

Dublin: A City with a Mission

Dublin City Council’s Corporate Plan puts forth our vision and mission for both the city and Dublin City Council, as an organisation and the principles by which we are guided in all elements of our work on climate action. Our vision and mission in the Corporate Plan for 2020-2024 are:

- Vision: A dynamic, sustainable city, that is future-ready, built on thriving, inclusive neighbourhoods and communities, a strong economy, a vibrant cultural life, and compact, connected growth.
- Mission: To drive the sustainable development of the city through strong civic leadership and delivery of effective services that promote **the well-being and quality-of-life of citizens and communities**.

It is recommended that this be retained for the revised CAP.

The EU Mission for 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities provides us with the opportunity to build capacity, and further deliver on our mission statement. In particular, the Climate City Contract calls for us to build a mandate to innovate and to strengthen our capacity to deliver on our vision and mission and to develop a more ambitious climate action plan, supported by an investment plan to realise our climate commitments and contribute to Ireland’s National Climate Objectives and the global challenge.

Critically, given that a principle of the Mission is **to do no harm**, in other words, that **our actions today do not adversely affect well-being and quality of life now, or in the future**. This requires a systems approach to fully evaluate, and to anticipate risk and vulnerabilities stemming from the actions we take.

Our current Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) does bring life to our mission statement and demonstrates that we can lead, and take initiative. The process for developing the CCAP was collaborative and we will build on this, guided by a steering group at Senior Management Level.

The Process Ahead

Reaching neutrality by 2030 through the Mission will be a challenge. The process will be iterative as the climate action plan will be a living document that responds to science and changes in policy and legislation.

The focus in the next year will be on submitting our Climate City Contract to the European Commission, to be assessed and awarded the Mission Label, while aligning with our statutory obligations under the Act. To achieve this we will establish a senior management steering group to liaise with the National steering group and Cork City, review and revise our current CCAP through workshops with staff and relevant external stakeholders, develop an investment plan, and create a communications plan.

Q1/23	Q2/23	Q3/23	Q4/23	Q1/24	Q2/24	Q3/24	Q4/24
Existing CCAP 2019-2024							
Timeframe for Ministerial Request							
	Timeframe for developing “revised” action plan						
						New CCAP 2024-2029	
Climate City Contract, Climate Action Plan & Investment Plan							

Figure 1 Timelines for National Requirements and Mission

Achieving the ambition of climate neutrality by 2030 will require a review of our existing plan to identify gaps and opportunities.

Actions will need to be developed through workshops and one to one discussions with teams and individuals with current responsibility for actions. The workshops will be an opportunity to ensure the interdisciplinary nature of the actions and that actions have multiple co-benefits.

Workshops

We will be engaging with Cork City and DECC to develop workshops to support the development of our CAP. The overall objectives of these workshops are to:

1. Strengthen climate literacy across the organisation
2. Foster team work for climate action
3. Develop organisational capacity for systems thinking to ensure the impacts of actions on wellbeing and quality of life are fully considered.

Appendix: Current Climate Change Action Plan

Dublin City Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 was approved on May 13, 2019 in accordance with the National Adaptation Framework – Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2018 (NAF). The Plan was also completed in accordance with the requirements (at the time) of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) for Climate & Energy of which Dublin City Council (DCC) is a signatory.

The Plan set out 4 key targets and 219 actions that the Council is undertaking in the interconnected areas of energy & buildings, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions and resource management (Figure 2). While the plan is a living document it does not fully capture the changes in the City Council's organisation structure (European Office, Active Travel Unit) and new initiatives that contribute to a climate neutral Dublin (SoCircular, A Connected Circular Economy, Academy of the Near Future, Eat the Streets and Edible Dublin, Connecting Communities). The new plan must capture the dynamic nature of the City Council's work and address issues with the current plan.

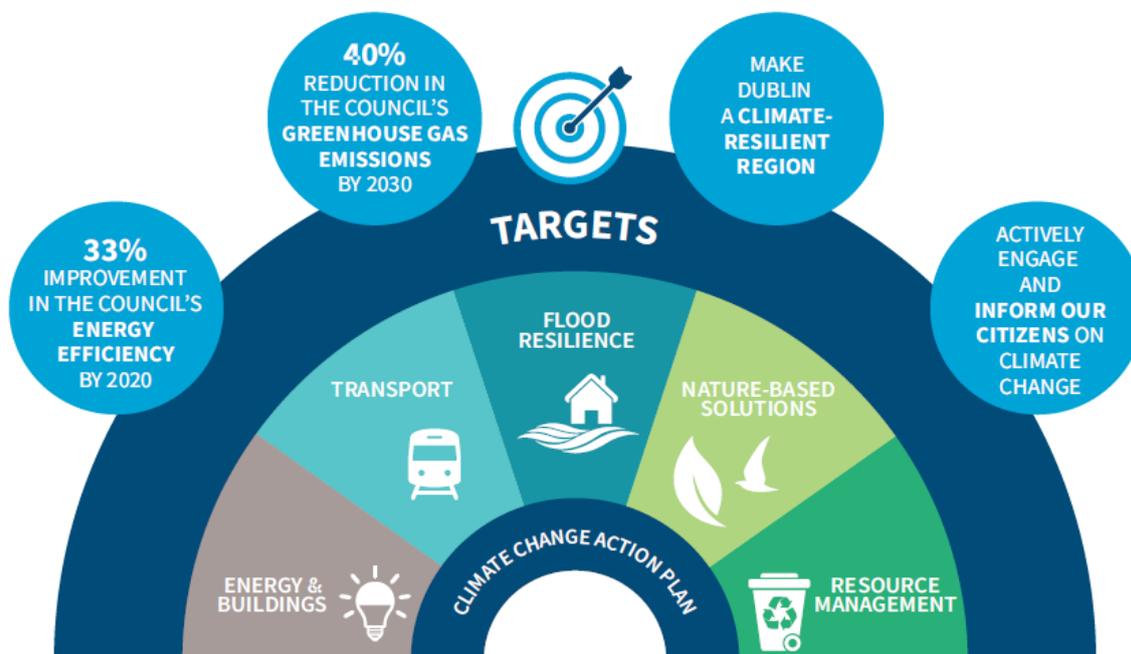


Figure 2 CCAP Targets and Action Areas

Issues with Current Plan

Mitigation of Emissions

At present we monitor the emissions stemming from our operations and service delivery on a yearly basis and this is reported in our CCAP Annual Reports; based on analysis undertaken by Codema and reported to SEAI's public sector monitoring and reporting system. Our emissions were decreasing and this was attributable to the increasing volume of renewables on the national grid. City-wide emissions are included in the National Inventory and reductions are not in line with targets. Further, the latest EPA projections show that Ireland as a whole is off target.

Further DCC has signed the voluntary EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. This commits us to supporting the implementation of the EU 55% greenhouse-gas reduction target by 2030 and the adoption of a joint approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change. However,

our actions on mitigation need to cover city-wide emissions to align with the CoM. This needs to be addressed in our new plan.

Adapting to Climate Change

Making Dublin resilient to climate change is a target of CCAP, this calls for adapting the city and residents for a future where we live with the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, extreme temperatures, and extreme weather events that are locked in, and are prepared for the unknown impacts.

Uncertainty adds to the challenge of implementing actions that contribute to the city's resilience. Despite this DCC has made progress in the implementation of actions that contribute to our overall resilience, particularly in the use of nature-based solutions to respond to flood risk in the city. However, we have not adequately responded to other known climate risks, such as heat.

Further, the long-term challenge is ensuring that the adaptation actions we implement are just. The implementation of city development plan is vital to making the city and residents resilient to climate change. The decisions we make about land-use and land-use change will determine our adaptive capacity. The location of housing, employment determines our vulnerability and exposure to climate risk.

We need to map our hazards, risks and vulnerability and use this to inform our decisions and investments.

Theory to Practice: Collaborative Systems Change

The process for developing the CCAP was collaborative, though it focused on fostering internal collaboration. This was intentional, as was focusing on what Irish Local authorities are responsible for.

We will need to take internal collaboration further and develop a deeper understanding of the barriers to our leadership in climate action, and identify the changes needed to enable ownership across the organisation.

We will need to realise our vision and mission by actively engaging the residents of the city to achieve systems change that improves quality of life for all.