by the organisation each year. This is referred to as the activity metric.
- Details of energy saving projects implemented and planned.
- Summary of the approach adopted for reviewing the organisation's energy management programme.

As of 2020, public bodies have saved €1.8 billion and 6 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions through avoided energy use between 2009 and 2020. The public sector is 34% more energy efficient than in 2009 and exceeded its 33% energy efficiency target for 2020.

Mayo County Council's Emissions

In line with the baseline year for the BEI, details of Mayo County Council's own emissions are presented here for the year 2019. The most recently published data on Mayo County Council's own emissions, is available on SEAI's public sector energy monitoring & reporting (M&R) system - <https://psmr.seai.ie/public>

In 2019 approximately two thirds of Mayo County Council's electricity consumption was for Public Lighting. The remaining third was primarily used in Mayo County Council's buildings. The total emissions from Mayo County Council are 7 ktCO₂e. This represents 0.25% of the total emissions for County Mayo. These emissions are not separated from the broader MapEire inventory, but rather provide a closer look at the emissions the LA is directly responsible for. Electricity consumption represents the bulk of the Mayo County Council's emissions reported to the SEAI M&R system, followed by heating and transport emissions. Electricity emissions come entirely from purchased electricity in 2019, the largest fuel source for heating is gas, and the largest fuel source for the transport fleet is road diesel.

Energy Type	kgCO ₂ 2019
Public Lighting Electricity	2,442,346
Buildings Electricity*	1,561,500
Thermal	1,383,403
Transport	1,362,544
Total CO₂ Emissions	6,749,793

Table 4 Mayo County Council's CO₂ Emissions from Electricity, Heating and Transport (2019) and charting showing percentage share of each category.

Mayo County Council is committed to meeting the 51% emissions reduction target. Action 1 in Future Proof our Council outlines how Mayo County Council will achieve this target.

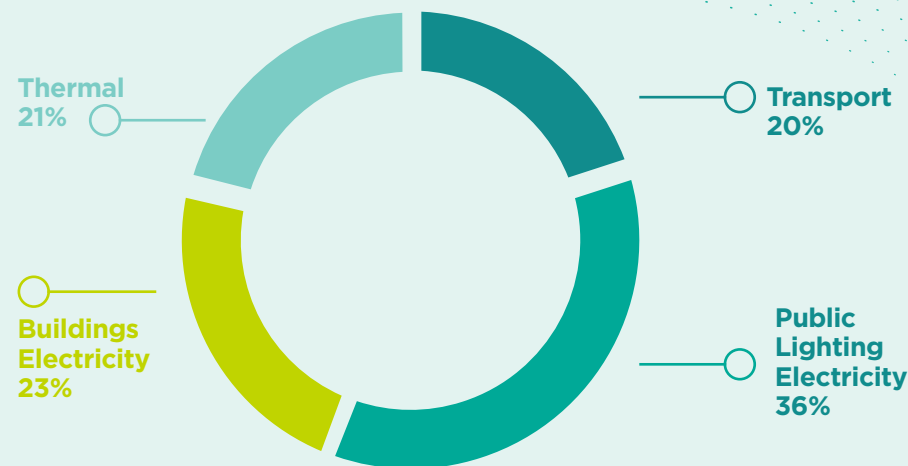
The details above are for 2019, which was used as the baseline year for the Baseline Emissions Inventory Report. The most recently published year for Mayo County Council's CO₂ Emissions is 2021. A summary of the emissions by category for 2021 is shown on the next page.

2021 Energy-related CO₂ Emissions by Energy Type

Energy Type	kgCO ₂ 2021
Public Lighting Electricity*	2,475,320
Buildings Electricity*	1,517,132
Thermal	860,009
Transport	1,638,433
Total CO₂ Emissions	6,490,894

Table 5 Mayo County Council's CO₂ Emissions from Electricity, Heating and Transport (2021) and chart showing percentage share of each category.

* The energy-related CO₂ emissions attributable to electricity imported from the grid have been calculated using the average emission factor for electricity generation in Ireland for the relevant year.



Public Lighting

In 2021 38% of Mayo County Council's energy related CO₂ emissions were from Public Lighting. Under action 1.4 of Future proof our Council Mayo County Council will convert all public lights to LED where feasible resulting in energy savings and CO₂ reductions. For further details on Public Lighting in County Mayo for 2022 see below.

No. of Light Types in System 2021	Number	%
Number of LED lights	6099	31%
Number of SOX-SON lights	11967	61%
Number of Other Lights	1507	8%
Number of All Lights	19573	

Table 6 Number and % of Lights in the Mayo County Council Public Lighting system 2021



3.1.2 County Mayo's Climate Change Risk Assessment



Mayo County Council commissioned a [Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) report to provide an assessment of climate change risks for County Mayo and the potential implications of these for the delivery of services by Mayo County Council. Responding to climate change impacts involves taking adaptation actions to reduce the adverse risks posed by current and projected climate change. The Climate Change Risk Assessment report identifies the likelihood of future climate hazards and their potential impacts. This information is fundamental for informing the prioritisation of climate action and investment in climate action and helped inform the development of the LACAP for Mayo County Council.

In line with global trends, the climate of Ireland and Mayo is changing, temperatures are increasing, and patterns of precipitation are changing. A summary of key climate and weather-related changes already observed for County Mayo are detailed below.

Highlights of Observed Climate Change for Ireland and Mayo

Heatwaves



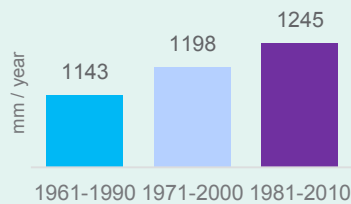
The longest running heatwave in Mayo was recorded in July 2021 at Claremorris station, lasting a total of 10 days



Highest temperature on record for Mayo, recorded on June 26th 2018 at Newport (Furnace)

Rainfall

Average annual rainfall at Belmullet has increased by 8.9% for the most recent period (1981-2010) when compared to the 1961-1990 baseline*



0.7°C

Average temperature increase for the period 1981-2010 when compared to the 1961-1990 baseline.*

Four of the wettest years on record have occurred since 2010 . 2020 was the wettest year with annual precipitation of 1967mm



Mayo has 1,168 km of coastline with 652 km is thought to be at risk of costal erosion**

Figure 8 Observed Changes in Mayo's Climate (Mayo Climate Change Risk Assessment p.22)

Projected changes in levels of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability for County Mayo combine to form an assessment of future climate risk. The future climate risk matrix in Figure 9 below shows projected change in risk with the hollow marker showing the current risk and the solid marker the future risk. The dotted line shows the change between the current and future risk.



Future Climate Risk Matrix

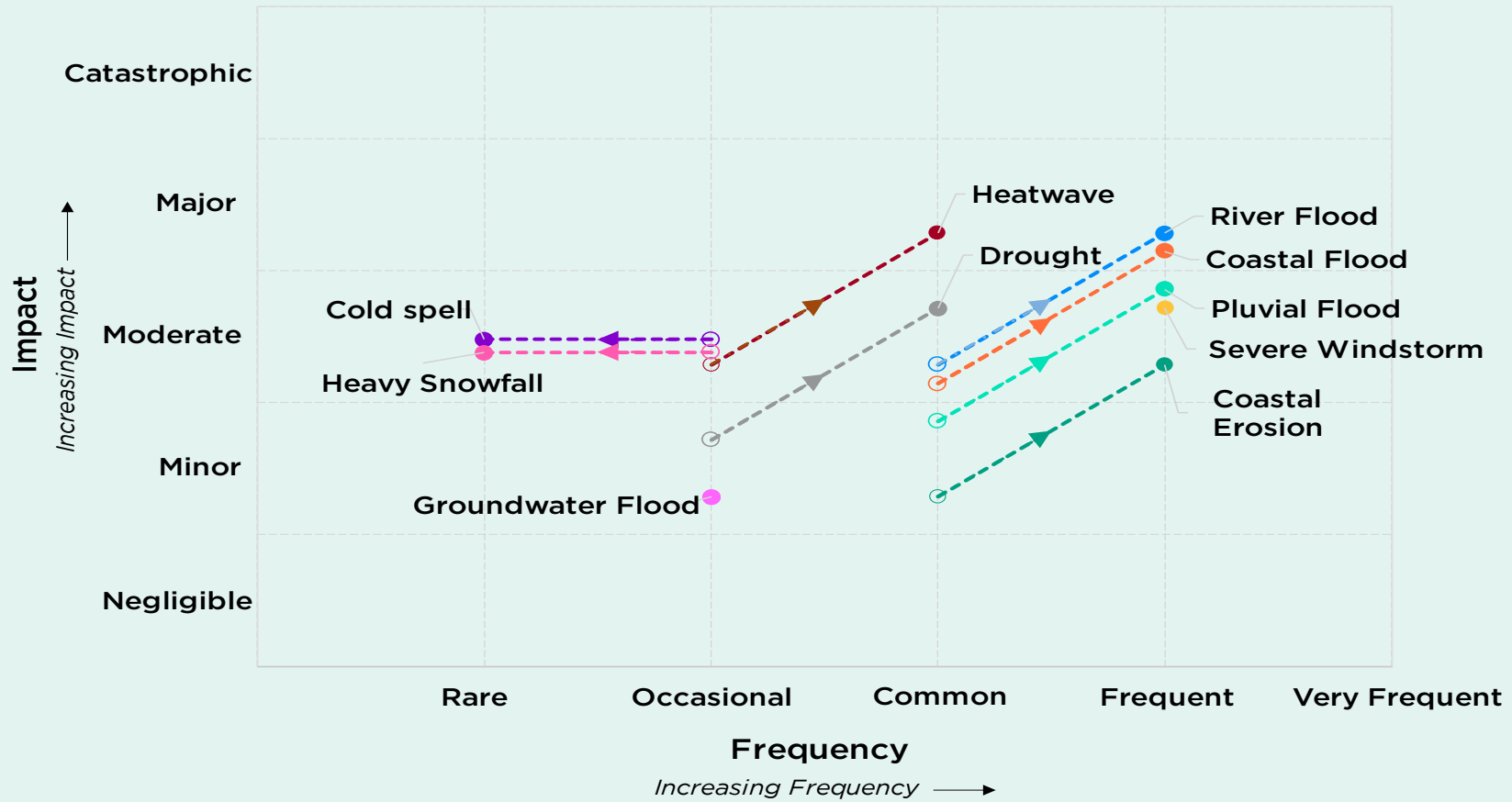


Figure 9 Future changes in risk for the identified hazards within County Mayo (Mayo Climate Change Risk Assessment p. 53)

The key results from the Climate Change Risk Assessment including impacts experienced to date in Mayo and future risks are summarised below:



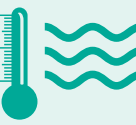
- Recent experiences of river and pluvial flooding events in 2020, 2021 and 2022 resulted in damages to buildings and infrastructure, damage of transport networks (e.g., Closure of R334 road between The Neale and Ballinrobe at The Neale crossroads) and impacts on business and local economy. Projected increases in the frequency of extreme precipitation events will result in increased surface water and riverine flood risk for County Mayo.



- Coastal erosion and coastal flooding pose a significant risk for County Mayo and have resulted in temporary inundation of buildings, damage to heritage sites, erosion of agricultural areas and disruption of transport networks. Rising sea levels will increase the frequency of coastal inundation and rate of coastal erosion, resulting in an increased coastal erosion and flood risk for County Mayo.



- Severe windstorms are currently experienced on a frequent basis in Mayo and result in wide-ranging impacts, including damage to buildings and infrastructure (e.g., Dooagh National School), and disruptions to energy supply and transport networks across the county. Projections indicate no significant change to this frequency for County Mayo.



- County Mayo experienced both a heatwave and drought in 2018 and 2021, with heatwave recorded in 2022. These events included, amongst others, increased demand on water resources and recreational areas, detrimental impact on freshwater quality, and contributed to the development of uncontrolled fires (e.g., high temperatures in 2021 lead to 74 gorse fires). Projected increases in the frequency of heatwaves and drought conditions will mean that events currently experienced on an infrequent basis will become more frequent.



- Recent experiences of cold spells and heavy snowfall events (e.g., Storm Emma) demonstrated the wide range of impacts for County Mayo. These included, amongst others, disruption to road networks, increased frequency of trips and falls, power outages and closure of businesses. Projected increases in average temperature and decreases in the frequency of snowfall indicate a decrease in the frequency of cold spells, heavy snowfall, and their associated impacts.

Note: The CCRA focuses on the direct risks posed by climate change for County Mayo and the implications of these for Mayo County Council. It is important to note that climate change will also pose indirect risks for County Mayo as a result of changes in climate conditions at international and global scales. These include amongst others forced migration of populations, increase in vector-borne disease and disruption of supply chains.

To increase resilience Mayo County Council will proactively plan for and adapt to the current and future climate change risks identified through the CCRA. The actions outlined in chapter 4 reflect this commitment.

Examples of national level climate change risks and climate projections are available to view on online map viewers. Examples include;



- OPW Flood info portal can be accessed [here](#). Includes interactive Flood Risk Management Maps, Flood Relief Scheme Information, Flood Maps and an Interactive Coastal Flood and Erosion Map



- GSI Landslide Susceptibility Mapping can be accessed [here](#). The landslide susceptibility map identifies areas which are subject to landslides and is measured from low to high. The landslide susceptibility map takes into account where the landslides occur and what causes them (slope, soil type and the impact of the flow of water in an area).



- Climate Ireland's Data Explorer can be accessed [here](#) and includes a Climate Change Projection Maps viewer that has been developed to help you understand current and projected future climate conditions for Ireland.

3.2 Stakeholder & Public Engagement

One of the five guiding principles for developing the LACAP is to ensure the process is Participative, that it “Involves a range of stakeholders to contribute to both the development of the climate action plan and the practical delivery of actions. Inclusive, coordinated, and collaborative climate action stems from cooperation of a diverse range of stakeholders from the earliest stage possible”, LACAP Guideline principles.

Mayo County Council recognises the importance of public and stakeholder engagement in the development of the Climate Action Plan and has undertaken substantial pre-draft engagement to inform the Strategic Priorities and Actions in the plan.

3.2.1 Overview of Pre-Plan Engagement

Mayo County Council invited pre-draft input from all sectors of society to co-create our LACAP, to help shape appropriate actions that will facilitate and enable effective climate action at a local and community level. Engagement included:

- Information sessions were held in libraries in each of the Municipal Districts – Ballina, Castlebar, Swinford and Westport.
- The pre-draft survey was available online on mayo.ie from 6th July to 18th August, 2023. It was promoted online using Facebook and X.
- Sectoral workshops
- Workshops with Mayo County Council Leadership team
- Workshops with elected members through SPCs, sub-committees and full Council.
- Agriculture report commissioned.
- 8 stakeholder pre-draft submissions from organisations such as ATU, Clean Coasts, Science Foundation Ireland, Heritage Council, LAWPRO, MSLETB, INHFA

- Enterprise survey – for which we received 43 responses from businesses across the county.
- Pre- Draft Public Survey – for which we received 517 submissions from the Mayo public (See figure 10).
- Promotion of the LACAP pre-draft engagement was undertaken on print, radio, social media, WhatsApp and through Mayo County Councils wide range of networks including the PPN and Enterprise unit.



Pre-draft Public engagement, Westport library.

3.2.2 Key Findings from the Pre-draft Public Engagement

Key Findings from the Pre-draft Public Engagement include;

- 92% of respondents are worried about climate change.

- Conditions for future generations is the greatest worry. Other common worries include extreme weather events and loss of nature.
- 99% of public respondents and 74% of enterprise respondents are currently trying to reduce GHG emissions through various actions. However, cost and lack of sustainable options were highlighted as the main barriers to making further reductions.
- 90% of respondents believe their community would benefit from climate action training/advice. 73% of businesses believe they would benefit from training.
- From the public survey Improved sustainable travel options e.g., Walk/cycle paths, enhanced public transport were the most commonly identified benefit of climate action followed closely by increased nature and biodiversity. Other main benefits identified include health benefits and energy independence and security.
- Enterprise identified Energy independence and security and Community cohesion/Reinvigorated town centres as the main benefits they hope to see from climate action by 2030.

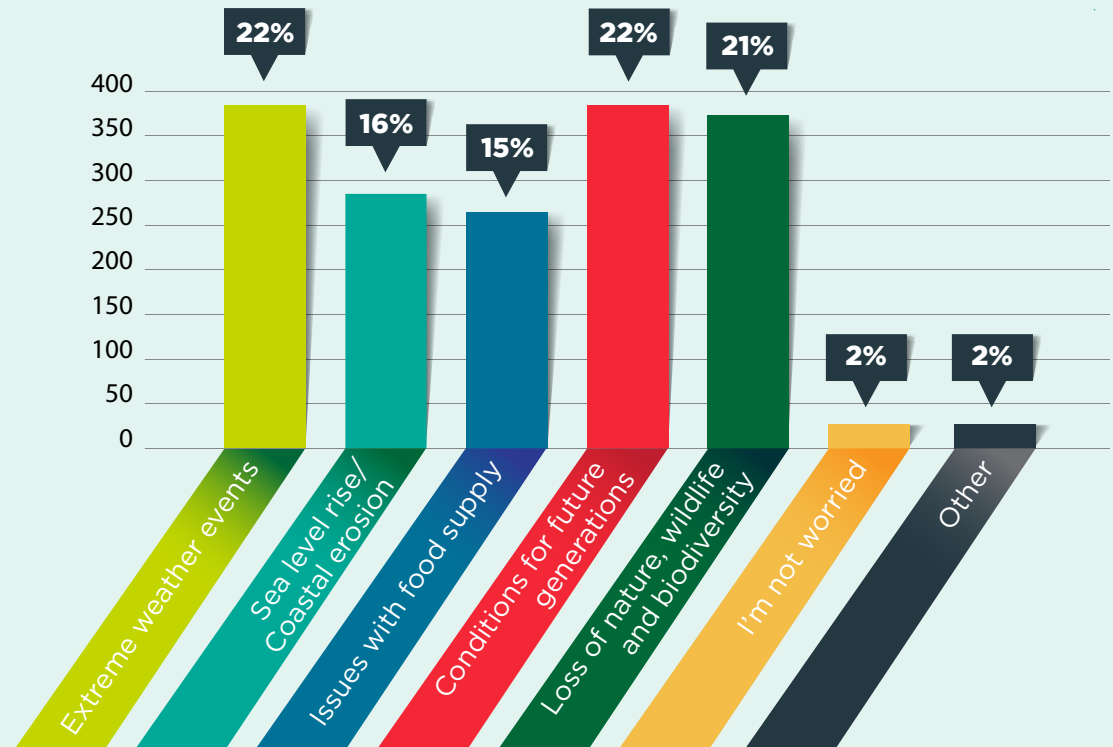


Figure 10 What worries you the most about Climate Change? Source Mayo County Council Pre-Draft Engagement

It is acknowledged that there was a low youth response in the pre-draft survey stage. To view the full pre-draft consultation reports, public and enterprise see [here](#)

3.3 Environmental Reports

The LACAP has also been informed by the preparation of two Environmental Assessments, in tandem with the plan making process. In accordance with European and National legislation, the Council has carried out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) under the SEA Directive and Habitats Directive. These assessments are undertaken in order to ensure that the potential impacts of the objectives contained in the LACAP on the environment can be evaluated. This process informs the content of the plan and ensures that development responds appropriately to the sensitivities and requirements of the wider natural environment.

3.3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The LACAP was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before the decision is made to adopt the plan or programme. The findings of the SEA process are included in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies this plan. The outcomes of the SEA process have been fully incorporated into the preparation and making of this Plan. The Environmental Report has been published as a separate document in conjunction with this Plan and is included in Annex 3. SEA Environmental Report Mayo County Council CAP.

3.3.2 Appropriate Assessment (AA)

Article 6(3) of European Council Directive 92/43/ EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) requires Competent Authorities, in this case Mayo County Council, to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. The assessment examines the implications of proceeding with the plan or project in view of the relevant European site's conservation objectives. All AA recommendations have been integrated into the Plan. The emerging conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of European Sites, in light of their conservation objectives. A Natura Impact Report has been published as a separate document in conjunction with this Plan and is included in Annex 6. Natura Impact Statement Mayo County Council CAP.

CASE STUDY 3

Rehins Fort Social Housing Development



Completed in October 2023 this new development of fifty houses in Rehins Fort, on the edge of Ballina, Co. Mayo is the latest provision of social housing from Mayo County Council.


The development consists of:

- 8 no. single-storey semi-detached 2-bedroom houses.
- 22 no. 2-storey semi-detached 2-bedroom houses.
- 15 no. 2-storey semi-detached 3-bedroom houses.
- 4 no. 2-storey semi-detached 4-bedroom houses.
- 1 no. dormer 4-bedroom house

All homes at Rehins Fort have obtained a Building Energy Rating

(BER) of A2 with triple-glazed windows, energy efficient air-to-water heat pumps, demand-controlled ventilation, a very high standard of air tightness, and high levels of insulation. Green open spaces and links to existing community infrastructure also played a key role in the design of this development. The homes are located within the town boundary of Ballina with many facilities within walking distance including schools, churches, shops, pubs, sports amenities, and cultural institutions. Access to a walkway along the river Moy right into the town centre and proximity to Ballina train station means no resident is car dependant. The Rehins Fort social housing scheme is an example of energy efficient design in new social housing.

Mayo County Council will continue to build low energy housing and retrofit existing Local Authority housing stock under action 11 of this plan.



4. FRAMEWORK OF CLIMATE ACTIONS

The framework of climate actions set within this plan aims to be the link between our vision and mission for County Mayo, and the ground level actions which will aid in ensuring we are at the forefront of the fight against climate change. The actions were developed in accordance to the guiding principles provided in the Local Authority Climate Action Plan guidelines.

It is noted that while our LACAP will be ambitious to reflect the leadership role of Mayo County Council on climate action, the plan can only include actions that fall within the role, remit, and governance of the Council as outlined in Chapter 1.2 (Fig 2) of this plan. This process is slightly different for the Decarbonising Zone actions, the methodology for which is outlined in Chapter 5.





Figure 11 Guiding principles of the Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAP)

4.1 Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities

The Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities for Mayo County Council's Climate Action Plan recognises Mayo County Council's pivotal position to deliver on national policy at community level.



Vision

To be a climate resilient and low carbon organisation that inspires, leads, and facilitates just and ambitious climate action across the county.



Mission

To transition County Mayo to a Climate Resilient, Biodiversity Rich, Environmentally Sustainable and Climate Neutral Economy and to thereby promote climate justice, and just transition by:

1. Reducing Mayo County Council's emissions by 51% by 2030
2. Implementing the actions within this Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan
3. Advocating, co co-ordinating and facilitating climate action with communities and the various sectors within our County, to aid them in reaching their own emissions reduction targets.



Strategic Priorities

1. FUTURE PROOF our COUNCIL (Actions that fall within the role, remit, and governance of Mayo County Council)
2. FUTURE PROOF our PLACE (Our physical and natural assets)
3. FUTURE PROOF our COMMUNITIES (Our people)





The words 'Future Proof' were chosen to respect the public's concerns, while also addressing the requirement for using simple and understandable language. In the context of this plan



 **FUTURE PROOFING** 

Transition towards a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and carbon neutral society and to thereby promote climate justice, and just transition.

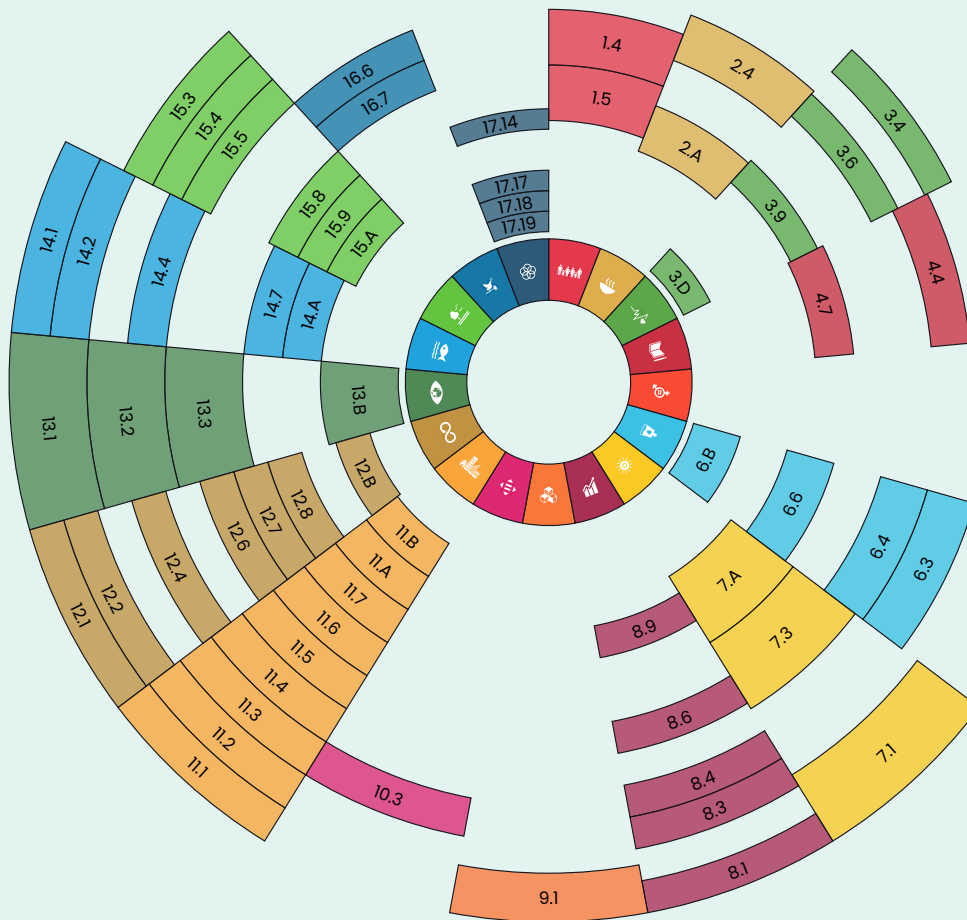
All actions will consider the Just Transition Framework as outlined in CAP23:

-  **1** An integrated, structured, and evidence-based approach to identify and plan our response to just transition requirements.
-  **2** People are equipped with the right skills to be able to participate in and benefit from the future net zero economy.
-  **3** The costs are shared so that the impact is equitable and existing inequalities are not exacerbated.
-  **4** Social dialogue to ensure impacted citizens and communities are empowered and are core to the transition process

The Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan actions are presented below in tables 4.2.1-4.2.3. Implementation, monitoring and reporting of the actions are addressed in Chapter 6.

The list of partners is not exhaustive, and partners may be added throughout the lifetime of the plan.

All Climate Action Plan actions have been assessed against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets. The SDG assessment profile is illustrated in Figure 12 below. More information can be found [here](#).



SDGs

Contributing to 16 SDGs



Figure 12: SDG Assessment Profile of Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan

4.2.1 Strategic Priority 1 Actions

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
Future proof our Council									
1	Achieve Mayo County Council's Public Sector targets of 51% reduction in energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (baseline 2018), 51% reduction in thermal (heating and transport) related greenhouse gas emissions, and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030 (baseline 2006- 2008) and work towards net-zero emissions by 2050.	Mitiga- tion	Develop and implement GHG reduction and Energy Efficiency roadmap using gap-to-target tool.	Year 1-5	ECCA	All sec- tions	Funding	1, 2, 5	7, 13
1.1	Prepare a fleet management strategy to convert light commercial vehicles to EV in line with LA Re-imagining Transport study including the conversion of medium and heavy good vehicles to HVO/biofuels or zero emission by 2029	Mitiga- tion	Strategy developed	Year 1	Roads	Leisure Centres, Tourism, MDs, POPI, Finance	Funding Ad- vance- ment of EV tech- nology, Supply chain	1, 2, 5	7, 11, 13
			EV Charging infrastructure in all appropriate MCC properties	Year 2					
			All diesel fleet (where possible) converted to HVO ensuring adherence to European sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction criteria.	Year 2					
			Min. of 50% Light goods vehicles converted to EV	Year 5					
			MGV/HGV converted to zero emission when feasible	Year 5					
1.2	As identified in the gap-to-target tool, implement a programme of measures for Council Buildings/Facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in non-electrical related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030.	Mitiga- tion	Retrofit of MCC buildings under the SEAI Pathfinder Programme	Annu- ally	ECCA	POPI, MDs	Funding, Market Capaci- ty, SEAI	1, 2, 5	9, 11, 13
			Progress energy efficiency projects under the SEAI Community Energy Grant Scheme						
1.3	Appoint an energy officer to oversee the implementation of energy management processes within all Local Authority buildings and facilities achieving a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.	Mitiga- tion	Energy officer appointed	Year 1	ECCA	POPI, HR, Finance	Funding	1, 2, 5	7, 13
			Data management system established	Annu- ally					
			Reduce our Use Behavioural Change campaigns ongoing						
			Complete annual reporting of energy performance on SEAI's M&R System.						

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
1.3	Continued		Co-ordinate energy reduction projects / opportunities across all sections	Annually					
			Identify suitable locations for PV on MCC buildings and progress installations						
			Undertake Display Energy Certs						
			Achieve ISO 50,001 Energy Efficiency System Certification.	Year 2					
1.4	Convert all public lighting within County Mayo to low energy LED lighting and develop a lighting policy while having due regard to impact of light used on biodiversity.	Mitigation	Mayo County Council Public Lighting strategy developed - to form part of County Light Pollution Policy	Year 1	Roads	ECCA, MDs, Mayo Dark Skies, TII, RMO, NPWS	Market Capacity	1, 2, 5	7, 13
			All lights (where feasible) converted to LED lighting by 2029	Year 5					
			Research and implement dimming and part-night lighting where feasible.						
2	Undertake 'Future Proofing' assessment and Implement 'Future Proofing' requirements for all local authority led assets, projects, plans, policies, procurement, and investment	Both	Develop a methodology for reporting on Climate Action at SPC, MD and MCC meetings.	Year 1	ECCA, POPI	All sections	Sectoral guide-lines	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1-17
			Ensure Green Public Procurement is implemented in all MCC procurement	Year 1					
			Develop and implement a 'Future Proofing' checklist, including requirement to utilise most recent national guidance.	Year 2					
3	Review work practices to reduce emissions and ensure Mayo County Council leads by example.	Mitigation	Smarter travel workplace policy reviewed	Year 1	CD, IS	HR, ECCA, POPI	Resources	2	12, 13
			Office buildings use assessed	Year 2					
			Staff home vs work location matched to reduce commuting subject to organisational needs						
			Business travel policy developed and implemented	Year 1					
			Review paper and data storage work practices to assess and implement environmental improvement	Year 4					

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
4	Provide relevant climate action training to local authority staff and elected members including nature-based solutions and co benefits for climate adaptation and biodiversity.	Both	Assess training needs No. of staff trained No. of elected members trained	Annually	HR	All sections	National training programme, Expertise to provide training	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4, 13, 16
5	Encourage and facilitate internal Climate Action initiatives and campaigns	Mitigation	Climate Ambassador in each MCC section 4 Climate Ambassador meetings per year 12 internal events / campaigns per year Regular internal Climate Action communications	Year 1 Annually	ECCA, CD, Comms	All sections	Resources	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	13
6	In implementing this County Mayo Climate Action Plan, Mayo County Council will ensure compliance with Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028 and local area plan objectives and policies relating to environmental management, the protection of statutory Conservation Areas and ensure compliance with specific environmental management measures relating to this plan.	Both	Land use plans and projects arising from this Climate Action Plan will be underpinned by Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, and Ecological Impact Assessments as relevant.	Annually	Planning	All sections		3	13, 15
7	Mayo County Council will take account of any relevant recommendations in the EPA State of Our Environment Reports, once published, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.	Both	Review EPA report and take account of relevant recommendations	2024-2028	ECCA	All sections	EPA reports published	3	13, 14, 15, 16, 17
8	Mayo County Council will have regard to any relevant updated actions, measures or recommendations that may arise in updates to the National Climate Action Plan over the lifetime of the Plan.	Both	Review updates to National Climate Action Plan and take account of relevant actions	Within two months of CAP publication	ECCA	All sections	National CAP published	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	13, 16, 17

4.2.2 Strategic Priority 2 Actions

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	De- penden- cies	DECA SGs	SDGs
Future proof our Place									
9	Identify and collaborate with Government organisations to assist in developing risk assessments and climate adaptation measures for key natural, cultural, and infrastructural assets incorporating nature-based solutions, biodiversity, and water quality enhancement.	Adap- tation	Participation in Working Groups and partnerships to progress adaptation measures. National risk and vulnerability methodology guidance and templates utilised where available. Capture data on the impacts of weather events on MCC assets, infrastructure, and services via the CARO WIRE App. No. of schemes major and minor OPW approved/delivered Include links to risk maps on MCC website	Annually Year 1	ECCA	Housing, Roads, Marine, Tourism, Heritage, MDs, EPA, Met Éireann, UE, JCWL	Sectoral guide- lines	1, 3	6, 9, 11, 13, 17
10	Improve and provide infrastructure to enable and facilitate modal shift to active travel and public transport	Mitiga- tion	Castlebar, Ballina and Westport Local Transport Plans adopted Implement short- & medium-term proposals MCC currently have 13 Safer Routes to School on the Programme - all front of school recommendations within the Outline Delivery Plans to be implemented. 100% of minor road works schemes in Municipal Districts to consider Active Travel policy and guidance - to be incorporated in design where relevant Improve public transport services (rail, bus, school travel scheme) - strategically examine existing/possible new routes and frequency of same and promote/encourage relevant authority to improve services (including bus shelters). 50km of new/upgraded cycleway path provided	Year 1 Year 5 Year 5 Year 1-5	Roads	MDs, TII, NTA, Local Link, CID, Dept. of Education, MSLETB, ATU, Green-Schools, Green-Campus	NTA funding, Market Ca- pacity, Planning Re- sources	1, 4	3, 9, 10, 11, 13

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	De- penden- cies	DECA SGs	SDGs
11	Retrofit 25% local authority social housing stock to B2 standard	Mitiga- tion	80+ houses retrofitted per year	Year 5	Housing	MDs	DHLGH, Funding, Market Capac- ity, Re- sources	1, 2, 6	7, 9, 10, 11, 13
12	Ensure consideration and integration of Nature Based Solutions and Sustainable Urban Design measures in all projects and implemented where appropriate to ensure climate resilience, promoting space for nature, thereby creating vibrant, liveable, and sustainable locations.	Both	NBS training provided to relevant staff.	Annu- ally	ECCA	MD, Roads, Housing, Heritage, Tourism, Planning, UE	Knowl- edge	3	9, 11, 13
			NBS and SUDs included in checklist in action 2.	Year 1					
			Number and description of measures implemented per year	Annu- ally					
13	Prepare a tree management plan, incorporating a strategy to increase overall tree canopy cover in County Mayo, through climate appropriate management of existing and future stock that targets planting in appropriate place with appropriate planting mixes.	Both	Strategy developed	Year 1	POPI	MDs, Coillte, Teagasc, UCD, Heritage, NPWS, DAFM (Forestry inspec- tor), SWMDC		1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11, 13, 15
			Lands identified	Year 1 & 2					
			Areas planted	Year 3 - 5					

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	De- penden- cies	DECA SGs	SDGs
14	Implement the Biodiversity plan for County Mayo - incl. carbon sequestration, flood alleviation via nature-based solutions approach, identification and support for eco-system services, invasive species management, pesticide and herbicide reduction, green and blue infrastructure, integrating biodiversity considerations to new and existing development, wildlife corridors identification and enhancement. The implementation of the Biodiversity Plan will be underpinned by ecological surveys and assessments to ensure interventions are appropriate to the receiving environment.	Both	Publish Plan	Year 1	Heritage	MDs, Roads, TII, ECCA		1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11, 13, 14, 15, 17
			Implementation of 5-year action plan	Year 1-5					
			Engage with partners on relevant actions						
15	Develop an EV charging infrastructure strategy for County Mayo in line with ZEVI guidance.	Mitiga- tion	Strategy developed	Year 1	Roads	MDs, Planning, ECCA	Funding Private Opera- tors	1, 2, 4, 5	7, 9, 11, 13
			Chargers installed where identified in strategy	Year 2-5					
16	Contribute to Energy resilience	Mitiga- tion	Develop Renewable Energy Strategy	Year 1	Plan- ning, ECCA	MDs	Funding	1	7, 13
			Action plans developed and implemented	Year 2-5					
17	Develop a County Light Pollution Policy and support the development of Mayo International Dark Sky Reserve	Mitiga- tion	Publication of Mayo County Light Pollution Policy	2024- 2026	ECCA, Tourism	Roads, NPWS,- Friends of Mayo Dark Skies, Dark Sky Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, RMO			3, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15
			Completion of dimming pilot for Newport Town's plan to become a dark sky friendly town						
			Westport Town will host Artificial Light at Night International Conference in Oct. 2025.						
			Support the international Accreditation of Mayo Dark Sky Reserve by DarkSky International.						

4.2.3 Strategic Priority 3 Actions

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
Future proof our Communities									
18	Administer Community Climate Action Fund	Both	Fund administered	Year 1	ECCA	CID, Comms, DECC	Interest from communities		7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17
19	Deliver climate and biodiversity capacity-building training, initiatives, clinics, and events for community groups.	Both	Identify and share learnings of exemplar projects/demonstration sites.	Annually	ECCA	CID, Comms, MDs		4	2, 10, 11, 13
			No. of training participants						
			No. of events held						
20	Expand the Decarbonising Community Network to enable and assist communities to become 'future proof'.	Both	10 new communities in Year 1 and 10 new communities bi-annually thereafter.	Year 1, Year 3 & Year 5	ECCA	CID, Comms, MDs	Interest from communities	4	11, 13, 17
21	Ensure 'future proofing' of all MCC led events and any external events requiring permission of MCC.	Both	Develop 'future proofing' guidelines for all MCC led events.	Year 1	ECCA, MDs	Planning, Tourism, CID, Enterprise, CD, Arts Office, MSP		1, 2, 4, 5	11, 13
			Implement above guidelines.	Year 2 - 5					
			Develop a 'future proofing' checklist to be incorporated into event licensing.	Year 1					
			Implement above checklist	Year 2 - 5					
			Develop guidelines for smaller events (under 5,000 people)	Year 1					
22	Incorporate 'future proofing' on relevant grants and funding provided by MCC.	Both	Develop guidelines appropriate to the various funding levels.	Year 1	ECCA, CID	Comms MDs, Tourism, Enterprise		1, 3, 4, 5, 6	1-17
			Implement above across all grants and funding streams.	Year 2 - 5					

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
23	Manage and resource an adequate Climate Emergency Response procedure, providing community training and information, ensuring clear communication of climate related incidents providing key focus on groups vulnerable to climate change events.	Adap- tation	No. of Severe Weather Assessment Team meetings	Annually	Emer- gency Re- sponse Team	CD, Comms, CID, MDs, Emer- gency Services, ECCA	National research and data of vul- nerable people/ places	3	1, 13
			No. of relevant emergency response activations						
			No of training sessions provided.						
			No. of climate related communication posts issued.						
			Identify groups vulnerable to climate change events.	Year 1					
24	Provide information of potential relevant funding sources to assist in 'future proofing' and encourage a collaborative approach that supports climate mitigation, resilience to climate change impacts and adaptation that reflects good practice.	Both	Updated available funding list	Year 1	CID	IS, Comms, MDs, ECCA, CD		1, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 11, 13
			Collaborations established	Annually					
25	Work with higher education institutions in the region and utilise their expertise in research and education programmes of mutual interest in particular around regenerative agriculture, Just Transition collaboration, climate adaption and land use and nature-based solutions as well as sectoral adaptation and mitigation research.	Both	No. of partnership projects agreed.	Annually	ECCA	All sec- tions		1	4, 13, 17
26	Continue to promote environmental awareness by working with schools, communities, farmers, businesses, youth groups	Mitiga- tion	No. of Initiatives promoted and initiatives under themes; climate resilience, biodiversity rich, environmental sustainability, carbon neutral and just transition”	Annually	ECCA	CID, En- terprise, Comms, MDs		1, 3, 4	4, 11, 13, 17
			No. of communities engaged with						
			No. of schools engaged with						

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
27	Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to develop and progress future-proofing projects/ initiatives/funding with particular focus and support for projects and initiatives that provide co benefits to other environmental resources such as Teagasc, air quality, human health, biodiversity, and landscape.	Both	Inventory of projects and initiatives under themes; climate resilience, biodiversity rich, environmental sustainability, carbon neutral and just transition. Annual progress report on projects Continue to support bridge financing of SEC Energy Master Plans Amount of funding leveraged	Annually	ECCA	Planning MDs, Heritage, ATU, MSLETB, Foróige, WDC, Third level institutions, JCWL		1 2 3 4 5 6	3, 6, 7, 11, 13, 17
28	The Communications department of Mayo County Council will promote relevant campaigns, projects and stories to raise awareness and encourage communities and citizens to develop their own climate adaptation and mitigation project.	Both	A minimum of two climate action relevant social media posts per week A minimum of two climate action related articles for mainstream media per month (local and or national) Monthly tracking of climate action progress published on the mayo.ie	Annually	Comms	ECCA, MDs CID		3 4 5	13, 17
29	Support businesses to become more aware of their climate responsibilities, as well as the commercial opportunities arising from sustainability, energy efficiency, circular economy, nature-based solutions, and evolving consumer sentiment.	Both	No of businesses that avail of the LEO's 'Green for Business', and 'Energy Efficiency Grant' supports. Deliver 'Economic Opportunities from Climate Change' training to the LEO client base.	Annually	LEO	ECCA, Marine, Planning, MDs, CID, SEAI, IDA, IBEC		1, 5	8, 11, 12, 13, 17

CASE STUDY 4

Sustainable Travel Partnerships Case Study

The Mayo County Council Baseline Emissions Inventory identified that transport accounted for 220 kTCO₂e or 8% of the total GHG emissions in County Mayo. By working in partnership Mayo County Council has delivered sustainable travel projects such as the LIME electric bike rental scheme pilot in Castlebar and Westport and the EasyGo and eir partnership on the installation of Electric Vehicle chargers.

Lime eBikes: The Lime pilot started in Castlebar in 2022 and was expanded to Westport in 2023. The scheme allows users to rent eBikes and operates within defined service zones in each of the towns. The eBikes can be collected and returned from designated virtual parking bays, marked in Lime's App. Aggregated statistics for Castlebar and Westport on usage and CO₂ savings since the pilots commenced are shown below.

- No. of Trips - 53,000
- CO₂ Saved - 34,000 kg
- No. of riders - 6,500
- Median Distance/Trip - 1.4 km
- Total Distance - 91,000 km
- Median Time/Trip - 7 mins

EasyGo and eir partnership:

In 2022 Mayo County Council collaborated with eir and EasyGo on the installation of over twenty new EV chargers to accommodate the growing number of EVs on our roads. Adding these chargers, in easily accessible town centre locations, helps increase the appeal of EVs for drivers, greatly extending the accessibility of charging points and thus the range of the vehicles. The rollout of these modern, state of the art, EV chargers, provides much needed infrastructure further enhancing Mayo's reputation as a leader in the area of climate action and low carbon transportation.



The partnerships with eir, Easy Go, Lime and Mayo County Council are great examples of organisations working together for the betterment of our citizens and our environment. We will continue to build worthwhile partnerships to address the climate emergency as identified in Action 27 of the plan.



5. DECARBONISATION ZONE (DZ)

5. Decarbonisation Zone (DZ)

'A Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) is a spatial area identified by the local authority in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets.'

DHLGH, Circular Letter LGSM01-2021, 10th February, 2021

In accordance with Action 165 of the National Climate Action Plan 2019, each local authority was required to 'identify and develop plans for one Decarbonising Zone' within their respective administrative area. An Action Plan for the DZs must be included in the Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAP) as identified in the LACAP guidelines. As a component of the LACAP, the DZ is subject to the same statutory processes, timeframes, and other procedural requirements of making the LA Climate Action Plan.

The DZs are a demonstration and test bed to focus on a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures including the identification of projects and outcomes to assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.

5.1 Mulranny; Mayo's DZ

On May 10th, 2021, following a competitive process, the coastal village of Mulranny was formally announced by Mayo County Council as Mayo's initial Decarbonising Zone, aiming to reduce greenhouse gases by at least 51% by 2030 as required under Action 165 of the national Climate Action Plan.

The community of Mulranny identified their Decarbonising Zone and developed a Vision for 2030. Together with Mayo County Council the community have come together with other relevant stakeholders to form Mulranny Towards 2030 (MT2030) to develop actions to work towards their Decarbonising Zone vision:

“In 2030, Mulranny will be an empowered community, with a low carbon economy, living in a thriving biosphere.”

The Mulranny DZ is 41.9 km² in size and comprises the townlands of Dooghbeg, Cushlecka, Cuillaloughaun, Doughill, Mulranny, Murrevagh, Bunahowna, Rosturk, Rosgaliv, and Glenamado. The DZ has a population of approximately 695 persons – the 3 CSO small areas that broadly correspond with the Mulranny DZ zone had a combined population of 695 in Census 2022.

As Mayo's initial DZ , the community will receive opportunities and advantages over other Mayo communities. Mulranny DZ is subject to the same national targets as all areas outside of the DZ . There are no additional restrictions or limitations applied to the people and landowners within the DZ nor are there plans for any such future restrictions.



5.2 Summary of Decarbonisation Zone Emissions Profile & Risk Assessment

To develop a robust evidence-base for the DZ it is crucial to obtain a thorough understanding of the energy demands and emissions from within the DZ area. Following the methodology outlined in the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines (Annex C Climate Mitigation Assessment), a Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) was undertaken for the DZ area. The purpose of the BEI is to highlight the key emission sources and help to tailor and prioritise energy and emission reduction measures. The baseline is the reference point against which the impact of interventions can be compared against.

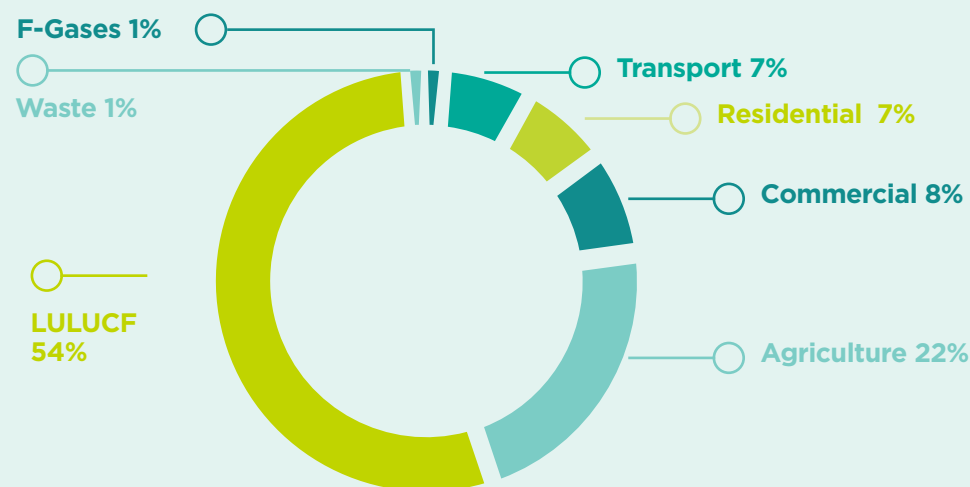
5.2.1 Mulranny BEI Results

Category	tCO ₂ e	Data Source
Transport	892	EMP
Residential	873	EMP
Commercial	946	EMP
Agriculture	2572	MapElre
LULUCF	6502	MapElre
Waste	104	Top-down
F-Gases	105	Top-down
Public Lighting	11	M&R & Public Lighting Inventory
Total	12,005	

Table 7 Mulranny BEI tCO₂e equivalent by category per annum

Values are shown as tonnes CO₂ equivalents.

Note on data sources used for Mulranny BEI Data on CO₂ emissions for the Transport, Residential, and Commercial categories were taken from the Mulranny Energy Master Plan. CO₂ equivalents for the Agriculture and LULUCF (Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry) categories were extracted from the EPA MapElre project data. A top-down approach was used for the Waste and F-gases categories – this method used proportional values



of the national greenhouse gas total (as calculated by the EPA) for that category and assigns a share to the Mulranny DZ area pro rata to the population of the area.

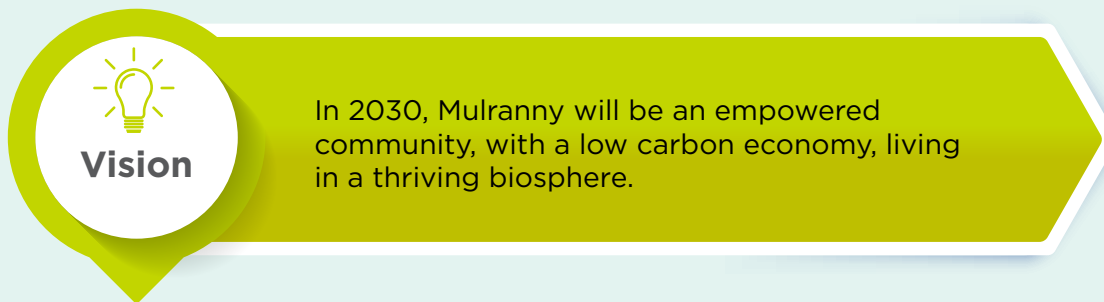
The baseline year for the data sources used in the Mulranny BEI was 2019 for MapElre and the top-down based data sources, and 2018 for the EMP based categories.

5.2.2 Risk Assessment

The Climate impacts and risks to Mulranny are similar to those identified for Mayo in the [Mayo County Council Climate Change Risk Assessment](#). Being a coastal area, it is worth noting that Mulranny is exposed to the coastal risks and impacts identified in the report.

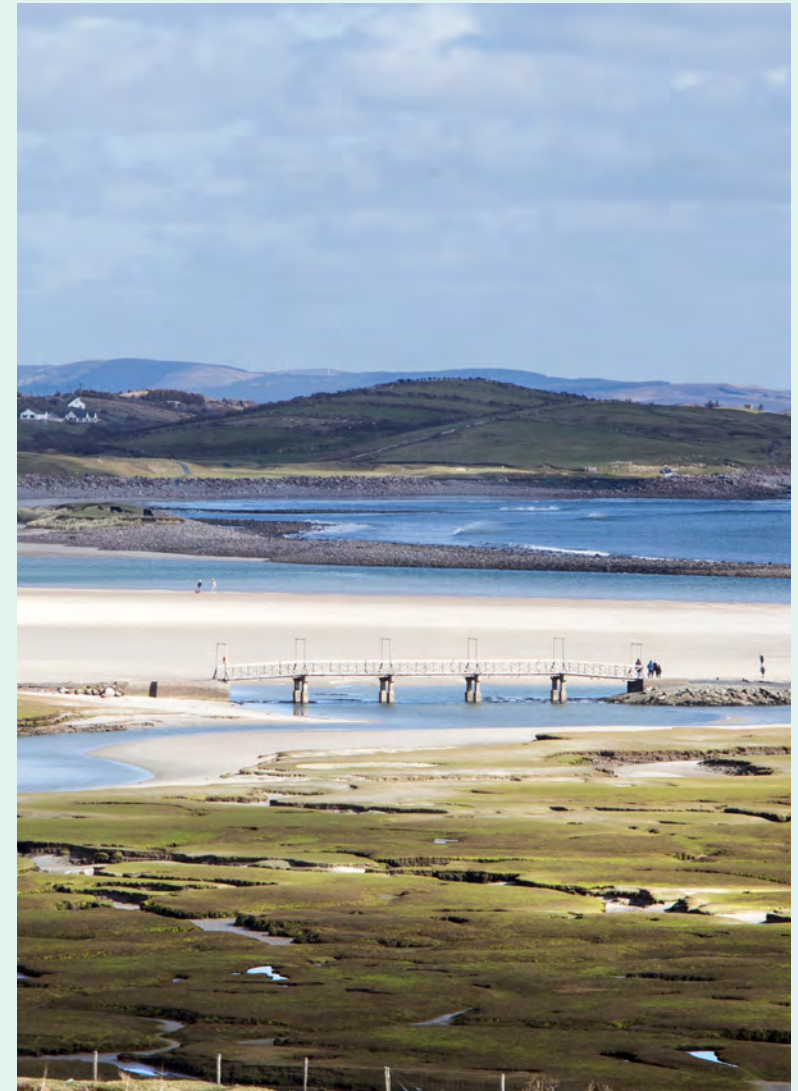
5.3 DZ Vision

The Vision from Mulranny DZ is:



In 2030, Mulranny will be an empowered community, with a low carbon economy, living in a thriving biosphere.

A more in-depth version of their vision can be found [here](#).



5.4 DZ Strategic Priorities

The actions for Mulranny DZ have been grouped under the three strategic priority areas contained in the vision:

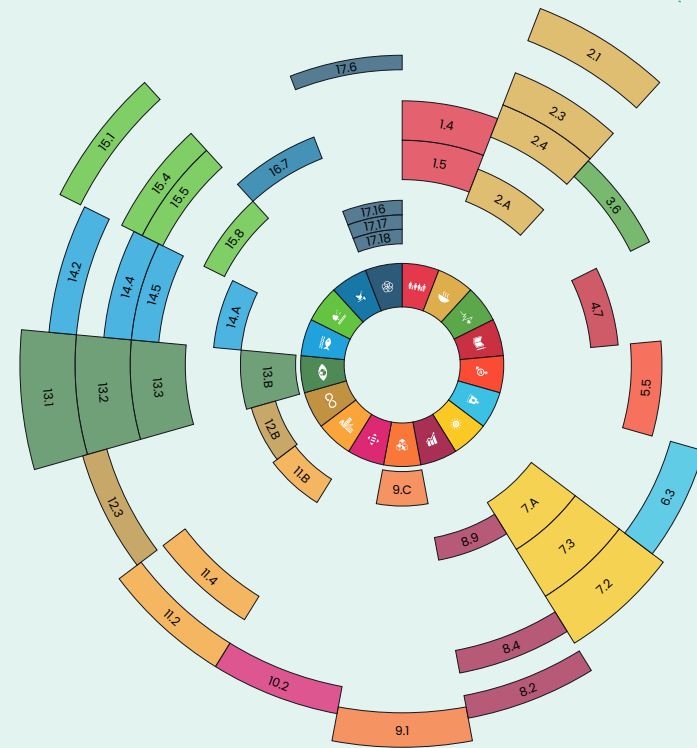
- 1. Empowered Community
- 2. Low carbon economy
- 3. Thriving biosphere

A note on the actions: For Mulranny to meet the description of a DZ as identified in DHLGH, Circular Letter LGSM01-2021 10th February 2021, it involves input from a wide range of stakeholders including community groups, farming organisations, local authority, public bodies and third level institutions. Considerable investment will also be needed to meet the objective. The Mulranny DZ Climate Action Plan was developed by MT2030 which includes the stakeholders listed above. Lead organisations have been identified and the dependencies required for successful implementation of each action are noted.

Implementation and reporting

Actions will be implemented by the Lead Partner as identified. Monitoring and reporting will be co-ordinated by Mayo County Council and follow the methodology outlined in chapter 6.

All DZ actions have been assessed against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets. The DZ SDG assessment profile is illustrated in Figure 13. More information can be found [here](#).



SDGs

Contributing to 17 SDGs



Figure 13: SDG Assessment Profile of Mulranny DZ Climate Action Plan

5.4.1 Strategic Priority 1 Actions

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs		
Empowered Community											
1	Continue to support the Mulranny Towards 2030 Steering Committee as the overarching oversight and driver of efforts towards the DZ vision	Both	Establish TOR for Mulranny Towards 2030 Steering Committee	2024	MCC	MT2030	Human resources (estimated €100,000 per year needed for HR to coordinate implementation of actions)	1	16		
			Monthly Meetings of Committee							4	17
			Ensure representation of all stakeholders and sections of society								
			Agreed scope, designs and implementation strategies								
2	Ensure a 'Meitheal' approach to meeting the DZ vision acknowledging the unique skills and insights of all members of the community and stakeholders	Both	Establish a Climate Action and Biodiversity Recovery Obeya room	2024, 2025/2026	MCC	MCF, SWMDC, ATU, UG, UL, UCD, Climate Connected, SWMDC, WAN	Funding, expertise	4	16		
			Provide at a minimum quarterly updates to the community	2024					17		
			Develop an online sustainability dashboard.	Bi-annually 2026 - 2030							
			Use current successful structures such as the Community Futures to mobilize citizens and state agencies.	2030							
			Partnerships established	2030							
3	Define the climate and biodiversity challenge for the Mayo Decarbonising Zone in terms of sectoral and land use emissions to support co-creation by all stakeholders of a clear road map to meet emissions and nature restoration targets	Both	Known emissions data promoted and knowledge gaps identified	2024	MCC	Academia, WAN, UG	Funding for research, PhD approx. €300,000	4	13		
			Research to bridge the knowledge gaps and refine existing baselines.	2025					14		
			Pilot and implement the 'Connected' carbon footprint toolkit.	2027					15		
			Develop and Implement Gap-to-Target tool to define steps needed to achieve 51% CO ₂ by 2030.	2025					17		
			Assess the DZ boundary for completeness in relation to marine, intertidal and islands	2025							

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
4	Explore the development of UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve	Both	Feasibility study complete	2025	SWM-DC	NPWS, FI, SWMDC	Funding	4	13, 14, 15, 17
			Progress Man and Biosphere Reserve application subject to successful feasibility study	2027					
			Man and Biosphere established	Bian- nually					
5	Support the implementation of the Mulranny Community Futures Plan, Village Design Statement, Tourism and Biodiversity Plans	Both	Annual review and progress of initiatives	2025-2030	MT 2030	NPWS, FI, SWMDC, MCC	Funding	4	11, 13, 15, 16, 17
6	Share learnings from the Decarbonising Zone	Both	Establish a library of best practise, Digital library hosted on the 'Connected project' webpage	2024-2030	MCC	Con- nected Com- munities, UG, ATU, Wilder- land		1, 4	13, 17
			Annual DZ conference held	2024-2030					
			Participate in Wilderland project to undertake 'Tasc Peoples transition review'						
7	Empower the community and stakeholders through knowledge exchange	Both	Coordinate regular relevant training for the community e.g., SEAI workshops, biodiversity workshops, environmental awareness	Annu- ally	MT 2030	MCC, WAN, NPWS, Con- nected, Wilder- land		1, 4	4, 13, 17
			Provide opportunities for learning between stakeholders						
			Initiatives promoted						
			Events held						
8	Develop and maintain partnerships to successfully identify and access funding streams and research opportunities to meet the vision	Both	Partnerships developed	Annu- ally	MT 2030	MCC, FI, Teagasc, WAN, WDC	Funding expertise	1, 4	7, 8, 11, 13, 17
			Identify funding streams						
			Funding received						
			Research projects ongoing						

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
9	Focused measures to support social economic anchor institutions i.e., education, social care, social enterprises, regenerative tourism, and farming	Both	Significant reduction in energy use and cost impact to social institutions supporting viability	2027	MT 2030	MCC, FI, Teagasc, WAN, WDC	Funding expertise	1, 4	1, 7, 8, 11, 13, 17
			Channel soft supports for social enterprises to advance sustainability						
			Develop and promote regenerative tourism and farming initiatives	2026					
			Develop a Social Solidarity Charter						

5.4.2 Strategic Priority 2 Actions

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
Low Carbon Economy									
10	Develop and expand renewable energy resources	Mitiga- tion	8-10 MW per annum by 2030	-80% by 2030	SEAI Com- mu- nity Ena- bling Fra- me work	SEAI, Home- own- ers- SEAI, Mulranny SEC, MCC	Funding and co-fi- nancing	4	7, 11, 13
			Continue Solar Meitheal (No. of PV installed per annum)	Annual					
			Develop an initial feasibility analysis for community owned solar farm. To include grid, resource, planning and environmental analysis. Outcome of report will state if the community owned solar farm is viable	4 Mon- ths					
			Develop energy co-operative if required to progress renewable energy projects	2027					
			Promote solar for business	2026					
11	Retrofit of Public Housing in DZ to reduce emissions from Public Housing	Mitiga- tion	Work to retrofit MCC housing stock in the DZ	2028	MCC	Vol- un- tary Hous- ing Bod- ies	Funding, contrac- tors	2 ,4, 5, 6	7, 10, 11, 13, 17
			Engage with Approved Housing Bodies and other social housing providers in the DZ						

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
12	Work with other public bodies in Mulranny to reduce emissions from their buildings, installations, and activities in the DZ	Mitigation	Quantify Emissions from other public bodies in the DZ	2024	MCC	IW, HSE, Schools, SEAI	Funding, Government prioritisation	2	7, 11, 13, 17
Engage with Public Body building and assets owners in DZ to help meet emission reductions target in the DZ									
13	Convert all Public lighting (where feasible) to LED lighting in Dark Sky friendly manner	Mitigation	% lighting converted	2029	MCC	Mayo Dark Skies	Government lighting guidelines	2, 5	7, 11, 13, 15, 17
Dark Sky friendly lighting policy developed for Mulranny									
14	Retrofitting Homes	Mitigation	Host SEAI clinics and submit applications to SEAI. To include info on Warmer Homes, Individual measures, and One Stop Shop	7 years to 2030	SEC/SEAI	Dr Orla Nic Suibhne Community Grant Better Energy Homes, Warmer Homes, Energy Credits	SEAI, homeowners, One Stop Shops	4, 5, 6	7, 11, 13, 17
Houses retrofitted to a BER of B2 or higher.									
Develop a request for proposal to retrofitting contractors.									
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an up-to-date profile of homes (incl. holiday homes): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No. of homes b. Current BERs c. Age of construction d. Energy poor homeowners 2. Group homes into common needs e.g., EWI, IWI, heat pumps, heat controls, attic insulation, energy poor 3. Calculate Energy Credit potential 4. Issue a Request for Proposal to key retrofitting contractors 									

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
15	Vacant and/or Derelict homes brought back to use	Mitiga- tion	Derelict home grants and SEAI's One Stop Shop grant can be combined and used together, can utilise up to €103k between both grant programmes	2029		MCC SEAI	buy-in	4, 5	7, 11, 13
16	Support and promote the uptake of Energy audits for SMEs, community centres, GAA clubs etc to identify measures that reduce energy use	Mitiga- tion	No. of audits undertaken (Free energy audits worth €2k for eligible SMEs, community centres, GAA clubs etc. Annual energy spend must be over €10k to be eligible.)	2 years	SEAI through the Support Scheme for Energy Audits (SSE-A)	Business owner	buy-in	4	1, 7, 11, 13
17	Improve and provide infrastructure to enable and facilitate modal shift to active travel and public transport	Mitiga- tion	Development and implementation of an Active Travel Plan for Mulranny DZ	Dependent on government direction re resources and funding - achievable within 5 years given priority	Roads Planning MD's NTA TII	Communi-ty Local Link Business Schools MDs	Funding (€2million required) Resources Engagement from relevant groups Commitment to plans Buy-in	4	1, 9, 11, 13
	Active Travel infrastructure - reinstate/new cycle and footpath infrastructure, enhance links to greenway. Other recommendations resultant from the AT Plan for Mulranny DZ								
	Promotion of Active Travel & Behavioural Change								
	Partner with relevant stakeholders to aid enhancement and integration of sustainable transport infrastructure & services								
	Provide sustainable transport infrastructure where design has specific focus on public realm enhancement								
	Emphasis on accessibility for all on all journey types								
	Improve public transport services (bus, school travel scheme) - strategically examine existing/possible new routes and frequency of same and promote/encourage relevant authority to improve services (including bus shelters).								

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
18	Develop and integrate the 28km Mulranny Way as a central conduit to maximise townland social permeability, access and wellbeing	Mitiga- tion	Develop a project charter and potential progression mechanisms. Develop in stages and review progress regularly	De- pend- ent on gov- ern- ment direc- tion re re- sourc- es and fund- ing - achiev- able within 5 years given priority	MT 2030	FI, SWM- DC, MCC	Funding, buy-in	4	3, 9, 11, 13, 15
19	Become a bike and walking friendly community	Mitiga- tion	Community E-bike Online presence / booking Behavioural change events Install bike rack/locker where need identified Develop signage, Maps & Apps Cycling & walking events	2026	MCC	Private spon- sors e.g., Local tourist econo- my, SEC, Communi- ty	Depend- ent on AT findings Funding	4	3, 11, 13
20	Support and develop community-based initiatives to reduce the need for travel	Mitiga- tion	Support remote working Develop carpooling methodology Develop a Meitheal approach to collection of goods from larger urban areas	2027	MT 2030	Local Link, SWMDC, MCC	Funding, expertise, buy-in	4	11, 13

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
21	Support Electric driving	Mitiga- tion	Run EV awareness events - Existing EV owners to explain their experience	6-12 mont- hs	Mul- ranny SEC	Irish EV Owners Association (IEVOA), ZEVI, MCC, Private sponsors		5	7, 11, 13
			Research costs for second hand EVs						
			Install EV chargers.						
			Explore feasibility of Community E-car share scheme						
22	Develop and support the Circular Economy to share, repair, reuse, restore and regenerate to reduce impact	Mitiga- tion	Promote and integrate local and national circular economy initiatives	2029	MCC	MT2030		4, 5	9, 11, 12, 13
			Utilise the DISRUPT model outlined in Gov Circular Economy strategy 2022-2023						
			Increase recycling facilities (plastic, glass, clothes), expand bins on beach to encourage recycling.						
			Support and promote Gift of Hands						

5.4.3 Strategic Priority 3 Actions

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
Thriving Biosphere									
23	Establish a farming forum to advocate and represent the landowners and to develop actions/schemes that will support the landowners, community, and environment. Participation is voluntary and landowners can opt out at any stage	Both	Identify stakeholders and technical expertise	2025	MT 2030	WAN, Teagasc, SWMDC, Coillte, MCC		4	2, 13, 15, 17
Establish a forum									
Refine understanding of current emissions baseline									
Develop agreed and achievable actions									
Implement agreed actions									
24	Support local food growing and dining to support local economy and production that reduces food miles. Increase education and awareness about local food and means to preserve produce	Both	Pilot initiatives: Establish a community space for allotments and community composting	2026	MT 2030	MCC, LEO		5	2, 11, 12, 13
Reinstate the weekend market selling fresh local produce and crafts									
25	Promote a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve as a climate resilience measure	Adap- tation	see action 5 above	see above	SWM- DC	MT2030			13, 14, 15, 17
26	Launch and implement the Mulranny Village Biodiversity Plan	Both	Cross functional stakeholder group established	2024	MCC	MT2030		3, 4	13 15 17
			The plan substantially ~80% implemented by 2030	2029					
27	Develop an integrated biodiverse master plan across the landscapes, seascapes and skylscapes of Mayo's decarbonising zone that embeds nature-based solutions, interventions and support in appropriate locations.	Both	Publish plans	2025	MCC	MDs, FI, NPWS, WAN	funding, expertise, national guidelines	3, 4	13, 15, 17
Carbon sequestration through peatlands management, native woodland planting and enhanced natural corridors			2030						
Nature based solutions employed on the Mulranny coastline									
Establish Mulranny as an ARK (Acts of Restorative Kindness) for native flora and fauna and organic food in our gardens, public spaces, and farms by 2030									
Mulranny's night sky will be dark, illuminated by moonlight and the milky way.									

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
28	Devise and implement a coastal management plan in collaboration with other coastal communities	Both	A coastal management plan developed and implemented	2025	MCC	Aca- demia	funding, expertise, national guidelines	3	13, 14, 17
			A coastline holistically managed as a living ecosystem, for recreation, sustainable harvest, and climate resilience	2026					
			Pursue restoration of Mulranny Saltmarsh	2030					
29	Support the Old Irish Goat initiative for climate mitigation and adaption within a Man and Biosphere reserve	Both	Conservation plan published for the Mulranny herd	2025	Old Irish Goat Group	MCC, SWMDC		3, 4	13, 15
			Implement 40% of OIGS conservation plan by 2027	2027					
			Achieve a positive conservation outlook for the Old Irish Goat in the Mayo Decarbonising Zone	2030					
30	Map, measure and remove alien and invasive species	Both	Alien invasive species will be in decline by 2027	2027	MCC / NP- WS	WAN	Funding, expertise	3, 4	15
			Alien invasive species will be ~20% in decline by 2030	2030					
31	With respect to DZ actions, ensure that they are aligned with the conservation objectives for the Owenduff/Nepin complex SAC, specifically those habitats/species within the DZ	Both	Species/habitats at or improving to "favourable conservation" status	Within full time-frame of plan	NP- WS	Land- owners, ACRES, WAN, LAWPRO		1	2, 13, 14, 15
32	With respect to DZ actions, ensure that they are aligned with the conservation objectives for the Corraun Plateau SAC, specifically those habitats/species within the DZ	Both	Species/habitats at or improving to "favourable conservation" status	Within full time-frame of plan	NP- WS	Land- owners, ACRES, WAN, LAWPRO		1	2, 13, 14, 15
33	With respect to DZ actions, ensure that they are aligned with the conservation objectives for the Clew Bay complex SAC, specifically those habitats/species within the DZ	Both	Species/habitats at or improving to "favourable conservation" status	Within full time-frame of plan	NP- WS	Land- owners, ACRES, WAN, LAWPRO		1	2, 13, 14, 15

No	Action	Adapt/ Mit/ Both	KPI	Time frame	Lead	Partners	Depend- encies	DECA SGs	SDGs
34	Protect and maintain our freshwater and transitional water systems, in order to achieve the highest possible water quality and achieving Water Framework Directive objectives.	Both	1. EPA monitoring results on water quality will inform us on progress. This is completed once every three years.	2028	MCC, LAW PRO	Land- owners, ACRES, WAN, LAWPRO		1, 3, 4	6, 14
			2. LAWPRO will update on ongoing assessment of rivers and identification of pressures on river system and develop relevant actions dependant on pressures.						
35	Re-establishing dry stone walls as a farm landscape feature and support training and capacity building of these skills within the community.	Both	Training and capacity building supported.	2028	MT 2030	Land- owners, MCC		2, 6	4, 15
36	Take steps to measure and improve the Natural Capital Value of natural resources of Mulranny	Both	Conduct a gap analysis	2027	NP- WS	WAN	Funding, Expertise, National Guidelines	1, 3	4, 15
			Develop a NCV baseline and repeat annually						

CASE STUDY 5

Mayo Decarbonising Communities Network



The Mayo Decarbonising Communities Network is a community-based project, empowering communities around Mayo to address the climate emergency on a local level. The network provides a forum for communities to work together, learn from, and inspire each other to cut local emissions. In turn, these efforts contribute to the global goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

The network was formed as a direct response to Mayo County Council inviting communities to apply to become Mayo's first Decarbonising Zone (DZ) in 2021. Communities were invited to attend workshops led by experts in various fields and ten communities, representing 30% of the

area of Mayo and 19% of the population, applied. Mulranny was chosen as Mayo's Decarbonising Zone, and the ten communities, with the support of Mayo County Council, have formed a network, to learn from and support each other to reduce their emissions by 50% by 2030.

The Decarbonising Communities have envisioned a beautiful future and outlined how it can be created by working together and acting on climate change. The communities have presented their 'Visions for 2030' for their low-carbon future to their respective Municipal Districts. Elected representatives and Mayo County Council have funded community climate action projects following these presentations.

The Decarbonising Community Network has also opened doors to other funding streams and successful collaborations including national and EU funding. In 2022 Mayo County Council was named as winner in the Climate Change Award category for the Mayo Decarbonising Communities Network Project at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. We will expand the Decarbonising Community Network under action 20 of this plan.

6. IMPLEMENTATION & REPORTING

This Climate Action Plan will be implemented by Mayo County Council. Implementation of the LACAP and in turn monitoring and reporting will be pivotal in demonstrating commitment and leadership in climate action at the local level.

Key implementation and reporting activities that Mayo County Council will undertake are:

1. Planning for Implementation: Devising an approach for the implementation of actions on an annual basis.
2. Tracking and reporting progress through Key Performance Indicators: Development and inclusion of plan level KPIs to track, measure and report on progress.

6.1 Planning for implementation

Key to this element of implementation is ensuring Mayo County Council has clear governance and organisational commitment to the plan and its delivery. This process has already commenced with a fully resourced climate action unit consisting of a Climate Action co-ordinator, Climate Action officer and Community Climate Action officer.

As part of this plan making process all internal Directorates were consulted with, actively own actions and will be responsible for their implementation. The Senior Management Team (SMT) is engaged in the plan-making process and implementation within their directorates while elected members and SPCs are kept informed at all stages. All Mayo County Council staff will be involved in the implementation of the Climate Action Plan with varying levels of responsibility.

Building on this commitment further actions are included within the CAP to integrate governance, leadership, and accountability in climate action at all levels across the Council. Actions are also included to now oversee further collaborations with other stakeholders in the county from all sectors and the wider community with the view that Mayo County Council will play an active role in facilitating, co-ordinating and advocating for climate action.

6.2 Monitoring and reporting progress through Key Performance Indicators

Each action within the Climate Action Plan has at least one associated key performance indicator (KPI). The KPIs are a central component in progress monitoring and will be tracked throughout the Plan's lifetime as actions are progressed and implemented. A key consideration for the local government sector on this strengthened role on climate action is accountability, and in particular the ability to track, measure and report on progress in delivering effective climate action at both local authority and sectoral levels. In this regard, KPIs will continue to play a significant role. An internal Climate Action Reporting System will be developed capturing both qualitative and quantitative data which will enable departments and sections to report progress made against the actions they are leading on. The reporting system will be managed by the Climate Action Team and all information reported will be collated by the team for the purposes of evaluation and reporting.

Progress will be reported to and reviewed by the Senior Management Team and SPC on a quarterly basis with recommendations originating from the committee to support further progress. On an annual basis progress will be communicated to the elected members of the Council. Additionally, where relevant, progress on key actions will be reported through the various methods available to the Council for example through the Monthly Management Report, SPCs, Mayo County Council website and social media, to increase transparency and foster collaboration. Mayo County Council will take into account the EPA's 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' findings when tracking progress.

Strengthened climate action policy at national level inspired a determined response and commitment by local government, as a sector. This commitment is set out in the County and City Management Association (CCMA) published strategy on behalf of local government entitled Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 (DECA 2030).



Mayo County Council reports on an annual basis on the themes below to the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA):

- Climate Action Resources.
- Climate Action Training for local authority staff and elected members.
- Actions delivered.
- Enterprise support in area of climate action.
- Energy efficiency.
- Emission reductions.
- Active travel measures.
- Severe weather response.

Performance on the delivery of energy efficiency and emission reductions relating to the Council's infrastructure and assets, as prescribed by national climate obligations, will continue to be tracked through the established Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system managed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

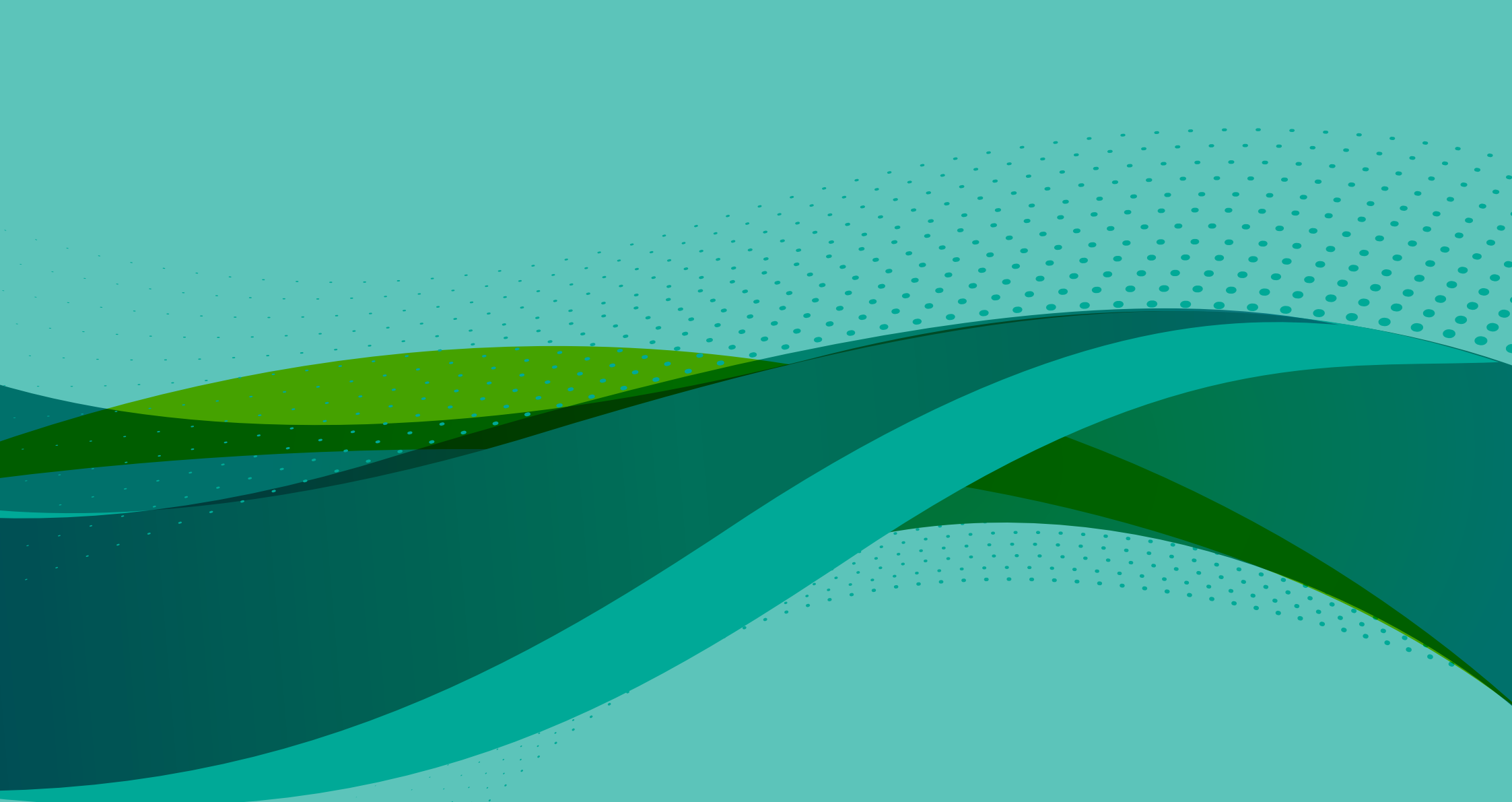
Mayo County Council endeavours to ensure monitoring arrangements and networks remain fit for purpose, such that that the data generated from monitoring, can be used by decision makers such as Local Authority emergency planning teams or Met Éireann flood forecasting teams, EPA air pollution forecasting teams, etc. subject to data sharing agreements.

It is envisaged that a national mechanism for the reporting of Local Authority Climate Action Plan progress will be established by CARO and the LGMA and as such Mayo County Council commits to reporting progress in line with the reporting requirements.

APPENDICES

Annex 1	Baseline Emissions Inventory Mayo
Annex 2	Climate Change Risk Assessment Mayo
Annex 3	SEA Environmental Report Mayo CAP
Annex 4	Non Technical Summary SEA Mayo CAP
Annex 5	AA Screening Report Mayo CAP
Annex 6	Natura Impact Statement Mayo CAP
Annex 7	Mayo CAP Pre-Draft Engagement Report

All appendices are linked throughout the document and can be found on <https://www.mayo.ie/environment/climate-action-plan>



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council

