



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029
Executive Summary



THE GLOBAL GOALS



Meath County Council has initiated a pathway for proactive climate action with the introduction of this Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029. To achieve success, this plan necessitates a collaborative effort from local communities, businesses, government departments, and individuals. Through commitment, collaboration and the delivery of proactive climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity actions at a local level, the collective aim of a climate resilient and climate neutral County will be achieved.

Vision

Meath aims to be a climate resilient, biodiverse rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy that supports healthy lifestyles and jobs growth.

Mission

Meath County Council is committed to lead in translating the National Climate Policy into local actions through inclusive engagement, capacity building and leadership for the people of County Meath.

The targets of the Meath County Council Climate Action Plan are as follows:

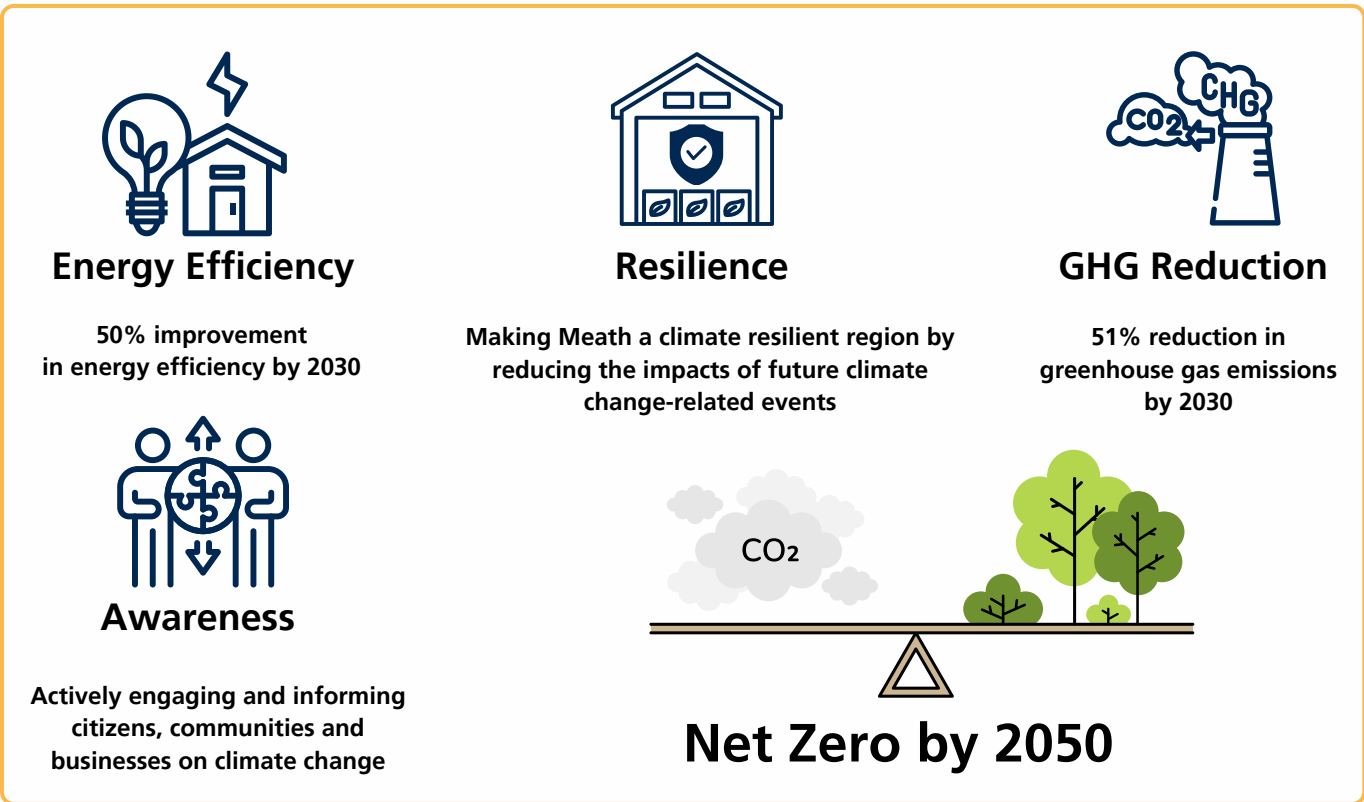


Figure 1: Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan Targets

Maximising the co-benefits and opportunities of climate action can occur alongside the successful implementation of the Climate Action Plan. Empowering communities starts by helping them understand these co-benefits and opportunities, which go beyond just reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing climate resilience.



Figure 2: Co-benefits of Climate Action



Meath County Council Scope and Role on Climate Action

Meath County Council will adopt a dual focus, encompassing both an inward (organisational) and an outward (community) perspective, on building resilience to the negative impacts of climate change and in tackling the causes of climate change.

Meath County Council takes responsibility for the oversight and reduction of its organisational emissions, aligning with the established 51% reduction target for 2030 and the overarching target of attaining climate neutrality by 2050.

Figure 3: Meath County Council's Climate Role

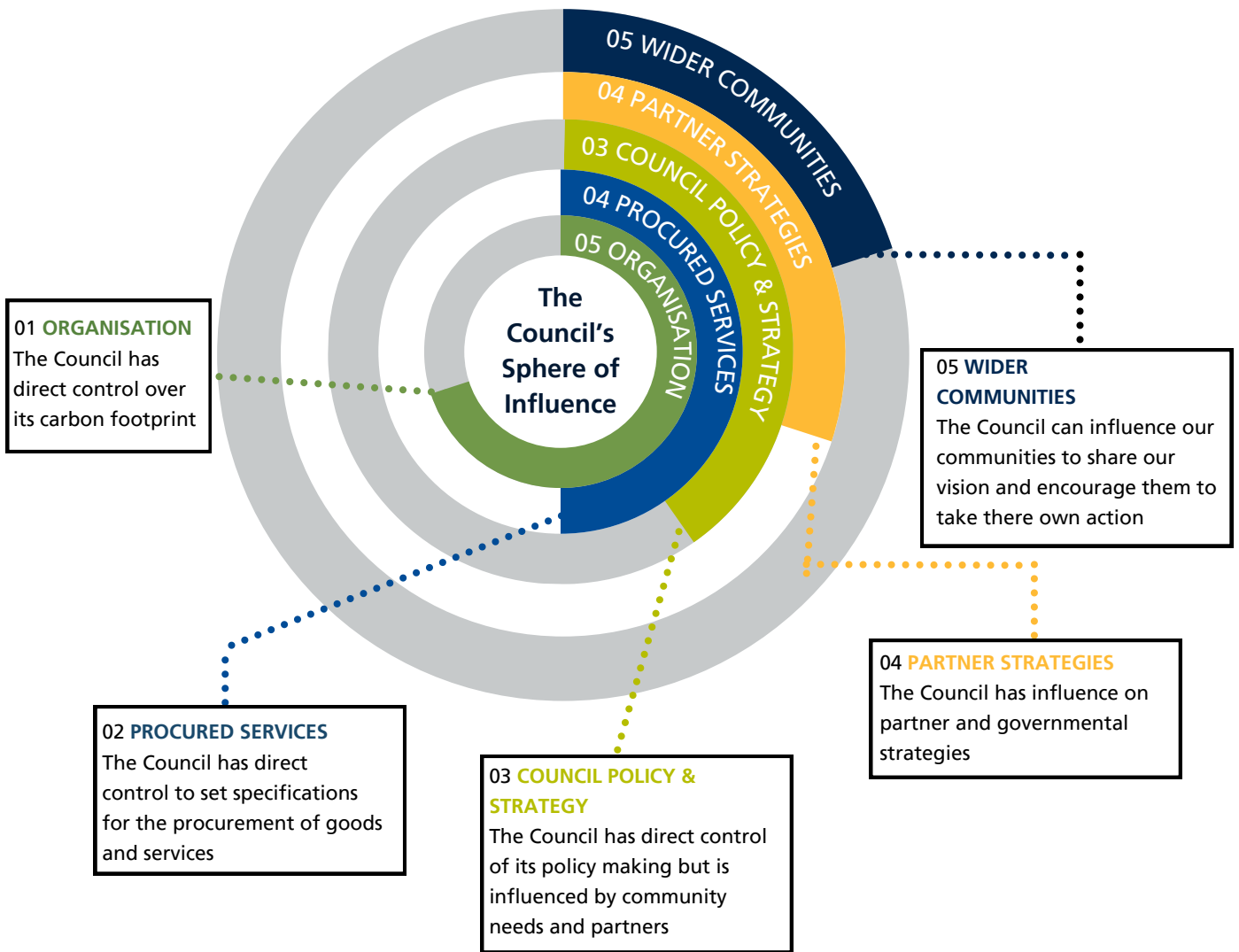


Figure 4: Meath County Council's sphere of influence with regards to climate action

Meath County Council has a broader role of influencing and facilitating others to meet their climate targets. The accompanying illustration depicts Meath County Council's sphere of influence with regards to climate action.

Building the Evidence Base

Ensuring climate action planning gives proper consideration to the available scientific evidence is crucial, this plan is supported by two key scientific assessments, forming a well-defined pathway for effective climate action. The Climate Change Risk Assessment was developed to understand the impacts that climate change is currently having on Meath County Council's operations and on the County of Meath and is likely to have into the future.

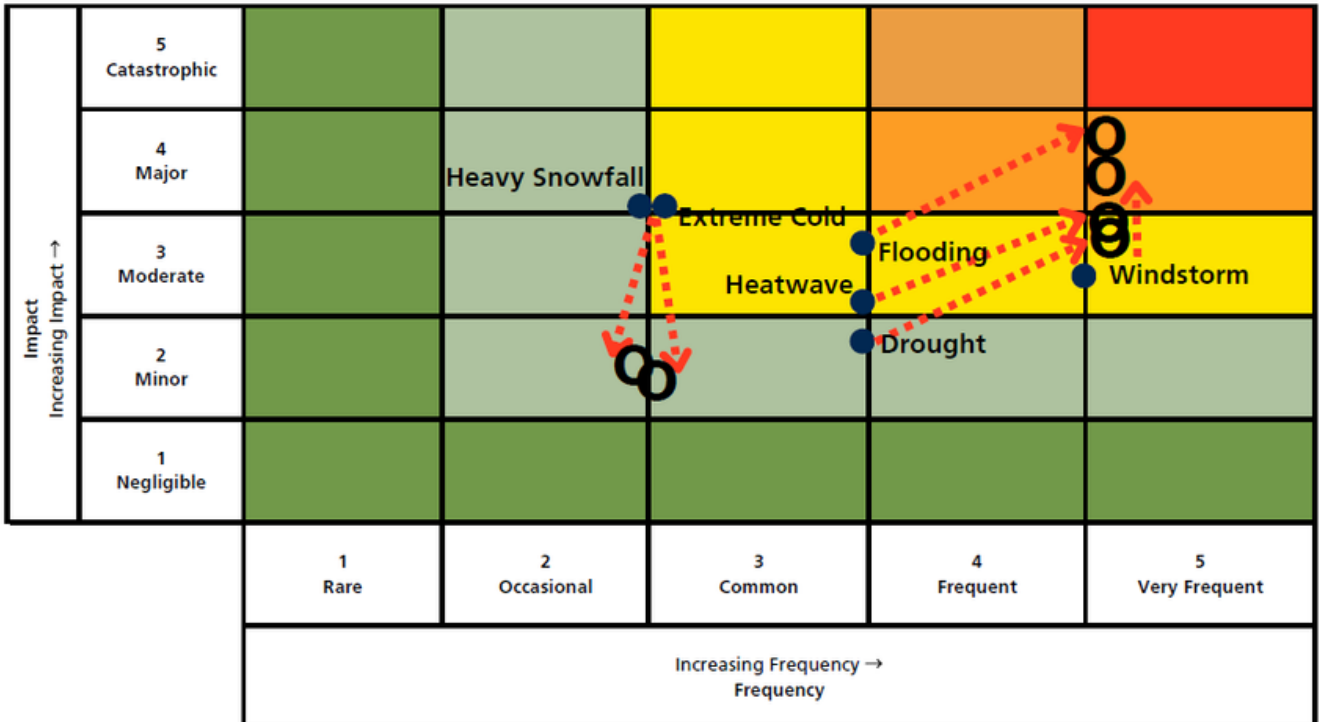


Figure 5: Risk Matrix showing the future changes in risk for the identified hazards within County Meath

Climate Hazard	Summary	Future Frequency
Droughts Heatwaves Flood	These are emerging and increasing risk	↑
Windstorms	This is an increasing risk	↑
Extreme Cold Heavy Snowfall	These are decreasing risk	↓

Table 1: Summary of future projected changes to climate hazard risk for County Meath

Baseline Emissions Inventory provided an evidence base for the development of place-based climate actions. This was an assessment of emissions sources for Meath County Council's operations, County Meath, and each of the nine Decarbonising Zones during a standard year (2018).

Meath County Council Emission Baseline	
<p>Total 7.7 (ktCO₂eq)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity 62% Heat 22% Transport 16% 	<p>Meath County Council's total emissions are 7.7ktCO₂eq, this makes up less than 1% of total emissions in County Meath.</p>
County Meath Emission Baseline	
<p>Total 4254 (ktCO₂eq)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial processes 29% Agriculture 25% Manufacturing & commercial 13% Transport 10% Waste 9% Residential 8% LULUCF 6% Meath County Council <1% F-gases <1% 	<p>County Meath's total emissions are 4,254 ktCO₂eq, the main sources of emissions within County Meath are industrial processes (29%), agriculture (25%), manufacturing and commercial (13%) and transport (10%) respectively.</p>
Decarbonising Zones Emission Baseline	
<p>Total 824 (ktCO₂eq)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navan 6% Ashbourne 3% Trim 2% Kells 2% Dunbooyne 1% Laytown/Bettystown 2% Dunshaughlin 1% Ratoath 1% Duleek 1% 	<p>The nine Decarbonising Zones (DZs) account for 19% of total emissions in County Meath, totalling 824 ktCO₂eq. The four main sectors where the emissions were material across the nine DZs were residential, manufacturing and commercial, transport and waste.</p>

Table 2: Summary of Emission Baselines

Meath aims to be a climate resilient, biodiverse rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy that supports healthy lifestyles and jobs growth.



Meath County Council is committed to lead in translating the National Climate Policy into local actions through inclusive engagement, capacity building and leadership for the people of County Meath.



Thematic Areas, Strategic Goals and Objectives






 Governance & Leadership	 Built Environment & Transport	 Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	 Communities: Resilience & Transition	 Sustainability & Resource Management
<p>Goal 1</p> <p>Develop appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing effective climate action.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Achieve local government carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030.</p>	<p>Goal 3</p> <p>Protect and enhance Meath's natural environment by supporting biodiversity and increasing climate resilience.</p>	<p>Goal 4</p> <p>Mobilise climate action in local communities, whilst achieving a just transition.</p>	<p>Goal 5</p> <p>Create a culture of sustainability, promoting a circular economy throughout the County.</p>
<p>1.1 Support the development and implementation of positive climate action across all services and operations of Meath County Council, collaborating with others to enable and inspire endeavours to reduce their climate impact.</p>	<p>2.1 Minimize the Council's contribution to climate change by increasing energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions and encouraging sustainable opportunities for the broader County Meath community.</p>	<p>3.1 Support the responsible management, protection and enhancement of Meath's natural heritage, biodiversity and natural environment.</p>	<p>4.1 Promote through collaboration and partnership sustainable, inclusive and resilient communities, focusing on actions which promotes health and wellbeing benefits and supports local economies.</p>	<p>5.1 Support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure, focusing on prevention, reuse, repair and recycling and promote green business opportunities.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>

Table 3: The relationship between Meath County Council's Climate Action Vision, Missions, Thematic Areas, Strategic goals, Objectives, and Actions

Actions prioritised as part of this Climate Action Plan will work to reduce emissions from Meath County Council's own assets and operations, influence sectors in the delivery of their own emission reductions, raise awareness of climate change and promote positive climate action at a local level.



Figure 6: Action Areas breakdown

Meath County Council will monitor and report on the implementation of this Climate Action Plan. Oversight of implementation will continue through a number of existing mechanisms in place:

- Internal Monitoring and Reporting
- SEA Environmental Monitoring and Reporting
- National Climate Action Plan Reporting
- Sectoral Performance Reporting




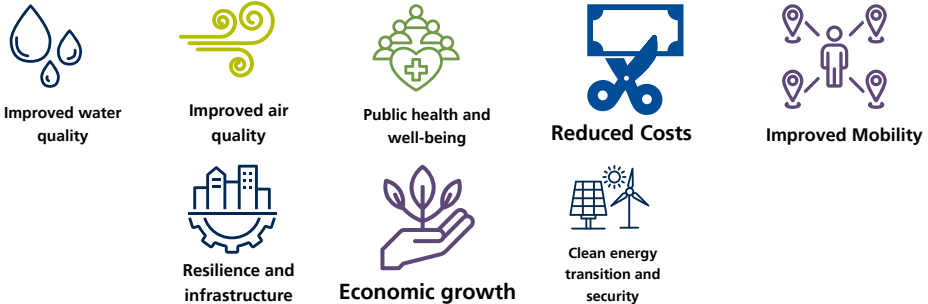
Strategic Goal 1 Governance and Leadership

Thematic Area	Strategic Goal	Objectives
 <p>Governance & Leadership</p>	<p>Develop appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing effective climate action.</p>	<p>1.1 Support the development and implementation of positive climate action across all services and operations of Meath County Council, collaborating with others to enable and inspire endeavours to reduce their climate impact.</p>
<p>Policy Alignment/ Sustainable Development Goals</p>		<p>Policy Alignment/ Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals</p>
    		 
<p>Co-Benefits</p>		
 <p>Enhanced Governance</p>  <p>Improved service delivery</p>  <p>Climate awareness and capacity building</p>		

The size and scale of the climate change activity requires strong governance that is sufficiently flexible to work to the complexities and challenges involved. Meath County Council will oversee responsibility for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, build resilience to ensure continued service provision, while more broadly, enabling and influencing others to meet their own climate obligations.

Ultimately, the successful implementation of this Plan is the collective responsibility of many stakeholders, beyond Meath County Council. However, a critical success factor is that Meath County Council is committed to providing strong governance and leadership in delivering this plan.


Strategic Goal 2 Built Environment and Transport: Actions

Thematic Area	Strategic Goal	Objectives
 <p>Built Environment & Transport</p>	<p>Achieve local government carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030.</p>	<p>2.1 Minimize the Council's contribution to climate change by increasing energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions and encouraging sustainable opportunities for the broader County Meath community.</p>
<p>Policy Alignment/ Sustainable Development Goals</p>		<p>Policy Alignment/ Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals</p>
		
<p>Co-Benefits</p>		
		

Buildings contribute a significant proportion of the County's emissions. Optimising energy efficiency and switching to low carbon heat sources in buildings will need to be prioritised in addition to securing renewable energy infrastructure to contribute to national grid decarbonisation and deliver a low carbon alternative to fossil fuels.

The transport-related actions will support the uptake of active travel and public travel options, enable the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the County and reduce the GHG emissions associated with the business and commuting travel of Meath County Council. Additionally, the promotion of sustainable travel and road safety initiatives can improve the safety of the roads and improve air quality in towns and villages throughout Meath.

Strategic Goal 3 Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure

Thematic Area	Strategic Goal	Objectives
 <p>Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>Protect and enhance Meath’s natural environment by supporting biodiversity and increasing climate resilience.</p>	<p>3.1 Support the responsible management, protection and enhancement of Meath’s natural heritage, biodiversity and natural environment.</p>
<p>Policy Alignment/ Sustainable Development Goals</p>		<p>Policy Alignment/ Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals</p>
		
<p>Co-Benefits</p>		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Improved water quality</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Enhanced biodiversity</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Community sustainability and vitality</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Public health and well-being</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Local food security</p> </div> </div>		

Green infrastructure forms a valuable asset in supporting biodiversity, supporting stormwater and flood risk management, optimising carbon storage whilst also offering opportunities for eco-system services, active travel, amenity and recreation.

Investing to maintain and enhance the natural environment will provide a range of benefits that help to manage and reduce the risks of climate change and help build resilience by reducing soil erosion, absorbing, and slowing water run-off, providing cooling and shading areas, increasing wildlife and biodiversity and contributing to health and wellbeing.

Strategic Goal 4 Communities: Resilience and Transition




















Thematic Area	Strategic Goal	Objectives
 <p>Communities: Resilience & Transition</p>	<p>Mobilise Climate Action in Local Communities, whilst achieving a just transition.</p>	<p>4.1 Promote through collaboration and partnership sustainable, inclusive and resilient communities, focusing on actions which promote health and wellbeing benefits and supports local economies.</p>
<p>Policy Alignment/ Sustainable Development Goals</p>		<p>Policy Alignment/ Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals</p>
		
<p>Co-Benefits</p>		
		

Provision of information, engagement and participation are key to ensuring meaningful and long-lasting behavioural change is achieved. This is important to ensure success, for example uptake inactive travel and the use of public transport, switching to low carbon heat or fuel sources, enhancing the natural environment and maintaining general awareness of climate change, its impacts and its opportunities.

In encouraging ongoing dialogue with the diverse range of communities it is important to hear, respond and work in partnership to address the measures required together.

There are already many active community groups involved in protecting and enhancing the environment and working to deliver on climate obligations in County Meath to create genuinely sustainable local solutions that work. The Council is committed to working with all these groups to enable them to fulfil their ambitions.

Strategic Goal 5 Sustainability and Resource Management

Thematic Area	Strategic Goal	Objectives
 <p>Sustainability & Resource Management</p>	<p>Create a culture of sustainability, promoting a circular economy throughout the County</p>	<p>5.1 Support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure, focusing on prevention, reuse, repair and recycling and promote green business opportunities.</p>
<p>Policy Alignment/ Sustainable Development Goals</p>		<p>Policy Alignment/ Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals</p>
    		    
<p>Co-Benefits</p>		
<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">  <p>Economic growth</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">  <p>Equity and social inclusion</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">  <p>Green job creation and skills development</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">  <p>Reduced Costs</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">  <p>Local food security</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">  <p>Public health and well-being</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">  <p>Community sustainability and vitality</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">  <p>Circular economy</p> </div> </div>		

The Circular Economy goes beyond the management of waste. The focus is on reducing the number of raw materials we use and maximising the value of materials along the production and consumption chain. This economic model ensures that everyone uses less resources and prevents waste to achieve sustainable economic growth.

Meath County Council is committed to supporting increased levels of sustainability and the management of resources in order to create a vibrant, diversely sustainable local and circular economy while building community knowledge, skills, resilience and resources. It is vital that citizens, communities, businesses, and other organisations are enabled and empowered to affect positive change and improve quality of life through their buying power.



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