

# South Dublin County Council

## **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

### **Annual Report 2024**





To stay up to date with climate action in South Dublin, check out South Dublin County Council's dedicated Climate Action Website at **[www.southdublinclimate.ie](http://www.southdublinclimate.ie)**



This Annual Progress Report for the Climate Action Plan has been prepared by the South Dublin County Council Climate Action Team in conjunction with the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency and in partnership with the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change Strategic Policy Committee and the Elected Members of South Dublin County Council.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

South Dublin Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was approved on 12th February 2024 in accordance with the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021<sup>1</sup> which required all local authorities in Ireland to prepare and make a Climate Action Plan (CAP), in consideration of wider national climate and energy targets. The CAP addresses both mitigation and adaptation measures.

The Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is centred around actions that collectively address the four key targets of this plan, which are framed by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the National Climate Action Plan 2023:

- **50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030;**
- **51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030;**
- **To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events; and**
- **To actively engage and inform our communities on climate action.**

The Plan sets out 129 actions that the Council will undertake in the areas of energy & buildings, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions, circular economy and resource management and community engagement. The Plan was developed by South Dublin County Council in conjunction with the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (CODEMA). The Plan was subject to public consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment processes. South Dublin County Council has committed to reviewing and reporting on this Plan annually.

This report refers to the 2024 reporting period.



## 1.2 CLIMATE STAFFING AND GOVERNANCE

The implementation of the South Dublin County Council Climate Action Plan is managed by the Climate Action Team.

The Climate Action Team works closely with internal and external stakeholders to deliver actions in the Plan and to progress targets.

Actions are being implemented by all departments of South Dublin County Council. Internal cross departmental Climate Action Working Groups meet quarterly to discuss and report on progress on individual actions. The Chairs of these 6 Working Groups then report to the Steering Group.

The CAP was prepared in partnership with the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change Strategic Policy Committee and the Elected Members of South Dublin County Council and they are kept up to date on progress.



Figure 1 Climate Action Reporting Framework

A detailed outline of climate action reporting requirements and arrangements are set out in Chapter 7 Implementation & Reporting of the SDCC CAP.

### Monitoring and Reporting (M&R)

The Council continues to report annually on energy performance and emission targets annually to the SEAI. SDCC has been entering this data into the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)'s Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) System annually since 2011, in order to comply with the reporting requirements of the European Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU.

### Sectoral Performance

The Council continues to report annually on their performance on climate action by way of KPIs to inform the performance of the local government sector on



climate action, as part of the local government DECA 2030 Strategy.

### National Climate Action Plan

The Council will, in accordance with Part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, continue to report annually to the DECC on progress on climate action at local level as part of the delivery of the national climate objective.

### UN Sustainable Development Goals

The 2018-2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan acknowledged that local government 'has a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to concretise the SDG objectives into our individual and communities' behaviours and goals.' Furthermore, local authorities are recognised as one of the *Agenda 2030's* nine 'Major Groups', which play a crucial role in sustainable development and Agenda 2030 also highlights the particular role of local authorities and communities in sustainable urban development. The Council is working to advance the SDGs. Each of the actions listed in the Climate Action Plan for the County and for the Decarbonisation Zone are mapped against the relevant goals and targets in the SDG.

## 1.3 UPDATES TO CLIMATE POLICY AND LEGISLATION SINCE THE 2023 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

**The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24)**, published in May 2024, builds on the 2023 Plan to provide a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. The supplementary Annex of Actions includes only new and high impact actions whilst the full roadmap of actions to support the delivery of our climate targets remains within the Climate Action Plan itself.

The **Climate Change Advisory Council**<sup>2</sup> published its 2023 annual review in late September. A key task of the Council is to conduct an annual review of progress made over the previous year across all sectors, in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and furthering the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable economy and society by 2050. In its 'traffic light' review of sectoral adaptation progress the Local Government Sector was rated as having made 'Good Progress'. The report noted that *"Good collaboration was evident on risk identification and measures with several sectors, particularly heritage, transport, flood risk as well as Met Éireann. Specific risk identification tools were developed including the semi-quantitative climate risk and vulnerability (SQRVA) methodology and WIRE App as well*

*as evidence that climate change risks are being considered in the planning and design stage of infrastructure projects. These are innovative approaches and the possibility of expanding the WIRE App to cover vulnerability aspects and the outcomes of adaptation interventions should be explored".* The report also noted that *"Local authorities are highly engaged in planning and implementing adaptation and mitigation actions. However, the human and financial resourcing of the CAROs and local authorities still needs attention, especially given the need to develop the LA CAPs and to ensure their successful execution. The funding of two temporary climate change positions within local authorities (through the DECC) is welcomed but greater capacity and investment is still needed. The two positions also need to be permanent to provide continuity and build capacity."*

The Environmental Protection Agency's **Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2023**<sup>3</sup> was published in July 2024. The report showed that provisional total national greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 (excluding LULUCF) are estimated to be 55.01 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq) which is 6.8% lower (or 4.00 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq) than emissions in 2022 (59.00 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq) and follows a 2.0% decrease in emissions reported for 2022. Emissions in 2023 are 1.2% lower than the historical 1990 baseline for the first time in 33 years.

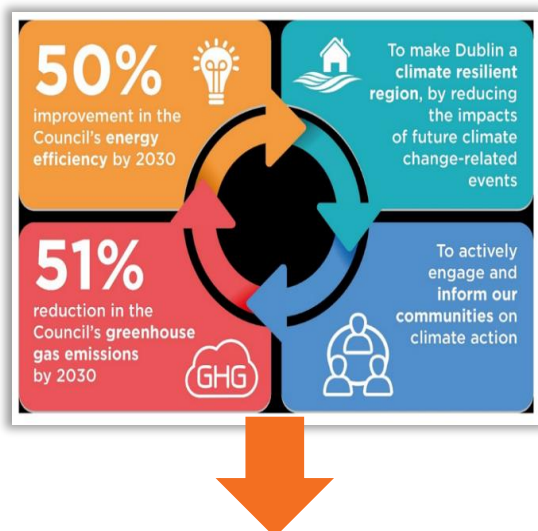
The Environmental Protection Agency's **Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050**<sup>4</sup> was published in May 2024. It provides an assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2023 to 2050, using the latest inventory data for 2022 as the starting point. The focus of the assessment is out to 2030 given current national and EU 2030 climate targets. Extended projections out to 2050 are also provided. Key findings include:

- Ireland is not on track to meet the 51 per cent emissions reduction target (by 2030 compared to 2018) based on these projections which include most 2024 Climate Action Plan measures.
- The first two carbon budgets (2021-2030), which aim to support achievement of the 51 per cent emissions reduction goal, are projected to be exceeded by a significant margin of between 17 and 27 per cent.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of **Ireland's Annual Report 2023 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance**<sup>5</sup> showed non-electricity greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 3.9% below the baseline (2016-2018 average), while total greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 17.3% below the same baseline.

## 2. CAP 2024-29

SDCC is continuing to work towards achieving the four key targets of the CAP, which are framed by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the National Climate Action Plan.



TARGET	2022	2023	2024
% Improvement in Energy Efficiency	40.59%	45.4%	46.8%*
% Reduction in GHG Emissions	31.1%	41.8%	43%*
* 2024 figures are preliminary, confirmed figures are expected in Q3 2025.			

Table 1: Progress against our Key Targets

As summarised in the table above, SDCC's overall progress to date indicates that SDCC is on track to achieve our key targets by 2029.

Further detail of the work being undertaken across all of the Actions to date, which feed into the key targets, is set out in the following sections of this progress report.

### 2.1 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: KEY ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CARBON EMISSIONS TARGETS

#### 50% Improvement in Energy Efficiency

While figures for 2024 have yet to be confirmed, preliminary figures indicate that SDCC achieved a 46.8% improvement in energy efficiency. Most recent confirmed figures from the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) database relating to our 2023 energy performance indicate SDCC has improved its energy efficiency by 45.4%, compared to the baseline year when adjusting for the increasing population served.

#### 51% Reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions

SDCC continues to make progress towards the GHG emissions target. In 2023, SDCC's Total Final Energy Consumption was 28.45 GWh, producing 7,802 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Preliminary figures for 2024 indicate a 43% reduction in GHG emissions from the baseline. This is broken down into three principal energy categories; electricity, thermal and transport fuels.

Making Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events.

The impacts of climate change will require taking practical actions to manage risks such as those from flooding and sea level rise.

Implementing strategies that protect and enhance our green infrastructure, promote SuDS to manage surface water and reduce flooding risks e.g. Flood Alleviation Schemes, will help to protect communities and strengthen the resilience of the economy.

Actively engaging and informing our communities on climate action.

As climate change challenges demand a collective response, SDCC will collaborate with individuals, communities, and businesses through various channels to promote effective action and engagement

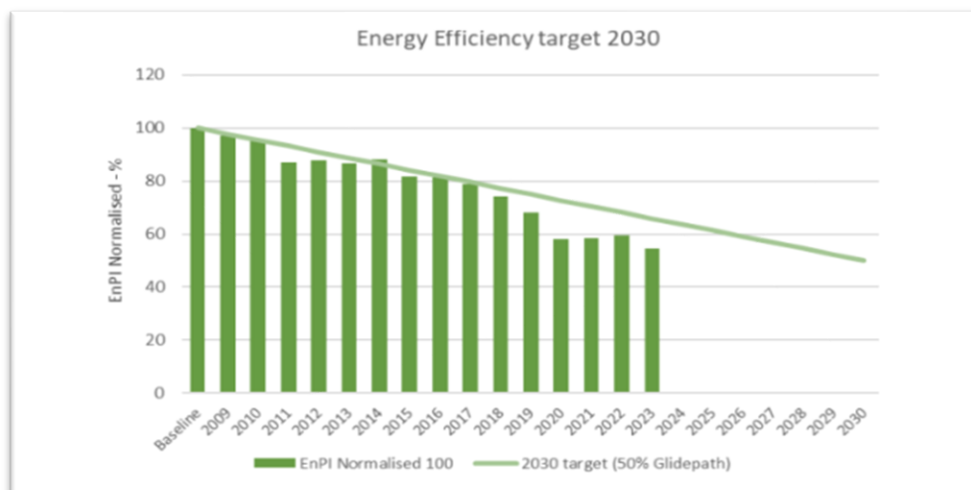
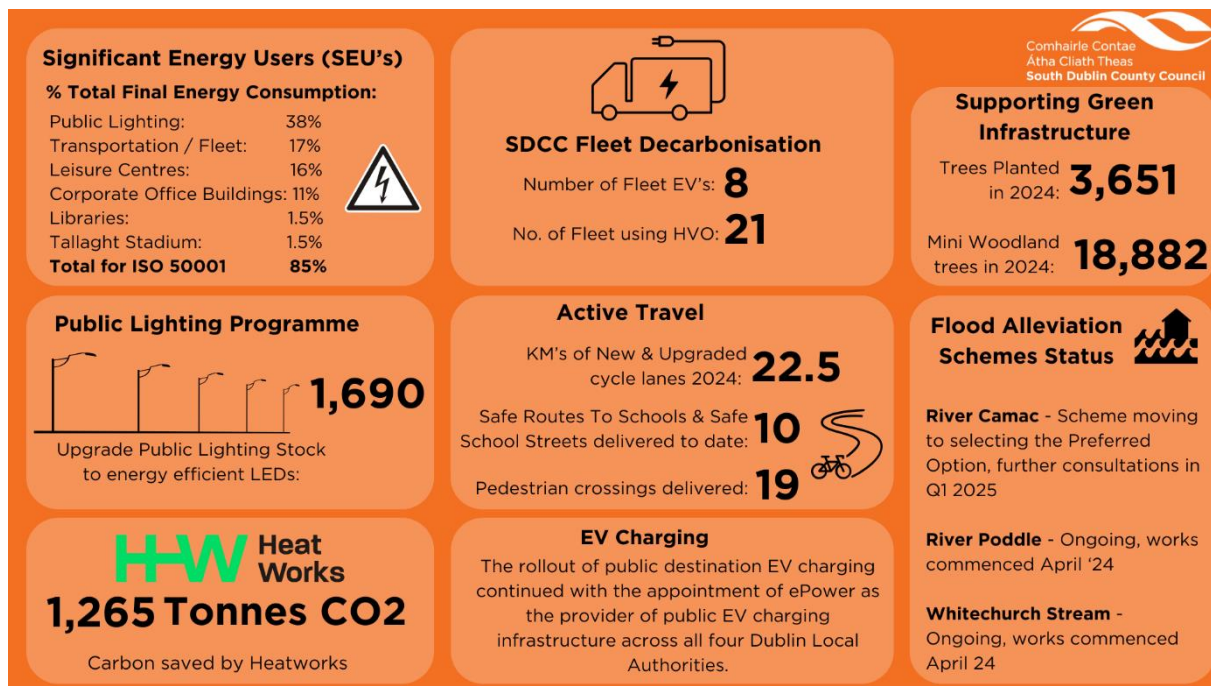


Figure 2: Energy Efficiency Chart

## 2.2 FOCUS ON ACTIONS

SDCC has identified a number of strategic actions that will play a crucial role in achieving the targets of the CAP. These actions are designed to address key objectives and drive progress towards the successful implementation of the plan. They include: the continuation of the public lighting retrofit programme; decarbonisation of our buildings with high energy demand; and decarbonisation of at least 31% of our Fleet. Other notable actions include the continued delivery of the Cycle South Dublin Programme; the rollout of the Dublin Region EV Charging Strategy; and the continued retrofit of the Council's social housing stock.



## 2.3 ENERGY AND BUILDINGS

### Managing Energy in SDCC

In 2024 an Energy Management Team was established to support the Energy Performance Officer and the Energy Officer in advancing SDCC towards achieving ISO 50001 Energy Management certification.

As part of ISO Certification process six Significant Energy Users (SEUs) in SDCC were identified. These SEUs, defined as the top consumers of energy (both thermal and electrical) within SDCC, account for 85% of the total energy consumption. Their identification has provided valuable opportunities for energy savings and improvement, playing a crucial role in the council's ongoing efforts to enhance energy efficiency and sustainability.

	SEU Group	% Total Final Energy Consumption
SEU 1	Public Lighting	38%
SEU 2	Transportation / Fleet	17%
SEU 3	Leisure Centres	16%
SEU 4	Corporate Office Buildings	11%
SEU 5	Libraries	1.5%
SEU 6	Tallaght Stadium	1.5%
<b>TOTAL for ISO 50001 Implementation</b>		<b>85%</b>

Table 2: SDCC Significant Energy Users

To achieve the targets of the CAP, SDCC worked with Codema to identify opportunities to decarbonise Council-owned buildings. In 2024 work on Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs) for Clondalkin and Tallaght Leisure Centres was progressed and a pipeline of projects which will improve the energy efficiency of other council-owned buildings was also advanced.



### Tallaght Stadium

Tallaght Stadium has taken significant steps to support the South Dublin County Council (SDCC) Climate Action Plan by implementing a range of sustainable initiatives aimed at reducing the stadium's carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency.



- Rainwater Harvesting System**  
 The stadium has invested in a **rainwater harvesting system on the South Stand**, which allows for the collection and reuse of rainwater. This system reduces reliance on the main water supply and supports efficient water management within the facility.
- LED Lighting Upgrade**  
 All fixtures and fittings within the stadium have been replaced with **energy-efficient LED lighting**, significantly reducing energy consumption and operational costs while enhancing the overall lighting quality.
- Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Grant**  
 Tallaght Stadium successfully **secured funding through the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Grant** to upgrade the floodlights to a more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly system. This upgrade will further reduce the stadium's energy usage and support the SDCC's climate goals.
- Energy Monitoring System (2024)**  
 In **2024, an energy monitoring system was installed**, allowing for real-time tracking and analysis of energy consumption. This system helps identify areas for improvement and optimizes energy use throughout the facility.
- Exploring Renewable Energy Options**  
 The stadium management is currently **exploring various renewable energy options, including the installation of solar panels**, to further enhance sustainability and reduce dependence on traditional energy sources.

### Retrofitting SDCC housing stock

All new social houses are built to Near Zero Energy Building Standard. However, there is a need to upgrade existing housing stock to B2 BER Standard.

The national Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programme was launched in 2013. A revised programme, launched in 2021, provides focuses on ensuring that the fabric of social houses is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system is provided. This enables local authorities to move to a 'deeper retrofit' programme, which result in significant energy savings and improved comfort levels for residents.

The works to each property can include a combination of new windows and doors, upgrading on existing building fabric insulation properties and the installation of energy efficient air to water heating systems.

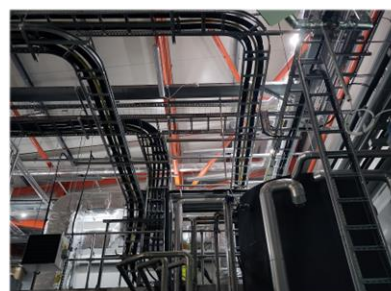
In December 2024 SDCC had a stock of 10,302 social housing units in South Dublin. 85 homes were upgraded to B2 BER standard under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. A total of 323 homes have been upgraded since the programme commenced, representing 3.23% of the overall stock.

### Tallaght District Heating Network

The first phase of the Tallaght District Heating Network, which harnesses waste heat from the Amazon data centre, was completed in 2023. Operated by the not-for-profit utility, Heat Works, and fully owned by South Dublin County Council, this groundbreaking district heating scheme is the first of its kind in Ireland. Since April 2023, the scheme has provided reliable, efficient, and low-carbon heating to key buildings, including the TUD Main Campus, TUD Sports Building, SDCC County Hall, and Tallaght Library.

In 2024, the network was extended to include Work IQ and the 133 Cost Rental apartments at Innovation Square, further expanding its reach and impact. The Tallaght District Heating Network has already demonstrated its environmental benefits, saving 1,264.98 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2024 alone, contributing significantly to our decarbonisation goals.

Efforts to secure additional customers for the network are ongoing, with South Dublin County Council exploring potential expansion options and funding streams to further enhance this innovative infrastructure.



*A look inside: the complexities of the District Heating Energy Centre.*

2.4 TRANSPORT

Decarbonising SDCC Fleet



In 2024, South Dublin County Council continued its transition from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles to more sustainable alternatives, supporting the goals set out in the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. The Council is committed to increasing the number of electric and alternative fuel vehicles within its fleet. Priority is given to selecting vehicles that are both fit for their intended purpose and meet operational requirements. Each vehicle type will undergo a thorough assessment to ensure it can effectively fulfil the council’s operational needs while contributing to its climate targets.

In Q3 2024 SDCC launched a pilot program to trial Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in our diesel vehicles, with 21 vehicles transitioned to HVO. This initiative serves as an interim measure, providing the necessary time to upgrade our EV charging infrastructure and facilitate the future purchase of a larger volume of electric vehicles for our smaller fleet. Additionally, it provides a more sustainable approach for the larger vehicles, for which there is currently no electric alternative, and allows for research into the development of alternative fuels for these larger vehicles that are essential in our fleet.

HVO is a renewable diesel fuel produced from plant-based oils, fats, or greases, which undergoes a hydrotreating process to remove impurities and enhance its properties. HVO is a renewable diesel fuel produced from plant-based oils, fats, or greases, which undergoes a hydrotreating process to remove impurities and enhance its properties. This fuel can be used in existing diesel engines without requiring modifications. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) specifies that for public sector targets, the tailpipe CO2 emission factor for calculating emissions from HVO used in transport is 0 kgCO2/kWh, provided the HVO meets sustainability criteria outlined in the Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001/EU (RED II).

Active Travel Progress

Since 2022 South Dublin County Council has spent almost €60 million on Active Travel Infrastructure in the county. A budget allocation of €21.9 million was made available for Cycle South Dublin Projects in 2024 and a dedicated team of technical and administrative staff manage the delivery of active travel projects.

In 2024 substantial progress was made on delivering and upgrading cycling and walking infrastructure in the County.

Progress	2024
New & Upgraded Cycle Lanes (linear metres)	22,535m
New & Upgraded Footpaths	63,876m <sup>2</sup>

Table 3: Active Travel Delivery in 2024

The Active Travel Team continued the construction of several active travel routes throughout the county.

- D24 Neighbourhood networks:
  - Phase 1, Whitestown and Killinarden. Completed.
  - Phase2, Ballycullen Killinniny, Mid construction, to be completed Q2 2025.
- Castletymon Road District centre opened in 2024, north section commencing 2025.



The Active Travel Team supported the Safe Routes to School Programme by delivering Rounds 2 & 3 to 8 schools across South Dublin. Round 3 of the programme will begin in 2025.

- Airton road link Construction Continuing to Q2, 2025.
- Templeville Road Phase 2 – in progress.
- Dodder Greenway (Butterfield Avenue and Firhouse Road) -in progress.
- Rapid Deployment Schemes – (pedestrian crossings improvements – 19 pedestrian crossings were delivered in 2024).

SDCC receives funding from the NTA for Bike Parking. To date Bike Stands have been installed in over 40 sports clubs/schools and 5 public parks across Tallaght, Knocklyon, Templeogue, Rathfarnham, Bohernabreena, Clondalkin and Lucan. To date approximately 750 new bike parking spaces were created in South Dublin.

### Active Travel Mark

SDCC has attained the Smarter Travel Mark in 2024, achieving Silver accreditation. This is a significant milestone in our commitment to promoting sustainable and active travel within our staff community.

The National Transport Authority (NTA) Smarter Travel Mark recognises organisations that support active and sustainable travel for their workforce and visitors. By achieving this mark, SDCC demonstrates its dedication to reducing car dependency and encouraging the use of public transport, cycling and walking.



This achievement is a testament to the hard work and collaboration of our staff, who have implemented various initiatives to promote, support and choose sustainable travel options.

SDCC undertook a Smarter Travel Staff Survey in County Hall in 2024. The survey had a 50% response rate and found that:

- 61% of staff live within a cyclable distance of 10km or less, (about a 30-minute cycle or less)
- 45% staff would like to cycle more often
- 38% of SDCC staff commute through active and sustainable modes
- 15% live within a walkable distance to County Hall
- 45% live within a 6-minute walk of a direct bus to County Hall.

The results of this survey set in motion the establishment of a team to investigate the feasibility of developing a mobility hub in SDCC.

### Adamstown Mobility Hub

In 2024 SDCC continued to progress the Adamstown Mobility Hub.

The Mobility Hub is designed to encourage sustainable transportation practices, reducing reliance on private vehicles. It aims to integrate various modes of transport, making it easier for residents to move around Adamstown and connect to wider Dublin.

The addition of a Mobility Hub in Adamstown, will assist in the delivery of a well-connected and sustainable community. SDCC's plans for sustainable movement are an integral part of the overall development strategy for the area.

While specific details of the mobility hub can fluctuate as developments progress, the general concepts involved include:

- Integration of Public Transport:
  - Connections to Adamstown railway station, providing access to Dublin city centre and other destinations.
  - Improved bus services and infrastructure.
- Active Travel:
  - Emphasis on walking and cycling, with dedicated pathways and cycle lanes.
  - Potential for bike-sharing schemes.
- Supporting Infrastructure:
  - Potential for electric vehicle (EV) charging points.
  - Facilities that support multi modal transport.

The Adamstown Mobility Hub is part of a broader effort to create sustainable communities in South Dublin County. This includes:

- Reducing carbon emissions: By promoting sustainable transport options.
- Improving quality of life: By creating accessible and convenient transport networks.
- Supporting economic growth: By connecting residents to employment and services.

### Delivering the Dublin Local Authority (DLA) EV Charging Strategy

The shift to electric vehicles (EVs) is accelerating, and SDCC is working to build the necessary infrastructure. The Dublin Local Authority EV Charging Strategy is a roadmap for this transformation, and SDCC is actively contributing to its delivery.



The overarching strategy aims to create a comprehensive and accessible EV charging network across the Dublin region. This is essential to:

- **Encourage EV Adoption:** A robust charging infrastructure reduces "range anxiety," a key barrier to EV ownership.
- **Support Climate Goals:** Transitioning to EVs significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with national and local climate action plans.
- **Improve Air Quality:** EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions, contributing to cleaner and healthier urban environments.
- **Reduction in Noise Pollution:** EVs are powered by electric motors and are significantly quieter than ICE equivalents.

SDCC is collaborating with other local authorities, energy providers, and private sector partners to expand the charging network identifying and installing destination charging points in key locations, such as public car parks, residential areas, and community hubs. This collaborative approach is essential for efficient and coordinated infrastructure development.



In 2024 ePower was appointed as the contractor for EV charging infrastructure across Dublin's local authorities. This coordinated approach ensures a consistent and comprehensive EV charging network across the entire Dublin area.

The initiative will significantly expand the availability of public EV charging, with the initial phase involving the installation of numerous fast chargers at various locations. In the first phase, 14 locations were identified in South Dublin. These locations include local authority-owned car parks, community centres, libraries, and sports clubs. It will particularly benefit residents who lack access to home charging, such as those living in apartments or terraced houses.

## 2.5 FLOOD RESILIENCE

### Flood Alleviation Schemes

**Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme** - Works commenced in April 2024 with a 36-month programme. Once the scheme is completed it will provide flood protection to over 900 residential properties and 50 commercial properties in a 1 in 100-year rainfall event.



**Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme** - Works commenced in April 2023 with 27-month programme. The Whitechurch Stream was identified under the Dodder Catchment Based Flood Risk Assessment and Management as being liable to flooding during a one in one-hundred-year flood event - putting homes, businesses and lives at risk. The €2 million investment will protect over 170 properties including 150 homes and up to 20 businesses.

**River Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme** - Scheme moving to selecting the Preferred Option with further consultations to be held in Q1 2025.

### Major Emergency Management Planning

SDCC recognises the increasing interconnectedness of major emergency management planning and climate action. As climate change amplifies the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, robust emergency preparedness becomes even more critical. SDCC's approach integrates these two vital areas, ensuring the county is not only prepared for current risks but also building resilience against future climate-related challenges.

Climate change is projected to bring a range of impacts to South Dublin County, including increased flooding due to heavier rainfall, more frequent and intense storms, and prolonged periods of heat or drought. These changes can significantly exacerbate existing hazards and create new ones, placing additional strain on emergency services and community resources.

### Integrating Climate Action into Emergency Management

SDCC's climate action plan directly informs and strengthens its major emergency management planning in several key ways:

**Climate Risk Assessment:** The council's climate action plan includes a detailed assessment of climate-related risks, providing crucial information for emergency planning. This assessment identifies specific vulnerabilities within the county, such as areas prone to flooding or those with aging infrastructure susceptible to extreme weather. This data is then integrated into the broader emergency risk assessment process.

**Scenario Planning:** Climate change scenarios are incorporated into emergency planning exercises. This allows SDCC and its partner agencies to prepare for the unique challenges posed by climate-related events, such as more complex and prolonged emergencies, larger-scale evacuations, and increased demand for resources.

**Infrastructure Resilience:** SDCC's climate action plan prioritizes investments in infrastructure resilience, recognizing that robust infrastructure is essential for effective emergency response. This includes upgrading flood defences, improving drainage systems, and strengthening critical infrastructure like hospitals and emergency services facilities. Resilient infrastructure minimizes the impact of extreme weather events and facilitates a faster recovery.

**Resource Management:** Climate change can strain resources during emergencies. SDCC's climate action plan addresses resource management by promoting sustainable practices and investing in resources that are adaptable to changing conditions.

**Nature-Based Solutions:** SDCC's climate action plan incorporates nature-based solutions, such as green infrastructure and tree planting, which can play a vital role in both climate mitigation and adaptation. These solutions can help reduce flood risk, provide shade during heatwaves, and enhance community resilience. They also contribute to carbon sequestration, mitigating the impacts of climate change.

### Sustainable Urban Systems (SuDS)

To address water management and mitigate flood risks, SDCC has made its "Householder's Guide to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)" and "Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide" (aimed at Developers) readily available online.

The "Householder's Guide" offers practical advice for homeowners to incorporate SuDS features into their properties, such as rain gardens, permeable paving, and water harvesting.

The "Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide" provides detailed technical guidance for professionals, ensuring compliance with regulations and best practices for sustainable drainage.

### Prioritized Assessments:

- SDCC's Water Services department conduct ongoing assessments of individual developments, prioritizing projects based on their potential impact on water management and flood risk.
- This prioritized approach ensures efficient and effective implementation of SuDS across the county.



*SDCC have constructed an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) in Tyron Park, in collaboration with the OPW on the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme. This will be opened to the public in 2025 and includes a boardwalk to allow the public greater interaction with the ICW and associated biodiversity.*

*This is the fourth ICW to be delivered by SDCC – and all are thriving. The two ICWs on the River Dodder are showing an average of 89% reduction in ammonia, 100% reduction in E. coli and 68% reduction in phosphorus in the quality of the water being discharged.*



2.6 NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Tree Planting



In the face of escalating climate change, the humble tree stands as a powerful ally. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, trees provide an intricate web of economic, environmental, and social benefits, making them indispensable for protecting our communities and mitigating climate impacts.

- **Carbon Sequestration:** Trees are natural carbon sinks, absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide and storing it in their wood, roots and soil. This vital process helps to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations, a primary driver of climate change.
- **Air Quality Improvement:** Trees filter pollutants from the air, including particulate matter and harmful gases, improving air quality and reducing respiratory health risks.
- **Water Regulation:** Tree roots stabilise soil, preventing erosion and reducing runoff. They also mitigate flood risks by slowing down the passage of rain and flood water.
- **Biodiversity Hotspots:** Trees provide habitats for a diverse range of flora and fauna, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. This is vital for a healthy environment.
- **Urban Cooling:** Trees provide shade, and through evapotranspiration, they cool the surrounding air. This is especially important in urban areas, where the "heat island" effect can exacerbate temperatures.
- **Property Value Enhancement:** Studies have shown that trees can increase property values, making neighbourhoods more desirable.
- **Tourism and Recreation:** Parks and green spaces with abundant trees attract tourists and provide recreational opportunities, boosting local economies.

- **Mental Health Benefits:** Access to green spaces and trees has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, promoting mental well-being.
- **Community Cohesion:** Parks and green spaces provide gathering places for communities, fostering social interaction and a sense of belonging.
- **Improved Physical Health:** Trees encourage people to be more active and thus improve physical health.



SDCC is committed to enhancing our landscape by maintaining a tree planting regime in the county.

Progress in 2024	Number of Trees
Trees planted in Q1	2242
Trees planted in Q2	55
Trees planted in Q3	0 (outside of planting season)
Trees planted in Q4	1354
TOTAL	3651

Table 4: Trees Planted in 2024

The above new trees planted in 2024 are added to give an overall 61,774 trees on Arbotrack, the SDCC tree maintenance mapping tool, equating to 18,632 Tons CO2e sequestered to date.

Added to this is the extensive number of hedgerows in the county, with 1,700km of linear meters of existing hedgerow and the continued roll out of mini-woodland plantings.

Mini Woodlands

In 2024, approximate 4,658m<sup>2</sup> of native woodland was planted with 18,882 native tree saplings in parks in South Dublin as part of a wider landscape and woodland restoration project being undertaken by Public Realm.

Site preparatory works were carried out previously. Works included clearing and removing debris, laying cardboard and spreading mulch to enrich the soil.



Community groups assisted in the delivery of the mini woodlands. As well as being important ecological features these projects are a great way of involving communities in positive Environmental Actions.

Miyawaki mini woodlands are small, dense, rapid-growing plantations of entirely native species in an urban setting. Through this we are able to create mature native forests ten times faster than conventional plantations. These forests have an estimated 20 to 100 times more biodiversity and 40 times more carbon absorption ability. This 'crowd-forestry' technique helps simulate forests in small spaces and allows us to see them mature within our own lifetime. The Miyawaki model establishes a 30-year-old natural forest within 5-10 years and a 100-year-old natural forest in 15-30 years.

This method grows mature native forests without the use of chemicals or fertilisers, and relies on ground preparation, planting density and species diversity as key elements. High planting density creates undersoil co-operation and above soil competition. By planting native trees very close together, the underground root network establishes quickly. Above ground, the trees stretch up faster as they are competing with each other for light.

These mini-woodlands have been prepared and planted in conjunction with local community groups, to foster a deeper connection to the public spaces and ownership of the mini-woodlands.

#### **Delivering the Biodiversity Action Plan**

SDCC's dedicated Biodiversity Action Plan demonstrates a commitment to actively protecting and enhancing the natural environment within its jurisdiction. With 13 out of 19 actions completed or ongoing, the plan is being implemented effectively.

The SDCC Biodiversity Action Plan is a vital initiative for protecting the natural environment in South Dublin County. The council's progress in implementing the plan demonstrates a strong commitment to biodiversity

conservation. It is clear that SDCC recognises the importance of biodiversity, in the face of climate change and for the overall health of its community.

Biodiversity conservation is a global issue, but it requires local action. SDCC's efforts are essential for safeguarding the unique ecosystems within South Dublin County.

## **2.7 CIRCULAR ECONOMY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

### **Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Study**

SDCC manages over 1,500 hectares of parks and open spaces, including 195 hectares of pollinator friendly meadows that produce 2280 tonnes of meadow grass per annum. Prior to 2019, there was no formal meadow management in the County, currently there is a framework in place to cut and collect meadow grass, which is then used as fodder by the contractor.

As part of exploring alternative ways to manage the grass cuttings, SDCC conducted a feasibility study on using anaerobic digestion (AD) to produce biogas. The study explored whether a small-scale AD plant could fuel the Council's fleet. While the process was found to be technically feasible, it was deemed financially unviable compared to other renewable fuel options like Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). The findings were presented to the Environment, Public Realm, and Climate Change SPC in February 2025.

### **Promoting Reuse at Ballymount Civic Amenity Site**

In 2024, SDCC partnered with the Rediscovery Centre to divert non-hazardous waste paint collected at the Ballymount Civic Amenity Site from disposal or incineration.

The Rediscovery Centre collects and repurposes this paint, reselling it at affordable prices to the general public and community organizations. The program, which was launched in 2024, successfully diverted, from landfill, 1 tonne of paint for reuse during its inaugural year.





### Drinking Water Fountains

In 2024, SDCC continued the roll out of public drinking water fountains at key locations across the county. The main aim of these public fountains is to promote health and wellbeing, promote active travel options in the county, instil a philosophy of sustainable living with minimal reliance on Single-use packaging and to encourage the use of reusable bottles over single use plastics.

Thirty water fountains have been installed in the Public Realm, by the end of 2024. Over the year 96,867 plastic bottles were saved from going to landfill through use of drinking water fountains.

## 2.8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Dublin Climate Action Week



Dublin Climate Action Week took place from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024. It was the third iteration of this celebration of climate action throughout Dublin. Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW) is delivered in collaboration between the four Dublin LAs, Codema and the Dublin Metropolitan CARO.

The overall vision of Dublin Climate Action Week 2024 was – ‘to highlight Dublin’s climate action progress to its citizens and demonstrate the leadership role of the four local authorities in conjunction with other partners’.

Highlights from DCAW 2024 include:

- **55 events** held across Dublin, with **20** organised by South Dublin.
- Approximately **1,562 attendees** at South Dublin events.
- **81 social media posts** by SDCC, including eight in Irish.
- Over **6,200 online engagements** (likes, comments, shares).
- More than **1.3 million people reached** through all media channels during the week.

### Community Climate Action Programme

€1.169m was allocated to 28 Community Climate Projects by South Dublin County Council in 2024 through Phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme.



*The Successful Groups of Phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme*

Organisations supported include Community Centres, Community Development Programmes, Addiction Support Centres, Youth & Education Support Organisations, Social Enterprises, Charities, Sports Clubs, Scouts and Girl Guides, Tidy Towns and Irish Language Organisations. Over 90 no. community organisations were activated by the funding opportunity with 44 submitting applications. In addition, one project has been supported through the innovative Strand 1a funding stream, which sees a local South Dublin group partnering with a group in Omagh, Co. Tyrone, to deliver an all-island community climate action project.

The projects are emblematic of the many facets of climate action. Work will include changing the energy use of buildings and facilities from fossil-fuel based sources, like oil and gas, to renewable sources like solar. The insulation of buildings to retain heat is featured, as is action to support the better management of our resources by improving how communities deal with



waste. Projects also seek to promote active travel, by providing facilities for bikes and scooters, thus helping to reduce journeys made by car, in addition to the provision, and reimagining, of local green spaces.

Phase 1 has created a community of climate action across the 7 South Dublin Local Electoral Areas which will be built upon with Phase 2 of the Programme in 2025. With funding coming from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications through the national Climate Action Fund, these local community projects in South Dublin form a key part of SDCC's ongoing response to emissions in South Dublin County.

## 2.9 GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

### Embedding Green Public Procurement

In alignment with the Climate Action Charter for Local Authorities, SDCC is committed to sourcing goods, services, and works that have a reduced environmental impact. This commitment forms a core part of SDCC's approach to sustainability, aiming to lead by example in mitigating climate change and fostering responsible procurement practices.

To effectively integrate Green Public Procurement (GPP) into all business areas, a Green Procurement Working Group was established in 2024. This group is made up of representatives from various departments across the organisation, ensuring that all aspects of procurement reflect the Council's sustainability goals. Chaired by Procurement Unit, the Green Procurement Working Group is tasked with developing and implementing a comprehensive Green Procurement Strategy for SDCC.

The Green Procurement Strategy is designed to embed GPP into the heart of SDCC's procurement process, ensuring that environmental considerations are consistently prioritized in every tender. This includes the promotion of sustainable products, services, and solutions that contribute to reducing the Council's carbon footprint and supporting broader environmental goals.

As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen sustainability in procurement, 90% of tenders already incorporate some form of Green Public Procurement criteria. Furthermore, 65% of tenders integrate GPP as a Scored Criterion, highlighting SDCC's commitment to making environmental considerations a significant factor in the evaluation and award of contracts.

With the Green Procurement Strategy in progress, SDCC aims to ensure that all future tenders will fully reflect the principles of Green Public Procurement, contributing to a greener, more sustainable future for South Dublin County and beyond.

## 2.10 CLONDALKIN DECARBONISING ZONE

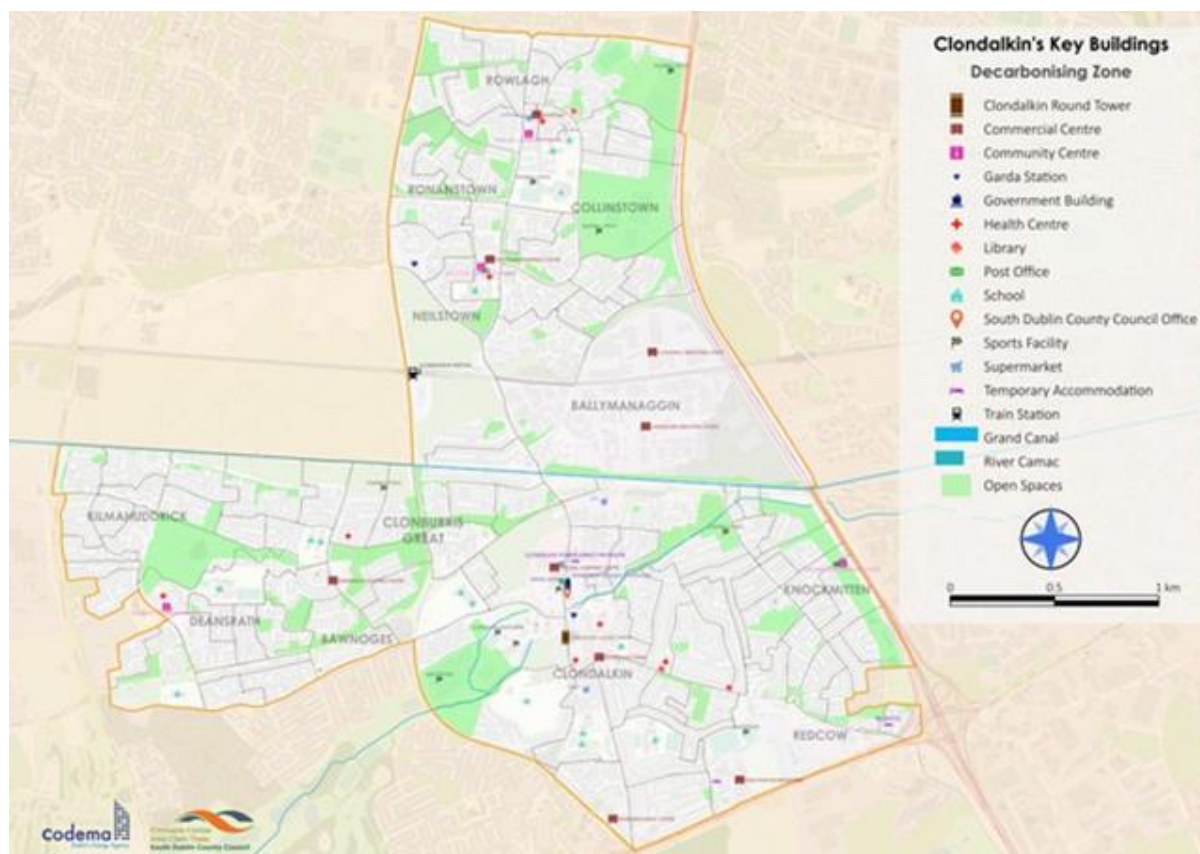


Figure 3: Clondalkin DZ Boundary Map

The National Climate Action Plan 2023 requires every Local Authority to establish a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) in their administrative area.

The DZ provides an opportunity for SDCC and the local community to work together to reduce the amount of carbon produced in the area, though trialling the implementation of a range of potentially innovative mitigation and adaptation measures, while seeking to maximise the possible associated benefits for the area.

South Dublin County Council has designated Clondalkin as its DZ, aiming for a 51% reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to 2018 levels. In 2018, the Clondalkin DZ produced around 109,875 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).

The total area of the DZ has an approximate population of 33,000, is 8.11km<sup>2</sup>, has 10,935 households and 413 commercial buildings.

SDCC commissioned Codema to deliver a DZ Implement Plan.

### Decarbonising Zone Implementation Plan

In 2024 SDCC commenced work on the Clondalkin DZ by working with our consultants, Codema to carry out extensive stakeholder engagement. Figure 4 shows the

range of engagement activities carried out by Codema to capture the perspectives of the Clondalkin Community.

As the success of the DZ initiative relies on active involvement from the entire community initial engagement work carried out included:

- Stakeholder Mapping
- Councillor/Staff Briefings (May, June & July 2024)
- On-street, in-person engagement e.g. visiting local businesses, attending events, meetings etc.
- Regular visits and conversations with representatives of local community organisations, businesses, centres and libraries in the area.
- Community Climate Action Survey



Engaging with the community for the Clondalkin



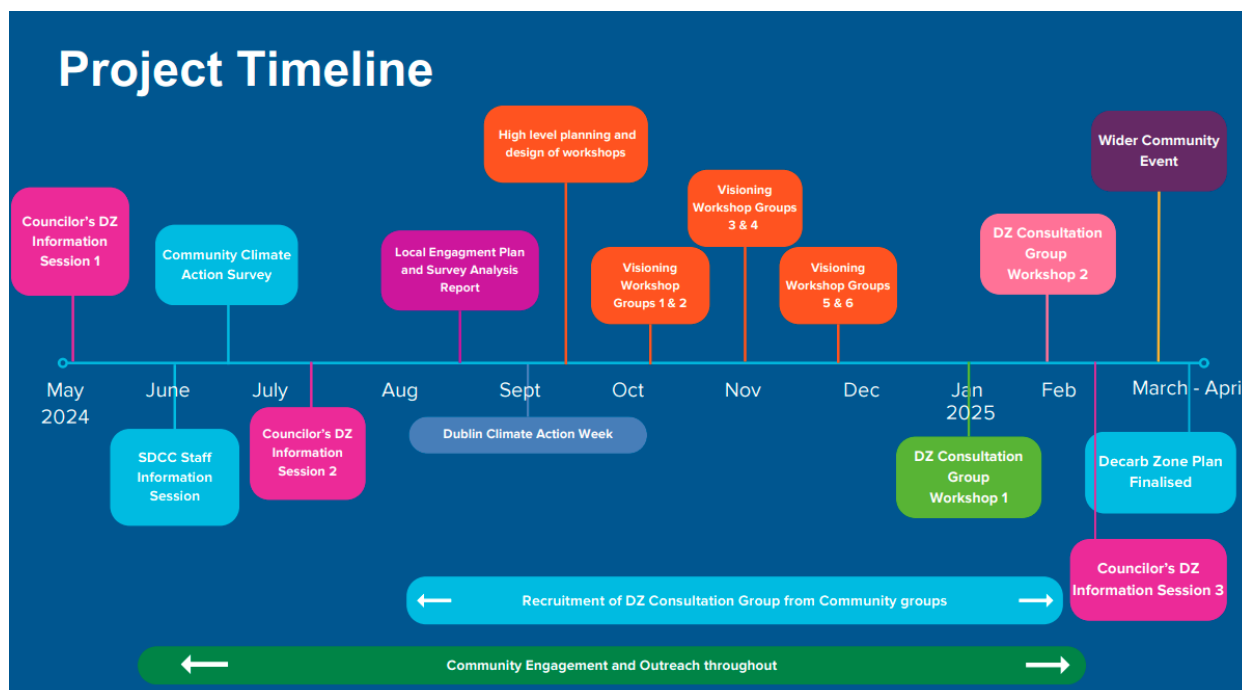


Figure 4: Clondalkin DZ Engagement in 2024

#### Clondalkin DZ Community Climate Action Survey

A Community Climate Action Survey was used as an initial engagement tool to introduce the concept of the Decarbonising Zone to the citizens of Clondalkin.

The survey, which was published on the SDCC Consultation portal, was promoted across social media platforms, through in-person engagement and by putting up posters in businesses and centres across the DZ. Hard copies of the survey were left in local libraries and community centres.

A total of 244 responses were collected from May 24<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup> 2024.

- The majority of respondents were over 35
- There was a relatively even split between respondents aged 35-44 (22.5%), 45-54(23%), and 65 and over (21.7%) age categories
- Young people were under-represented in the survey results, with 16.4% of respondents between the ages of 25-24, and just 1.2% between the ages of 19-24

Respondents were asked several questions about how they feel personally about climate change - some key insights include:

- The majority of respondents felt that climate change was either very important (36.1%) or quite important (31.1%) in their lives.
- When asked whether respondents knew the BER of their home, the majority of respondents (58%) said they did.

- When asked how they travel around Clondalkin private car was by far the most popular option (51.6%). The next preference, with a significant drop at only 20% was walk or wheel, followed by taking the bus (14.8%). Much lower levels choose cycling (7.8%).
- The biggest factors influencing how people choose to travel were time (24.3%) and convenience (21.8%).
- Active travel infrastructure was another frequently referenced barrier to changing behaviour.

Respondents were asked several energy related questions:

- Gas is by far the most common method for heating homes in the Clondalkin DZ, with 58% of respondents saying this is how they heat their homes. Energy-efficient and renewable heating methods such as solar panels (7.3%) and heat pumps (1.6%) were in the minority.
- A significant number of respondents (31%) would like to improve their insulation but feel they can't at the moment.
- Cost is the biggest factor influencing people's choices around energy at home, with just over 80% saying it fully influences their choices or influences their choices.

### Visioning Workshops

A series of Visioning Workshops introduced the concept of the DZ to groups throughout the area, while also aiming to recruit community members to join the DZ Consultation Group.

6 Visioning Workshops were held:

- 8/10/24: Clondalkin Tidy Towns
- 16/10/24: Online Workshop with Survey Respondents
- 16/10/24: In-Person Workshop in Áras Chrónáin with Survey respondents
- 11/11/24: North Clondalkin Community Safety Forum
- 21/11/24: Scoil Áine
- 12/12/24: Rowlagh Community Centre Staff

Engagement continued into 2025 and the final DZ Implementation Plan is due in Q2 of 2025.



### 3. CARO Update

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) were established in 2018 in response to Action 8 of the 2018 National Adaptation Framework (NAF) – *Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland*. The offices are mandated to co-ordinate engagement across the varying levels of government and help build on experience and expertise that exists in the area of climate change and climate action. The offices have a role in driving climate action at both regional and local levels, including supporting the implementation of local adaptation plans/Climate Change Action Plans.

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

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

Table 5: Climate Action Regional Offices

The Dublin Metropolitan CARO has been working closely with the four Dublin Local Authority Climate Teams and Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency, to support the implementation of their Climate Action Plans.

The Dublin CARO has a regional steering group comprising the four Director of Services of the Dublin Local Authorities, and colleagues from Codema, and the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly.



Figure 5: Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs)

Examples of projects across the six key areas of the CARO work programme are included below:

#### 1. Management and Governance

- National, Regional and local climate team meetings.
- Participation in sectoral adaptation steering groups and working groups.
- Preparation of detailed business cases to support climate action for the local authority sector.
- Participation in relevant CCMA/LGMA and Government working groups on Climate Action.

#### 2. Climate Adaptation

- Assisting local authorities with implementation and reporting of Climate Action Plans including implementation guidance.
- Preparation of guidance such as the guidance document for adaptation of regional & local roads.
- Working with Government Departments and agencies on the implementation of sectoral adaptation plans.
- Collaborating with key climate actors such as Climate Ireland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Universities.
- Participation on National Working Groups such as new Coastal Change Strategy Steering Group.

#### 3. Climate Mitigation

- Participation in Regional and National Electric Vehicle (EV) working groups.
- Collaboration with energy agencies and SEAI on energy related projects.
- Identifying and assisting local authorities with projects eligible for the National Climate Action Fund.

#### 4. Communications and Citizen Engagement

- Presentations to Councils, Government Departments and Agencies, youth organisations and the general public.



- Supporting individual local authorities with community engagement events including climate action workshops.
- Collaboration with key stakeholders such as GAA on Green Clubs Programme, Comhairle Na nOg, Age Friendly Ireland etc.
- Maintenance of the CARO website and social media communication channels.
- Preparation of submissions on climate relevant public consultations.

#### 5. Training and Education

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

#### 6. Knowledge Development

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



*Dublin CARO organised a Climate Career Day where professionals working in the climate area were invited to share their working experiences with Transition Year Students.*



A key focus of the recent CARO work programme has been the roll out of climate action training across the local authority sector. This training plan has been developed by the CAROs in collaboration with partners such as the Local Authority Environmental Services Training Group (LASTNG), Climate Ireland, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Met Éireann, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Institute for Public Administration and others. Training has been targeted at all staff levels and focuses on the following six pillar areas:

- *Climate Action Leadership* – aimed at all elected members & senior staff
- *Climate Action Awareness Training* – aimed at building capacity across climate action teams
- *General Awareness Building* – online training for all indoor staff to raise awareness of climate action
- *Practical Climate Action* – training for all outdoor staff to assist them to deliver practical climate action measures
- *Behavioural Change Training* – to empower staff to promote positive change both internally and across the community
- *Specific and Targeted Training* – training arising from specific knowledge gaps or individual policy/role requirements, such as spatial planning, flood risk management and

**Strengthening communications.** This has been primarily by developing the CARO website which has more than 86,000 users. The most popular sections of the website include projects, research, local authority climate action, training and academic courses.

**Community outreach.** Working with the four Dublin Local Authorities and Codema a significant amount of work and events were undertaken as part of the Dublin Climate Action Week in September to deliver a programme of in person and online events to showcase climate action. Additional outreach will be achieved through the delivery of recorded webinars on the CARO website for future use. Significant work was also undertaken with other partners as part of the GAA Green Clubs Phase 1 programme<sup>6</sup>. Other events have included working with partners such as Age Friendly Ireland, An Taisce Climate Ambassadors and 3<sup>rd</sup> Level universities to participate in events and workshops on climate action.

## 4. CODEMA Update

This section is an overview of some of the main activities Codema has undertaken in the last 12 months, working with the four different Dublin Local Authorities. Since the publication of the Climate Change Action Plan in February 2024, Codema has continued its work as the energy advisor to SDCC and the other 3 Dublin Local Authorities (DLAs).



### ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Codema assists in the direct energy management within SDCC, completing the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting to show the authority's progress towards its 50% energy efficiency improvement target for 2030. Most recent confirmed figures show that by the end of 2023, SDCC improved its energy efficiency by 45.4% when compared to the baseline. Preliminary figures (which will be confirmed in Q3 2024) for 2024 indicate a 46.8% improvement in energy efficiency since the baseline. In addition to this, a target of a 51% absolute reduction in energy related Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) has also been set by 2030. This target will use a separate baseline to the energy efficiency target, taking an average of emissions from 2016-2018. By the end of 2023, SDCC had reduced its GHG emissions by 41.8% compared to this baseline. A further reduction of 3,658 tCO<sub>2</sub> is needed by 2030 for SDCC to meet its emission reduction targets. Preliminary figures for 2024 indicate a 43% reduction in GHG emissions from the baseline.

Codema was awarded significant funding from the EU Horizon 2020 Programme in 2021 to develop a Project Implementation Unit for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Dublin over the next 4 years. Under this DeliveREE project, Codema has been working with SDCC to create a Building Decarbonisation Plan, which outlines the current gap to reaching the 2030 emissions targets and identifies facilities for potential energy projects to bridge this gap, subject to funding.

Through DeliveREE, in 2024, Codema helped to facilitate the procurement of an Energy Performance

Contract involving County Hall, Civic Theatre, Clondalkin Offices and Tallaght and Clondalkin Leisure Centres.

Additionally, Codema is actively progressing the development of two solar projects with SDCC. The first is for a 200 kW system designed to provide electricity to an Arthurstown landfill leachate treatment facility, which has now secured planning permission and is ready to advance to procurement. The second project is for a large-scale MW system located at the same landfill but designed for export to the electricity grid.

More detailed information on SDCC's work can be found in *Section 2 SDCC CAP 2024* of this report.

### ISO 50001 Energy Management Certification

ISO 50001 is a system for establishing, implementing, maintaining and improving an organisation's energy management. Achieving ISO 50001 certification means meeting specific requirements in how the energy management system is run, including how energy use is measured, how it is documented and reported, how equipment is procured and the systems in place that impact on energy performance.

Codema works closely with SDCC in the implementation and management of energy management systems, coordinating all actions towards reaching and maintaining certification to ISO 50001 standard and meeting energy efficiency and carbon reduction targets.

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) signed up to SEAI's ISO 50001 masterclass and completed the course in 2019. SDCC also completed the ISO 50001 Accelerator programme in 2024.

Codema is currently aiding SDCC in completing outputs from this programme and is helping the council to progress their energy management system to a stage where they can apply for certification in 2025.

### Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone

Codema contributed to the Decarbonising Zone chapter of the SDCC CAP; mapping and analysing the energy demand and emissions for residential and commercial (including public sector and industrial) buildings, and the transport sector across the Decarbonising Zone. Codema has also supported SDCC in the development of a Local Engagement Plans to ensure the local community is involved in the development of the Decarbonising Zone plan.

Codema's technical work on Decarbonising Zones (DZs) includes:

- A full evidence base of spatially mapped out emission sources and low-carbon resources in the DZ.
- Potential increase/decreases in emissions projected to 2030.



- A gap-to-target analysis, based on the 51% emissions reduction target.
- A register of opportunities to help define a portfolio and pipeline of decarbonisation projects for delivery and outline potential funding opportunities.

In the pursuit of effective decarbonisation efforts, it is essential to actively include and consider the perspectives of the community in the creation of a Decarbonising Zone plan. The success of this local plan hinges on the ability to resonate with and address the unique needs, concerns and aspirations of the relevant community within and around the DZ boundary. Therefore, our Public and Stakeholder Engagement team has supported and continues to support the Dublin Local Authorities in their DZ community and stakeholder engagement.

In April 2024, Codema's engagement team began working with SDCC to carry out a best practice engagement process with the community in the Clondalkin DZ. Building on experience gained from engaging the communities in Dublin City Council's DZs and customising the engagement approach to best fit the Clondalkin community, the team carried out a best practise local engagement plan to ensure the character of the Clondalkin community would be captured in the finalised DZ plan. The engagement process of the Clondalkin DZ continued into April 2025 (Refer to *Section 2.10 Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone* for more information on the engagement process).



### Large-scale project roll-out

Codema specialises in the roll-out of large-scale energy projects that play a crucial role in advancing Dublin's low-carbon, sustainable future. Through close collaboration with local authorities, public sector bodies and private stakeholders, we deliver impactful solutions in renewable energy, district heating, building energy efficiency and decarbonisation. These projects are essential in driving Dublin's progress towards its climate targets, while also enhancing the quality of life for its residents. Every initiative we lead is designed to contribute to a cleaner, more resilient city.



### DeliveREE

In early 2021, Codema was awarded funding under the Horizon 2020 Project Development Assistance call for the DeliveREE project. DeliveREE aims to create an innovative project finance and delivery structure for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the Dublin region, across the four Dublin Local Authorities, using various performance-based contracting structures. By creating a structured approach, DeliveREE will accelerate the formation of large-scale projects by standardising the project development process, allowing projects of various types and sizes to be aggregated to create scale. This enables the use of energy performance and energy supply contracts whose performance guarantees are both critical for achieving value for money and for providing a mechanism for the involvement of private capital.

Through DeliveREE, Codema has established a dedicated Project Implementation Unit (PIU) team internally who are actively working on the development and testing of the PIU procedures and protocols and the implementation of projects. One of the main outputs of DeliveREE are signed contracts for at least nine project lots. The PIU team continues to work in cooperation with the four Dublin Local Authorities to further determine the pipeline of projects necessary for them to achieve their 2030 energy and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets. A 'Gap-to-Target Analysis' was completed to assess the current gaps to the government emission targets for each local authority, and outlined the projects required to make sure these targets are met, leading to an updated investment pipeline.

In 2024, Codema helped to facilitate the procurement of an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) for SDCC. The EPC is for six buildings: County Hall, Civic Theatre, Clondalkin Civic Offices, Rua Red, Clondalkin Leisure Centre and Tallaght Leisure Centre. This EPC is currently at Invitation to Participate in Competitive Dialogue stage, where tenderers produce Outline Solutions Reports which include proposed upgrade measures for the six sites. Contract signing is expected in early 2025. Additionally, Codema is actively progressing the development of two solar projects with SDCC. The first is for a 200-kW system designed to provide electricity to an Arthurstown landfill leachate treatment facility, which has now secured

planning permission and is ready to advance to procurement.

The second project is for a large-scale MW system located at the same landfill but designed for export to the electricity grid. A consultant was procured by the PIU and SDCC to complete a feasibility study report for this project, which was delivered in summer 2024. The main finding of this analysis was that the project would only be feasible if the full site potential was utilised, with an installed capacity of 26 MW.

#### **Dublin Local Authority EV Strategy**

In 2022, the four Dublin Local Authorities published their 2022-2030 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy, the first of its kind in this country. The objective of this study was to assess what public infrastructure should be deployed and where, the number of charging points needed and the level of investment that will be required over this decade. The Strategy has identified the need for the installation of up to 3,800 public residential electric vehicle charge points (EVCs) across the county by 2030, led by the local authorities. In September 2022, Codema was appointed by the four Dublin Local Authorities to develop a process which will enable the delivery and ongoing operation of the required quantity of EVCs. In September 2024, the procurement of a charge point operator for the design, build and operation of fast/rapid destination charge points across the four DLA areas was concluded. A two-year single-party framework agreement has been signed with ePower with an option to extend for a further four years.

The initial project consists of 50 locations across the four DLAs, with up to four charging points in each location. ePower will operate these sites under a concession agreement for a 10-year period. An Amalgamated Business Case was prepared by Codema and submitted to Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEV) in December 2024, requesting capital funding for the enabling infrastructure on this project, including ESB grid

connections and associated civil and electrical works. Grid connection applications for the majority of the 50 sites were made in 2024, and it is expected that the first sites will go live in Q2 of 2025.

#### **Tallaght District Heating Scheme**

Trading as Heat Works, the Tallaght District Heating Scheme (TDHS) is fully-owned and operated by South Dublin County Council as the first not-for-profit heat utility in Ireland. Heat Works was launched at the beginning of 2023 and intends to be an exemplar heat network business in Ireland, delivering economic, environmental and social benefits for all parties.

Throughout 2024, the TDHS continued to supply heat for the initial customers along with connection of additional buildings such as the Innovation Centre, TU Dublin's Culinary Arts and Engineering Teaching building, and 133 affordable apartment units. With these connections, the first phase of the scheme was completed by December 2024.

As the energy agency to South Dublin County Council, Codema provides technical, policy, funding, procurement and project management assistance to the TDHS. In 2024, Codema continued to provide support for tours and technical site visits, new connection assessments, stakeholder engagement support, and network modelling support, among other activities, as the project transitioned from operational to a more advanced stage.

Codema also supported SDCC in the Climate Action Fund grant drawdown process by assisting in preparing the financial documentation required for successful payment of grants. In 2023, Codema also secured SEAI Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) funding to use the Tallaght project as a case study for thermal storage and flexibility opportunities. This will explore the business case for the Tallaght network (and similar networks) to provide services to the electricity grid. In 2025, Codema will submit another Climate Action Fund application to support the expansion of the network beyond Phase 1. If successful, it will support the connection of new customers and increase the amount of low-carbon heat that the system can deliver to the area.

More detailed information on SDCC's work can be found in *Section 2 SDCC CAP 2024-29* of this report.

### **BEST PRACTICE ENGAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION**

#### **Think Energy.ie website**

In April 2024, the new ThinkEnergy.ie website was launched, an innovative platform dedicated to



*The Heat Works District Heating Energy Centre located on the Belgard Road in Tallaght*

enhancing energy awareness and efficiency throughout Ireland. In addition to being the online information hub for the Home Energy Saving Kit, the new website offers accessible tips and resources to help individuals and communities take control of their energy use.

Key features of the website include:

- **Home Energy Saving Kit:** A detailed information section on the Home Energy Saving Kit, the tools that are included, how they help you save energy and where you can borrow a kit from your local library.
- **Comprehensive guides:** Users can access a range of engaging information and resources on the website, including the "100 Ways to Save Energy at Home" guidebook, which offers practical tips categorised by cost and area of energy use, enabling users to implement effective energy-saving measures tailored to their needs.
- **Educational resources and services:** ThinkEnergy.ie provides a variety of resources such as video tutorials, manuals and workbooks. Additionally, the platform offers information on how to access Codema's energy awareness services like kit demonstrations, employee engagement sessions, community events and webinars to support energy-saving initiatives across different sectors.

#### Energy awareness events and activities

Building on the success of previous years, we continued to provide a range of energy awareness events and services on behalf of the local authorities and communities across Dublin. The team participated in a variety of in-person events, engaging with individuals, community groups and local authorities to promote energy efficiency and climate action.



#### Key energy awareness events in 2024 included:

- Lucan Library – 6th March
- Palmerstown Library – 11th April

- DCAW SDCC Climate Fest, Clondalkin – 14th September
- SDCC Libraries HQ, Tallaght – Think Energy Event – 27th November

#### Project Funding and Facilitation:

One of Codema's key areas of expertise is the development, management and reporting of EU and nationally funded projects.

In Q4 2024, Codema and SDCC were awarded funding for two EU funded projects; REEF and RODEO which will commence in 2025.

##### Regions Putting Energy First (REEF)

Regions putting Energy Efficiency First (REEF) will help Dublin apply the "Energy Efficiency First" principle, ensuring energy-saving measures are at the heart of urban planning. It will support South Dublin County Council's Decarbonising Zone in Clondalkin, creating a model for other regions. This four-year Interreg Europe funded project will commence in May 2025.

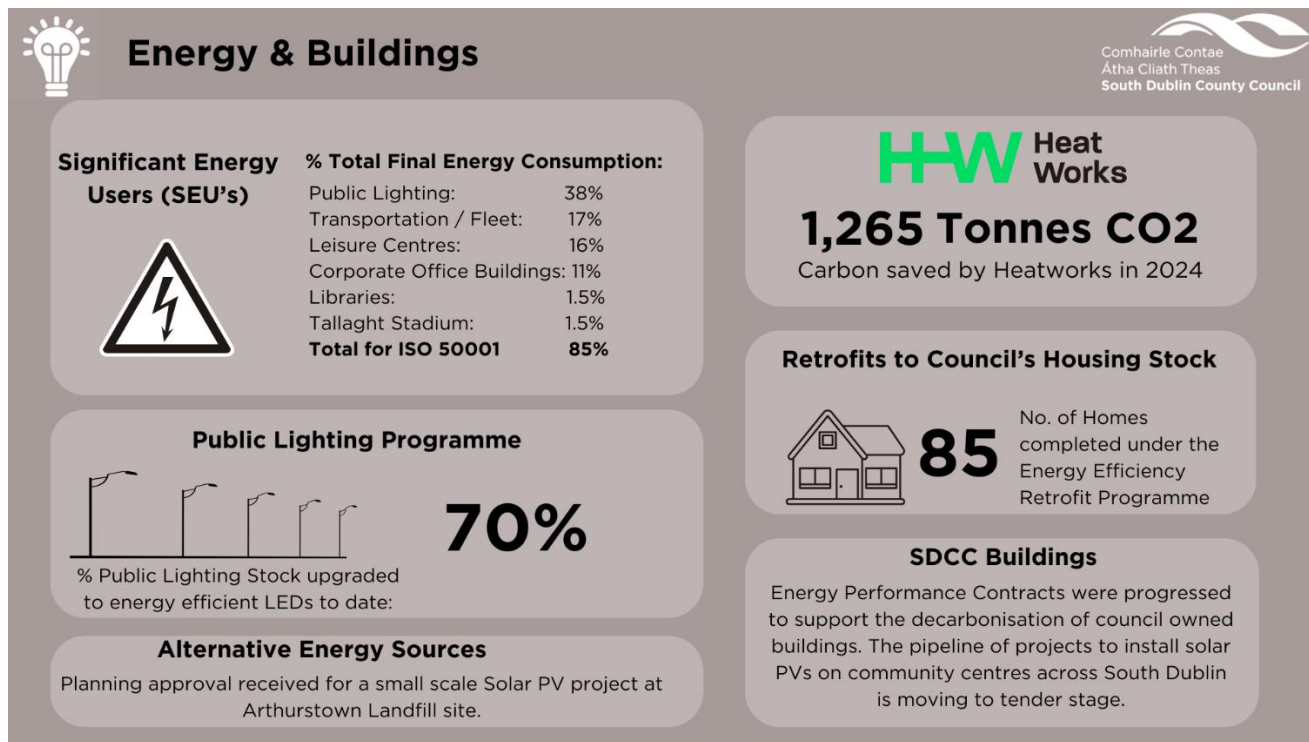
With the collaboration of SDCC and EU partners, Dublin is positioning itself as a leader in innovative, community-driven energy solutions that can be scaled across Ireland and beyond.

##### Rolling Out District Heating Extensively to Home Owners (RODEO)

Rolling Out District Heating Extensively to Home Owners (RODEO) is a 4-year Interreg North-West Europe funded project will commence in March/April 2025. RODEO will accelerate the expansion of district heating and cooling networks, particularly for residential consumers. The Tallaght District Heating Scheme will serve as a pilot site, demonstrating how financial and engagement strategies can increase uptake and efficiency of sustainable heating networks.

# Appendix I:

## CAP 24-29 Action Updates



Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Organisational Energy Management and Innovation</b>				
E1	Embed an organisational energy/building management system in SDCC, ensuring compliance with relevant standards, obligations, and reporting requirements, with the aim to achieve ISO50,001.	Full Accountability	Environment, Water and Climate Change (EWCC)	In 2024, an Energy Management Team was established, consisting of representatives from each of the Significant Energy Users (SEUs).  Six (SEUs) account for 85% of total energy used in South Dublin County Council.
E2	As part of SDCCs Energy Management, work with the Significant Energy Users and each Department, to make SDCC as energy efficient as possible.	Full Accountability	EWCC	<b>Public Lighting: 38%</b> <b>Transportation / Fleet: 17%</b> <b>Leisure Centres: 16%</b> <b>Corporate Office Buildings: 11%</b> <b>Libraries: 1.5%</b> <b>Stadium: 1.5%</b>  The Team met throughout the year to support the Energy Performance Officer and the Energy Officer in delivering a focused approach on energy management and in progressing ISO 500001 Energy Management certification.
E3	Complete the Public Lighting SOX Upgrade Programme, for the replacement of all SOX (low pressure sodium lamps) with energy efficient LEDs.	Full Accountability	Land Use, Planning and Transportation (LUPT) - Public Lighting	The SDCC Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project began in 2014, with Phase 1 completed in 2020. Phase 2 is currently ongoing and will run from 2020-2026. In 2024 1,690 lights were upgraded to energy efficient LEDs. By the end of 2024 70% of the public lighting network was upgraded to energy efficient LEDs.
E4	Complete the Public Lighting SON Upgrade Programme, for the replacement of all SON (high pressure sodium lamps) with	Full Accountability	LUPT - Public Lighting	



	energy efficient LEDs.			
E5	Develop a method, process, or tool, for SDCC to assess the whole Lifecycle Analysis (LCA) of buildings and infrastructure to understand the overall impact during its life cycle.	Full Accountability	Architectural Services	Actions Not Yet Started.
E6	Develop, or procure, a tool to be used for high level assessments of embodied carbon in SDCC projects at design stage and to design a policy proposal that all new Council funded buildings are built to an emissions neutral standard.	Full Accountability	Architectural Services	
E7	Decarbonise, where feasible, plant and handheld tools.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm	A wide range of plant and tools are utilized by SDCC Departments to support their operations. From heavy-duty machinery such as generators, pile drivers, and ride-on mowers to specialized tools like chainsaws, hedge trimmers, stump grinders, and much more, the Fleet Section is collaborating closely with each department to ensure comprehensive equipment records are maintained as part of the ongoing decarbonisation efforts.

Improve Energy Efficiency and Reduce Carbon Emissions in SDCC Buildings				
E8	Progress Energy Performance Contracts (EPC) to deliver energy efficiency targets for SDCC owned buildings with significant energy usage, including the Leisure Centres, County Hall and Library, and Clondalkin Civic Offices.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Climate Action, Energy	In 2024 several energy management projects were advanced to drive progress towards energy efficiency and greenhouse gas targets.  Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs) were developed to support the decarbonisation of Council-owned buildings including Leisure Centres, County Hall, County Library and Clondalkin Civic Offices. In 2024 a competitive dialogue process was used to identify the project's needs, and a tender is expected to be awarded in early 2025.
E9	Progress energy efficiency works, including retrofits, in Council owned and operated buildings, such as Libraries and Community Centres, that fall outside of a potential EPC contract.	Full Accountability	Architectural Services	Additionally, a pipeline of projects identified under the Building Decarbonisation Plan will see SDCC deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in buildings through DeliveREE/Pathfinder. A number of Community Centres across South Dublin have been identified for the installation of Solar PV's.
E12	Develop the sensitive retrofit of historic / protected structures across South Dublin with the aim of improving energy efficiency and building climate resilience.	Full Accountability	LUPT, Architectural Services	In November 2024 A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the four Dublin Local Authorities. This will enable SDCC to access the Pathfinder Scheme to assist in funding building retrofits.
E13	Identify and progress opportunities to improve energy efficiencies in Tallaght Stadium and SDCC sports grounds with external floodlights.	Full Accountability	Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development (EETD); EWCC - Public Realm	Work to establish a framework agreement for the provision and maintenance of PV panels on council properties was finalised in 2024 (tenders issued in 2025).  Tallaght Stadium has taken significant steps to support the Climate Action Plan by implementing a range of sustainable initiatives aimed at reducing the stadium's carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency.

E10	Retrofits of the Council's housing stock, prioritising energy efficiency upgrades in areas that have been identified in the Dublin Region Energy Masterplan as being energy poor.	Full Accountability	HSCD	All new social housing constructed after 2009 is built to advanced performance requirements.  Under the National Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, the remaining SDCC owned properties with low energy efficiency ratings will be increased to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2.
E11	Develop tenant energy awareness toolkit to provide climate / energy awareness and training for the operation of the new energy systems installed.	Full Accountability	HSCD	In 2024 85 homes were upgraded to B2 BER standard under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. A total of 323 homes have been upgraded since the programme commenced, representing 3.23% of the overall stock.



<b>E14</b>	Maximise opportunities to avail of funding sources, to support a range of climate action projects across the County, including European Union (EU) funding streams.	Full Accountability	All SDCC Departments	SDCC collaborates with various partners, including Codema, CARO, and others, to explore available funding and support opportunities for the development of climate adaptation and mitigation projects. A key aspect of this collaboration involves identifying potential sources of EU funding. These projects contribute significantly to reducing carbon footprints and enhancing energy efficiency across the SDCC.
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#### Alternative Energy Sources; Increase SDCC's Renewable Energy Generation Capacity

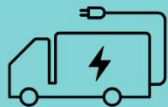
<b>E15</b>	Install Solar PV on suitable SDCC owned buildings, focusing on Community Centres and Libraries, and examine the potential for installation on other assets.	Full Accountability	HSCD, EETD	SDCC has identified a list of potential buildings, including libraries and community centres, suitable for Solar PV installation. Several options are currently under consideration by the Council.  Procurement for the installation of solar panels on approximately 50 council owned and leased buildings advanced in 2024 and was published in early 2025.
<b>E16</b>	Investigate opportunities to install solar panels at Depots (roofs / solar car port etc.), with the aim of supplying renewable energy to offset the expected increase in consumption due to the planned fleet decarbonisation and associated EV charging.	Full Accountability	EWCC	
<b>E21</b>	Identify sites or opportunities for trialling renewable energy projects including but not limited to solar, wind, hydro and pumped storage.	Full Accountability	All SDCC Departments	

<b>E17</b>	Maintain the operation and monitoring of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, and progress the further expansion of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme.	Full Accountability	EWCC	The Tallaght District Heating Scheme is using waste heat from an Amazon data centre to provide low-carbon heating to public buildings in the Tallaght area since April 2023. The scheme is supplying reliable, low-carbon heat to South Dublin Council's County Hall building and library complex, along with buildings in the TU Dublin Tallaght campus, Work IQ and 133 affordable apartments at Innovation Square in Tallaght. Phase 2 development is being pursued.
<b>E18</b>	Develop proposals for further district heating schemes, including Clonburris and Grange Castle.		Architectural Services	

<b>E19</b>	Deliver Arthurstown Landfill Solar PV Project to generate renewable energy for consumption on site.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Waste Management	A small-scale Solar PV project at Arthurstown Landfill site is being progressed. The installation will generate 200kW of power, providing enough energy to support the sites current operations. In 2024 SDCC received planning approval for the project and initiated the procurement process.  A study to examine the feasibility of delivering a commercial scale solar PV plan at Arthurstown is currently with the appointed consultants.
<b>E20</b>	Investigate the feasibility of developing a commercial scale Solar PV plant at Arthurstown Landfill site and look to progress any feasible recommendations.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Waste Management	



## Transport



### SDCC Fleet Decarbonisation

Number of Fleet EV's: **8**

No. of Fleet using HVO: **21**

### EV Charging

The rollout of public destination EV charging continued with the appointment of ePower as the provider of public EV charging infrastructure across all four Dublin Local Authorities.

### Road Maintenance

New Brine Saturation Facility completed in 2024 - will result in less salt being spread on South Dublin's roads during winter maintenance, while achieving the same service level.

### Active Travel

KM's of New & Upgraded cycle lanes 2024: **22.5**



New Public Bike Parking Stands 2024: **20**

Safe Routes To Schools & Safe School Streets delivered to date: **10**

Pedestrian crossings delivered: **19**

Support of the NTA Bus Connects scheme ongoing, with the Hazel Hatch section of the W4 Bus Service becoming operational in Dec 2024

### Staff Mobility

#### Smarter Travel Mark: Silver Award



#### Staff Survey Results Highlights:

**38%** of respondents commute via sustainable travel

**45%** would like to cycle more often

Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Public Transport in South Dublin</b>				
T1	Facilitate, support and guide national agencies in delivering major improvements to the public transport network, in particular Bus Connects, DART+, Luas capacity and new and enhanced rail stations.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	Land Use, Planning and Transportation (LUPT)	In 2024 SDCC continued to work with the relevant transportation bodies (including the National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Dublin Bus, Luas, Irish Rail, Bus Éireann, and Road Safety Authority (RSA)) to facilitate and provide support in delivering major improvements to the public transport network, and measures to achieve modal shift. Kishogue Train Station opened in 2024 improving rail access into the city centre. Outside the station works on the R136 were completed and the speed limit close to the station was reduced to 50km/h to make pedestrian movements safer.
T2	Work with the NTA and TII to generate information on modal share changes with a focus on modal shift to public transport and active travel, and effectively communicate this information to the public.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	LUPT	Lucan to City centre Bus Connects scheme approved by an Bord Pleanála on 29th August 2024. Hazelhatch section of W4 Bus Service operational in December 2024.
T3	To facilitate the provision of Park and Ride facilities in appropriate locations at transport nodes and along strategic transport corridors in accordance with the NTA Strategy, and encourage the inclusion of EV charge points and bike parking.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	LUPT	SDCC is working with the NTA to develop a (temporary) 30 space car park in Adamstown into a multi-mode mobility Hub. The NTA have committed to co-funding the cycling elements of the hub.

<b>Promoting Active Travel in South Dublin</b>				
T4	Deliver a safe active travel network for people of all ages and abilities through the	Full Accountability	LUPT	In 2024 SDCC continued to progress opportunities to make active travel a safe and attractive option for travelling around South

	implementation of the Cycle South Dublin programme, including on-road, off-road, and greenway routes.			<p>Dublin. 22.535km of new and upgraded cycle lanes and 61,483m<sup>2</sup> of new and upgraded footpaths were delivered in South Dublin.</p> <p>The Cycle South Dublin Programme was initiated in 2021, since then expenditure on Active Travel projects has increased to an allocation of €22.8m in 2024.</p> <p>Significant construction projects in 20224 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D24 Neighbourhood network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1, Whitestown and Killinarden. Completed.</li> <li>Phase2, Ballycullen Killinniny, Mid construction, to be completed Q2 2025</li> </ul> </li> <li>Castletymon Road District centre opened in 2024, north section commencing 2025</li> <li>Canal loop greenway commencing 2025</li> <li>Airton road link Construction Continuing to Q2</li> <li>Templeville Road Phase 2</li> <li>Dodder Greenway (Butterfield Avenue and Firhouse Road)</li> <li>Rapid Deployment Schemes</li> </ul> <p>The Active Travel Website <a href="http://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel">www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel</a>, which went live in 2022, was the first local authority online resource of its kind. The website is a one stop shop for Active Travel in South Dublin, it contains GIS maps, links to the SDCC consultation portal for all projects and an informative resource for all stakeholders to use to check on our current and future plans. Interactive route maps are available on the site.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team organised Bike Week, in May 2024, organising a variety of events which highlight cycling as a sustainable and healthy transportation option. Other events tied in with the NTA include the “Walktober” event that took place. SDCC social media accounts are used to promote projects, initiatives and the work delivered by the Active Travel Team.</p> <p>The Council maintained a high standard of active travel routes by ensuring regular cleaning and annual maintenance. 2024 funding allocated was €400,000 for maintenance of active travel routes.</p>
T5	Continue to promote active travel, for a wide range of ages, abilities and journey types, utilising SDCC's active travel website, social media and events such as an active travel promotional ePlatform.	Full Accountability	LUPT	
T6	Maintain a high standard of active travel routes by ensuring regular cleaning and annual maintenance to encourage ongoing use.	Full Accountability	LUPT	
T7	Working with the four Dublin Authorities, identify opportunities for the implementation of public bike sharing schemes, and powered personal transportation, in South Dublin supporting private operators.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	LUPT	<p>Following the completion of a pilot Ebike Rental Scheme with ESB in 2023, SDCC initiated an investigation into the potential established of a public bicycle sharing scheme in the Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone.</p> <p>In 2024, SDCC Active Travel Team continued to expand bike parking facilities in sports clubs and schools across the county, as well as in the public realm. To date approximately 750 new bike parking spaces were created in South Dublin. Work began on Rosemount District Enhancement Scheme in August 2024 which include new bike stands as part of the development.</p> <p>As part of the Traffic Section's Street Management Pan 12 pedestrian crossings and 8 traffic calming schemes were delivered in the County in 2024.</p>
T8	Deliver a network of secure, public bicycle and powered personal transportation parking, to accommodate a variety of bike types across the County, including at schools, parks, playgrounds, towns, and villages.	Full Accountability	LUPT	
T9	Continue the development of pedestrian improvements, aligning with any Pedestrian Enhancement Plans developed for the Dublin Metropolitan area.	Full Accountability	LUPT	
T10	Identify roads and streets suitable for road space reallocation and progress appropriate schemes.	Full Accountability	LUPT - Active Travel	<p>In 2024 SDCC engaged with the public on multiple Active Travel schemes informing the residents of the benefits of these schemes.</p> <p>Approximately 1355 citizens were engaged through a combination of outreach methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Leaflet Drops:</b> 546 citizens and 400 students in in 5 different schools received leaflets to ensure accessibility</li> </ul>

T11	In addition to the statutory and non-statutory consultations, upon the launch of a proposed new active travel scheme, where appropriate and as needed, public meetings will be held and information leaflets will be distributed in the areas informing all residents of the details and benefits of such schemes.	Full Accountability	LUPT - Active Travel	<p>to a broad audience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Surveys:</b> 339 citizens engaged on-line surveys, which allow SDCC to collect feedback from the community to understand their needs, preferences, and concerns regarding active travel options.</li> <li><b>Public Meetings:</b> 70 citizens have engaged in public meetings, where residents were given the opportunity to voice their opinions and ask questions directly to SDCC representatives.</li> </ul>
T12	Implement the Safe Routes To School Programme and implement the School Streets Initiative and to ensure that individual communications plans are prepared and executed for each Safe Routes to School project. These plans, in consultation with An Taisce and where appropriate and as needed, could include communications to local residents and to the school community before delivery, during delivery and following completion.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	LUPT - Active Travel	<p>Construction of Round 1 and Round 2 of the Safer to Schools Streets was largely completed in 2024 and 10 schools now have increased safety measures at and near the school through traffic calming measures at the entrance and improved footpaths and cycle lanes to the schools. This will provide increased safety for the students and provide a more viable way for students to walk and cycle to school.</p> <p>The primary school cycle training programme was implemented again in 2024, with 44 schools and 2,311 students participating in the programme.</p>
T13	Deliver the primary school cycle training programme.	Full Accountability	LUPT	
T14	Ensure active travel schemes and initiatives make walking, and cycling more accessible for all users, including those with reduced mobility, disabilities and the Elderly, to further opportunities for increasing a sustainable modal shift. For example, Cycling Without Age.	Full Accountability	LUPT - Active	

T15	Engage with car sharing scheme operators to increase the number of shared vehicles available in the County, with a focus on the provision of electric vehicles.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	LUPT - Transport, Planning	Action Not Started.
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T16	Carry out trials of traffic movements including street closures, one-way systems, diversions and low traffic neighbourhoods to reduce traffic movement in certain areas.	Full Accountability and Influence	LUPT	Permeability options are being explored within the Clondalkin Local Area Plan.
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#### SDCC Fleet and Staff Mobility to, from, and during work

T17	Implement the Council's Fleet Transition Strategy to identify efficiencies and rationalise the need for SDCC vehicles, and to decarbonise SDCC vehicles - guided by the Avoid-Shift-Improve approach.	Full Accountability	EWCC	<p>The Council developed a Fleet Transition Strategy, which includes five-year and ten-year targets to decarbonise the fleet and ensure the 2030 emission targets are met. In 2024 SDCC continued to transition fleet vehicles away from Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) to help meet our climate targets. A new Fleet Management System was procured in 2024. The new system will assist in monitoring the decarbonisation of the 128 vehicles and 451 plant items that have been identified to be replaced over the next five years.</p>
T18	Investigate the potential for alternative fuels for use in larger vehicles, before year 5 of the Fleet Transition Strategy, having appropriate regard to the lifecycle impacts and sustainability of alternative fuel options.	Full Accountability	EWCC	
T19	Deliver an ongoing driver education programme to staff to promote efficient driving behaviours.	Full Accountability	Corporate Performance and Change Management (CPCM) - Training	<p>Recognising that it will take time to introduce a full fleet of electric vehicles, Fleet Management began a pilot to trial Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in our diesel vehicles in August 2024. This is an interim measure to allow sufficient time to upgrade our EV charging network to enable the purchase of larger volumes of electric vehicles in our smaller fleet and research market development for alternative fuels in our larger fleet.</p> <p>In 2024 four new EV's were added to the fleet. HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) is a renewable diesel fuel derived from plant-based oils, fats, or greases. It undergoes a hydrotreating process to remove impurities and improve its properties. It can be used in existing diesel engines without any modifications. SEAI advises that for the public sector targets, the tailpipe CO2 emission factor used for calculating emissions from HVO used for transport is 0</p>



				<p>kgCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh, provided the HVO is deemed to be sustainable. It must meet the criteria set out in the recast Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001/EU (referred to as RED II).</p> <p>A vendor is being acquired for the new driver education programme.</p>
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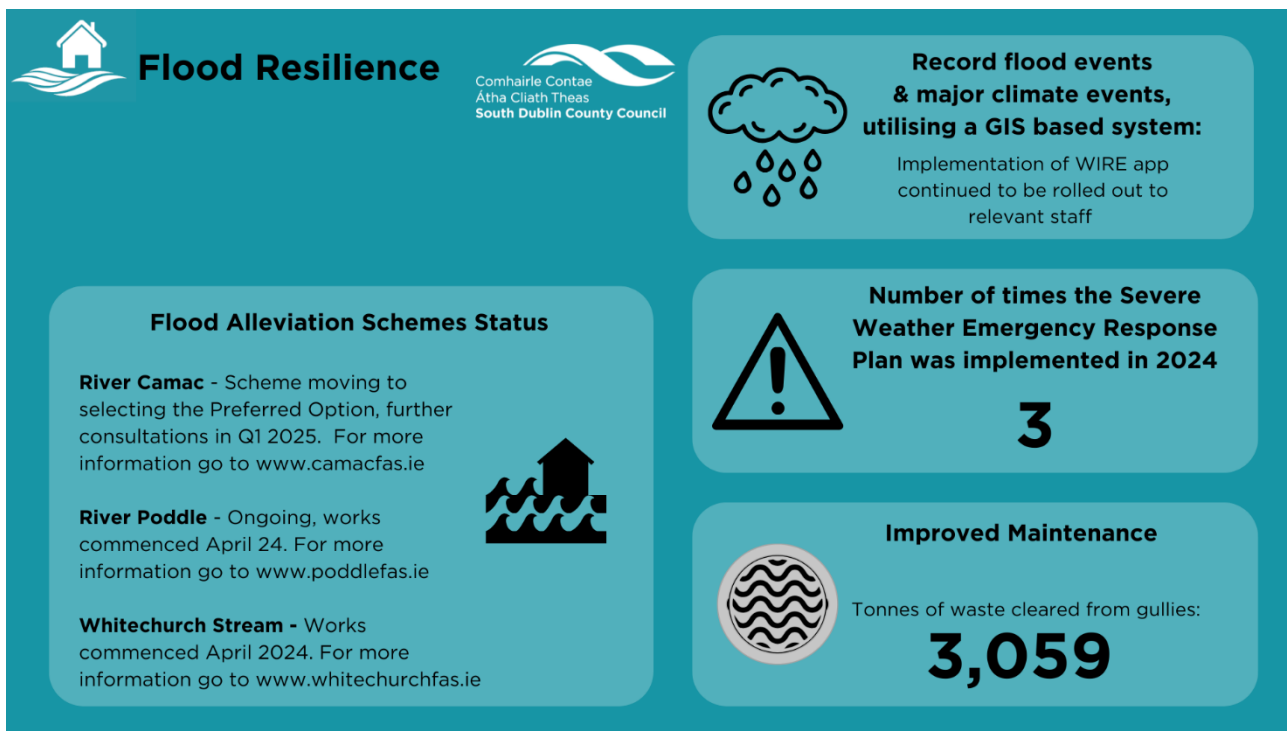
<b>T20</b>	Aim to reduce kilometres travelled by private ICE vehicles within work hours and incentivise modes such as cycling, electric vehicles.	Full Accountability	CPCM	SDCC achieved Silver accreditation from the NTA on the Smarter Travel Mark in 2024, marking a significant milestone in promoting sustainable and active travel within its staff community.
<b>T21</b>	Establish an SDCC Mobility Hub for staff with decarbonised vehicle options to reduce the use of ICE vehicles.	Full Accountability	CPCM	A staff commuting survey carried out as part of the Smarter Travel Mart were collated, highlights include: 38% commute via active/sustainable modes; 61% live within cyclable distance to work; 48% would like to walk more often; 45% would like to cycle more often.
<b>T22</b>	Assess staff commuting patterns and identify opportunities to promote sustainable and active travel to, and from, work.	Influence	EWCC - Climate Action	Work commenced internally to explore the potential to deliver a staff Mobility Hub. Meetings held in 2024 explored how shared vehicles could be managed.

### Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging

<b>T23</b>	Implement the Dublin Local Authority Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, (aligning with the National EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022- 2025).	Full Accountability	EWCC - Climate Action	<p>The Dublin local authorities continue to engage with Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland (ZEV), on implementing the Dublin Local Authority Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 2022-2030.</p> <p>In 2024 ePower was announced as the provider of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure across all four Dublin local authorities.</p>
<b>T24</b>	For privately owned EV charge points, create an SDCC Policy & Standards Guidance for the installation of electric vehicle charge points in the public realm.	Full Accountability	LUPT	<p>While the initial framework is for the provision of 14 sites across South Dublin, it is expected that over the next two years, some 200 chargers will be brought into operation around key destinations in the Dublin County region. This collaborative effort will help pave the way for smoother infrastructure development, better resource allocation, and greater convenience for EV owners who may not have access to charging facilities at their home across the whole of County Dublin.</p> <p>Work began on developing a Best Practice Guidance for homeowners who wish to install electric vehicle charge points in the public realm. This initially involved wider stakeholder engagement, including with the other Dublin Local Authorities.</p>

### Roads Construction, Maintenance, & Infrastructure

<b>T25</b>	In road construction projects, minimise the use of virgin materials and promote the use of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) or low carbon alternatives.	Full Accountability	LUPT	The Council endeavors to minimise the use of virgin materials in roads projects. TII has published an update to the Specification for Roadworks. The related requirement for the bituminous industry to provide Environmental Product Declarations for all bituminous mixtures, will assist in the carbon footprint reduction of roads projects. In undertaking works on road substructures, reuse of original concrete is used where possible.
<b>T26</b>	Review Roads Maintenance Process and materials for potential carbon reduction impact.	Full Accountability	LUPT	In the Airton Road Extension scheme, demolition of a warehouse within the site was utilised to reuse of materials for road construction, culminating in the reduction of 200 vehicle movements into and out of site. This resulted in a carbon saving estimated at 9,000kg (9 Tonnes).
<b>T27</b>	Maximise use of renewable energy for road infrastructure including lights, signs and street furniture.	Full Accountability	LUPT	Concrete specs for road constructions have been altered, with an expected carbon reduction of 32%. Asphalt specs are also being altered to warm mixes. Investigating the use of low quantities of RAP in wearing course. Sustainable thermal patching tender issued that will reduce new patching material by up to 90%.
<b>T28</b>	Promote the use of alternative systems for the treatment of roads during cold weather.	Full Accountability	LUPT	A Brine Saturation Facility was completed in 2024. The brine, which is used to carry out winter maintenance on South Dublin Roads, has several environmental benefits including less salt being spread resulting in less environmental impact and less salt in the water table.
<b>T29</b>	Introduce process efficiencies/flexibility in the treatment of roads during cold weather to reduce number of call outs required.	Full Accountability	LUPT	
<b>T30</b>	When surveying existing road infrastructure, include for identification of climate vulnerabilities, such as flooding and urban heat island effect.	Full	LUPT	



Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Adaptation to increased Flood Events (Flood Defence, Monitoring, Flood Response)</b>				
<b>F1</b>	Review and update Major Emergency Management Response plans, SDCC policies or relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), with national Legislation and regulation on Climate Change adaptation and flood management, as required/annually.	Full Accountability	Environment, Water and Climate Change (EWCC) - Major Emergency Management	SDCC Major Emergency Management Response plans to deal with severe weather and other events, are reviewed on an ongoing basis with updates of plans, policies and procedures made, as required.
<b>F2</b>	Ensure recording of flood events (fluvial and pluvial) and major climate events, utilising a GIS based system, to consistently capture locations, impacts, response resources, costs etc., to facilitate the development of climate adaptation measures.	Full Accountability	EWCC	SDCC continued to work collaboratively and in partnership with a range of key stakeholders, to address regional flood management issues. Key staff receive Daily Flood Guidance Statements issued by Met Eireann's Flood Forecast Centre, with general Weather Warnings sent to staff who subscribe to the Met Eireann Weather Warning Portal. Distribution of the various warnings to SDCC staff is managed by the Severe Weather Flood Liaison Manager (SWLFM).
<b>F3</b>	Ensure annual update of the specific risks to service provision in each SDCC Department that may be impacted by Climate Change, building on the Climate Change Risk Assessment developed for the Climate Action Plan.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Major Emergency Management	SDCC is part of the East Region Working Group for Major Emergency Management and Senior SDCC Staff sit on the East Region Steering Group for Major Emergency Management – allowing for engagement with the principal responders and other LAS. Staff attend the National Coordination Briefing during weather alerts, as required.
<b>F4</b>	Engage regularly with neighbouring Local Authorities and other relevant organisations, on regional flood management issues, and support the ongoing implementation of flood forecasting systems.	Full Accountability	EWCC	In 2024, implementation of the WIRE app continued to be rolled out to relevant staff to document the effects of weather events supporting climate adaptation planning, enabling better decision-making based on real-time weather impact data.
<b>F5</b>	Progress Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) in conjunction with the OPW – including the River Poddle FAS, the River Camac FAS and the Whitechurch Stream FAS.	Full Accountability	EWCC	Progress is being made on three Flood Alleviation Schemes in conjunction with the OPW.  <b>Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme</b> - Works commenced in April 2024 with a 36-month programme. Once the scheme is completed it will provide flood protection to over 900 residential

<b>F6</b>	Identify and progress minor works schemes to resolve recurring flood issues, where possible, ensuring the schemes are designed and implemented to include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) / nature-based solutions / protection of biodiversity and avoidance of habitat fragmentation.	Full Accountability	EWCC	<p>properties and 50 commercial properties in a 1 in 100-year rainfall event.</p> <p><b>Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme</b> - Works commenced in April 2023 with 27-month programme. The Whitechurch Stream was identified under the Dodder Catchment Based Flood Risk Assessment and Management as being liable to flooding during a one in one-hundred-year flood event - putting homes, businesses and lives at risk. The €2 million investment will protect over 170 properties including 150 homes and up to 20 businesses.</p> <p><b>River Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme</b> - Scheme moving to selecting the Preferred Option with further consultations to be held in Q1 2025.</p> <p>A Minor Works Programme is delivered annually to resolve flooding issues in the County.</p>
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#### Implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) / Surface Water Management in South Dublin

<b>F8</b>	Drive the implementation of SuDS in SDCC Capital projects, including new builds, retrofits etc, and monitor the level of implementation.	Full Accountability	EWCC	<p>The 'Sustainable Drainage Explanatory, Design and Evaluation Guide 2022'1 and 'A Householders Guide to SuDS' are available to download on <a href="http://www.southdublinclimate.ie">www.southdublinclimate.ie</a>.</p> <p>Since their publication, the Planning Department has made the use of SuDS a requirement in pre-planning consultations, sign-posting the SDCC SuDS Guidance and ensuring a consistent approach in the design and implementation of SuDS in relation to new build developments that require planning permission, as outlined in the County Development Plan 2022-28 policy.</p>
<b>F9</b>	Promote and encourage community involvement in the retrofit of SuDS or development of natural flood management measures, in existing housing/developments/local areas.	Advocate	EWCC	
<b>F10</b>	Identify 4 No. Demonstration Sites or Pilot schemes to monitor different SuDS projects, demonstrating how to combine SuDS/flood attenuation systems with existing land uses.	Full Accountability	EWCC	<p>SuDS have been successfully installed in sites across South Dublin, including Seven Mills in Clonburris, and the Planning, Public Realm and other sections promote them through a variety of means including the guidance documents and site tours.</p>
<b>F11</b>	Promote and encourage the implementation of SuDS to external Developers – ensure implementation of SuDS in Planning applications in line with SDCC SuDS Guidance.	Influence	EWCC	<p>SDCC constructed an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) in Tymon Park, in collaboration with the OPW on the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme. This is the fourth ICW to be delivered by SDCC.</p> <p>Architects, Planning and Public Realm worked with consultants to identify locations for in SuDS. SDCC will examine in more detail suitable locations for SuDS features in 2025.</p>

#### Improved Maintenance of SuDS and the Stormwater, Surface Water, and Road Gully Networks

Complete maintenance of lakes and the stormwater surface water and flood gully networks												
F12	Improve the general maintenance plan for the stormwater and surface water network, with the aim to link to flood event forecasting and incorporate data of locations with known issues.	Full Accountability	EWCC	The Newcastle, Rathcoole, and Saggart Surface Water Study is nearing completion, with the draft report prepared for review. The final report will be reviewed to see what maintenance and improvements are recommended.								
F13	Review Gully maintenance plan and operations for improvements, considering areas with recurring issues and smart technology opportunities.	Full Accountability	EWCC	SDCC continues to progress its gully maintenance plan, with a contractor employed to maintain gullies across South Dublin. Tracking measure - Gullies Tonnes of waste cleared: <table><tr><td>Q1</td><td>Q2</td><td>Q3</td><td>Q4</td></tr><tr><td>1041.18</td><td>974.9</td><td>941.52</td><td>101.76</td></tr></table>	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	1041.18	974.9	941.52	101.76
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4									
1041.18	974.9	941.52	101.76									
F14	Develop an improved maintenance plan for SuDS assets that are taken in charge by SDCC, ensuring their continued operation.	Full Accountability	EWCC	Total for 2024: 3059.36  Screens continue to be checked and cleaned to prevent a flood risk. Telemetry and CCTV updated to allow access to new staff members in Natural Water and Flood Resilience section.								
F15	Maintenance of lakes and wetlands to increase storage capacity during severe weather events, where necessary.	Full Accountability	EWCC									



## Nature Based Solutions

### Supporting Green Infrastructure



Trees Planted  
in 2024: **3,651**

Mini Woodland  
trees in 2024: **18,882**

Hectares of Biodiverse  
Meadowland Maintained: **195**



### Maintaining our Street Tree Stock



No. of trees on  
Arbortrack: **61,744**

Tonnes of Carbon  
Sequestered on Arbortrack  
to date: **18,632**

### Biodiversity Action Plan



Actions Completed or  
on a continual basis:

**13 of 19**

Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Sequestering Carbon</b>				
N1	Manage our tree mapping data and ensure the maintenance of our tree management system to evaluate carbon sequestration data associated with trees in South Dublin and investigate further opportunities for carbon sequestration where possible.	Full Accountability	Environment, Water and Climate Change (EWCC) - Public Realm: Tree Management	SDCC uses tree management software to maintain a healthy tree population in the County. In 2024 61,774 trees were recorded on our mapping tool, equating to approximately 18,632 Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e sequestered to date.

<b>Supporting Green Infrastructure</b>				
N2	Look to maintain and increase natural meadows, where appropriate, across the county.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm: Tree Management	<p>As part of the management of parks and open spaces, SDCC has been increasing land managed for nature restoration. This includes managing extensive natural wildflower meadows and managing areas for natural regeneration. To deliver this successfully mowing patterns were restructured.</p> <p>In 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3651 trees were planted across the County, exceeding the target of 3500,</li> <li>195 hectares of biodiverse meadowland is maintained</li> <li>Hedgerow mapping commenced. This is done as part of the Green Infrastructure County Mapping. There are 1,700km of linear metres of existing hedgerow mapped.</li> <li>18,882 whips were planted as part of Mini Woodlands in the following areas: Dodder Valley Park, Dodder Valley Park/Mount Carmel, Tymon Park, Corkagh Park, Griffeen Valley.</li> </ul>
N3	Increase native tree planting across the county. Retain existing native trees in South Dublin, in so far as possible.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm: Tree Management	
N4	Increase and maintain native hedgerow planting across the county.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm	
N5	Support / develop small urban 'Miyawaki' native mini- woodlands.	Influence	EWCC - Public Realm	



N6	Develop an Urban Woodland and Hedgerow Management Strategy and implement plans for the County to enhance, maintain and improve existing woodlands throughout our Parks.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Urban Woodland and Hedgerow Management Strategy is currently at draft stage with the intention being to push the development and finalisation of the strategy over the next number of months prior to implementation across some key sites.</li> </ul>
N7	Implement a programme of enhancement and expansion of ponds and wetland habitats, to expand areas of water storage capacity and increase sequestration.	Full Accountability/ Advocate	LUPT - Planning; EWCC - Water, Public Realm	Phases 2 & 3 of the Ponds and Wetlands Survey were carried out in 2022 and 2023 as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan. 15 sites have been surveyed to date, recommendations for improvements and enhancement of water quality and biodiversity at these sites have been made. A new Integrated Constructed Wetland in Tymon Park as part of the Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme.
N9	Expand and refine the evidence base for the County Habitat Map to identify key habitats/locations for nature based solutions and use the data to develop management and mitigation plans for these nature based adaptation projects into the future.	Full Accountability	LUPT – Planning	<p>Surveys of habitats and species in the County are on-going. These surveys will assist with the identification of areas of local biodiversity importance.</p> <p>By 2024 three years baseline data on flowering species and pollinating insects was gathered for Tymon and Waterstown Parks and Lucan Demesne.</p> <p>2) Data on ground-nesting birds and seed-eating birds has been gathered for Kiltipper Park.</p> <p>3) Wetland Surveys were undertaken for 15 publicly accessible wetlands sites.</p> <p>These baseline data sets form the foundation against which possible future climate impacts may be measured, allowing targeted mitigation measures to be proposed and implemented through the development of management plans for the habitats and species concerned.</p>

N8	Continue to implement Dublin Mountains Makeover with Coillte Nature and the Dublin Mountains Partnership exploring opportunities for native tree planting projects to manage surface water run-off from mountainous areas to reduce flooding downstream.	Full Accountability / Influence	EWCC - Public Realm	Actions Not Started.
N10	Pilot and co-design a biodiversity inclusive design for a social housing estate.	Full Accountability	HSCD; Architectural Services	
N19	Investigate the potential for nature-based solutions to address the risk of wildfire management, coordinating with the Dublin Fire Brigade.	Full Accountability / Co-ordinate and facilitate	EWCC - Major Emergency Management	

N11	Maintain and expand allotments for local food production across the County, in accordance with SDCC's Allotments Policy.	Full Accountability/ Co-ordinate and Facilitate	EWCC	In 2024 SDCC expanded allotments for food production as per the Allotment Strategy. Currently there are 447 in the County, with new allotments in Newcastle due to be taken in charge shortly.
N12	Support the provision of Community Gardens for local food production across the County, in partnership with Community Centres, Schools and other local groups.	Full Accountability/ Co-ordinate and Facilitate	EWCC, LUPT	Currently there are 13 Community Gardens in the County.

### Addressing Biodiversity Loss

N13	Support the Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2026.	Full Accountability	LUPT - Planning	SDCC's Biodiversity Action Plan is in its third year. To date 13 out of the 19 actions have been completed or on a continuous basis.
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<b>N14</b>	Implement a countywide reduction of the usage of chemicals, such as glyphosate, across all council departments.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm; LUPT	The Council endeavours to minimise the use of glyphosate-based products and expects to reduce usage as alternative weed control methods and products become available and established. The Council complies with the requirements of the Sustainable Use Directive, in the use of plant protection products.
<b>N15</b>	Develop a Strategy for the phase out of harmful products such as glyphosate and acrylic paint.	Full Accountability	EWCC, LUPT	Kildare County Council led on a joint LA strategy for reducing harmful products. SDCC provided funding towards this project.

<b>N16</b>	Identify opportunities to remove culverts to restore urban watercourses.	Full Accountability	EWCC	Action Not Started.
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#### Increased Temperatures and Urban Heat Island Effect

<b>N17</b>	Identify areas in South Dublin that are vulnerable to the impacts of increased heat effects due to climate change.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Climate Action	Initial research was carried out by SDCC, with a desktop study and engaging with potential vendors to provide satellite information on the local Urban Heat Island effect. This research is now being continued and carried out at the DLA level by CARO.
<b>N18</b>	Implement measures to mitigate the Urban Heat Island Effect in identified vulnerable areas, including the management of existing street trees and future planting to reduce impacts.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm	

<b>N20</b>	Increase data gathering on the effects of climate change on natural water quality in the county.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Water Pollution	<p>SDCC's routine water sampling programme is delivered annually alongside Water Framework Directive monitoring.</p> <p>In 2024 SDCC achieved WFD commitments totalling 63 samples. This involved continuous engagement and coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>SDCC collected 188 routine monitoring in addition to the WFD samples in 2024.</p> <p>The Water Pollution Team also continuing to monitor the improvement of water quality as a result of the DURL project. There are 9 sites in Griffeen Valley Park and 1 site in Lucan Village which are sampled each month. As a follow on from the DURL project, samples are also taken on a monthly basis from inlet and outlet pipes at the Dodder and Poddle ICWs.</p>
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## Circular Economy & Resource Management



### Bring Banks

Bring Banks in SDCC: **48**



Tonnes of glass recycled: **5,114**

Tonnes of cans recycled: **13.5**

### Drinking Water Fountains



**96,867**

Plastic bottles saved through use of drinking water fountains in 2024

(Total of 432,120 plastic bottles to date)

### Waste and Water Management in SDCC



County Hall Mixed Dry Recycled Tonnage: **10.6**

County Hall General Waste Tonnage: **17.5**

County Hall Food Waste Tonnage: **2.5**

### Anerobic digestion

An Anaerobic Digestion feasibility study examining the treatment of grass cuttings and production of biogas from this process was concluded in 2024

### Paint Recycled in Ballymount



Litres of paint recovered in Ballymount Civic Amenity Centre:

**1 Tonne**

Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Managing Waste in SDCC</b>				
R1	Monitor and improve internal waste and water management systems in all SDCC buildings.	Full Accountability	Corporate Performance & Change Management (CPCM); Architectural Services; Environment, Water and Climate Change (EWCC)	Measures to reduce waste in SDCC County Council buildings are ongoing. SDCC work in partnership with waste management contractors to reduce waste across the organisation. Staff work closely with canteen operators to identify opportunities to reduce waste and save energy. Single-use beverage cups have been eliminated from the staff canteen for some years and a deposit and return cup system was relaunched 2024. SDCC is working towards the elimination of the purchase, sale and distribution of single use plastic beverage bottles and continue to work with caterers to identify opportunities to further reduce plastics.
R2	Work with corporate services and contractors to reduce waste and improve energy efficiency in SDCC canteen.	Full Accountability	CPCM	
R6	Introduce recycled or eco friendly paper for use in all SDCC printers.	Full Accountability	CPCM	
R3	Identify opportunities to reduce Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste generated by SDCC, and liaise with relevant organisations collaboratively.	Full Accountability	SDCC Depot Managers	Construction and Demolition waste is the largest waste stream in the EU, making up a third of all waste produced annually. The Capital Programme 2025-2027, which was noted at the December Council Meeting, highlights the level of capital works due to be undertaken by SDCC over the next two years. A Waste Management Plan, which identifies the type and quantity of waste generated and a Waste Reduction Plan during construction projects is a required under legislation. The Climate Action Team is identifying opportunities to reduce construction and demolition waste in Council projects. Council policies reflect the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) for a Circular Economy 2024-2030.

R4	Investigate sustainable solutions to the management of grass cuttings. Deliver appropriate solutions identified.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm	An Anaerobic Digestion feasibility study examining the treatment of grass cuttings and production of biogas from this process was carried out and concluded in 2024. The report highlighted while feasible it is not financially viable as a potential fuel source when compared to alternative renewable options such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO).  Findings from the study was presented to the SPC in February 2025.
R5	Promote the use of sustainable / natural alternative materials in new and upgraded playspaces, teenspaces and in the infill of synthetic grass pitches.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm; Housing Social and Community Development (HSCD) - Community, Housing	Action Not Started.
R6	Introduce recycled or eco friendly paper for use in all SDCC printers.	Full Accountability	CPCM	SDCC's current contract of recycled paper is due to expire Q2 of 2025. Corporate Services will then go to tender and process a new contract with recycled paper that will work in SDCC printers.

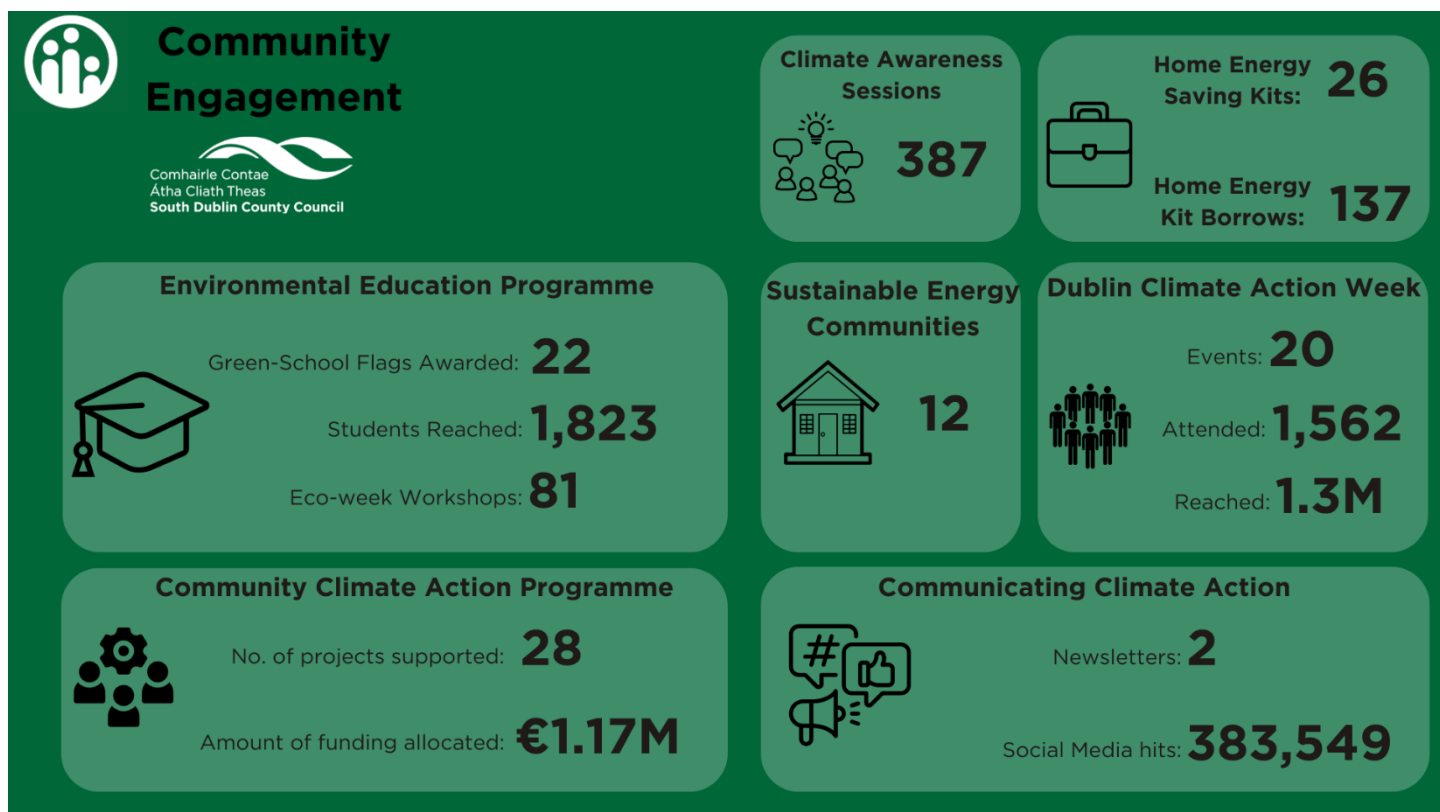
### Adopting a Circular Economy

R7	Support and promote the implementation of the targets of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030.	Full Accountability / Influence	EWCC - Waste Management	The new National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy was published in March 2024. The plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.
R8	To provide for, and maintain, a network of bring banks in the County to facilitate recycling of materials.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Waste Management	South Dublin County Council is working on several initiatives that promote the circular economy and aim to replicate the ambition of the Waste Management Plan.
R9	Provide opportunities for reuse of materials brought for disposal to SDCC Civic Amenity Facility.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Waste Management, Environmental Awareness	Increasing recycling rates is a key priority of the plan. SDCC manages a network of 48 bring centres across the county, plus Ballymount Civic Amenity Site. In 2024 5114 tonnes of glass and 13.5 tonnes of aluminium was collected. The Civic Amenity Site at Ballymount accepts a wide range of domestic waste. SDCC partnered with the Rediscovery Centre to divert non-hazardous waste paint collected at the Ballymount Civic Amenity Site from disposal or incineration.
R11	Identify outdoor locations for recycling bin trial site(s) in South Dublin and deliver a pilot project.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Waste Management	The Rediscovery Centre collects and repurposes this paint, reselling it at affordable prices to the general public and community organisations. The program, which was launched in 2024, successfully diverted 1 tonne of paint for reuse during its inaugural year.
R12	Identify further areas for the installation of drinking water fountains.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Public Realm	Thirty water fountains have been installed in the Public Realm, by the end of 2024. Over the year 96,867 plastic bottles were saved from going to landfill through use of drinking water fountains.
R10	Monitor and enforce waste regulation in South Dublin.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Waste Enforcement	Action Not Started.

### Protecting the Environment

R10	Develop sustainability guidelines and terms and conditions for any events supported, facilitated, or organised by SDCC.	Influence	EWCC - Climate Action	Monitoring and enforcement of waste regulation in South Dublin is ongoing. SDCC Waste Enforcement Officers engage with business and communities to help manage waste and prevent illegal dumping. In 2024 10,198 inspections took place.
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Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Engaging citizens on climate change: Deliver a comprehensive awareness programme to empower the citizens, businesses and organisations of South Dublin to take affirmative climate action</b>				
CE1	Deliver climate education programme for primary and secondary schools, including ongoing delivery of the Green Schools programme and Eco Week.	Influence	Environment, Water and Climate Change (EWCC) – Environmental Awareness; Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development (EETD) – Library Services	<p>The CAP recognises the value of community engagement and looks for opportunities to work with citizens and stakeholders to deliver effective, informed, climate action. In 2024 the Climate Action Team worked with the Environmental Awareness Office, Park Rangers and Libraries to deliver a comprehensive climate education programme to students of all ages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>134 schools participated in the Green Schools 2024/25 Programme</li> <li>22 schools were awarded Green Flags in May 2024</li> <li>Approximately 424 workshops, talks and school tours took place</li> <li>The Environmental Awareness Office also supports a range of climate/environmental programmes including Picker Pals, Relove Fashion, Composting for Schools and the Rubbish Film Festival the climate/environmental education programme.</li> </ul> <p>To support transformative change within the community SDCC engages with the community in many ways. Dublin Climate Action Week, which took place 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024, is organised and delivered in partnership with the other Dublin Local Authorities, CARO and Codema.</p> <p>Highlights from DCAW 2024 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>55 events held across Dublin, with 20 organised by South Dublin.</li> <li>Approximately 1,562 attendees at South Dublin events.</li> <li>81 social media posts by SDCC, including eight in Irish.</li> <li>Over 6,200 online engagements (likes, comments, shares).</li> <li>More than 1.3 million people reached through online channels during the week.</li> </ul> <p>In total 535 engagements were delivered to communities across South Dublin in 2024.</p>
CE2	Deliver Dublin Climate Action Week annually.	Full Accountability	EWCC – Climate Action	
CE3	Engage with communities and businesses across South Dublin through workshops / presentations, to increase understanding of climate change.	Influence	EWCC – Climate Action; EETD - Library Services	
CE4	Use targeted campaigns to increase knowledge of climate issues, for example, National Food Waste Recycling Week, World Water Day, etc.	Influence	EWCC - Climate Action, Environmental Awareness	

CE5	Monitor and develop the Home Energy Savings Kit scheme in SDCC libraries, including developing a youth friendly version, with a potential rollout in schools.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Climate Action	The CAP recognises that libraries are unique community spaces which citizens visit for various reasons. This plan aims to highlight them as climate hubs. In 2024 282 climate/environmental events were held in South Dublin Libraries covering a range of climate issues.															
CE6	Identify opportunities to utilise libraries in South Dublin as climate hubs.	Full Accountability	EETD - Library Services	Home Energy Savings Kits were developed to help householders understand their energy use, including where energy is lost or wasted at home.  Twenty-six kits are available to borrow in 8 SDCC libraries.															
CE7	Engage with communities and residents across the County, through local pop-up awareness raising events, on home energy upgrades, funding and other supports available.	Influence	EWCC - Climate Action	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th colspan="4">2024</th></tr> <tr> <th></th><th>Q1</th><th>Q2</th><th>Q3</th><th>Q4</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Home Energy Saving Kit Loans</td><td>43</td><td>32</td><td>16</td><td>46</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		2024					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Home Energy Saving Kit Loans	43	32	16	46
	2024																		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4															
Home Energy Saving Kit Loans	43	32	16	46															

### Deliver a range of tools to inform the public on the issues surrounding climate change

CE8	Publish the SDCC Climate Change Newsletter – three newsletters per year.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Climate Action	The Council employs various communication tools to update the public on climate action efforts and progress on the Climate Action Plan (CAP).  In 2024, two editions of the SDCC Climate Action Newsletter were published.
CE9	Maintain and develop the SDCC Climate Action Website.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Climate Action	SDCC uses social media to consistently engage, inform and educate followers on climate issues. Climate messages and updates
CE10	Use SDCC Social Media platforms to disseminate climate messages.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Climate Action	followers were posted on all major social media channels throughout 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 146 posts on X</li> <li>• 144 posts on Facebook</li> <li>• 54 posts on Instagram</li> </ul> <p>The SDCC Climate Action Website, <a href="http://www.southdublinclimate.ie">www.southdublinclimate.ie</a>, was developed to inform and educate our citizens on the CAP. The website received 6,874 unique page views in 2024.</p>

### Engage with key external partners to deliver programmes and campaigns to increase knowledge of climate issues

CE11	Support the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's (SEAI) Sustainable Energy Communities Programme in South Dublin by working with the Local Mentor. Where specific supported energy efficiency and renewable energy projects will not lead to unintended negative environmental effects in a local community.	Influence	EWCC - Climate Action	SDCC collaborates with a wide range of external partners to deliver impactful programs and campaigns aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of climate change. These partnerships play a crucial role in amplifying SDCC's efforts to educate the community and drive meaningful action on climate issues.  Programmes such as the Sustainable Energy Communities and GAA Green Clubs aim to embed climate action in our communities. In 2024 there were 12 active SECs in South Dublin. Phase 2 of GAA Green Clubs concluded in 2024 and clubs were invited to apply to participate in Phase 3 of the Programme.
CE12	Work with local clubs to implement GAA Green Clubs.	Influence /advocate	EWCC - Climate Action	The Climate Action Co-ordinator participated in the Council's Culture and Creativity Team, ensuring that climate action is not only embedded in the current and future strategies, but also that artists consider climate as a source of inspiration in their works.
CE13	Continue to support the Zero Together initiative through ongoing collaboration and stakeholder engagement to ensure alignment and implementation of SDCC's Climate Action Plan and the Zero Together roadmap to 2030.	Influence	EWCC - Climate Action	The Team met on four occasions in 2024, reinforcing the importance of creative and cultural contributions to climate action.

<b>CE14</b>	Participate in the Council's Culture and Creativity Team to identify opportunities to work with local educational and arts organisations to consider climate action in their programmes.	Influence, Advocate	EWCC - Climate Action	
<b>CE15</b>	Strengthen existing networks and create new climate change links to encourage businesses to engage with climate action.	Influence	EETD; EWCC	<p>The Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) plays a key role in encouraging local businesses and entrepreneurs to engage in the green transition. Through a variety of grants and support programs, the LEO helps small businesses in South Dublin adopt sustainable practices and drive environmental innovation.</p> <p>In March 2024, the local authority proudly sponsored the Climate Award at the Local Enterprise Awards, which were held during Local Enterprise Week. This initiative highlights the commitment to recognising and celebrating local businesses that are leading the way in sustainability and climate action.</p> <p>32 farm surveys and 2 desktop inspections were carried out in 2024, where SDCC worked with the farmers to improve the water quality catchment.</p>
<b>CE16</b>	Engage with external organisations to explore innovative opportunities or initiatives that could be progressed in South Dublin.	Influence	EWCC - Water Services	
<b>CE17</b>	Engage with the agricultural community to understand how SDCC can support resilience efforts and sustainable farming practices.	Influence	EWCC - Water Services	

### Embed Climate Action within every department of South Dublin County Council

<b>CE18</b>	Provide Climate Awareness training for all staff and elected members and identify opportunities to embed climate awareness across all departments.	Full Accountability	CPCM - Human Resources	<p>The Climate Action Training Programme, which all staff are required to complete, has been successfully rolled out across the local authority sector. In 2024 187 staff attended the mandatory Raising Awareness course.</p> <p>The Climate Action Team met with Human Resources to explore ways to highlight the ongoing climate action efforts of SDCC to new staff members. The goal is to raise awareness and engage employees in these initiatives from the outset.</p>
<b>CE19</b>	Develop SDCC climate action induction pack for all new staff.	Full Accountability	CPCM - Human Resources	
<b>CE20</b>	Work with the IT department to identify opportunities where technology could be used to address climate issues, while also leveraging the Smart Dublin programme.	Full Accountability	ICT	

<b>CE21</b>	Deliver the Community Climate Action Fund.	Coordinate and Facilitate / Advocate	EWCC - Climate Action	<p>SDCC continues to support communities in the County through various means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) is funding 28 projects totalling a maximum of € 1,169,000 worth of grant support. Projects have 18 months to deliver.</li> <li>In 2024 10 Tidy Towns groups received funding to support their activities through the SDCC Tidy Towns Grant.</li> <li>Nine groups received seed funding, three groups were funded under Round Two and five groups were funded under Round Three of the SDCC Tidy Towns grant.</li> </ul>
<b>CE22</b>	Support Tidy Towns initiatives which promote climate mitigation or adaptation measures.	Influence	EWCC - Environmental Awareness	
<b>CE23</b>	Community Department to identify key opportunities to engage with communities throughout the county, working with the Climate Action Team.	Full Accountability	Housing Social and Community Development (HSCD) - Community	
<b>CE24</b>	Work in collaboration with artists, and in partnership with the SDCC Climate Action Team, to develop creative art initiatives that engage the population of the county in conversations about climate action.	Full Accountability	EETD	

## GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

<b>GOV1</b>	Support the Elected Members and Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) in their leadership role for climate actions.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Climate Action	Elected Members received regular updates from the Climate Action Team on how the Climate Action Plan and individual projects are progressing. February Council Meeting - New Climate Action Plan Adopted April Council Meeting - Implementation Plan 2 DZ Briefings (16th May, 9th July) SPC Climate Updates (February and December)
<b>GOV2</b>	Ensure Green Public Procurement (GPP) implementation in all SDCC tenders as part of the scored quality assessment, in order to source goods, services and works with a reduced climate and environmental impact, with a priority placed on goods, services and works with a neutral climate and environmental impact. Provide relevant GPP training for staff.	Full Accountability	CPCM - Procurement	A Green Public Procurement working group was established in 2024. The group, which is made up of representatives from various departments across the organisation, aims to ensure that all aspects of procurement reflect the Council's sustainability goals. Chaired by Procurement Unit, the Green Procurement Working Group is tasked with developing and implementing a comprehensive Green Procurement Strategy for SDCC. 90% of tenders already incorporate some form of Green Public Procurement criteria. Furthermore, 65% of tenders integrate GPP as a Scored Criterion, highlighting SDCC's commitment to making environmental considerations a significant factor in the evaluation and award of contracts.
<b>GOV3</b>	Ensure that all new SDCC Projects are assessed for the feasibility of incorporating climate actions and measures, with a focus on energy, greenhouse gas emissions, nature based Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), enhancing and retaining Green Infrastructure (GI), biodiversity, sustainable transport and modal shift, EV charging, and environmental protection and co-benefits.	Full Accountability	All SDCC Departments	The Climate Action Plan aims to create a culture in SDCC where climate is considered in everything. In 2024 the Climate Action Team "climate-proofed" a number of plans, policies and strategies. These include the new Corporate Plan 2025-2029 and the Local Economic and Community Plan.
<b>GOV4</b>	Ensure climate-proofing of all SDCC policies and strategies, including updates through liaison with the Climate Action Team	Full Accountability	All SDCC Departments	
<b>GOV5</b>	To develop a method, process or tool to allow the embodied carbon within proposed new buildings to be taken into consideration, to inform development across the County.	Full Accountability	Architectural Services	Action Not yet Started
<b>GOV6</b>	Develop, or procure, a tool to be used to calculate Scope 3 emissions across all SDCC activities.	Full Accountability	EWCC - Climate Action	Action Not yet Started



# Appendix II: References

1. Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/act/32/enacted/en/html>
2. [Climate Change Advisory Council 2023 Review](#)
3. **Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2023:** <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/air-emissions/EPA-Provisional-GHG-Report-Jul24-v6.pdf>
4. **Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050:** <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/air-emissions/EPA-GHG-Projections-Report-2022-2050-May24--v2.pdf>
5. **Ireland's Annual Report 2023 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance:** <https://www.seai.ie/plan-your-energy-journey/public-sector/monitoring-and-reporting/public-sector-results>
6. **GAA Green Clubs Phase 1 Programme:** [Green Clubs Programme \(gaa.ie\)](#)