

Environment and Transportation Department,
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Dublin 8.

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Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

In January 2018 it was announced that the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment was to allocate €10 million over five years (2018-22) for the establishment and development of four Local Authority Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs). The Regional Offices project is a key objective of the National Adaptation Framework (NAF), the National Mitigation Plan (NMP) and the Climate Act 2015. The Offices will establish centres of expertise that will be available to local authorities in the region to ensure consistency within the various local authority plans and deal with cross boundary issues within and across the regions. They will equally provide input/advice into local adaptation plans and, in particular, will be in a position to advise on local implications of sectoral actions. The regional team will work to understand regional vulnerabilities and develop approaches that will foster resilience to future climate risk. It is anticipated that each geographical area will become an expert in the particular primary risks which apply to their geographical region and will roll out expertise on these areas to partner local authorities.

The regional teams will have an ongoing role in implementation of both adaptation and mitigation actions, measurement and recording of Key Performance Indicators, advancement of behavioural change initiatives, development of competency and training within the sector and identification and sourcing of ongoing funding opportunities for the benefit of the sector.

The regional teams will bring an element of cohesion to the multiplicity of agencies and relationships for the benefit of all sectors. The regional teams will also co-ordinate the roll out of national initiatives from DCCA, EPA, SEAI, OPW, etc. at a local level. While the Regional Offices will not have a direct role at local level in response to individual extreme climate or severe weather events, they would play a significant role in collaboration with local authorities in the capture and collation of data, identification of climate risk and assessment or related adaptation measures, provision of advice to citizens, dissemination of education and awareness and liaison with the National Emergency Consultative Committee (NECC).

Each Regional Office will be established and operated by a single lead local authority. Dublin City Council is the lead Authority for the Metropolitan Dublin Region and has now established the Climate Action Regional Office. The Regional Coordinator, David Dodd, will take up his position on the 1st

October, and we expect that the Executive Professional and the Senior Staff Officer will also be in place within a short period thereafter. This office will implement actions agreed with the National Local Authority Climate Change Steering Committee, allowing for effective coordination across the regions. This committee will be established to provide management and oversight at a strategic level. It is also intended that the office develop a centre of excellence in the area of Urban Climate effects and link with third level institutions and other organisations. The City Council will provide the necessary financial and governance controls in a similar way to the current practice with the WERLAs and the Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Planning Office.

The Department will provide funding of up to €2,475,000 (over the 5 years) to Dublin City Council for costs incurred by Dublin City Council for staff and for administering and implementing the actions. A Service Level Agreement has been signed by the CEO of Dublin City Council with the Department. The SLA will extend from the date of signature until the 31/03/2023. The staff will report directly to the Executive Manager Environmental Services in the City Council with the regional Coordinator then reporting on a monthly basis to the 4 Directors of Service in the Region. Regular reports will also issue to each of the Environmental SPCs within the Region.

The first priority for the new offices will be the preparation of the Regional Adaptation Plan. This will entail the identification of the data sets required; the coordination of the data available already in the 4 Authorities; a gap analysis; the establishment of baseline data; liaison with Codema with regard to the compilation of such data; the identification of work parcels to further develop actions identified in the current draft Climate Action Plans and to be carried into the Regional Plan

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