



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council

**Meath County Council**  
**Climate Action Plan 2024–2029**

# Annual Progress Report 2024

**Elected Members & Stakeholders**



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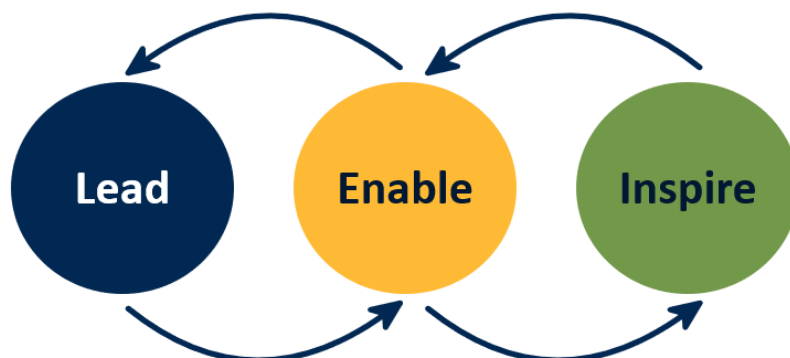
## Acknowledgements

The Climate Action Section would like to acknowledge the dedication and support for climate action from the various service areas of Meath County Council under the guidance of the senior management team. We appreciate the contributions from the elected members, the Climate Action Forum, the Climate Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), and the Corporate Policy Group (CPG).

The communities and businesses in Meath are increasingly aware of the necessity for progressive and effective climate action, recognizing its importance for our social and economic well-being. Meath County Council is grateful for the engagement and support of the broader community and the stakeholders we serve.

We also want to extend our appreciation to the Mid-East Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), which has assisted us in integrating climate action throughout the organization and in creating this initial report on local authority climate action.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone involved, especially the staff of the Climate Action Section, the wider Climate Action Team, the Energy Team, and the URBACT Local Group (ULG).



## Introduction

Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP) for 2024-2029 was adopted on January 19, 2024. The CAP outlines the Council's strategies for reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency across its properties, facilities, and fleet. Additionally, it details how the Council is leading, enabling, and inspiring climate action in other sectors and communities to help them achieve their climate goals.



This document serves as the first annual progress report for Meath County Council's CAP. It covers the implementation period from January 2024 to December 2024 and summarizes the Council's climate action progress throughout the year. The report aims to illustrate the breadth and scope of climate initiatives undertaken by the Council and emphasizes the collaborative, cross-departmental approach adopted by staff and representatives across all local authority services to promote positive climate action.

## Methodology and Format of Report

This report is structured based on the requirements for Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs), the Meath County Council Climate Action Plan (CAP), as well as recommendations from broader sustainability reporting frameworks. It also aligns with the Agenda 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). As such, this report provides updates on the progress of actions outlined in the CAP that were completed or initiated in 2024. It presents information in accordance with the following strategic commitments:

<b>Leadership and Governance</b>	Oversight and procedural aspects of integrating climate related matters into governance processes, business and operational models and organisational and local policy instruments.
<b>Climate Action Performance Monitoring</b>	<b>Climate Action Plan:</b> Progress on delivery of actions.
	<b>Climate Mitigation:</b> Progress on delivering prescribed emission reduction targets established by national climate policy for all public sector entities in line with reporting methodology of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).
	<b>Climate Adaptation:</b> Measures to plan for and reduce vulnerability of local authority services and communities to climate change impacts, minimise risks and costs and protect lives and property by building resilience into natural and human systems.
	<b>Delivery across Services:</b> The diverse range of services and functions perform climate action through various policy areas, to support, facilitate and enable government departments, agencies and stakeholders to meet their climate goals at the local level and influence the value chain through Green Public Procurement.
<b>Community Engagement and Activation</b>	Actions that support community engagement, activity and capacity to build resilience to climate change impacts, reduce energy consumption and emissions and protect, restore and/or enhance biodiversity and work to achieve the objectives of the decarbonising zones (DZs).

## Leadership and Governance

### Climate Action Governance Structure

Meath County Council's Climate Action Section receives funding from the Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications (DECC). The main roles within the Climate Action Section include:

1. Climate Change Coordinator
2. Climate Action Officer
3. Community Climate Action Officer

Additionally, there are other roles within the Climate Action Section that are supported internally by Meath County Council:

- Energy Officer
- Technician Grade 1
- Climate Action Graduate
- Clerical Officer

The Climate Action Section receives support from the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team, who provide strategic guidance and oversight. The Climate Action Team (CAT) and the Energy Team consist of staff members from all service areas of Meath County Council. Their role is to serve as champions for climate action and energy efficiency within their respective areas and implement and report on the actions outlined in the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

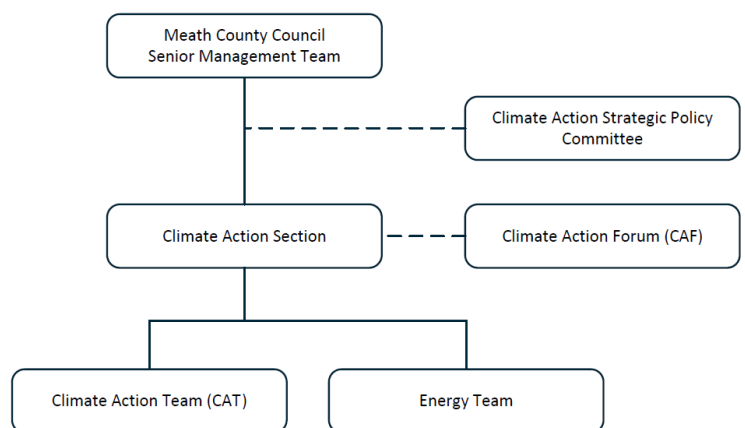


Figure 1: Climate Action Governance Structure

The Climate Action Forum (CAF) plays a crucial role in promoting and supporting climate action initiatives. This forum is made up of elected members from various political parties on the Council. The CAF aims to foster community leadership, engage citizens, and facilitate a two-way conversation about climate action between Meath County Council and the public.

Additionally, the Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU) offers advisory and technical services. It also manages Pathfinder Funding through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to support energy efficiency projects for significant energy users (SEUs) and to conduct feasibility studies for district heating systems.

Please refer to Meath County Council's webpage for more details, just search for Climate Action on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie).

The CARO coordinates and supports local authorities in delivering transformative change and measurable climate action. Meath is located in the



Mid-East CARO region, this comprises 4 counties each with common challenges in mitigating the effects of climate change and in adapting to climate change. Please refer [www.caro.ie](http://www.caro.ie) for more detail.

### Climate Action National Key Performance Indicators

The Government collects data annually on how local authorities are performing in terms of their climate action obligations. Data is collected under the following themes: mainstreaming, mitigation, adaptation and internal behavioural change and capacity building and is collated in an annual Climate Action Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Report by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). Please refer to the dedicated website for more details: [2023 Local Government Climate Action Key Performance Indicators Report | Local Government Ireland](https://www.local.gov.ie/en/publications/2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report)

Local Government CA KPI Theme		Climate Action Theme	Data supplied by
1.	Climate Action Staff	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
2.	Climate Action Teams	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
3.	Severe Weather Responses	Adaptation	Local Authorities
4.	Climate Action Plans	Combined (adaptation / mitigation)	Local Authorities
5.	Active Travel Projects	Mitigation	NTA
6.	Community Climate Action Programme	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	DECC
7.	Councillor and Staff Training	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	LASNTG
8.	Green for Micro	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	Enterprise Ireland
9.	Social Housing Retrofit	Mitigation	LGMA (HDCO)
10.	Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Mitigation	SEAI

Table 1: Ten National KPIs for Climate

Data for 2024 was collected over the period January 15<sup>th</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 and will be published in Summer 2025 by the LGMA, number 4 above – Climate Action Plans has been included for 2024 and will collect data on the delivery of climate action plans from every local authority.

### Climate Actions and UN Sustainability Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) serve as a blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for everyone. The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) holds the overall responsibility for promoting the SDGs. There are 17 SDGs, and the successful implementation of all of them is crucial for our sustainable future.



SDG 13 focuses specifically on climate action; however, achieving all the SDGs is essential for the sustainable development of County Meath.

There is significant cross-departmental awareness of the SDGs, which are considered in the formulation of new policies, strategies, and service delivery.

For instance, the SDGs, including the goal for climate action, have been integrated into Meath County Council's County Development Plan, Corporate Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Meath's Local Economic

and Community Plan. The Council actively supports the Annual National SDG Week, hosting various events and activities throughout the county. Additionally, the Climate Action Plan (CAP) has identified and mapped actions that align with the SDGs.

### **Mainstreaming of Climate Action into Plans and Operations**

Meath County Council prioritises climate action across the functional and operational areas of the corporate body as reflected in Meath County Council's Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 and Climate Action Plan.

**Working together to create a climate resilient, biodiverse rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy that supports healthy lifestyles and jobs growth.**

CAP Action GL4 requires the Council to incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation considerations, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), into all adopted policies, strategies, and plans. In line with this action, Meath County Council has integrated climate action objectives and initiatives into several key documents. Below is a list of important documents that will guide the County's vision, functions, and operations to promote sustainable social and economic growth.

- Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 -
- Meath County Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029
- Meath Local Economic and Community Plan
- Meath Economic Development Strategy Roadmap
- Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy
- Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2024-2030 | Discover Boyne Valley Meath, Ireland
- County Biodiversity Plan (in progress)
- Digital and ICT Strategy (in progress)

### **Integration of Climate-Related Risks**

The Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) is a high-level team focused on evaluating the operational needs and risks associated with severe weather events. It remains consistently informed about the risks linked to climate change and how these risks impact the organisation's ability to function effectively and serve the community of Meath.

SWAT has reviewed the climate risks and vulnerabilities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CCRA indicates both an increase in the frequency and a projected increase in the intensity of weather events, which are being monitored as necessary. Currently, no additional items have been added to the assessment, but the situation continues to be closely watched.

## Climate Action Considerations within Financial Decision Making

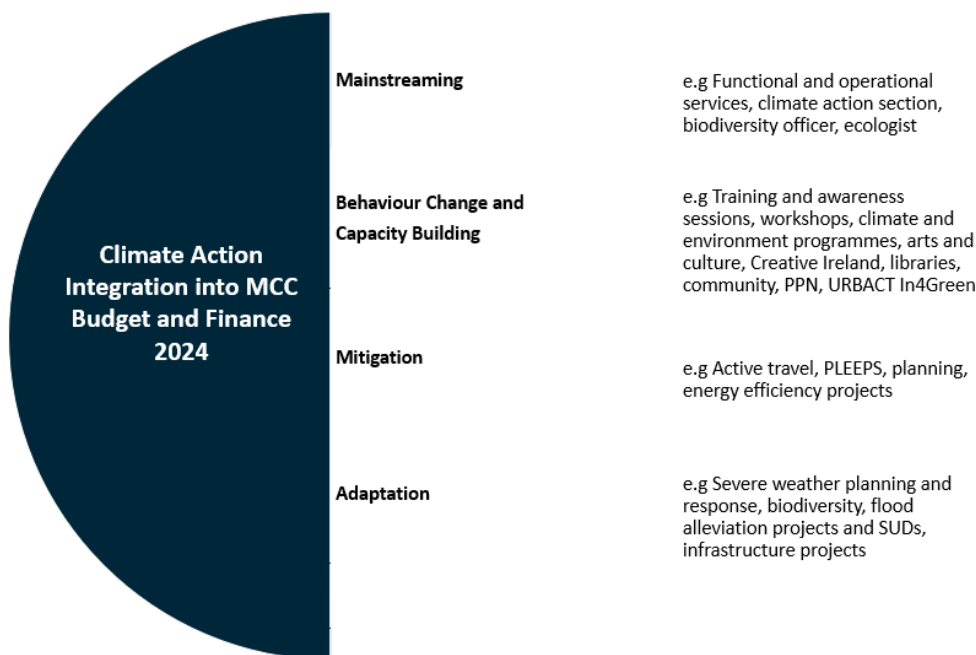


Figure 2: Climate Action integration into MCC Budget and Finance 2024

Meath County Council's capital and revenue budgets demonstrate a commitment to climate action through both political and statutory decision-making while recognising the urgent climate and biodiversity crises. The 2024-2027 capital programme includes investments of over €1.3 billion in County Meath, which encompasses various climate and energy efficiency projects.

## Climate Action Reporting Framework

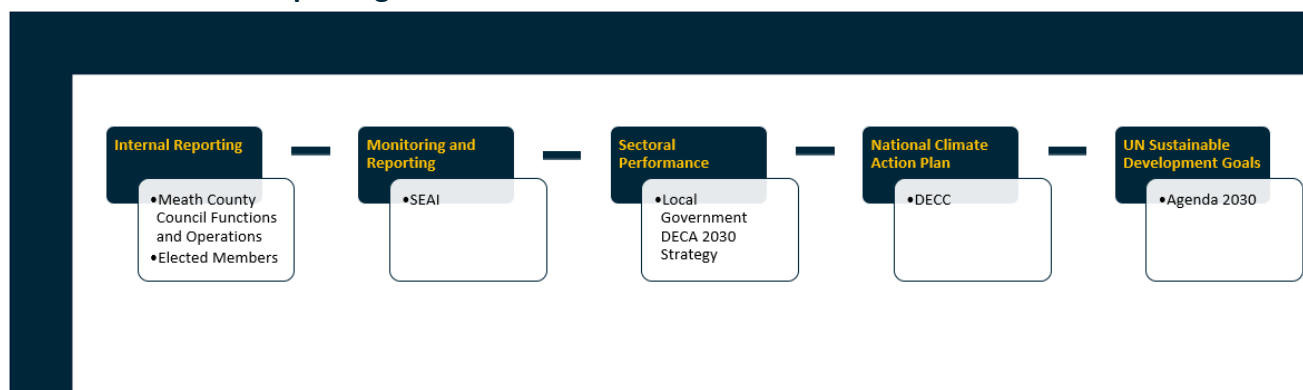


Figure 3: Climate Action Reporting

### Internal Reporting

The Council will provide reports to the Climate Action, Environment, and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee as needed. Each year, an end-of-year report will be made available to Elected Members. Additionally, progress reports will be communicated through the Council's website.



**Monitoring and Reporting**

Meath County Council will continue to report its emissions and energy performance annually to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) through the Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system.

**Sectoral Performance**

Meath County Council will provide an annual report on its climate action performance using key performance indicators (KPIs). This report will evaluate the local government's effectiveness in addressing climate action as part of the DECA 2030 Strategy.

**National Climate Action Plan**

In accordance with Part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, Meath County Council will report to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on its progress regarding climate action at the county level. This reporting will contribute to the achievement of the National Climate Objective, with all actions documented through the CARO reporting tool.

**UN Sustainable Development Goals**

The Council is actively working to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each action outlined in the Climate Action Plan is mapped to the corresponding goals and targets, with multiple SDGs being achieved through each action in the plan.

## Climate Action Performance Monitoring

### Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan including our decarbonising zones contains 71 actions across 5 thematic areas with the following actions distribution across the themes:



Figure 4: Action number breakdown across themes

The climate actions outlined in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) are implemented by the designated sections within the organisation. Specific members of the Climate Action Team (CAT) are responsible for providing annual reports on these actions to the Climate Change Coordinator. Additionally, monitoring for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) is conducted, and there have been no negative impacts from the Climate Action Plan measures.

In 2024, 94% (67) of the actions in the CAP began implementation, while 6% (4) are scheduled to start after 2024. Of the 71 actions, 49% (38) were fully completed by the end of 2024, 5% (4) are currently in progress, and a total of 46% (36) are recurring annually.






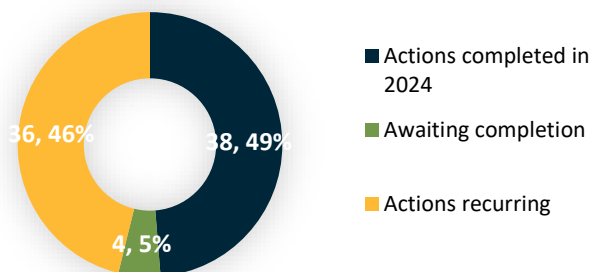
	 Governance and Leadership	 Built Environment and Transport	 Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure	 Communities: Resilience and Transition	 Sustainability and Resource Management
<b>Actions commenced in 2024</b>	12	17	10	16	12
<b>Actions completed in 2024</b>	6	14	2	7	9
<b>Actions commenced that will be completed after 2024</b>	4	3	4	2	1
<b>Actions to be commenced after 2024</b>	2	0	1	0	1
<b>Total No. of actions</b>	14 (10 recurring)	17 (14 recurring)	11 (7 recurring)	16 (14 recurring)	13 (12 recurring)

Table 2: Implementation status of actions across

**'Actions completed', 'recurring' and 'awaiting completion' as a percentage of total number of 'Actions Commenced in 2024'**



**Actions commenced in 2024 V Actions to be commenced after 2024**

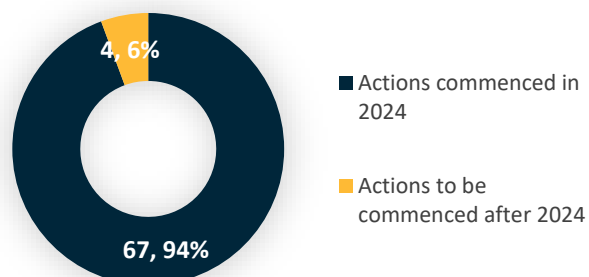


Figure 5: Actions completed and commenced in 2024

### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The CAP actions are categorised based on their focus on climate change mitigation, adaptation, or a combination of both. It was found that 30% (21 actions) are focused on mitigation, 14% (10 actions) are aimed at adaptation, and 56% (40 actions) address both adaptation and mitigation.

**CAP action type by Actions**

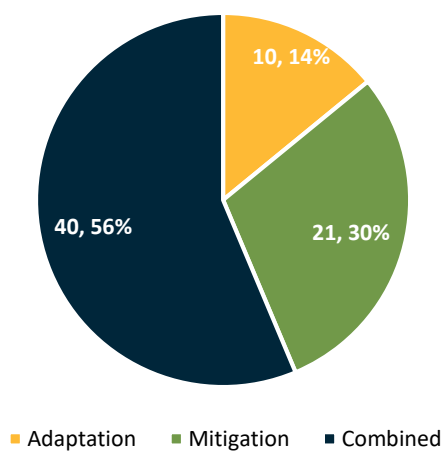


Figure 6: CAP action type by CAP Actions

Refer to Appendix 1 Meath County Council - Action Implementation Data for 2024

## Climate Change Mitigation

A key requirement of the Council is climate change mitigation in the form of reduced GHG emissions and increased energy efficiency across the organisation.

## ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management

ISO 50001:2018 is an internationally recognised standard that provides a systematic framework for organisations to enhance their energy management practices and improve their energy use. It is designed to help organisations improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, lower operational costs and minimise their environmental impact.

Meath County Council was awarded Certification to ISO 50001 in QR3 2024. The Energy Management System has been implemented across the organisation and will assist in reducing energy use and carbon emissions for Council operations.

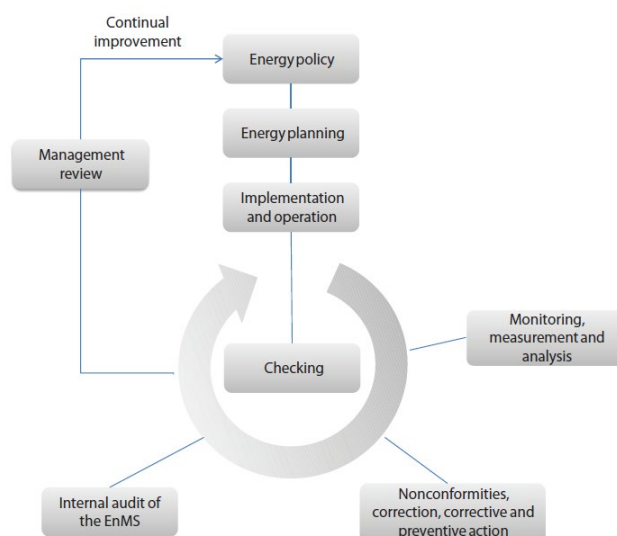


Figure 7: ISO50001 Structure

As part of our Energy Management System, Meath County Council have formed an Energy Team, made up of staff representatives from our Significant Energy Users (SEUs) who meet on a quarterly basis to discuss the status of ongoing and planned energy projects.

## Energy Performance

Meath County Council is required to achieve a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) carbon emissions, based on a 2016-2018 baseline, and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency, based on a 2009 baseline, by the year 2030. These targets are part of the Climate Action Plan 2023 established by the Government.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system offers a platform for tracking progress on these emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. It provides an annual assessment of the 'Gap to Target' necessary to meet these goals. Please note that the figures for 2024 are provisional and have not yet been finalised by the SEAI. Final figures for 2024 are expected to be published by the SEAI by the end of QR2 2025.

This report summarises Meath County Council's energy performance for the year 2023.

## Total CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

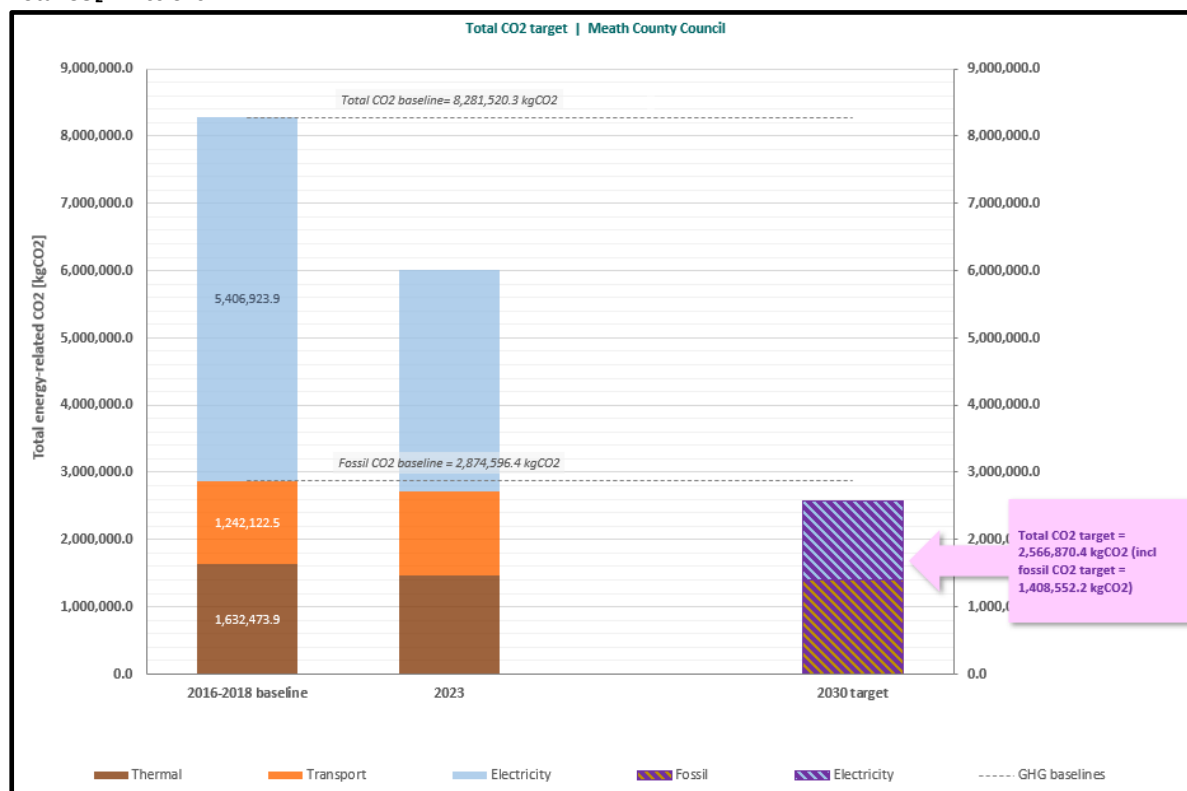


Figure 8 Total CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

Meath County Council has created a Total CO<sub>2</sub> Gap-to-Target graph that includes the baseline, 2023 progress, and the 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) targets. Currently, the Council's emissions are above the trajectory needed to meet these targets. However, a project pipeline is in place to address this issue, with the first decarbonisation project completed in 2024. For instance, in 2025, Meath County Council plans to implement Energy Performance Contracts aimed at significantly reducing energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our largest buildings.

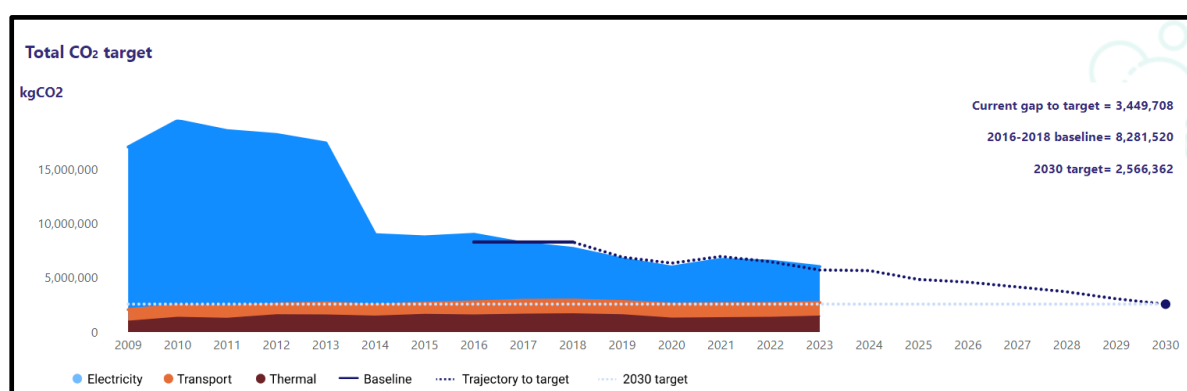


Figure 9 Total CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Target

In 2023, Meath County Council's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were 27% lower than the baseline set from 2016 to 2018. This reduction is partly due to the decarbonisation of the national grid and a gradual transition from fossil fuel heating to electric sources. To meet the 2030 target of 2,566 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>—representing a 57% reduction over the next seven years—Meath County Council must reduce emissions by an additional 3,460 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Total Fossil Fuel Emissions

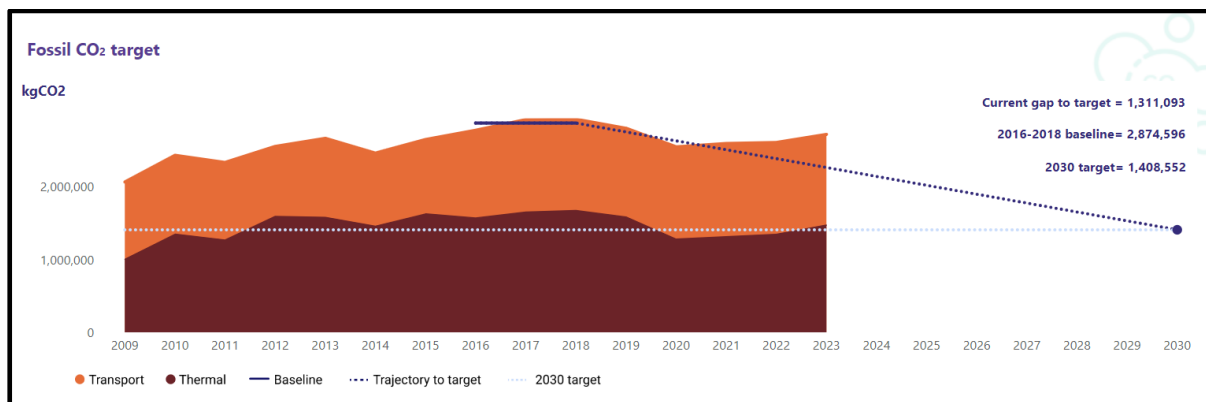


Figure 10 Fossil Fuel CO<sub>2</sub> Target

In 2023, total fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for Meath County Council were 5.4% lower than the 2016-2018 baseline. To meet the 2030 target of 1,408 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, which represents a 48% reduction, Meath County Council needs to save an additional 1,311 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over the next seven years. The main contributor to the increase in fossil fuel emissions was heightened thermal (gas) use at the Trim swimming pool, but this issue has now been addressed. Transportation, including fleet and staff travel, accounted for 1,247 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, or 49%, of the total fossil fuel emissions in 2023. The introduction of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) will further help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Energy Efficiency Target

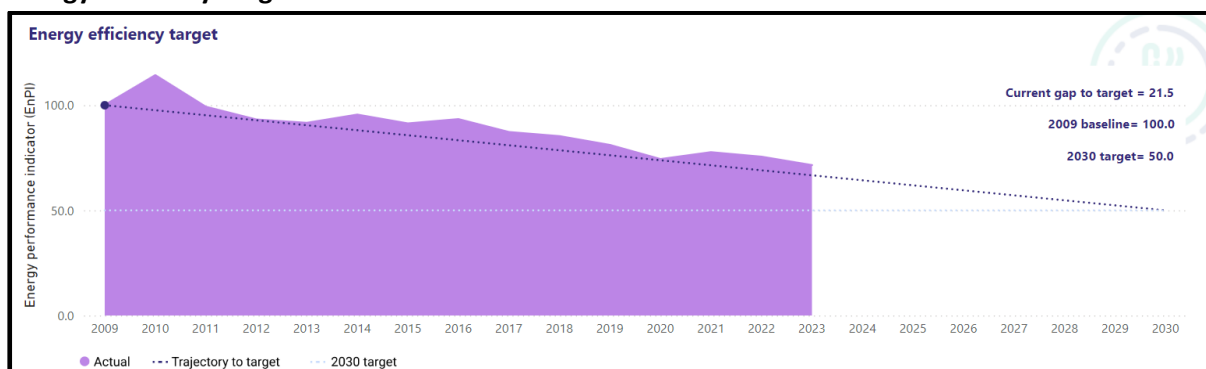


Figure 11 Energy Efficiency Target

In 2023, energy performance for Meath County Council has improved by 28.5% below the 2009 baseline. Meath County Council must improve by another 21.5% within 7 years to reach the 2030 target

## Energy Projects completed in 2024

Project	Detail
<b>Energy Audits</b>	Energy audits were completed on 4 No. buildings. These reports analysed current usage and made recommendations for energy saving changes to the fabric, equipment, and operations of the buildings. These reports have put forward energy saving projects for implementation over the next few years.
<b>Display Energy Certificates (DECs)</b>	DECs completed for 17 No. Council Buildings. This is an annual certificate for all publicly accessed Council buildings over 250m <sup>2</sup> .
<b>Electric Vehicles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new electric van for environmental section was purchased in QR1. The fully electric van, kitted out with 4 dog cages and cabin air conditioning, replaced the previous diesel van used by our dog warden. It has a large 75kWh battery with a</li> </ul>

Project	Detail
	<p>range of 330km. The electric van was purchased from funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meath County Council Fire Service also purchased a new electric van for community engagement. The fully electric van has a 50kWh battery with a range of 275km.</li> <li>Electric pickup truck was trialled in Trim MD during the summer. Charge points were installed in Trim depot. A second trial occurred in Navan MD.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan and Trim Fire Station Energy Upgrades</b>	Works have been completed in QR4 on the Navan and Trim Fire Station Energy Upgrades Project. The upgrade works focussed on the decarbonisation of the buildings. In both stations, the gas heating systems were removed along with the old plumbing systems and replaced with heat pumps. In Navan, the doors and windows were replaced to high efficiency models. The buildings were replumbed to avail of the heat pump cylinder. Finally, two high speed 22kW electric vehicle chargers were installed on both sites. The projects will be further improved in 2025 with the installation of solar PV once the electrical demand has been established.
<b>Solar PV – Nobber Fire Station</b>	15kWp Solar PV was installed on Nobber Fire Station in December. The new solar PV array will help to reduce the electrical consumption from the national grid as the station is currently heated by an air to water heat pump. Also included in the project was the installation of a high speed 22kW electric vehicle charger.
<b>Server Room Improvements</b>	New Computer Room Air Conditioning (CRAC) units were installed in the server rooms with improved energy efficiency. The temperature requirements for the room have also been increased, reducing cooling requirements.
<b>Quick Wins Energy Savings</b>	Programming down of HVAC equipment for holiday times has ensured less energy is used when the building is unoccupied. Improvements to the heating strategy and valve commissioning in Buvinda House has reduced heating demand in QR4.
<b>Optimising Power at Work</b>	Working with the OPW on energy conservation within Buvinda House via the Optimising Power at Work Programme.
<b>Reduce your Use campaign</b>	Meath County Council has signed up to the <i>Reduce Your Use</i> campaign. <i>Reduce your Use</i> participants commit to reducing their energy use over the winter months through staff energy awareness campaigns and no or low-cost measures.

## Climate Change Adaptation

A climate change risk assessment was conducted for Meath County Council as part of the development of the Council's Climate Action Plan. This assessment reveals that severe windstorms, often accompanied by extreme precipitation, are the most frequently occurring climate hazards.

The projected short-term impacts for Meath County Council and its operations through 2030 closely resemble the current situation. The four most common climate hazards identified are severe windstorms, extreme precipitation, pluvial flooding, and above-average temperatures, including heatwaves and droughts.





Climate Hazard	Future Frequency	
Heatwaves and Droughts	Emerging and increasing risk	
Flooding	Increasing risk	
Windstorms	Increasing risk	
Extreme Cold and Heavy Snowfall	Decreasing Risk	

Table 3 future projected changes to climate hazard risk for County Meath

However, the demand for Meath County Council's services will increase as weather patterns continue to evolve, notably with the increasing severity and frequency of climate-related incidents. Future climate hazards and impacts are outlined below.

Hazard Type	Future Frequency Ranking	Asset Damage	Health & Wellbeing	Environment (including Biodiversity)	Social & people	Financial	Reputation Damage	Cultural Heritage and Premises	Average Future Impact Score
Drought	4 – Frequent ↑	3 – Moderate	2 – Minor	4 – Major	3 – Moderate	2 – Minor	3 – Moderate	2 – Minor	2.7 ↑
Heatwave	4 – Frequent ↑	3 – Moderate	3 – Moderate	4 – Major	3 – Moderate	2 – Minor	3 – Moderate	2 – Minor	2.9 ↑
Windstorm	4 – Frequent ↔	4 – Major	3 – Moderate	3 – Moderate	3 – Moderate	3 – Moderate	3 – Moderate	3 – Moderate	3.1 ↑
Flooding	4 – Frequent ↑	4 – Major	3 – Moderate	4 – Major	3 – Moderate	3 – Moderate	3 – Moderate	3 – Moderate	3.3 ↑
Extreme Cold	2 – Occasional ↔	1 – Negligible	2 – Minor	1 – Negligible	2 – Minor	1 – Negligible	1 – Negligible	1 – Negligible	1.3 ↓
Heavy Snowfall	2 – Occasional ↔	1 – Negligible	2 – Minor	1 – Negligible	2 – Minor	1 – Negligible	1 – Negligible	1 – Negligible	1.3 ↓

Table 4 Future Climate Impacts Assessment Summary

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines specific actions that enable the Council to adjust to emerging climate risks. The Meath County Council Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) is a high-level team that evaluates operational needs and assesses risks related to severe weather events. The SWAT team remains vigilant by continuously monitoring the risks associated with climate change and their implications for maintaining the Council's functional and operational requirements. In 2024, the SWAT



did not convene formally. However, Meath County Council addressed several incidents involving debris and tree clearance, as well as flooding.

During 2024 extreme weather events contributed to incidents and demand for emergency services, these are outlined below.

<b>Extreme Weather Event Incidents 2024 attended by Emergency Services</b>		
<b>Storm Name</b>	<b>No. of incidents attended</b>	<b>Details</b>
Storm Isha and Joceyln	29	Trees down
Storm Kathleen	18	Trees down
Storm Ashley	15	Trees down
Storm Bert	6	Trees down, Flooding
Storm Darragh	57	Trees down

Table 5 Extreme Weather Incidents 2024

### **Staff and Elected Members Training and Capacity Building**

In 2024, a total of ninety-five indoor and outdoor staff members across all grades successfully completed training focused on climate action and sustainability. The courses offered included climate action awareness, delivering climate action, energy mapping, energy monitoring and management, and Near Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB).

Climate action and sustainability are integral components of Meath County Council's Staff Induction Programme, highlighting their importance to the organization and fostering awareness among employees.

<b>Internal Council Engagement</b>	
Staff Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy awareness campaign, "<i>Making Energy Matter</i>" continued in 2024 with weekly newsletter topics, canteen screen information slides, posters, computer background messaging, etc.</li> <li>Energy Awareness Day held in February. Energy stand in the canteen to advise staff on any queries for energy saving and efficiency measures. OPW energy advisor conducted one-on-one sessions to allow staff get specific information and advice for their homes.</li> <li>"Reduce your Use" campaign communications delivered via MCC App and through the staff newsletter. Promotion of the campaign via MCC social media platforms.</li> <li>Food Waste Lunch and Learn</li> <li>SDG Week Awareness</li> <li>Awareness campaigns on reducing waste and bills</li> <li>Weekly newsletter updates which contained Climate and Energy related information hints and tips</li> </ul> <p>Home Energy Saving Kits - 2No. of Kits are available for loan to staff – 30 staff availed of these kits during 2024.</p>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCC Energy Team undertook a full day Energy MAP training, which aligns to the principles and requirements of ISO 50001 for Energy Management. SEAI delivered the training to the team as part of the Public Sector programme.</li> <li>Energy Basic and Carbon Basics courses delivered by the SEAI were held in Sept/Oct for staff of MCC. This training provided a greater understanding of the basics of energy and carbon conservation principles.</li> <li>Councillor completing a Certificate on Community Energy.</li> </ul>

Mount Lucas Trip – NZEB Fundamental Awareness Course	Meath County Council staff and councillors attended the NZEB Fundamental Awareness Course hosted in Mount Lucas, this was an opportunity to learn about best practices and technologies used for developing energy efficient homes and Near Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) to help make the change to a more sustainable construction industry.
Communication with MCC Sections on CAP	Meetings held with all sections of Meath County Council in relation to their Climate Obligations under the Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029. Section in staff newsletter on a weekly basis.

Table 6 Internal Council Engagement



### SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Awareness Week



SDG Awareness Week aimed to promote awareness and drive actions toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event was launched by Cathaoirleach Sharon Tolan and CE Kieran Kehoe. Activities included a pledge-making initiative, an SDG quiz, a social media campaign, and awareness events in collaboration with the library service.

To kick off SDG Week, Meath County Council's Climate Action Section hosted the "Make A Pledge" event, resulting in over 80 pledges to work towards the SDGs. Additionally, a daily quiz featuring questions about the Sustainable Development Goals attracted more than 70 participants each day.

## **Delivery Across Services**

Climate action involves all Council services and functions. This section illustrates climate action delivery through examples of how the Council implements climate action in its everyday service delivery.

### **Social Housing Retrofitting**

The projects undertaken in 2024 were funded to support energy upgrade works as part of the Retrofit Programme. The majority of the work involved retrofitting building elements such as fabric, windows, doors, and electrified air-to-water heat pump systems. The target was to achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2. These upgrades enhance energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and increase comfort, ultimately lowering household bills. This initiative aims to assist the most vulnerable members of society in transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy.

Under the 2024 Programme, a total of 34 units were completed, with an average cost of €33,000 per unit. Additionally, Meath County Council contributed extra funding amounting to €119,590.

## **Biodiversity and Natural Resources Protection, Enhancement and Restoration**

### **Draft Meath Biodiversity Plan**

The Draft Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030 is currently being prepared. A Biodiversity Working Group of the Meath Heritage Forum was established to assist with development. A pre-draft public consultation took place in 2024 and resulted in the receipt of 162 submissions. A public consultation will take place on a draft Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030 in Q2 2025.

### **Projects**

#### ▪ **The Hare's Corner:**

In 2024, Meath County Council partnered with the Burrenbeo Trust to deliver the Hare's Corner project. This is an initiative to help landowners make more space for nature through creation of a Mini-woodland, a Mini-orchard, a Wildlife Pond, and/or a 'Plan for Nature'. By December 2024 this project will have supported the creation of 215 biodiversity actions: 81 woodlands (with 49 native trees per woodland including Birch, Alder, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Spindle, Oak and rarer species like Burren Pine, Wych Elm, Aspen, Black Poplar), 82 orchards (5 heritage apple trees per orchard), 16 Ponds for wildlife, 13 Plans for Water and 23 Plans for Nature (many of which involve recommendations for appropriate grassland management methods). Delivery of this project was supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Meath County Council under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund and NTR Renewables PLC.

#### ▪ **Action for Pollinators**

Meath County Council is a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and has increased the numbers of areas that are not mown for biodiversity, again publicising this using repurposed road signs. Every year we maintain our hedging and town-based plantings. The Council regularly assesses and prunes trees, employing first the services of an arborist (ahead of tree surgeons) to ensure decisions around any tree cutting are made in the best interests of the tree and public safety.

#### ▪ **Commons of Lloyd Grassland Management Project:**

Meath County Council have been trialling various forms of grassland management and conservation grazing techniques on a 5.5ha site on the Commons of Lloyd since 2022. Since the trial was initiated there has been a demonstrable increase in the number of herbs present in the grassland year-on-year, as the dominance of grass is reduced, and the site becomes richer in native wildflowers. There has also been a demonstrable increase in invertebrate abundance and species diversity. The result of this project emphasises both the importance and the potential of appropriate grassland management on public land for biodiversity and climate action). Delivery of this project was supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Meath County Council under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund.

#### ▪ **Municipal Area Actions:**

Sensitive management of road and pathway verges in support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a consideration in all Municipal Districts. Flower beds and other various planting schemes incorporate pollinator friendly horticultural species. Trim received special recognition for their efforts in the International Communities in Bloom competition 2024, winning 5 Blooms – Gold and being awarded overall winner of the Communities in Bloom International Medium Category. Meath County Council's partnership approach with Trim Tidy Towns has led to the successful implementation of actions in line with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan such as meadow management in the Porchfields, delivery of the Eco-estates' initiative and pollinator friendly planting schemes throughout the town.

#### ▪ **Woodland Creation**

The purpose of the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme is to encourage Public Bodies to establish new native woodlands on suitable bare land. Funding was approved by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine through the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme for Woodland in 2024. Planting on Meath County Council owned lands (7.2 hectares Liscarton and 3 hectares at Galtrim Lodge) will take place in 2025.



#### **Active Travel**

Meath County Council has been proactive in developing active travel infrastructure throughout our towns and villages via its dedicated Active Travel Section. In 2024, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocated €14 million to Meath, and a similar amount is expected to be allocated annually through 2030 for active travel initiatives. Additionally, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provided approximately €3 million for greenways and active travel, while Meath County Council contributed €2 million to its footpath program.

The Active Travel Section identifies a multi-year program of projects for implementation each year. For 2024, over 40 projects have been planned for delivery across the county. These projects include capital initiatives such as footpath construction, cycleways, greenways, footbridge connections, and specific safety measures aimed at schools. The section is also involved in local transport planning, currently focused on Drogheda, Navan, and Dunboyne. The execution of these projects is supported by public communications and consultation processes to effectively engage users and the community.

In 2024, the following projects were at construction:

- Trim Road Phase 1 Cycle Scheme
- R135 Main Street Ashbourne – Fredrick Street – Ballybin Road
- LDR4 which incorporates cycle tracks and cycle links to Blackwater Park and the Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway is under construction
- Navan 2030 - Contract 5
- Bus Stop Improvement Programme
- MCC funded - Footpath / Active Links Program / Sustainable Transport Measures
- Navan-Kingscourt Greenway
- Round 2 SRTS - Ashbourne



In addition to the above, more projects are being progressed through detailed design stage, with several due to commence construction in 2025.

<b>Cycle Network</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Navan Cycle Network	Design is progressing on the following Cycle Projects in Navan:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flowerhill</li> <li>▪ R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road</li> <li>▪ R147 Poolboy Bridge to Blackwater Retail Park</li> <li>▪ Circular Road to Athlumney Road</li> <li>▪ Athlumney Road to Metges Road</li> <li>▪ R161 Beechmount to Balreask Manor</li> <li>▪ Balreask Manor to the Borallion</li> </ul>
Ratoath Cycle Network	This project was tendered for construction.
Eastham Road Cycling Scheme	Part 8 planning process completed.
Dunboyne Cycle Network	Option Selection Process completed and Masterplan for delivery being prepared. This scheme will be subdivided into separate projects going forward once Part 8 approval for the overall scheme is obtained.
Castle Street, Ashbourne	Consultants are being procured for this Scheme
Pathfinder	Meath County Council has been working with the NTA and TII on the Department of Transport's 'Pathfinder' programme to deliver a cycle facility along the R161 between Navan and Trim. A second Pathfinder Project known as BUSIT2SCHOOL aimed at encouraging children currently being driven to school to use the Navan Town Service Bus is also being progressed.
<b>Active Travel</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Main Street Ashbourne	Work is substantially completed on the R135 project between Fredrick Street and the Ballybin Road. The detailed design of the Southern section of the R135 is largely completed between Deerpark and the Nine Mile Stone Roundabout.
EV Charging Points - MCC Car Parks	Park and ride facilities constructed by the Active Travel Section have ducting to facilitate future EV charging. The Environment Section is also providing this infrastructure as part of car parks associated with new cemeteries.
Footpath / Active Links Program / Sustainable Transport Measures.	Meath County Council undertakes a self-funded programme of works on an annual basis to refurbish footpaths in the County, provide traffic management, new footpaths and controlled crossings.
School Safety Measures & SRTS (An Taisce)	5 out of 6 Round 1 Projects completed. Construction work on Round 2 schools continuing.
Ashbourne Park & Ride	MCC liaising with NTA regarding preferred site for the P&R. Landowner negotiations underway.
Park & Share/Ride Infrastructure	Recently constructed P&R's at N51 Moathill, Navan and Garlow Cross are well used. MCC working with TII on feasibility study for bus set-down and pick up on N2 between N2/R152 Junction and McGruder's Cross.
Bus Improvements	€0.5 M received for bus improvements in the county. 2 new stops constructed on R125 at Greenogue. Work commenced on new bus stops in Blackcastle and Johnstown in Navan for the N1 and N2 Town services.
<b>Greenways</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Enhancement of Countywide Greenway Infrastructure	Facilities to enhance the Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway are being delivered. These include carparks, pedestrian links, signage and street furniture. Major repairs to the Boardwalk between Drogheda and Oldcastle funded by TII were carried out in 2024. Footpath was also

	constructed on the Rathmullan Road to link to the Boardwalk and Drogheda Ramparts.
Boyne Greenway (Oldbridge to Navan)	Work on the preliminary design for the preferred option is continuing. Surveys to inform the design being undertaken.
East Coast Greenway (Drogheda to Fingal)	Awaiting allocation from TII to commence in 2025.
Greenway Studies List	Dunboyne and Ratoath Cycle Schemes include for Urban Greenways which will be progressed.

Table 7 Active Travel Projects

## Navan 2030



Navan 2030 is focused on the future of Navan and is making significant progress. The town centre is becoming more accessible through public transport, and the revitalization of its heart is becoming a reality. Navan 2030 aims to create a revitalized, sustainable, and accessible town centre, making Navan a better place to live, work, and visit. This initiative will strengthen the town's economic growth, supporting local businesses, retail, and tourism.

A key element in achieving the goals of Navan 2030 is a transport-led sustainable transport project, funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and managed by Meath County Council. The fifth construction contract for this project began in 2024. This contract will enhance pedestrian connections in the town centre and give a facelift to three historic laneways leading to Trimgate Street. Additionally, Contract 5 will remodel the car park on the Fair Green, reallocating some space to create an event area and including underground ducting to facilitate future publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging. It will also provide improvements for pedestrians and the public realm on College Hill.

This project will enhance the overall biodiversity of Navan and promote active travel.

## **Public Lighting**

Public lighting and traffic signal assets account for approximately 38% of the total energy usage of Meath County Council and about 88% of its total electricity consumption. In recent years, all traffic control assets have been converted to energy-efficient LED technology, along with upgrades to more energy-efficient hardware. These improvements have resulted in savings of over 200,000 kWh annually, leading to a cost reduction of around €50,000 in electricity expenses.

Meath County Council manages roughly 20,000 public lighting columns. The current public lighting stock consists of 49% LEDs and 51% non-LEDs (mostly halogen lamps). The Council is part of a nine-county consortium working on the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project – Eastern Region (PLEEP-ER). This initiative aims to replace all non-LED lanterns with new energy-efficient LEDs while enhancing public lighting standards and the condition of assets across the county.

The PLEEP project is progressing in the region; it has completed the survey and condition rating phase and is now moving into the design stage in County Meath. The delivery and retrofit phase is expected to commence in Meath in the second quarter of 2025. In the meantime, any faulty public lighting assets are being replaced with energy-efficient LEDs as part of regular maintenance. Replacing a non-LED lantern with a modern LED equivalent is anticipated to yield over 50% in energy savings on average.

The Public Lighting Team at Meath County Council is also working on updating asset inventories and billing registers to reflect the transition to LEDs during maintenance, ensuring the Council can benefit from the associated energy savings.

This project will contribute to the overall decarbonization efforts in County Meath.

## **Enhanced Public Realm and Regeneration**

### **Duleek Heritage Led Regeneration Plan**

In January 2025, a comprehensive plan was finalised to revitalise the town by integrating climate action and sustainability into its core principles. This plan aligns with the goals of the Historic Towns Initiative 2025 and emphasizes the conservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. By preserving existing structures, the plan reduces the need for new construction, thereby minimizing carbon emissions. This approach not only maintains the town's unique character but also promotes environmental sustainability.

A key aspect of the plan focuses on addressing dereliction and residential vacancy in the town centre. By revitalising unused spaces, the plan encourages efficient land use and helps reduce urban sprawl, leading to shorter commuting distances and lower transportation-related emissions. This strategy aims to enhance the quality of life for residents while supporting overall environmental goals.



#### *Old Johnstown Village Public Realm and Regeneration Plan*



#### **Old Johnstown Village**

Meath County Council, in collaboration with the Paul Hogarth Company, has started the preparation of a “Village Core Redevelopment and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme” for Old Johnstown Village. This scheme will incorporate climate action and sustainability in various ways, including the preservation and renovation of historic buildings, the redevelopment of a vacant site, the improvement of public spaces, the consolidation of development, and the promotion of community engagement and vibrancy.

#### **Print Works, Kells, The Sawmills**

This community arts space has been a popular destination for over a decade and is currently undergoing a major development program. The completed building will feature housing for fully restored Kells printing presses that date back to the 1830s which once printed the Meath Chronicle along with an exhibition space and facilities for classes and workshops. The Print Works Project in Kells will contribute to climate action and sustainability in several ways, including the adaptive reuse of existing structures and the creation of a multi-use community space.

#### **St. Patrick’s Classical School**



Meath County Council were one of five urban centres to benefit from €7 million each under THRIVE, the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme, awarded under Ireland’s two European Regional Development (ERDF) Regional Programmes.

This transformative urban regeneration project in the heart of Navan will provide for the conservation, restoration, and adaptive re-use of the former St Finian's Seminary Study Hall (formerly St. Patrick's Classical School). Navan Cultural Quarter: Community Hub and County Archive is co-funded by the

Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027.

The project aims to create an engaging public space and green area that will include an outdoor amphitheatre. It is designed to establish new connections between the medieval core of Navan and the Cultural Quarter, as well as the planned expansion area for the town centre, which includes the proposed Navan Central Train Station. This initiative will enhance urban mobility and improve accessibility throughout the area.

### **Town Centre First Plan**



The goal of the Town Centre First Plans is to enhance town centres' attractiveness by improving their aesthetic appeal and user experience in a sustainable and climate-sensitive manner.

So far, there are two Town Centre First Plans: one for Enfield (which is complete) and one for Dunshaughlin (currently in the draft stage). These plans are non-statutory, meaning that most of the proposed actions will require planning permission. Representatives from Meath County Council typically meet with the Town Teams every two months or as needed, such as during funding announcements.

The plans aim to promote a shift from vehicle use to walking, cycling, and other eco-friendly modes of transport. This will be achieved by prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists and by enhancing networks and connectivity through dedicated facilities for these users. All greening and public realm projects will focus on incorporating planting, wildflowers, biodiversity initiatives, and measures for managing surface water drainage, such as retention and attenuation systems.

### **Flowerhill Regeneration**

Meath County Council has successfully secured €3 million from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) to address the level of dereliction in the Flowerhill area.

The project focuses on improving 'liveability' and quality of life, which includes enhancing the built environment, public spaces, traffic management, parking, access to amenities and public transport, and promoting a sense of personal safety and well-being. This initiative will connect regeneration and redevelopment efforts with climate action by aiming to reduce the carbon footprint through the reuse of existing materials, increasing energy efficiency, and incorporating renewable energy sources. The project is founded on the principle of compact urban growth and promotes integrated and sustainable travel options, such as walking, cycling, and public transport, leading to a vibrant and attractive streetscape.

## Spicers and Andy Brennan Park



This project involves a comprehensive redesign of the park to transform it into an active urban space featuring a stepped plaza. The goal is to enhance and develop the area's existing riverfront heritage, environmental resources, and social amenities, creating a dynamic array of vibrant and attractive park facilities that are ecologically protected.

The design will provide more opportunities for both active and passive recreation, increasing the park's appeal to residents and visitors alike. Additionally, the preservation of the former Spicers Bakery will ensure that the building is safeguarded while a sustainable future use is determined, which will be subject to further approval.

## Green Local Enterprise



Meath's Local Enterprise Office offers support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them meet their climate obligations and further develop sustainable businesses in the region. Boyne Valley Flavours actively promotes the use of locally sourced sustainable materials. In 2024, three lunch-and-learn events were hosted in both urban and rural locations (Athboy, Carlanstown, Oldcastle), attracting a total of 100 attendees.

A variety of supports were provided to SMEs during this time. Additionally, the Business and Tourism Awards introduced a Green Category to recognise those businesses that promote bio-sustainable practices, a circular economy, and green initiatives.

Programme	SMEs supported in 2024
<b>Lean for Business</b> - is designed to encourage clients to adopt lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance, competitiveness and sustainability <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Financial-Supports/Lean-for-Business/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Financial-Supports/Lean-for-Business/</a>	32
<b>Green for Business</b> - is a free programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving you access to a green consultant who'll show you the small changes that can have a big impact on your company <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Financial-Supports/Green-for-Business/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Financial-Supports/Green-for-Business/</a>	35
<b>Energy Efficiency Grant</b> – Upon completion of the Green for Business programme should your consultant identify a requirement to change an item that may be draining from the grid and no longer fit for purpose or energy efficient a grant. This may entitle you to a grant of up to €10,000 or 75% towards the close of replacing your item(s) whichever is the lesser amount. <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Financial-Supports/Energy-Efficiency-Grant/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Financial-Supports/Energy-Efficiency-Grant/</a>	14 approved
<b>Digital Offering</b> - provides support to obtain a digital strategy, technical and/or advisory services for eligible businesses <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Financial-Supports/Digital-Start/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Financial-Supports/Digital-Start/</a>	16
<b>Mentoring</b> - is designed to match up the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with small business owner/managers who need practical and strategic one to one advice and guidance <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Mentoring-and-Mentor-Panel/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Mentoring-and-Mentor-Panel/</a>	419
<b>Training</b> - a vast range of training courses to suit owner/managers and their specific business requirements. A wide range of one-day workshops, seminars and management development programmes are offered, email <a href="mailto:localenterprise@meathcoco.ie">localenterprise@meathcoco.ie</a> or visit <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Training-Events/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Training-Events/</a>	1532

Table 8 LEO supports 2024



## **Circular Economy and Resource Management**

### **ReLove Fashion Competition and Circular Fashion Workshops**



Seventeen secondary schools in Meath participated in the National ReLove Fashion Competition and Circular Fashion Workshops. Transition Year (TY) groups learned how to source and upcycle sustainable fashion while also understanding the environmental and social impacts of fast fashion.

Students explored both the local and global effects of their fashion choices. The competition final took place on March 21st at the Rediscovery Centre, with Enfield Community College and Scoil Mhuire Trim representing Meath. The competition encourages students to examine and improve their clothing choices by looking into the impacts of fast fashion and the textile industry, which include water and waste pollution, energy use, carbon emissions, and the exploitation of workers' rights. It promotes the upcycling of clothes and encourages students to choose sustainable, high-quality, preloved outfits over the 'throwaway' culture.

### **Composting and Recycling for Schools**

Twenty Meath schools participated in the comprehensive 'Composting and Recycling for Schools' programme with Craig Benton and the Clean Technology Centre in 2024. The programme aims to help schools prevent waste, improve recycling, and set up or enhance on-site composting systems to reduce waste, save money, and combat climate change. The programme also supports schools in improving their gardening efforts and increasing biodiversity. These activities help schools attain their Green School Flags and achieve their Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, the programme provides teachers with a variety of fun, participatory, and interactive activities for students to learn about waste prevention, recycling, composting, and gardening. These activities enhance students' understanding of the principles of ecology, biology, and biodiversity that underpin all life on Earth.

### **Leaf Mould Pilot Project**

Meath County Council introduced a pilot project across 10 estates in Navan, Ashbourne, and Dunboyne, helping residents create weed-free compost for community use. With the appropriate training and resources—leaf cages, rakes, etc.—they will turn their leaves into a valuable resource for future gardening. Ten groups were selected for this year's pilot project, which began in October. Each group attended a workshop by Craig Benton, Master Composter, and took ownership of the leaf cages in their local area. The scheme will be extended across the county in 2025.

### **The Rubbish Film Festival**

Fourteen Meath secondary schools participated in the Rubbish Film Festival 2024. O'Carolan College in Nobber won Best Film for their entry "Timber Tales," which focused on deforestation. The award



was presented by Cathaoirleach Tommy Reilly and Cllr Paul McCabe at an awards ceremony in Solstice Arts Centre on April 30th. Runners-up included Loreto Navan, Colaiste na Mí, Beaufort College, and Athboy Community School. The films explored various themes such as fast fashion, pollution, litter and waste, climate change, consumerism, and the environmental cost of business.

### **Bulky Waste Collections 2024**

Meath County Council scheduled several free bulky waste collections for householders in 2024. The scheme encourages the use of authorized facilities for managing bulky household waste and prevents the use of illegal operators. Halloween collections aim to divert combustible material from bonfires. Each year, approximately 500 tonnes of bulky waste and 1,500 mattresses are collected through these free events. The Recycling Centres at Navan, Trim, Kells and Dunboyne received 1,182 mattresses for recovery and disposal in March, together with 30 tonnes of couches.

### **Sustainable Food: from Linear to Circular**

This project promotes a circular food system by raising awareness about sustainable eating, reducing food waste, composting, and training local groups to grow their own food.

- **Too Good to Waste** awareness events for staff and community groups by FoodCloud a social enterprise with a vision for a world where no good food goes to waste provided the training. FoodCloud re-distribute surplus foods, they use their food cloud truck to demonstrate how surplus foods can be used to provide nutritious meals. The events included a 25-minute presentation on food waste and a free food sample demonstration of surplus foods which have been used to prepare meals. Food caddies were distributed to participants at the events.
- **Composting Workshop** on food waste prevention and proper food management, awareness on benefits and uses of compost production with a demonstrated best practice in compost creation was delivered to community members.
- **Grow you own Food Workshop the first in a series of workshops was delivered in Navan** to teach community groups about growing food, eco-friendly food sourcing, composting, and creating sustainable gardens. Participants included local community support groups such as Prosper Meath, Youth Work Ireland, The Simon Community, The National Learning Network, Men's Shed, HSE, and Meath Partnership.



## **Water Quality and Management**

The Environment Department manages Discharge Licensing under Section 4 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 – 1990. This involves regulating discharges into surface and groundwaters through licenses that set standards for effluent treatment and maximum discharge flow rates, including emission limit values to ensure environmental quality. These limits consider the receiving waters' assimilative capacity and climate change risks.

To protect water quality, the department inspects farms and domestic wastewater systems and investigates pollution complaints. Farm inspections follow EU regulations for Good Agricultural Practice, focusing on minimising pollution through proper slurry storage, land-spreading practices, and other management strategies.

Meath County Council works with various agencies, including LAWPRO and EPA, on a catchment-based approach as part of the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan (Water Action Plan), which began in late 2024. Ongoing work programs are conducted in several Areas for Action (AfA), including Killary, Upper Nanny, and Boyne, and additional areas will be addressed in the current cycle.

LAWPRO leads local catchment assessments in Priority Areas for Action (PAA). The 2nd cycle PAAs in Meath are Moynalty, Kilmainham Dee (lower), and others, while the 3rd cycle PAAs include Blackwater (Kells), Ryewater, and several others overlapping with Meath.

## **Green Public Procurement**

Green Public Procurement (GPP) refers to the process by which public authorities aim to acquire goods, services, or works that have a lower environmental impact. GPP is recognized as an essential tool for achieving environmental policy goals. Its implementation is crucial for advancing Ireland's environmental objectives and broader sustainable development aims.

Currently, Meath County Council is reviewing and updating its 'Corporate Procurement Plan 2025 - 2029.' This updated plan will include targets and actions derived from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan for 2023-2027.

## Community Engagement and Activation

### Meath Libraries



The libraries engaged in an array of sustainability activities and practices to support the environment and climate activities. Meath Libraries provided a wealth of information including books on climate action, sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During 2024 various demonstrations, educational programmes and repair work shops were held across all libraries.

There was a particular focus on climate action during the SDG week:

- Quality Education - educational e-services, including universal class and transparent language
  - Good health and wellbeing - Healthy Ireland at your Library
  - Climate Action - Home Energy Savings Kits and seed bank
  - Decent work and Economic Growth - Enfield hub workspaces, library facilities including Wi-Fi, study spaces and printing facilities
  - Peace Justice and Strong Institutions - how to join the library, overview of free services events and facilities
  - Talk by Oisín McGann on Climate Action based on his book “Short Hopeful Guide to Climate Change” was delivered to 2 sets of 6<sup>th</sup> class groups in Navan Library
  - Art competition for 3 age categories 4-8 years, 9-13 years, 14-18 years. The winning designs were displayed in the artist’s local library.
- On-line courses available included gardening, avoiding food waste and the circular economy.
  - Bio Pots Craft Sessions
  - Bugs Arts and Crafts Sessions
  - Mark the Science Guy
  - Dr Brain Fun Believable Science
  - Facilitated numerous consultations and drop in clinics on sustainability, climate action and biodiversity.
  - Navan Library hosted a Halloween Costume Swap. This is the second year and was very well received.
  - Home Energy Saving Kits are available to borrow, free of charge, from all Meath Libraries, this kit contains five easy-to-use tools and six practical exercises, that allows individuals to get a better understanding of the energy usage in their home, problem areas that may require attention and ways to improve energy efficiency. There were 62 loans of the Home Energy Saving Kit during 2024.

### Community Section

This section hosted a number of events on climate action, sustainability and biodiversity across a range of groups from age friendly, PPN to Comhairle na nÓg. A greater emphasis on climate action,



sustainability and biodiversity was introduced within the various community grants schemes. The Community Section continued to support progress on Meath's Local Economic and Community Plan.

### **Meath Local Sports Partnership (Meath LSP)**

Meath LSP integrated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their work programme to enhance community well-being and development - SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being achieved a 21% increase from 2023, with 14,335 participants engaging in health-promoting activities. SDG 4 - Quality Education, Meath LSP successfully delivered 77 training and education programmes, reaching 2,349 participants in 2024. In alignment with SDG 5 - Gender Equality, Meath LSPs conducted 67 programmes specifically for women and girls, involving a total of 2,065 participants. A notable addition in 2024 was our Inspiring Girls Programme, which was introduced in six secondary schools, targeting 323 teenage girls.

Meath Local Sports Partnership (LSP) has received a funding boost of €26,000 under the Participation Nation 2024 initiative to develop biodiversity projects in publicly accessible areas. This funding will support the creation and enhancement of green spaces, promoting environmental sustainability and community well-being. The initiative aligns with Meath LSP's broader mission to increase participation in physical activities and sports by providing accessible and inclusive facilities. This new funding complements other recent allocations, such as the installation of new basketball courts and volleyball posts in various locations across Meath, aimed at fostering community engagement and promoting a sustainable healthy and active lifestyle.



### **Samhain Festival – Food and Culture**

Meath County Council's Climate Action Section attended the Samhain Festival in Kells where festival attendees learned about reducing their food waste and composting with free Caddy bins available and the benefits of the Home Energy Saving Kits available to borrow from all local libraries. Events held included a "Forbidden Foods" discussion and a "No Waste, All Taste" demonstration.

### **Púca Festival 2024 – The Spirit of Sustainability**



Meath County Council's Climate Action Section co-hosted the Spirit of Sustainability tent at the Púca Festival. Numerous events were held over the weekend with demonstrations on how to use the Home

Energy Saving Kits, free composting caddy bins and goodies available to all attendees. Panel discussions on Making Festivals and Events Sustainable, Off-Grid Living & Traditional Methods, Recycling Furniture Tips, and the “Forbidden Food” demonstration on food waste and composting were some of the highlights over the festival.

### **Biodiversity**

A number of community engagement and awareness-raising activities on biodiversity kicked off with events for World Wetlands Day in February 2024. Events included an evening presentation and discussion on The Boyne’s Lost Floodplain Woodlands in collaboration with the Boyne Rivers Trust and an afternoon at the Boyne Estuary for a wetland birdwatching event in collaboration with Birdwatch Ireland Meath Branch.

For National Biodiversity Week, a total of 8 events were hosted by Meath County Council with a further 6 events supported. The Biodiversity Officer also helped to organise and support a number of events amongst the 89 that were delivered in County Meath during National Heritage Week. The year was capped with a free screening of Wilding in the Solstice Arts Centre in celebration and support of the Hare’s Corner project delivered in Meath in 2024. Some 162 participants came along on the evening.

General outreach activities were undertaken to raise awareness of pollinators and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and in celebration of World Bee Day and National Biodiversity Week, Meath County Council facilitated a ‘Bumblebee Walk in the Cowpark’ in Athboy and hosted an online talk on what local communities can do to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. All-Ireland Pollinator Plan leaflets and booklets are also shared at events throughout the year where opportunities arise.

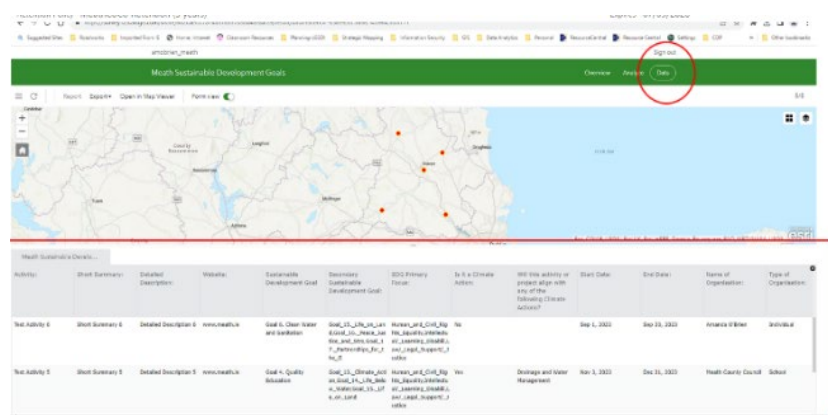
### **Biodiversity Detectives School’s Programme**

Working in partnership with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) – Primary schools and Secondary Schools (as well as Scout Groups and Girl Guides) in Meath were offered the opportunity to take part in a bespoke Biodiversity educational programme linked to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths element of the curriculum that supports Social, Environmental and Science Education (SESE). To date in 2024, 16 schools and 15 scout/guide groups have received a biodiversity box of resources to support learning including Developing a Pollinator Plan Resources for your School, Top Ten Pollinator Actions, Pots for Pollinators and identification swatches. 29 biodiversity-themed workshops have also been provided to primary and secondary schools.

### **Community Biodiversity Action Plan Small Grant Scheme**

Meath County Council administered a grant scheme to support communities in Meath who have developed a Community Biodiversity Action Plan for their local town or village. Seven community groups received grant support in 2024 including Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Julianstown, Kells, Athboy, Kilbride and Killyon. Six out of the seven groups received grant support to deliver actions in line with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, including actions such as the purchase and planting of pollinator friendly bulbs, planter boxes, climbers and heritage orchard trees. Provision of this grant scheme to community groups is supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Meath County Council under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund.

## Climate Action



The **SDG Survey and Map** provides an opportunity for local community groups, NGO's, individuals, businesses, and schools to highlight how their endeavours link with and advance the SDGs. [This Map](#) demonstrates the work undertaken in County Meath to deliver on the goals. Groups and individuals can promote their contribution to the SDGs and inspire sustainability by accessing the survey on [Sustainable Development Goals | Meath.ie](#)

## Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs)



Meath County Council is actively supporting Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) by leading the grant application process for an Energy Master Plan (EMP). The Council finances the cost of a consultant to create an EMP for each community and recoups this expenditure from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) after the plan is completed. During the 2024 reporting period, Kilbride, Ashbourne, Athboy, and Laytown SECs successfully completed their EMPs, with a total expenditure of €65,000 on these plans. Currently, there are 33 SECs in County Meath.

The SEAI's SEC programme aims to engage and empower communities to achieve their energy goals by enhancing energy efficiency, utilising renewable energy when possible, and developing decentralised energy supplies. This programme supports communities at various stages, from learning about sustainable energy to planning and implementing energy projects.

## Sustainable Energy Communities – Workshop



The final workshop in a series of three focused on Sustainable Energy Communities that have completed their Energy Master Plans. This session aimed to help identify homes or community facilities for energy upgrades, making them more efficient, comfortable, and cost-effective. Additionally, the workshop provided guidance to Sustainable Energy Communities that have not yet completed their Energy Master Plans, outlining the next steps to take after finishing their Energy Management Plans.

## Education for Sustainability

Meath County Council supported Education for Sustainability to implement their Climate Literacy Program across seven schools in Meath. This initiative engaged 90 students and allowed four teachers to become trained in the Climate Literacy Module in Education for Sustainability. Each school completed a climate action project on varying themes. The module allowed students to explore various topics and select one they wished to address. Projects took various forms, including projects on fast fashion to upcycle clothes, sustainable shopping, tree planting, wild space, and peer education.

St. Peter's College - Dunboyne
Coláiste na hInse - Bettystown
Colaiste De Lacy - Education Campus Ashbourne
Coláiste Ríoga - Dunshaughlin
Boyne Community School - Dublin Road, Trim
Franciscan College - Gormanstown
Beaufort College - Trim Road, Navan

Table 9 Meath Schools Education for Sustainability 2024

## Community Trip

A fact-finding trip to Connaught GAA Centre of Excellence for community members was organised to learn about sustainable practices that can support sports and community groups. It was inspiring to hear John Prenty's story about how the centre came about and Kurt Reinhardt's insights on how the campus operates sustainably.

## URBACT In4Green



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg

Meath County Council continues to participate in the URBACT In4Green Project. This project focuses on promoting sustainable urban development through green initiatives and innovative solutions. The aim is to create environmentally friendly and economically viable urban areas by fostering collaboration among local stakeholders. Navan is the selected urban area for this project.

Currently testing actions are being carried out in Navan. Meath County Council is also progressing with the development of an Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Navan. The IAP is being developed through an integrated and participative approach. A local committee called the URBACT Local Group (ULG) is helping form the actions for the plan. The group is made up of representatives from local industry, local communities, and representatives from Meath County Council. Councillor Edward Fennessy is the chair of the ULG.

### GAA Green Clubs

Phase 2 of the GAA Green Club Programme was launched in January 2023, inviting more clubs to participate in a range of specific projects. Approximately 200 clubs from all counties across Ireland took part in this phase. To earn a recognition award, clubs were required to complete at least two initiatives from a minimum of two thematic areas within the provided Tool Kit.

In County Meath, 16 clubs registered for Phase 2, and 10 of these clubs received a 'Green Club Phase 2 Award' at the GAA Green Clubs Recognition Event.

#### MEATH

Bective  
Blackhall Gaels  
Donaghmore/Ashbourne  
Dunsany  
Gaeil Colmcille  
Kilmainhamwood  
Rathmolyon  
St Colmcilles  
St Michael's  
St Peter's, Dunboyne



### Community Climate Action Programme Fund




















In 2024, the Community Climate Action Programme Fund (CCAP Fund) was introduced to communities in Meath, with a total allocation of €811,000 from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communication (DECC). This funding supports community projects in collaboration with local non-profit and voluntary groups, spanning small, medium, and large-scale initiatives. The projects focus on five key themes: Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling, and Local Climate and Environmental Action.

During the funding call, a total of 64 applications were received from across the county. After a thorough assessment process, the Council was granted €810,908.17 to fund 25 community projects under the CCAP Fund.





























	No. Approved	Total budget
Small Projects	11	€112,078.96
Medium Projects	10	€339,551.23
Large Projects	4	€359,277.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>€810,908.17</b>

The Community Climate Action Officer is collaborating with successful community groups on their climate action projects.

Engagement continues with groups that did not receive funding approval, helping them prepare for a second funding call expected in the coming months. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) plans to initiate this second funding call in 2025, allowing for a new grant application process.

Small Scale Projects			
Community Group	MD Area	Project Summary	Themes
<b>Moynalty Community Council</b>	Kells	LED lighting, solar system community garden and polytunnel, bike racks	  
<b>Ratoath Athletics Club</b>	Ratoath	LED lighting, bike rack	 
<b>Castle Villa AFC - Moynalty</b>	Kells	LED lighting	
<b>Walterstown GFC</b>	Ashbourne	LED lighting	
<b>Fr. Murphy Athletics Club</b>	Kells	LED lighting	
<b>Syddan GFC</b>	L/B	Insulation to community hall	
<b>Wilkinstown Community Centre</b>	Kells	Solar panels	
<b>Silverlawn Residents Association</b>	Navan	Community garden and composting	 
<b>Cortown GAA Club</b>	Kells	Bike rack	
<b>Meadowbank hill Residents Association</b>	Ratoath	Community garden and water butt	
<b>Moynalty Tidy Towns</b>	Kells	Self-Watering baskets	
Medium Scale Projects			
Community Group	MD Area	Project Summary	Themes
<b>St Vincents</b>	Ashbourne	LED lighting, water refill station, bike storage, bug hotel and planter	   



<b>Bective GFC</b>	Navan	Solar panels, bike racks, water refill station	  
<b>St. Peters Dunboyne GAA Club</b>	Ratoath	LED Lighting, recycling bins, scooter and bike rack and shelter, pallet composting system	   
<b>Drumree GAA</b>	Ratoath	Retro fit with windows and doors, bike rack, planters	  
<b>Bohermeen Community Centre</b>	Navan	Insulation, LED lighting and bike rack	 
<b>Summerhill Community Centre</b>	Trim	Solar Panels, planting pollenating shrubs and flowers	 
<b>Athboy Celtic AFC</b>	Kells	LED lighting, solar panels	
<b>Skryne GFC</b>	Ashbourne	LED lighting	
<b>Kilmessan Hurling Club</b>	Trim	LED Lighting - indoor and outdoor, bike rack, mini forest	  
<b>Boardsmill GAA</b>	Trim	LED lighting, rewilding project	 
Large Scale Projects			
Community Group	MD Area	Project Summary	Themes
<b>Drewstown House</b>	Kells	LED lighting, community garden, food and waste composter, rain storage and recycling stations	  
<b>Athboy Development Forum</b>	Kells	Solar panels @ CCC Building Solar panels @ St. James Hall Building	
<b>Trim Family Resource Centre</b>	Trim	Retrofit to include air to water heating system, windows and doors, cavity wall and attic insulation, solar panels and LED lighting, bike stand	 
<b>Dunshaughlin Community Centre CLG</b>	Ratoath	Solar panels	

## Appendix 1 Meath County Council - Action Implementation Data for 2024

Action No.	Action Text	Action Type	Action Started In	Action Completed By	Recurring Action	Action Status 2024
GL1	Implement ISO 50001 Energy Management System.	Combined	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Yes	Completed
GL2	Use green procurement where feasible in all procurement of good and services.	Combined	Q1 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	In Progress
GL3	Prepare a Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Guidance Document to support the inclusion of the global goals in all plans, strategies and grant programmes published by the LA.	Combined	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	No	In Progress
GL4	Mainstreaming of climate mitigation and adaptation considerations into all policies, strategies and plans adopted by LA.	Combined	Q1 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	Completed
GL5	Identify an appropriate monitoring and reporting protocol on the implementation of low carbon construction in public tenders and grant schemes.	Combined	Q1 2027	Q4 2027	No	Not Started
GL6	Undertake annual audits of climate expenditure that considers cost effectiveness, efficiency, governance, relevance, coherence and impacts.	Combined	Q2 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	Not Started
GL7	Identify and put in place appropriate business continuity measures to ensure continuity of service provision during severe weather events.	Combined	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	No	In Progress
GL8	Conduct detailed study of staff modal split to identify measures to reduce staff travel emissions.	Mitigation	Q1 2024	Q4 2024	No	Completed
GL9	Organise awareness, information, knowledge sharing and capacity initiatives with staff on mitigation and adaptation measures.	Combined	Q1 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	Completed
GL10	Delivery of EV Charging Strategy for County Meath.	Mitigation	Q1 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	In Progress
GL11	Continue to support and expand the 'Bus It 2 School' Pathfinder Project.	Combined	Q4 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	In Progress
GL12	Develop strategic partnerships to assist in achieving emissions targets.	Combined	Q1 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	In Progress
GL13	Ensure readily available information, advice, knowledge and awareness of climate friendly actions via LA Climate Action Website and social media posts.	Combined	Q1 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	Completed
GL14	LA staff to receive climate action training under Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme.	Mitigation	Q1 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	Completed
BET1	Incorporate biodiversity, mitigation and adaptation actions into the design and delivery of urban regeneration plans.	Combined	Q1 2024	Q4 2029+	Yes	Completed



Action No.	Action Text	Action Type	Action Started In		Action Completed By		Recurring Action	Action Status 2024
BET2	Continue to work with appropriate external stakeholders to deliver social housing at a BER B2 or cost optimal standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature-based solutions, as feasible.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET3	Reduce and remove where feasible plastic waste generated, through removing single use plastics within LA owned buildings and services.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET4	Switch to digital marketing and advertising materials wherever possible. Reduce production/waste on programmes and posters.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET5	Switch out on cleansing products to eco-friendly products.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET6	Introduce water usage conservation measures within LA owned buildings.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET7	Management of municipal waste from LA owned buildings. Increase recycling / organise waste collection and reduce general waste.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET8	Management of energy efficient LA fleet including implementation of driving efficiency software and associated eco driving training for all employees driving LA fleet.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q1	2027	Yes	In Progress
BET9	Undertake deep retrofit and install renewable energy sources as appropriate on LA owned buildings.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET10	Construct all new LA properties to A2 Energy Rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature-based solutions, where feasible.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET11	All Buy and Renew acquisition properties should be retrofitted to a B2 BER rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature-based solutions utilised, as feasible.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET12	Increase energy efficiency of ICT Infrastructure.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET13	Deliver public lighting LED retrofit project under PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficient Project).	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2027	No	In Progress
BET14	New Building projects designed to nZEB standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature-based solutions.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	No	Completed

Action No.	Action Text	Action Type	Action Started In		Action Completed By		Recurring Action	Action Status 2024
BET15	Promote the reuse and refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties in town centres and simultaneously promote the sustainable use of these properties for appropriate active town centre uses.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET16	Increase active travel usage in town centres through improved sustainable active travel proposals and an enhanced pedestrian and public realm environment.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
BET17	Explore the feasibility of sustainable energy and heating solutions in County Meath.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2027	No	In Progress
NE1	Installation of water butts at public buildings, to aid tidy towns committees, staff and contractors access a sustainable water source for garden maintenance.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Not Started
NE2	Commence a programme of auditing of LA lands to carry out ecological and habitat surveys and highlight areas at risk and those suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q2	2027	No	In Progress
NE3	Develop options for the delivery of a National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions and interim guidance to the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q2	2025	No	In Progress
NE4	Plant native woodland on appropriate LA owned lands.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
NE5	Major Emergency Plan - co-ordinate update of emergency response plans and revise based on learnings of response to events, having regard to environment sensitivities.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
NE6	Development of Critical Infrastructure Routes for climate related extreme weather events.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q2	2026	No	In Progress
NE7	Develop and implement a County (Local) Biodiversity Action Plan, to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q3	2027	No	In Progress
NE8	Undertake climate risk assessment of local authority owned heritage assets (natural, built and cultural). Carry out regular programme of inspection, maintenance and phased conservation works to develop climate resilience.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
NE9	Carry out an assessment of Section 4 Discharge to Water Licences.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
NE10	Support the creation of community gardens through partnership with local communities and external agencies.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
NE11	Support and facilitate the planting of groups of trees within the boundary/built footprint of existing built-up areas.	Adaptation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Action No.	Action Text	Action Type	Action Started In		Action Completed By		Recurring Action	Action Status 2024
CRT1	Installation of water refill stations at public buildings/amenity areas, to reduce the use of single use plastics.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
CRT2	Expand Trim Air Quality Project to other Decarbonising Zones.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029	No	In Progress
CRT3	Monitor implementation of flood risk management guidelines in planning applications, having regard to environmental sensitivities e.g., biodiversity, archaeology, amenity value.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
CRT4	Expand operation and availability of bike and car share schemes. Promote bike and car share scheme.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
CRT5	Identify and map areas most susceptible to climate related extreme weather events on the road network.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q2	2027	No	In Progress
CRT6	Promote and publicise the benefits of using the Home Energy Kits from the Library.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
CRT7	Increase number of safe routes to school scheme, where feasible.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
CRT8	To liaise with the OPW in the identification of new, or the reinforcement of existing flood defences and protection measures.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
CRT9	Review of flood events and flood susceptibility of infrastructure and liaise with relevant MCC Sections and Uisce Eireann to identify assets at risk from flooding/extreme rainfall to inform and implement low-cost 'minor works' flood relief schemes.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
CRT10	Carry out a Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Study for County Meath and implement the recommendations whilst as feasible prioritise nature-based solutions.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029	Yes	In Progress
CRT11	Develop and provide information on Sustainable Living to engage Council Tenants on how they can reduce consumption of energy, water, and waste.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
CRT12	Promote and support the Sustainable Energy Communities Programme and deliver workshops.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
CRT13	Administer and support Strand 1 & 1A of Community Climate Action Programme to deliver selected Climate Action projects.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2025	Yes	In Progress
CRT14	Encourage all events approved by MCC to incorporate sustainability and CRT 14 integrated consideration for biodiversity and other environmental sensitivities.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
CRT15	Guided by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the GAA and CCMA, towards working together on sustainability and climate action projects, engage with the Green Club Programme	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed

Action No.	Action Text	Action Type	Action Started In		Action Completed By		Recurring Action	Action Status 2024
	through a nominated lead, working with the CARO and GAA, in the promotion and support of projects by participating clubs, to meet the objectives, and during key phases, of the programme to 2029.							
CRT16	Develop and introduce a "Greening Festival" funding criteria for a selection of Meath-based festivals.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
SR1	Increase use of recycling and recovery for bulky household items, hazardous waste, electrical waste, and green waste.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
SR2	Increase kerbside collection of Household Organic Waste using Brown Bin Scheme. Countywide Awareness Campaign in relation to roll out of Brown Bin using Radio, Print and social media	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
SR3	Support the establishment of 'Circular Economy Hubs' that act as physical material hubs for the drop-off and recirculation of materials and products from and for both commercial and residential activities.	Combined	Q1	2025	Q4	2029+	Yes	Not Started
SR4	Engage with businesses and residents to support adoption of reused and recycled materials.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
SR5	Support locally produced sustainable food products and promote sustainable farm practices.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
SR6	Provision of a 2 Day Green for Business Environmental Audit amongst small businesses in the County (1-50 employees).	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
SR7	Support business in their transition via Government initiatives e.g., green for micro.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
SR8	Encourage and promote projects that will contribute positively and grow the circular and bio economy to promote sustainable rural and urban low carbon economic development.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
SR9	Promotion of local jobs and local workspaces to reduce the amount of commuting outside of the county.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
SR10	Support development of enterprise hubs to facilitate remote working.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
SR11	Implement improved management of construction and demolition (C&D) waste from LA activities.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
SR12	In4Green Urbact Network Project: Complete the Integrated Action Plan for Navan.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2025	No	In Progress

Action No.	Action Text	Action Type	Action Started In		Action Completed By		Recurring Action	Action Status 2024
SR13	Develop a waste management plan with particular attention to the circular economy principles. Promotion of the circular economy e.g., recycling facilities / repair hubs. and Bike repair days to be organised. On street waste segregation to be trialled.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

## **Abbreviations**

AfA – Areas for Action  
CAF – Climate Action Forum  
CAP – Climate Action Plan  
CARO – Climate Action Regional Group  
CAT – Climate Action Team  
CCAP – Community Climate Action Programme  
CCRA – Climate Change Risk Assessment  
CPG – Corporate Policy Group  
DECC – Department of Environment, Climate and Communications  
DZ – Decarbonising Zone  
EMP – Energy Master Plan  
EPA – Environment Protection Agency  
GAA - Gaelic Athletic Association  
GPP – Green Public Procurement  
HVAC – Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning  
IAP – Integrated Action Plan  
IPCC – Irish Peatland Conservation Council  
KPIs – Key Performance Indications  
LACAP – Local Authority Climate Action Plan  
LGMA – Local Government Management Agency  
M&R – Monitoring and Reporting  
MCC – Meath County Council  
Meath LSP – Meath Local Sports Partnership  
MEEU – Mid East Energy Unit  
NTA – National Transport Authority  
NZEB – Near Zero Energy Buildings  
OPW – Office of Public Works  
PAA – Priority Areas for Action  
PLEEP – ER – Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project – Eastern Region  
PNN – Public Participation Network  
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals  
SEAI – Sustainable Authority of Ireland  
SEC – Sustainable Energy Community  
SECE – Social Environment and Science Education  
SEU – Significant Energy User  
SPC – Strategic Policy Committee  
SWAT – Severe Weather Assessment Team  
THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme  
TII – Transport Infrastructure Ireland  
TY – Transition Year  
ULG – Urbact Local Group  
UN – United Nations

[www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

