

DELIVERING EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION

20 30

Local authority sector
strategy for delivering
on the **Climate Action
Charter** and **Climate
Action Plan**



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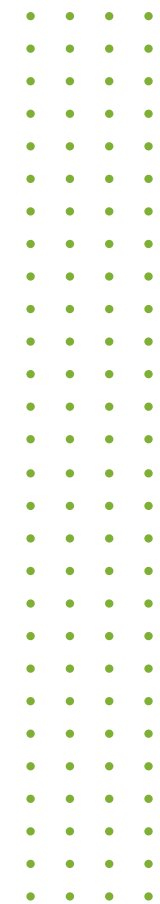
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FOREWORD



The policy areas local authorities actively engage with are ever increasing. One of the most important and urgent is climate change.

The local authority sector has for some time been engaging in an extensive range of climate actions, many in advance of the national policy documents that now inform our work. This work is detailed in *A Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland*, published in January 2020.

Our focus in this document is to outline a sectoral vision and mission that will help us to build on our existing expertise and skills and coordinate our future work to maximise our leadership role and impact on climate change, locally, regionally and nationally. We understand that to effect real and lasting change, we will need to have in place well-resourced and coordinated structures in which the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) and local authorities work in synergy. Together we will deliver on a range of actions across the interlinked areas of adaptation, emergency response, and mitigation, with particular attention given to decarbonisation. We will also support enterprises, directly and indirectly, to take advantages of opportunities to develop a strong and innovative green economy.

What is increasingly clear is that responsibility for climate change extends across several government departments, but, as a sector we will act as a conduit, as we continue to lead locally to ensure a coordinated local response to climate change bringing our communities, businesses and staff along with us. This document will act as an inspiration and guide for our work and assist us to maintain focus, purpose and drive knowing that we are all working towards the common vision, to leverage **the capability, reach and resources of local authorities to effectively lead and coordinate climate action across Ireland**, with a mission to **deliver transformative change and measurable climate action across our cities and counties and**

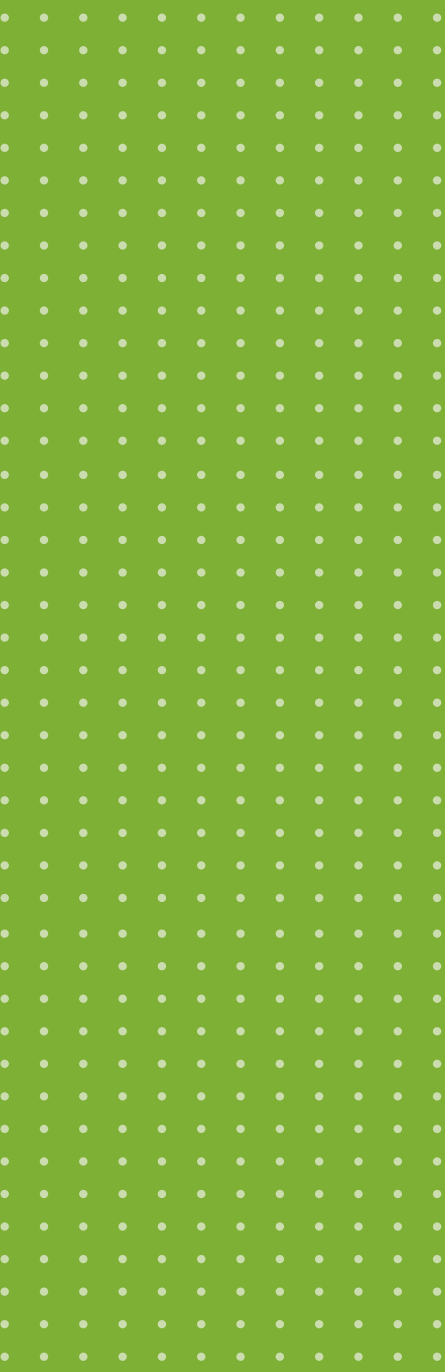
within our own organisations, through leadership, example and mobilising action at a local level.

This document was developed on foot of a huge amount of work carried out by staff in the four CAROs and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on behalf of, and in consultation with, the County and City Management Association's Environment Climate Change and Emergency Planning (CCMA ECCEP) Committee and the National Local Authority Climate Action Steering Group. The process involved the development of a lengthy and detailed business case that outlined the expanded roles of both the CAROs and local authorities in order to ensure an even and impactful delivery on the commitments made in the Local Authority Climate Action Charter in all counties and cities. It also identified the resource requirements and structures that would assist local government to deliver on the goals and objectives contained in the business case.

M.CO worked with our Research Advisory Group to develop this document, *Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030*, in consultation with key stakeholders. It will provide us with the vision, mission and the agreed strategic goals and objectives necessary to motivate and inspire us to make a lasting positive impact across our counties, cities, and regions.

Paddy Mahon
Chairperson

County and City Management Association (CCMA)
Environment, Climate Change and Emergency
Planning Committee (ECCEP)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The local government sector is committed to leading on climate action. This strategy aims to deliver on that ambition.

Local authorities have for considerable time been taking a range of actions across all functions and services to tackle climate change, as outlined in *A Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland (2020)*.

The sector is at the front line of climate adaptation and mitigation, community engagement, sustainable development and emergency planning. As a consequence, local government is identified as key to delivering on Ireland's national Climate Action Plan 2019 and each local authority has expressed their commitment to driving and leading this change by signing a Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

This strategy, *Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030* is a roadmap to deliver on those commitments. It applies a common vision and sets out solid objectives for local authorities to work towards in order to maximise their collective impact on Ireland's national climate targets.

Local authority leadership

This sectoral strategy leverages the integrated resources of 31 local authorities, the capacity of their 28,000 employees, and the reach that only local government can provide across Ireland.

Local authorities are best placed to work alongside communities and businesses to drive the change necessary to address climate change.

The sector's local knowledge and broad operational remit, through the delivery of more than one thousand services, gives it unique experiential knowledge that is harnessed on an on-going basis by the State to rapidly and effectively respond to critical issues such as weather events, major emergencies and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Local authorities are community leaders, experienced in mobilising the multi-stakeholder partnerships and relationships required to tackle complex challenges. The sector is also vital in ensuring that climate action can be effectively embedded in place-making strategies; ensuring the continued development of our cities and counties as sustainable places to live, work, visit and invest in. The CAROs are the unique structures through which the sector coordinates activities and captures learning across the sector, ensuring expertise and evidence are guiding sectoral actions.

Vision and mission

In consultation with the sector, the vision, mission, and objectives of this strategy were developed to support local authorities to enhance and maximise the leadership role they have already assumed in addressing climate change.



Vision

The sectoral vision identified in this strategy is to leverage the capability, reach and resources of local authorities to effectively lead and coordinate climate action across Ireland.

The mission builds upon the vision to more expressly identify what needs to be accomplished, as well as where and how it will be accomplished.

Mission

The mission of local government is to deliver transformative change and measurable climate action across our cities and counties and within our own organisations, through leadership, example and mobilising action at a local level.

Goals and objectives

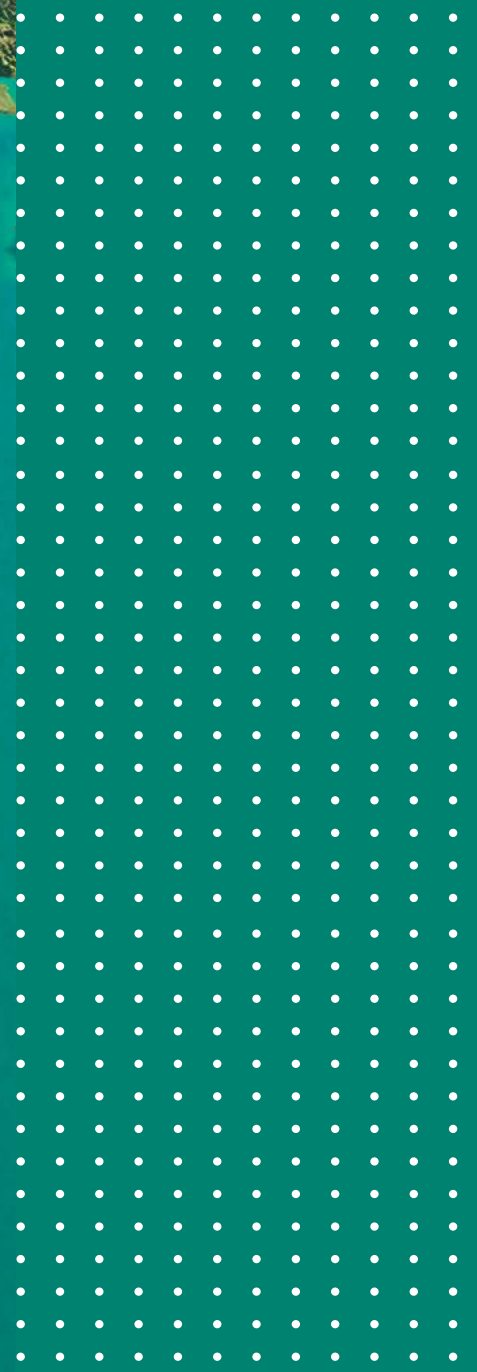
Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 sets out six high level strategic goals, overleaf, with each goal addressed through a set of focussed objectives.

Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 has been developed in a context where there are now many government departments involved in and responsible for climate action, either directly or indirectly. Responsibility for resourcing the response is, therefore, dispersed but the sector's aim is to ensure that local authorities facilitate a coordinated approach in meeting the climate action requirements of each government department at local level.

Additional specialist resources will contribute to the expertise, evidence and analysis needed to guide and drive climate action investment and responses. Crucially, these resources will be the catalyst for a transformative and measurable impact on climate action.



- 1. Foster governance, leadership, and partnerships for climate action** (Icon: Two people with arrows)
- 2. Achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050** (Icon: Plug and leaf)
- 3. Deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience** (Icon: Earth with leaf)
- 4. Mobilise climate action in local communities** (Icon: Recycling symbol)
- 5. Mobilise climate action in enterprise and support the transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy** (Icon: Earth with circular arrows)
- 6. Achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects.** (Icon: Euro symbol with circular arrows)



1. INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION



Climate change is the defining political, economic, technical and social challenge of our time. This strategy, *Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030* sets out a roadmap for how local authorities will lead in the effort to tackle that challenge, collaborating at a national level and working locally within their cities and counties to deliver real and lasting impacts.

Climate targets

Ireland's national *Climate Action Plan 2019* outlines the Government's commitment to support the adoption of a 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at an EU level. To accomplish this goal, Ireland has agreed a target reduction of 30% in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, while ensuring a 'just transition' for all communities in Ireland.

The 2020 Programme for Government has gone beyond that EU target, committing to a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, more than doubling the annual emission reductions required, i.e., from 3% to 7%.

To meet these targets, the full and early implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2019 is essential. This is clearly demonstrated in the Irish Environmental Protection Agency research, *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2019-2040*.

Local authorities are already working towards many of the 30 actions within the national Climate Action Plan in which they are identified as lead or key stakeholders. The sector has demonstrated its commitment to these climate actions, with all 31 local authorities in Ireland signing up to a Climate Action Charter with the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The sector has unique capabilities to address complex challenges when political will and resources are in place, for example to respond to major emergencies, extreme weather events and crises such as Covid-19.

The sector has repeatedly demonstrated its capacity to:

- Quickly and effectively establish new partnerships with other local authorities and key agencies
- Mobilise and empower community resources
- Harness data to inform decision making
- Experiment with agility and test temporary interventions
- Accelerate placemaking and adaptation initiatives to respond to circumstances, for example to enable active travel or physical distancing
- Communicate proactively and responsively with the public.

Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 outlines a strategy for how the sector will make use of that capacity in a consistent manner across all local authorities in order to achieve goals and objectives that are aligned with the Local Authority Climate Action Charter and deliver on the national Climate Action Plan.

Local authority opportunity

This is a crucial opportunity for the sector to establish a position and structure that will allow it to capitalise on its unique capabilities and deliver climate action with a significant impact.

This strategy acknowledges the complex national structures whereby the local government sector interacts with and receives policy direction and funding

from many government departments. Developing an appropriately resourced structure within local authorities will facilitate a more coordinated and coherent approach in meeting the climate action requirements of each government department at local level.

Local government can also play a lead role in positioning Ireland as a leader in the low carbon economy; supporting enterprise to transition to a more sustainable and circular economy, expand into new areas and address skills needed to tackle job displacement from old carbon intensive industries. While climate adaptation, decarbonisation and just transition approaches will be challenging, they will yield opportunities that will be sustainable in the future economy.

Our strategic approach will also underpin the partnerships and projects that will enable Ireland to benefit fully from programmes arising via European

Green Deal provisions and other EU funds.

Working with our international agencies such as the IDA and Tourism Ireland, the successes of *Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030* will communicate how Ireland's local authorities are leaders within Europe, in making our counties and cities more sustainable and resilient and therein, more attractive places to live, work, visit and invest in.

Local authorities know what is required to deliver effective climate action: transformative impact requires a transformational approach.

With this strategy, the local government sector is seeking to be proactive, push forward and play its role in enhancing Ireland's collective response and readiness.



2. RATIONALE



RATIONALE



Local authorities are uniquely positioned to provide robust leadership in climate action and to create a climate resilient, vibrant, and sustainable country. Local authorities have been taking a proactive approach to climate action and environmental sustainability for some time. Local government is the only sector ready to implement national policy at local level across Ireland, on the scale required for effective climate action.

Four CAROs are in place to support local authorities in implementation and coordination of climate action. These are unique coordinating mechanisms that developed based on distinct geographic/topographic characteristics of each region. This innovative structure has facilitated the delivery of climate action interventions at a regional and local level in partnership with local authority staff and in co-operation with energy agencies. They have also played a key role working with local authorities to progress local climate adaptation strategies to address the needs and opportunities of cities and counties around Ireland.

- The sector published a detailed baseline study, *A Profile of Local Government Climate Action In Ireland*, outlining the extensive work undertaken by all local authorities to date
- Each local authority has a local climate adaptation strategy
- Local authorities are progressing climate action plans to address the needs and opportunities of their cities and counties
- The sector has committed to supporting delivery of the national Climate Action Plan 2019
- Each local authority has signed a Local Authority Climate Action Charter detailing the key role of local authorities in continuing to drive local and regional actions in response to climate change.

- Many local authorities have signed up to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Expertise

Local authorities are on the front line of climate adaptation, mobilising against severe weather events and coordinating emergency response when the physical effects of climate change manifest locally. Local authorities have a diverse range of relevant expertise among their employees that will be key to leveraging local authority resources to deliver climate action. Each local authority has multi-disciplinary teams that include highly trained and experienced experts in engineering, rural and urban planning, architecture, urban design, economic development, heritage and biodiversity, energy and waste management, water and drainage, flood relief and emergency response, etc.

Thus, local authorities are well positioned to observe and identify indicators of climate risk and are acutely aware of the systemic nature of climate change impacts. Additionally, they are supported and connected through the coordinating role and work of the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs). Local authorities have been leading the way on climate adaptation, but the pace and scale of effort needs to significantly increase in order to address the levels of physical climate risk.

To address this, the scope and remit of the CAROs as well as local authorities, are expanding to respond to these increased and urgent demands. A key area of future development will be the expansion of our scientific resources to increase our capacity to take advantage of adaptive technologies. The earlier we put ourselves on an adaptive pathway, the better chance we have of avoid the costly impacts of climate change.

Connections and community

Local authorities are capable of mobilising and empowering climate action across a wider range of stakeholders than any other sector in Ireland. Our communities are our strength. Local authorities have very close connections to the people that live, work and study in their administrative areas, as well as the businesses, farmers, community and sports organisations, universities, colleges, schools, other public sector organisations and individual households. Local authorities already provide a range of socio-economic and community development services and

are well placed to enable and support a just transition, identifying ways and means to ameliorate the regressive effects of climate change and climate policy. Local authorities interact with communities at different scales through a wide range of channels and functions (See Figure 1). They are community leaders, experienced in brokering partnerships between multiple stakeholders, mobilising networks and reaching local communities.

We are positioned to take advantage of opportunities in a community, social, economic or environmental context, the benefits of which will be felt by all through outputs such as cleaner air, sustainable transport, an expanding green economy, etc.

Within the *Climate Action Plan 2019* there are a large number of organisations that either take a lead or supporting role in delivering actions (See Figure 2). The sector is engaging with these stakeholders via a range of structures and across many policy areas.

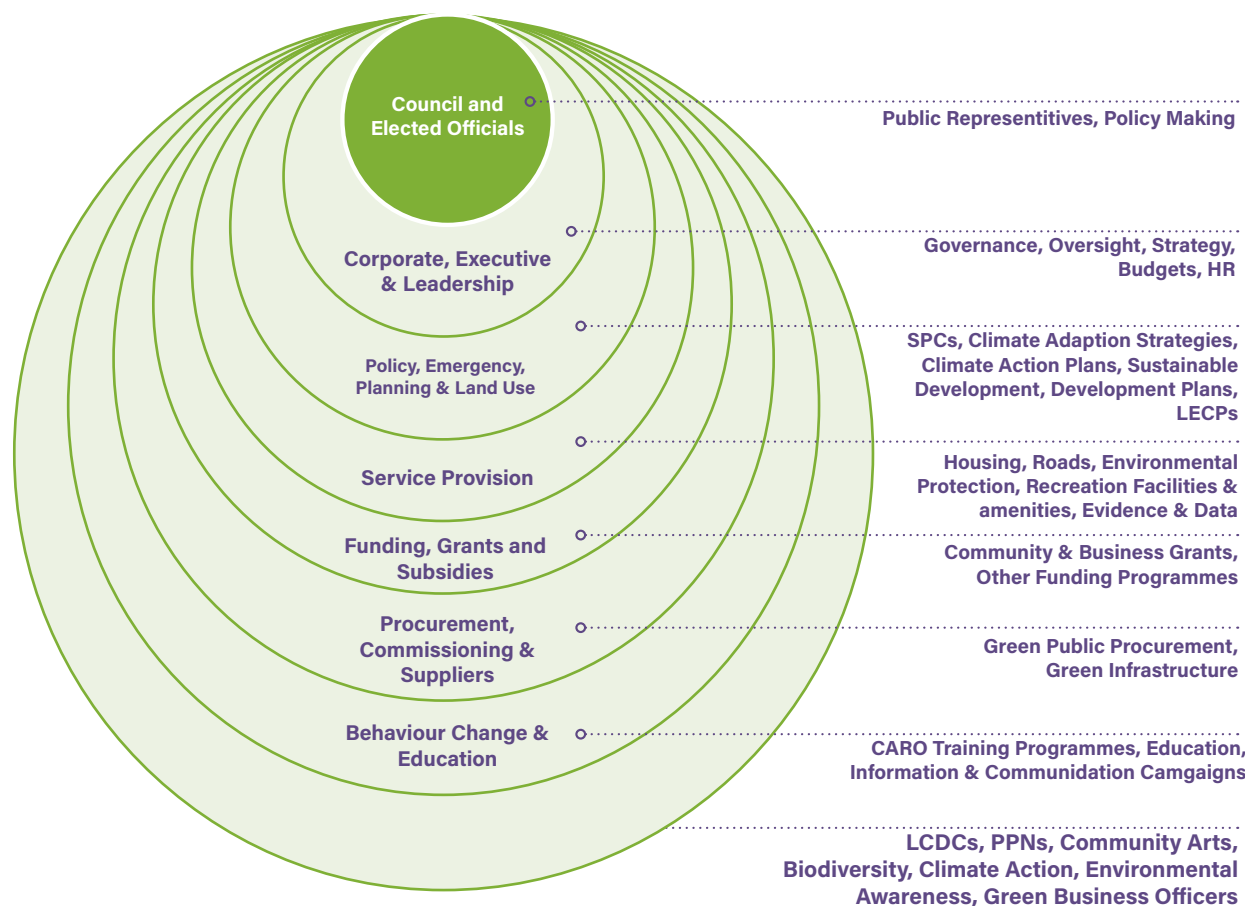


Figure 1: Extensive reach of local authorities

Local authority strategic capabilities

Local authorities have unique capabilities that Ireland needs to deliver on a wide range of climate policy objectives. With sufficient resources, the following capabilities can be leveraged to mobilise a wide range of stakeholders.

Leadership

The capability to lead the community, building partnerships across sectors, as well as identifying networks and early adopters to learn from. Using existing structures and processes, Local authorities can facilitate the creation of a collective voice for climate action. This can be through local government and elected representatives, the public participation networks, strategic policy committees, and collaboration with outside organisations such as the GAA.

Capability

Local authorities have the capability to design and adapt local authority services and regulations to meet the challenges of climate change and climate action. This includes understanding the existing assets and strategic opportunities, targeting resources and funding where needed, mobilising public, private and voluntary organisations, and unlocking finance to build momentum for climate action.

Technical delivery

Local authorities have proved themselves time and time again to have the capability to implement change at a local level.

When properly resourced and mandated, local authorities have technical capabilities to deliver policy and planning. They can provide and adapt major infrastructure, including housing, environmental services and more.

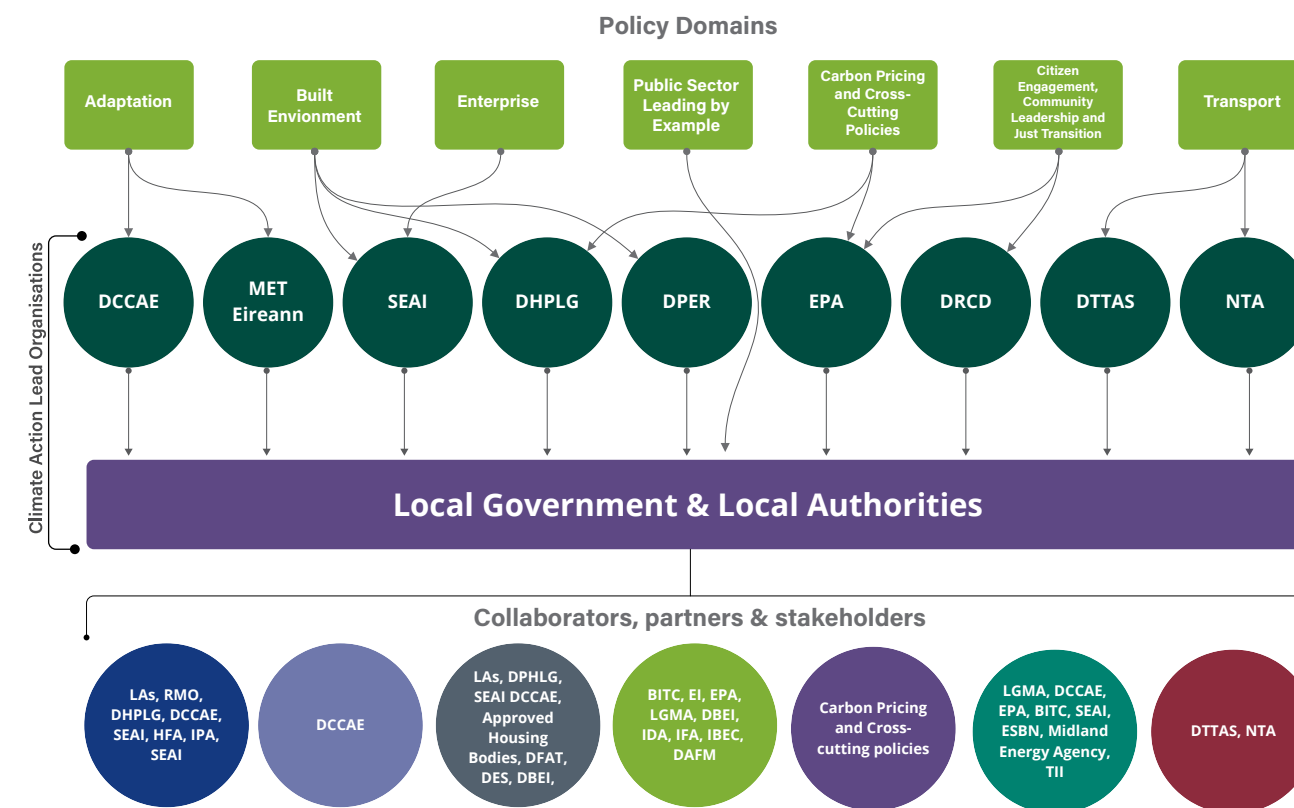


Figure 2: Key organisations that work with and through local authorities

These capabilities and resources can be invested in innovative approaches to climate action at scale.

Empowerment

Local authorities have the capability to empower communities using the wide network of community development, environmental, biodiversity, arts, heritage, green business and climate action officers. Local authorities have the means to explore new formats and channels to meaningful dialogue, deliberation and participation with communities such as mini citizen assemblies, open data, Public Participation Network (PPN) wellbeing statements as well as library networks, other community facilities, tidy towns networks and creative and cultural events.

Placemaking

The local government sector has the breadth of technical expertise and experience to develop and deliver compelling strategies and solutions for low carbon towns, cities and regions. These capabilities

will also underpin climate adaptation to ensure our places are more resilient to climate change. By combining the best knowledge and expertise in placemaking, architecture and green infrastructure we will dramatically shape our places. Adapting to climate change is a significant challenge and local authorities are ideally placed to identify innovative opportunities and possibilities, to reimagine our cities and counties as resilient and sustainable places, that better serve our communities.

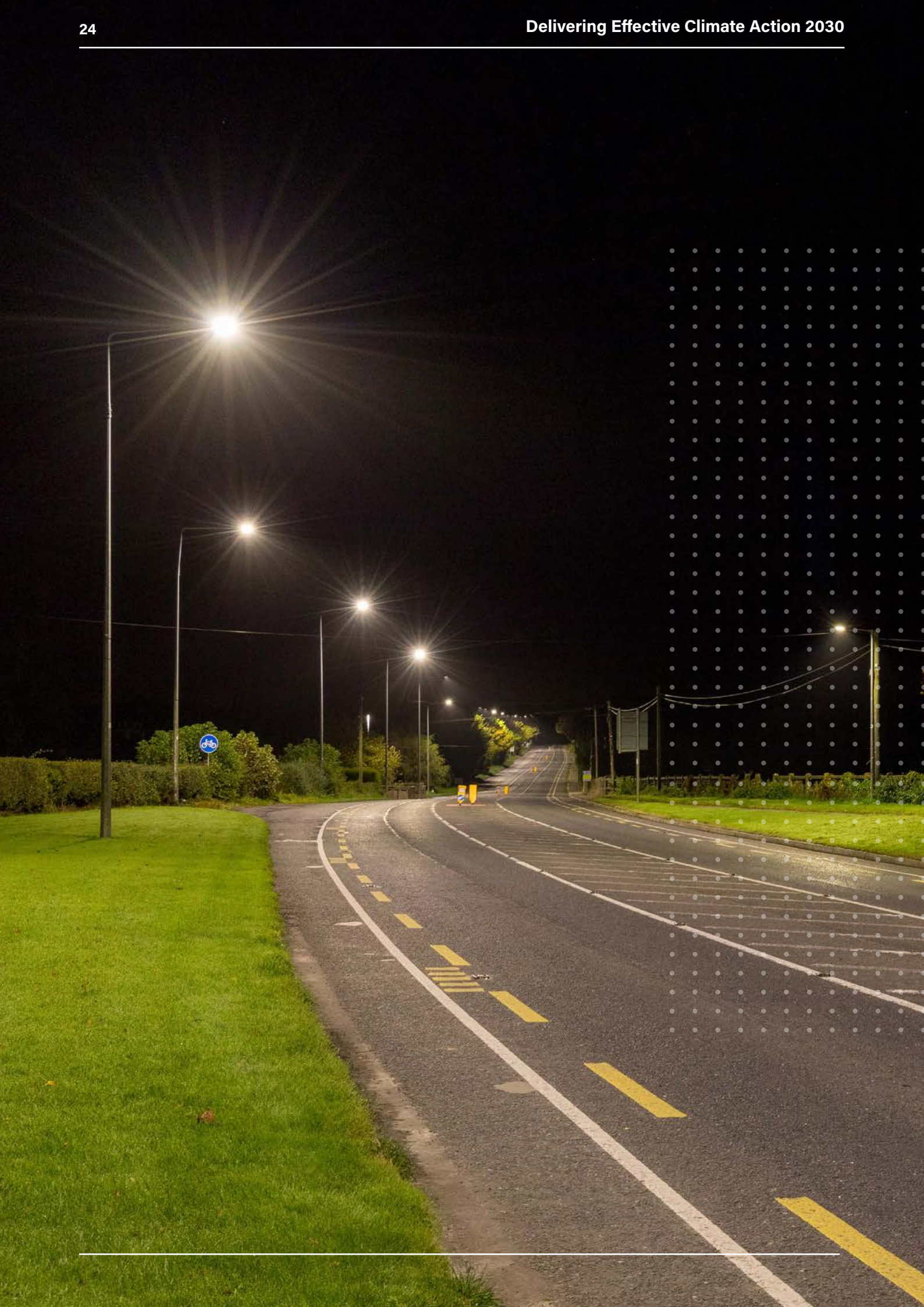
Research, sensemaking and learning

Local authorities apply multiple approaches to learning, monitoring and evaluation. Through existing structures such as the CAROs, PPNs, Local Community Development Companies (LCDCs), Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and other statutory and non-statutory consultation and engagement, local authorities can source and exchange ideas, as well as cultivate collaboration and a sense of possibility.



‘Local authorities have the capability to empower communities using the wide network of community development, environmental, biodiversity, arts, heritage, green business and climate action officers!’





3. PRIORITIES

PRIORITIES



Prioritising decarbonisation

While adaptation and decarbonisation are interlinked, particular attention needs to be paid to both. The *Climate Action Plan 2019* calls for an increase in energy efficiency alongside an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, regardless of organisational activity levels caused for example by increases in population served or increased staffing levels. This is one of the most significant challenges facing the local government sector.

There is no single decarbonisation strategy or plan that can be applied to all local authorities, but the priority will be to understand the scope of emissions covered by the local authority functions, to set organisational level targets, develop decarbonisation pathways, progress climate action plans and monitor and evaluate progress. Alongside cost reductions, there are a number of co-benefits of decarbonisation, such as positive impacts on human health from improved air quality, modal shifts and more active travel, reduced noise in urban areas and a more circular economy.

Prioritising adaptation

Globally, climate change is already having a measurable socioeconomic impact across a range of risk areas to which local authorities need to adapt. These risk areas include:

Physical capital

Local authority assets such as office buildings, public housing and heritage sites could be damaged or destroyed by tidal, pluvial and fluvial flooding, overheating, extreme precipitation and other hazards.

Natural capital

Climate change is impacting on natural ecosystems and biodiversity such as in forests, land, river, ocean and coastal areas and these often provide important economic, health and wellbeing services to communities.

Infrastructure services

Local authority infrastructure assets may be destroyed or disrupted by climate change effects and this will lead to increases in costs for providing associated services, and have impacts on the individuals, communities and businesses that rely on the infrastructure.

Liveability and wellbeing

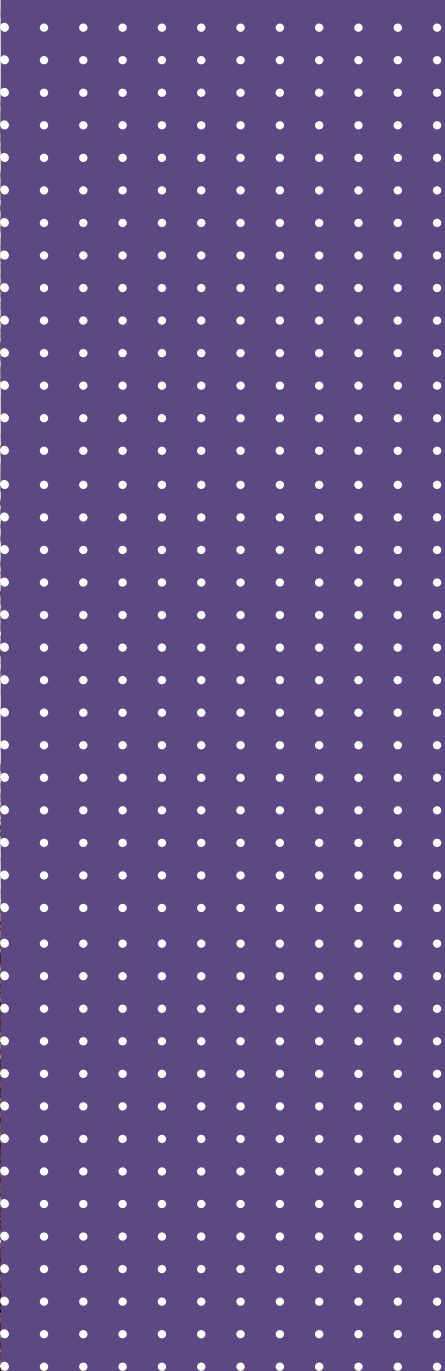
Climate change effects, such as increased precipitation or heat stress, could affect the ability of people who work indoors or increase the risks associated with working outdoors. Evidence also suggests that increased temperatures can impact upon disease vectors leading to negative impacts on human health.

Land use

Forestry, land, water systems and crops could be disrupted by a number of climate change effects such as flooding, drought and high variability in temperatures.

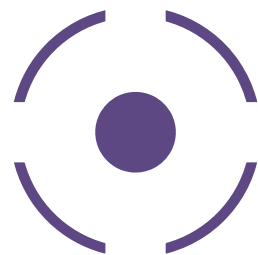
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4. VISION AND MISSION

VISION AND MISSION



Taking account of the rationale, unique capabilities and strategic climate action priorities established, we have set an overarching vision and mission to inform the direction of this strategy.

Vision

The vision of local government is **to leverage the capability, reach and resources of local authorities to effectively lead and coordinate climate action across Ireland.**

Mission

Over the lifetime of this strategy to 2030, the mission of the sector is **to deliver transformative change and measurable climate action across our cities and counties and within our own organisations, through leadership, example and mobilising action at a local level.**

This vision and mission recognise that:

- People experience the reality of climate change locally, in their homes, communities and workplaces
- Local authorities are the lead agencies in local development and are in a pivotal position to deliver national policy at community level
- The sector brings significant policy, technical, programme management and delivery resources to support climate action, with more than 28,000 staff operating across Ireland
- Local authorities have an extensive political network with 949 elected members representing all communities across Ireland
- Local government offers an extensive network with access to and influence on all sectors of the society, including the 15,000 community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations that are members of the Public Participation Networks
- Local authorities have an established track record in the area of climate action
- The sector engages place-based approaches to tackle complex challenges across all facets of climate action - assessing and addressing urban and rural infrastructure needs, economic and community development, housing, emergency planning and public engagement
- Many national organisations and government departments seeking to reach communities and businesses in relation to climate action will rely on local authorities as the sector is best placed to deliver strategic, meaningful and consistent engagement
- Local authorities understand that climate change impacts are not the same everywhere, and they are attuned to the needs of communities and businesses in their cities and counties.

Local authorities have the capacity and reach to lead effective climate action in Ireland if adequately resourced.

“Local authorities understand that climate change impacts are not the same everywhere, and they are attuned to the needs of communities and businesses in their cities and counties.”





6 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to deliver on this vision and mission, local authorities commit to an ambitious set of shared strategic goals and key objectives.

Local authorities will work towards these goals and objectives in order to implement the Climate Action Charter and deliver on the obligations of the local authority sector within the Climate Action Plan 2019.

The shared strategic goals and key objectives outlined below, build on the ambition local authorities have to address the climate challenge in their actions and to advocate for climate action and behavioral change among citizens contained in the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1:

Foster governance, leadership and partnerships for climate action

This goal seeks to ensure that local authorities are mandated and aligned to lead on climate action, resourced to effectively deliver on commitments, and that all 28,000 local authority staff share a common purpose and approach in working with communities and strategic partners to embed climate action across our activities.

Elected members and senior management will have a key leadership role to play in enabling the transformation required, realising the potential of the sector and ensuring the focus remains on strategic action in priority areas such as carbon emissions reduction and climate adaptation. Critically, local authorities should lead by example in instigating the profound change needed to transition to climate resilient and sustainable communities, as well as in the economy and wider society.

This strategic goal will deliver on commitments A, B, F, I, P, T, V and W of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter (see Annex for more details).

Key objectives

- 1.1 Advocate for local government as a lead sector in relation to climate action, and influence local and national policy so that it can effectively leverage this leadership position
- 1.2 Ensure that local authorities are aligned, resourced, and funded to capitalise on this leadership position in relation to climate action
- 1.3 Build internal capacity and awareness, from elected members through to the 28,000 local authority employees to embed climate action across all local authority activities.
- 1.4 Build capacity and readiness in relation to working with communities and other strategic partners to effect transformative climate action in each city and county
- 1.5 Gather and share data to ensure that local authority research, expertise and experience is leveraged for climate action.

Strategic Goal 2:

Achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050

This goal will ensure that local authorities adhere to carbon budgets and collaborate as a sector to achieve our 2030 and 2050 targets.

This strategic goal will deliver on commitments C, D, E, G and H of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

Key objectives

- 2.1 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our housing, offices, infrastructure and transport fleet in line with national 2030 and 2050 targets
- 2.2 Increase the proportion of green procurement so we can measure, manage and reduce emissions from the production, transportation and disposal of goods and services procured
- 2.3 Develop investment strategies for transformative decarbonisation projects. These investment strategies will focus on achieving the maximum levels of emissions reduction.

Strategic Goal 3:

Deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience

This goal will ensure we adapt our buildings, infrastructure and natural environment to the changing climate and increase the climate resilience of our communities and organisations. It also recognises that local authorities will have a role to play in the implementation of other sectoral plans, e.g. flood risk management, water quality and infrastructure, heritage, transport infrastructure and biodiversity.

This strategic goal will deliver on commitments N, O and Q of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

Key objectives

- 3.1 Continue implementation of local authority climate adaptation strategies, enhance access to climate risk data and assist communities in local resilience planning
- 3.2 Capture the opportunities from climate action by enhancing our natural environment, buildings and infrastructure to increase the climate resilience of our organisations, our infrastructure and our communities
- 3.3 Prioritise nature-based solutions, where possible
- 3.4 Support other agencies in the implementation of other sectoral plans at local level
- 3.5 Continue to advance and embed climate adaptation within all forward and physical planning processes.

Strategic Goal 4:

Mobilise climate action in local communities

This goal will ensure that local authorities engage with and empower communities to take action, using existing and enhanced local authority structures, processes and networks.

This strategic goal will deliver on commitments M, S and U of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter

Key objectives

- 4.1 Identify what matters to communities in relation to climate action and climate resilience – now and in the future
- 4.2 Inform and create awareness about effective climate action measures
- 4.3 Support communities in co-creating a vision for low carbon and resilient cities and counties and enable them to follow through with meaningful and impactful climate action
- 4.4 Seek out and develop partnerships with external agencies to catalyse climate action projects at community level
- 4.5 Motivate and create demand for climate action through capacity building programmes, policy/financial instruments and local development and wellbeing programmes
- 4.6 Pilot replicable demonstration projects and evaluate same.

Strategic Goal 5:

Mobilise climate action in enterprise and support transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy

This goal will ensure that local authorities lead in the development of inclusive, zero carbon and circular economies where local enterprises can benefit from playing an active role in decarbonisation and adapting to the changing climate.

This strategic goal will deliver on commitments L and R of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

Key objectives:

- 5.1 Embed climate change and the circular economy in implementation of all local economic development strategies and Local Economic and Community Plans
- 5.2 Promote the development of a thriving green economy in which enterprises are supported to take advantage of emerging green business opportunities
- 5.3 Promote climate action and green skills in training and education in partnership with Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)
- 5.4 Undertake a circular economy strategy, based on analysis of the local priority sectors, material flows and waste streams, e.g. municipal and industrial material flows, waste generation and explore the options for circular procurement
- 5.5 Support the growth and development of lower carbon enterprises through supplier development programmes that align with green procurement strategies
- 5.6 Utilise best practice in promoting economic opportunities that arise from climate action with local enterprise.

Strategic Goal 6:

Achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects

This goal will ensure that local authorities are active in enabling a 'just transition' and protecting the health and wellbeing of communities across Ireland.

This strategic goal will deliver on commitments J and K of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

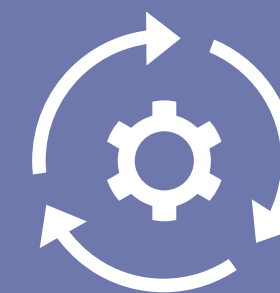
Key objectives:

- 6.1 Identify sectors and communities vulnerable to the regressive effects of climate change and/or the impacts of climate policy.
- 6.2 Identify and implement measures to support these sectors and communities
- 6.3 Ensure that actions for decarbonisation, adaptation and climate resilience are designed to improve the health and wellbeing of all
- 6.4 Address fuel poverty in social housing.

Strategic principles

The strategic objectives and goals will be underpinned by the following set of principles:

1. We will set and, where necessary, reframe, objectives and targets in line with the latest science, national climate policy and international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement
2. We will ensure that everyone who lives, works and studies within the local authority area is supported and incentivised to engage in climate actions through appropriate infrastructure, and provided with clear communications, as well as coherent regulations and standards
3. We will ensure that local authority decisions and City and County Development Plans are climate-proofed and that development plans contribute to wider sustainable development goals (social, environmental and economic)
4. We will seek opportunities to address climate change across the full range of services provided by local authorities
5. We will ensure that a 'just transition' is at the heart of our approach and it is inclusive of everyone, young and old
6. We will monitor progress and ensure that evidence, data and guidance are provided by and sought from independent experts and international best practice.



6. IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION

Local government has devised an integrated solution to leverage capacity, reach and resources to address the goals outlined under this strategy and deliver on the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

Resources will be coordinated and targeted towards dedicated climate action teams within each local authority, supported by a strengthened CARO structure (see figure 3 and 4).

These resources will be the catalyst to drive this strategy towards transformative and measurable climate impact. The additional specialist resources will also contribute expertise, evidence and analysis needed to guide and

drive climate action investment across Ireland. This sectoral approach will leverage the integrated resources of 31 local authorities, their 28,000 employees, 949 elected members and the reach that only local government can deliver across Ireland's cities and counties.

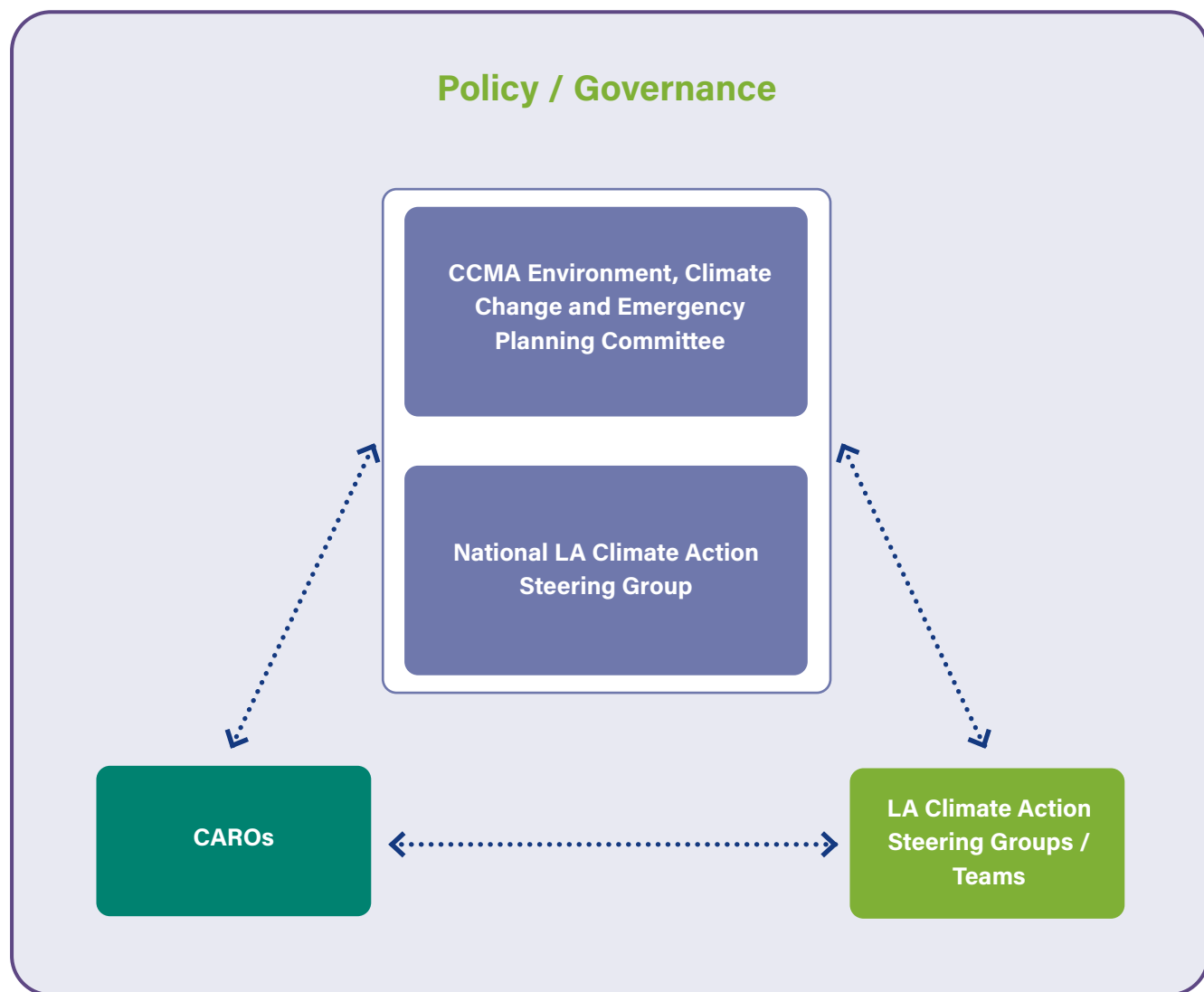


Figure 3: Local authority and CARO integration model

‘This sectoral approach will leverage the integrated resources of 31 local authorities, their 28,000 employees, 949 elected members and the reach that only local government can deliver across Ireland’s cities and counties!’

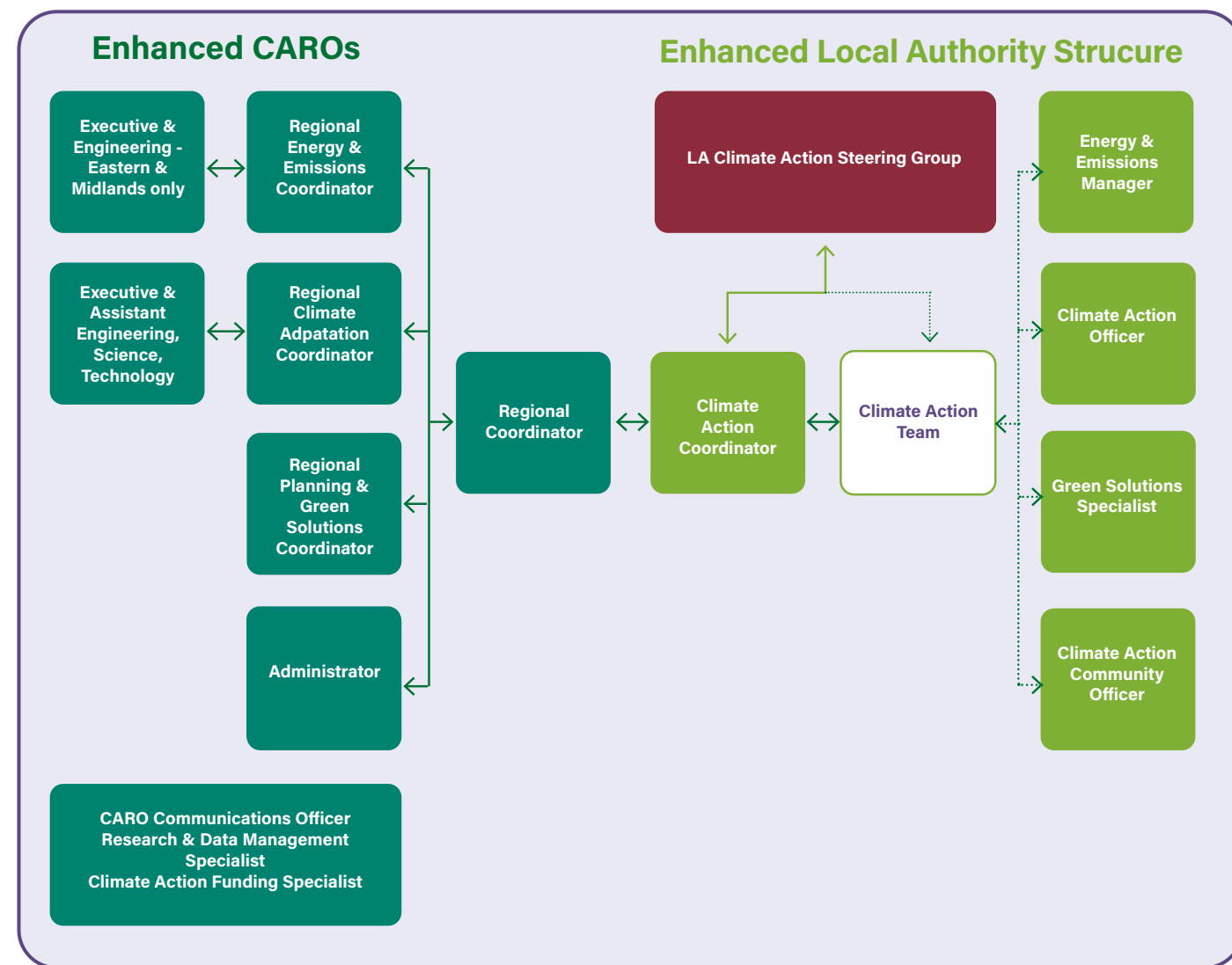


Figure 4: Local authority and CARO integration model




ANNEX

ANNEX


The table below aligns the strategic goals and objectives established in this strategy to specific commitments in the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

Strategic Goals	Key Objectives	Alignment
<p>Strategic Goal 1: Foster governance, leadership and partnerships for climate action</p> 	<p>Advocate for local government as a lead sector in relation to climate action, and influence local and national policy so that it can effectively leverage this leadership position.</p> <p>Ensure that local authorities are aligned, resourced, and funded to capitalise on this leadership position in relation to climate action.</p> <p>Build internal capacity and awareness, from elected members through to the 28,000 local authority employees to embed climate action across all local authority activities.</p> <p>Build capacity and readiness in relation to working with communities and other strategic partners to effect transformative climate action in each city and county.</p> <p>Gather and share data to ensure that local authority research, expertise and experience is leveraged for climate action.</p>	<p>Climate Action Charter</p> <p>(a) be advocates for Climate Action in our own policies and practices, and in our many various dealings with citizens and to underpin this role through the corporate planning process.</p> <p>(b) adhere to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 13 Climate Action.</p> <p>(f) ensure that policies and practices at local government level lead us towards low carbon pathways and put in place a process for carbon proofing major decisions, programmes and projects on a systematic basis, including investments in transport and energy infrastructure moving over time to a near zero carbon investment strategy.</p> <p>(i) support our employees to undertake changes in their lifestyles both at work and at home, to reduce carbon impact and encourage work-based employee-led groups to identify and implement ideas for improvement.</p> <p>(p) support elected officials in ensuring all council led activities are climate proofed in terms of achieving effective low carbon and climate resilient outcomes</p> <p>(t) liaise with 3rd level institutions & the research community both nationally and internationally with a view to developing centres of excellence where appropriate.</p> <p>(v) continue to develop and strengthen links with both central government (relevant departments and agencies) and regional bodies to help ensure a coordinated and coherent approach to the delivery of the national climate action agenda.</p> <p>(w) monitor, evaluate and report annually on the implementation of activities under this charter.</p>

Strategic Goals	Key Objectives	Alignment
<p>Strategic Goal 2: Achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050</p> 	<p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our housing, offices, infrastructure and transport fleet in line with national 2030 and 2050 targets.</p> <p>Increase the proportion of green procurement so we can measure, manage and reduce emissions from the production, transportation and disposal of goods and services procured.</p> <p>Develop investment strategies for transformative decarbonisation projects. These investment strategies will focus on achieving the maximum levels of emissions reduction.</p>	<p>Climate Action Charter</p> <p>(c) aim to measure the carbon impact of our various activities as accurately as possible and report as required so as to inform relevant local, regional and national policies.</p> <p>(d) implement, in so far as is practicable, measures which reduce our carbon emissions in line with national objectives, and develop a method for planning and reporting on these actions.</p> <p>(e) deliver a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030 (on the 2009 baseline).</p> <p>(g) ask suppliers as part of the procurement process to provide information on their carbon footprint and on the sustainability practices and steps they plan to reduce its impact.</p> <p>(h) implement green public procurement strategy and procedures across all business areas.</p>
<p>Strategic Goal 3: Deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience</p> 	<p>Continue implementation of local authority climate adaptation strategies, enhance access to climate risk data and assist communities in local resilience planning.</p> <p>Capture the opportunities from climate action by enhancing our natural environment, buildings and infrastructure to increase the climate resilience of our organisations, our infrastructure and our communities.</p> <p>Prioritise nature-based solutions, where possible.</p> <p>Support other agencies in the implementation of other sectoral plans at local level.</p> <p>Continue to advance and embed climate adaptation within all forward and physical planning processes.</p>	<p>Climate Action Charter</p> <p>(n) exercise our planning and regulatory roles to help improve climate outcomes in the wider community and beyond the public sector, by developing and implementing robust evidenced based policy and standards on climate action, through appropriate and relevant adaptation and mitigation measures.</p> <p>(o) continue to identify and develop specific actions to be taken to reduce the risks associated with negative climate change impacts and build resilience to these impacts through effective implementation of climate adaptation strategies/ Climate Change Action Plans.</p> <p>(q) explore opportunities to partner or collaborate on climate action initiatives across the public, private and education sectors.</p>

Strategic Goals	Key Objectives	Alignment
<p>Strategic Goal 4:</p> <p>Mobilise climate action in local communities</p> 	<p>Identify what matters to communities in relation to climate action and climate resilience – now and in the future.</p> <p>Inform and create awareness about effective climate action measures.</p> <p>Support communities in co-creating a vision for low carbon and resilient cities and counties and enable them to follow through with meaningful and impactful climate action.</p> <p>Seek out and develop partnerships with external agencies to catalyse climate action projects at community level.</p> <p>Motivate and create demand for climate action through capacity building programmes, policy/financial instruments and local development and wellbeing programmes.</p> <p>Pilot replicable demonstration projects and evaluate same.</p>	<p>Climate Action Charter</p> <p>(m) play a key role in helping to build and implement a sustained localised citizen engagement model in supporting the various initiatives under the National Dialogue on Climate Action.</p> <p>(s) work with relevant stakeholders to source funding for implementing climate action projects.</p> <p>(u) develop links with young citizens to give voice to their understanding and concerns on climate change and to enhance their awareness and the actions that they can take.</p>

Strategic Goals	Key Objectives	Alignment
<p>Strategic Goal 5:</p> <p>Mobilise climate action in enterprise and support transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy</p> 	<p>Embed climate change and the circular economy in implementation of all local economic development strategies and Local Economic and Community Plans.</p> <p>Promote the development of a thriving green economy in which enterprises are supported to take advantage of emerging green business opportunities.</p> <p>Promote climate action and green skills in training and education in partnership with Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs).</p> <p>Undertake a circular economy strategy, based on analysis of the local priority sectors, material flows and waste streams, e.g. municipal and industrial material flows, waste generation and explore the options for circular procurement.</p> <p>Support the growth and development of lower carbon enterprises through supplier development programmes that align with green procurement strategies.</p> <p>Utilise best practice in promoting economic opportunities that arise from climate action with local enterprise.</p>	<p>Climate Action Charter</p> <p>(l) cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with enterprise, community and voluntary groups so as to, improve the use of resources and reduced climate impact.</p> <p>(r) support Enterprise through LEO/LCDC offices to exploit opportunities which will arise from meeting the challenges of Climate Change.</p>

Strategic Goals	Key Objectives	Alignment
<p>Strategic Goal 6: Achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects</p> 	<p>Identify sectors and communities vulnerable to the regressive effects of climate change and/or the impacts of climate policy.</p> <p>Identify and implement measures to support these sectors and communities.</p> <p>Ensure that actions for decarbonisation, adaptation and climate resilience are designed to improve the health and wellbeing of all.</p> <p>Address fuel poverty in social housing.</p>	<p>Climate Action Charter</p> <p>(j) put in place, and resource, a long-term training strategy (technical and behavioural) for LA staff to provide appropriate capacity for the sector to deliver on climate action.</p> <p>(k) encourage clients/customers/service users to undertake lifestyle changes to reduce their carbon impact, with a particular emphasis on supporting those clients/customers/service users who may face difficulties in funding such measures.</p>



