

South Dublin County Council

CLIMATE CHANGE NEWSLETTER



03/2024

SDCC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024-2029



Welcome to the latest edition of the South Dublin Climate Action Newsletter.

The new [Climate Action Plan 2024-2029](#) was approved by elected members at the County Council Meeting on Monday February 12th 2024.

The Plan, which will be in place for a period of five (5) years, from the date of approval, responds to the continuing challenges presented by climate change and lays out South Dublin County Council's (SDCC) course of action over the five-year lifetime of the plan, with these next five years being vital for meaningful climate action.

The CAP aims to deliver on international, European and national climate ambitions, in the context of rapidly evolving strategies and plans at all levels.

The CAP 2024-2029 is centred around actions that collectively address the four key targets of this plan:

- 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;
- To actively engage and inform our communities on climate action.

With this CAP the Council is also planning for future climate related risks and impacts. Building on our experience of delivering the previous Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024, which established a strong foundation of climate action in South Dublin and enables informed, ambitious actions to be developed for this plan.

The full plan can be viewed online at www.southdublinclimate.ie.



Delivering CAP 2024-2029

The new Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was developed in line with the “Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines” published by the Department of the Environment and sets out mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to create a low carbon and climate resilient County. The Plan includes a range of actions across the six theme areas of

- Energy & Buildings
- Transport
- Flood Resilience
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Circular Economy & Resource Management
- Community Engagement.

Key actions in the plan include:

Energy & Buildings

- Complete the public lighting upgrade programmes – accounting for more than half of SDCC’s primary energy consumption, public lighting upgrades are essential to achieving energy efficiency targets.
- Decarbonisation of local authority buildings with high energy demand – SDCC own and manage a significant stock of buildings and facilities across the county, these account for approximately 37% of our total energy consumption. A Building Decarbonisation Strategy is being implemented to achieve 2030 targets.
- Continued retrofit of the Council’s social housing stock – all new social houses are developed to Near Zero Energy Building Standard and the Housing Section is upgrading social housing stock in South Dublin to a B2 BER Standard.
- Building on the successful commissioning of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme – following the delivery of Phase 1 of the scheme, SDCC will continue to examine the feasibility of extending the current scheme and will investigate the viability of delivering other district heating opportunities in the county.

Transport

- Decarbonisation of SDCC fleet – the Fleet Transition Strategy identifies efficiencies and rationalises the need for SDC vehicles to decarbonise.
- Continued delivery of the Cycle South Dublin Programme – while significant progress has been made in delivering this programme, projects are delivered under “Existing, Now and Soon” categories. Progress will be tracked over the life of the CAP.
- Implement the Dublin Region Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy – as EV’s become more mainstream and as Dublin represents approximately 25% of Ireland’s car fleet, the Dublin local authorities have a significant role to play in deploying EV charging infrastructure.

Flood Resilience

- Progress Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) (including the River Poddle FAS, the River Camac FAS and the Whitechurch Stream FAS) – as the climate changes instances of flooding will increase. To protect homes and businesses in South Dublin SDCC is working with the Office of Public Works and neighbouring local authorities to deliver flood schemes.
- Implement of Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS)/Surface Water Management in South Dublin – the changing climate and a growing population in South Dublin will see increased pressure on our drainage systems. Well-designed SuDS (swales, tree pits, green/blue roofs) help to manage rainfall and associated surface water run-off.

Nature-based Solutions

- Support the Biodiversity Action Plan 2020 – 2026 – healthy ecosystems are more resilient to climate change, and by protecting and restoring natural habitats in South Dublin we can help to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Support Green Infrastructure – the CAP (and the SDCC County Development Plan) recognises the importance of green infrastructure. The local authority has a clear vision of developing and delivering a GI Network across the county which will see an increase in natural meadows and native tree planting across the county.

Circular Economy & Resource Management

- Monitor and improve internal waste and water management systems in all council buildings – SDCC aims to reduce and better manage how waste is generated on all Council premises.
- Support and promote the implementation of the targets of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 – the new National Waste Management Plan aims to pivot us away from our current take-make-waste system to a more circular one where items are kept in use for longer.
- Provide for, and maintain, a network of bring banks in the county – while we move towards a circular economy increasing recycling rates is still a key priority. Easy access to bring banks in South Dublin will maintain recycling rates.

Citizen Engagement

- Deliver climate education programme – there is significant need for all citizens and communities in South Dublin to be part of the plan to address climate action and to be supported by SDCC. This is critical, given that an estimated 99.3% of the emissions in South Dublin are outside of SDCC’s direct control.
- Deliver the Community Climate Action Fund – SDCC received an allocation of €1.07 million over three years to support and empower local groups in South Dublin to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities.
- Communicating climate change - the Council uses a range of communication tools, such as our Climate Change Newsletter and Climate Action Website (www.southdublinclimate.ie) to inform and educate on what we can all do to reduce our impact.

To keep up-to-date on plan progress please visit www.southdublinclimate.ie



Clondalkin Carbonising Zone

As required under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act, 2021, a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) will be established in Clondalkin as part of the new Climate Action Plan.

The DZ will showcase opportunities for decarbonisation and sustainable living in our County, providing an opportunity for SDCC and the local community to work together to reduce the amount of carbon produced in the area. This will be done by implementing a range of innovative mitigation and adaptation measures, while seeking to maximise the possible associated benefits for the area.

The total area of the Clondalkin DZ, which is located to the west of Dublin City just outside the M50, is 8.11km² and the area is made up of mainly residential areas (52%), open spaces (23%), enterprise and employment related areas (11%), town and village centres (2.9%)

A Baseline Emissions Inventory carried out as part of the Climate Action Plan has identified key sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the DZ area. The Baseline Emissions Inventory helps guide the actions taken in the decarbonising zones, towards a cleaner, more sustainable way of living.

Delivering the Decarbonising Zone

To support the delivery of the DZ, SDCC will work with stakeholders from across the area to identify and facilitate potential climate actions in the area.

For more information on the Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone please check out chapter 6 of the Climate Action Plan. Updates will also be placed on out the South Dublin Climate website, www.southdublinclimate.ie.

€1 million available to community groups for climate projects

SDCC are currently accepting applications for the new Community Climate Action Programme. The grant has made €1.073 million available to local, not-for-profit community groups/organisations to undertake local climate action projects over an initial 18-month period. Additional funding, under Strand 1a, is available for projects with both a local and Northern Ireland aspect. The application portal for both Strand 1 and 1a closes at 4pm on March 27th 2024.

The inclusion of the new action area of Community Engagement in SDCC's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is critical in achieving one of the plan's key targets, namely 'to actively engage and inform our communities on climate action'. One of the critical interventions to help the Council do so is delivering the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP).



The overall objective of the Programme is to support and empower communities, in partnership with SDCC, to deliver projects that shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a considered and structured way to help contribute to national climate and energy targets. Communities can play a critical role in driving such positive change. In conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, SDCC will support this through the CCAP. Project sizes include small (up to €20,000), medium (€20,000 - €50,000) and large (€51,000 - €100,000).

Projects will address the following five themes; however applicants are not limited to selecting these project types and are encouraged to explore innovative projects that meet the fund objectives.

1. Community Energy
2. Travel
3. Food & Waste
4. Shopping & Recycling
5. Local Climate & Environmental Action

More information on the objectives of the fund and other key criteria is available in the Programme Guide here: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/community-climate-action-programme/>

SDCC is committed to supporting interested groups in making an application. SDCC's dedicated Community Climate Action Officer is available and can be reached at climatechange@sdblincoco.ie.

News in Brief

New Deposit Return Scheme launched

A new Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles and aluminium or steel cans was launched on 1st February 2024. When you buy a bottle of can that features the "ReTurn" logo you will be able to bring it back to participating shops and supermarkets to get your deposit back. More information on the Deposit Return Scheme, including an FAQ, can be found on the Re-turn website at www.re-turn.ie.

SDCC's Eco Week is 20!

For the last 20 years Eco Week has given students across the county the opportunity to learn from the experts in the climate/environmental field and to train and gain experience on how your actions impact on your local environment.

Eco Week 2024, takes place from 15th – 19th April for more information and to book a workshop please visit www.southdublinclimate.ie to download the events brochure.

New LEADER Rural Development Programme 2023 – 2027

Dublin Rural Leader Programme was allocated €4.7 million to invest in the development of the area through economic, social, and environmental initiatives.

The programme funds a range of organisations in rural Dublin. An information will take place in Glenasmole Community Centre (D24 EC93) on Wednesday 13th March at 6pm or online on Wednesday 20th March at 6pm. For more information go to www.dublinruralleader.ie.

This newsletter will examine more closely some of the actions we are working on, keeping readers informed on what we are delivering and how we are delivering them.

[To sign up for our Climate Action Newsletter please click here.](#)