



The Climate Action Regional Offices are an initiative of Local Government, funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, as a shared service for Local Authorities.

December 2024

Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Report on Coastal Actions

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1. Introduction

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 requires each Irish local authority to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) for its administrative area. Each Local Authority went through a plan preparation process during 2023 and adopted their LACAP by the end of Quarter 1, 2024. The plans have statutory remit for a five-year duration. The LACAPs aim to deliver global and national climate targets and implement national climate policy at a community level through local authority regulatory and strategic functions and relationships.

Additionally, action 165 of the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019, requires Local Authorities to identify and develop plans for a Decarbonising Zone which is defined as a "*spatial area identified by the local authority, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets*". Subsequently, Action 80 of the Climate Action Plan 2021 required that the DZ plan be integrated with the development of the LACAP.

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs), which were established to assist and coordinate the Local Authority response to climate change, have carried out an analysis of the 31 Local Authority Climate Action Plans that have been adopted by Irish Local authorities in 2024. One of the outcomes of this analysis is the production of a series of high-level reports for stakeholders and sectors and the potential to produce, on request, reports based on particular themes or keywords. It is anticipated that these reports will facilitate more informed engagement and will assist sectors and stakeholders in their own activities.

This report is produced on theme of **Coastal actions**. *If further information is required on any aspect of the report, please contact CARO@CorkCoCo.ie.*

2. LACAP overview

The Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs) reinforce the commitment by the local government sector to lead on climate action at local and national levels. Each LACAP outlines the actions that the individual local authority will be taking to meet its responsibility regarding reduction of greenhouse gas emissions across its own assets and infrastructure as well as the actions that the local authority will take to influence, enable, and facilitate others to meet their own targets.

The Decarbonising Zone section of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan identifies the climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity actions to be taken by the Local Authority in the Decarbonising Zone (DZ) to test, pilot and demonstrate decarbonising at local and community level.

Analysis of the 31 LACAPs including Decarbonising Zones reveals the following:

- In total, **3,935** actions have been adopted across all 31 LACAPs, including:
 - **3282** actions that relate to the whole local authority administrative area and are referred to as LACAP actions.
 - **653** actions that relate specifically to Decarbonizing Zones (DZs) and are referred to as DZ actions.

3. Coastal Actions:

An analysis of all 3282 actions in 31 LACAPs has concluded that:

- **48** of all 3282 actions relate to the coastal theme (i.e. action contains the word coast).
- these are contained in **13** of the 31 LACAPs.

Furthermore, an analysis of all 653 DZ actions has concluded that:

- **3** of the total DZ actions relate to the coastal theme (i.e. action contains the word coast).
- These are contained in **2** of the DZ plans.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of coastal actions across local authority LACAPs and DZs.

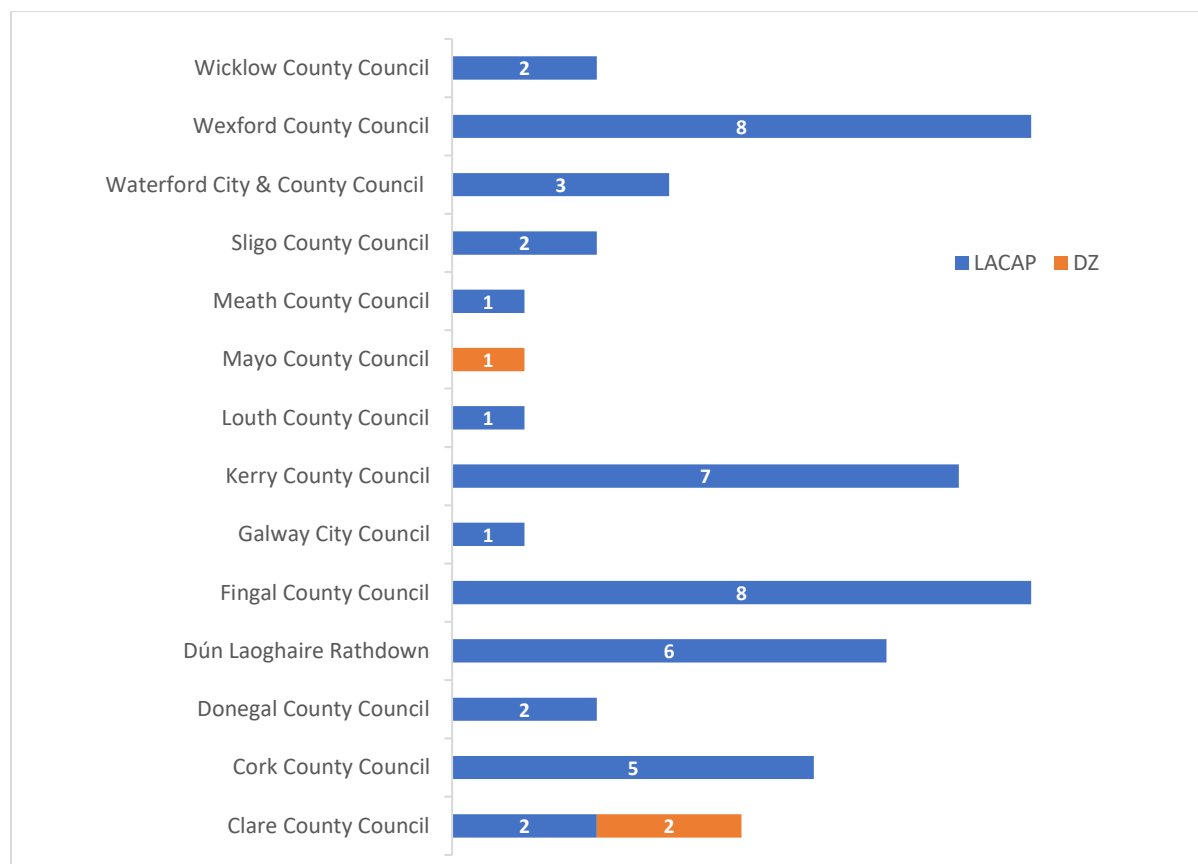


Figure 1: Breakdown of Coastal actions according to Local Authority LACAP and DZ

3.1. Adaptation/Mitigation

All local authorities classified their LACAP and DZ actions according to whether they related to mitigation, adaptation, or a combination of both. Mitigation actions include those that reduce the causes of climate change and those that serve to maintain and enhance carbon sinks while adaptation actions include those that increase resilience to current climate and weather conditions and those that involve planning for future climate impacts. Combined actions are those that address climate mitigation and adaptation. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of the LACAP coastal according to whether they are identified by the local authority as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 42% of the total number of LACAP coastal actions address both mitigation and adaptation while 35% are specifically mitigation actions and 23% specifically relate to adaptation.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of DZ coastal actions according to whether they are identified by the local authority as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 33% of the total number of DZ coastal actions address both mitigation and adaptation while 67% are specifically adaptation actions.

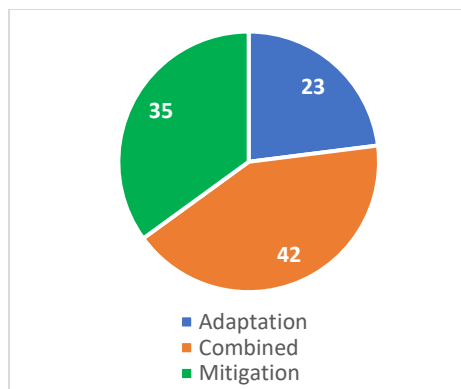


Figure 2: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of LACAP coastal actions

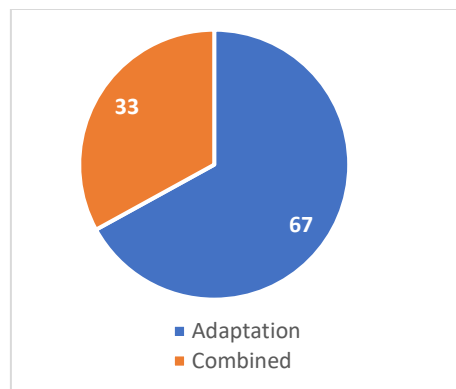


Figure 3: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of DZ coastal actions

3.2. Classification of Actions

Each action underwent a three-tier classification process, with 11 possible categories in Tier one, being further broken down into Tier 2 and Tier 3 categories. Figure 4 shows the breakdown of all LACAP and DZ coastal actions according to Tier 1 Category with actions being classified into 7 of the possible 11 categories.

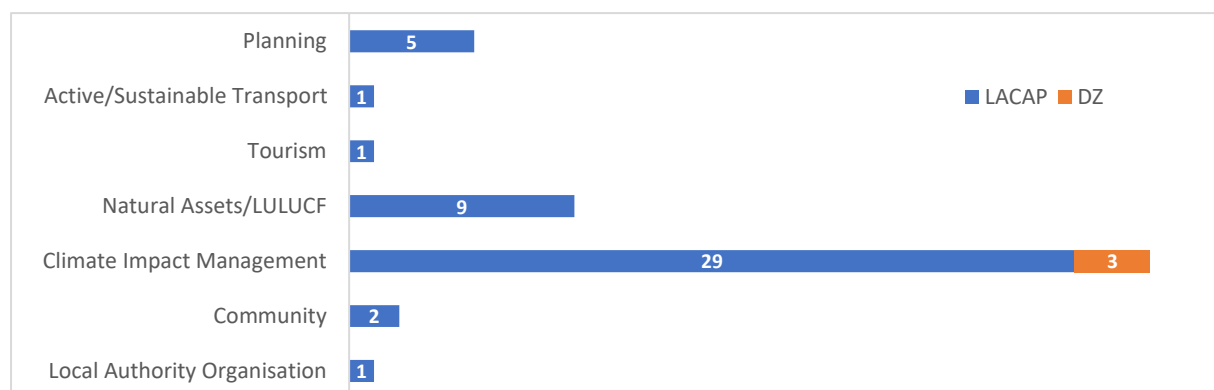


Figure 4: Tier 1 classification of LACAP and DZ coastal actions

It is apparent that a significant majority of all LACAP and DZ coastal actions are associated with climate impact management, with smaller numbers associated with the themes of natural assets/LULUCF and planning. The types of actions that are listed under each of these categories are as follows:

Climate impact management:

- Conduct coastal vulnerability assessments to assess coastal erosion and flood risk and to inform coastal zone management.
- Conduct beach sediment transportation studies.
- Implement coastal monitoring programmes.
- Collaborate with and participate in research
- Develop and implement Coastal Defence/Protection Strategies/Plans.
- Develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.
- Identify climate adaptation measures for coastal infrastructure and associated defences.

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- Work with stakeholders and neighbouring local authorities on coastal defence measures.
- Implementation of nature-based solutions to protect coastal environments from erosion and flooding.
- Work with coastal communities under threat.

Natural assets, Land Use, Land-use Change, Forestry (LULUCF):

- Marine Protection Areas development, designation.
- Treat invasive species as part of coastal protection projects.
- Protection, restoration and management of coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Implement and support measures to protect coastal water and beach status.

Planning:

- Ensure impacts of climate change and sea level rise are considered for developments in the coastal zone
- Support development of Designated Marine Area Plans.

All 48 LACAP and 3 DZ coastal actions are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: LACAP Coastal actions

Local Authority	Action No.	Action
Clare County Council	BE 3.2	Develop updated risk assessment of coastal erosion for Clare to manage vulnerability arising from climate impacts
Clare County Council	N 2.8	Support the National Parks and Wildlife service (NPWS), communities and other stakeholders in the creation of an MPA network and the designation of specific MPAs off the Clare coastline
Cork County Council	4.5.1.5.2	Continue to manage and treat Invasive Alien Plant Species, in line with developed IAPS Management Plans, in the scheme areas for flood relief schemes and coastal projects.
Cork County Council	4.5.2.3.1	With partners, undertake a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment of the Cork coastline to assess the impact of sea level rise to shoreline change of the Cork Coastline, to inform integrated coastal zone management and identify areas with particular requirements, and to address coastal erosion and implement coastal flooding prioritising ecosystem-based adaptation actions, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity.
Cork County Council	4.5.2.3.2	Assist in the development of a Coastal Vulnerability Index and GIS tool. This is intended to illustrate the exposure risk along the entire Cork County coastline. This tool will inform the strategic planning of coastal management along the cork coastline.
Cork County Council	4.5.2.3.3	Conduct Beach Sediment Transportation study, to monitor select sites, document coastal change over time, , develop and validate predictive models and inform funding and future interventions having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity.
Cork County Council	4.5.2.3.4	With stakeholders, identify climate adaptation measures for coastal infrastructure & associated defences, and utilize natural coastal management where feasible and financially viable, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity.
Donegal County Council	NE 3.1	Support national and regional agencies to develop a Designated Marine Area Plan, off the coast of Donegal and the North West region, in line with provisions in the National Marine Planning Framework and Project Ireland 2040.
Donegal County Council	NE 3.2	Undertake Coastal Erosion & Flood Risk Management (CFERM) Studies in vulnerable coastal areas and follow up on recommendations.
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	F 17	Update the Coastal Defence Strategy report to advise future protection measures and implement as necessary; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	F 18	Implement coastal monitoring programme
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	F 19	Work with Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE) on coastal defence measures; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value

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Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	F 20	Develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, which supports the appropriate protection and enhancement of the coastal environment
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	F 22	Participate and assist with the EU SCORE Project using Dún Laoghaire as a 'Coastal Living Lab' using an integrated solution of smart technologies and nature- based solutions
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 21	Protect and conserve floodplains, wetlands, and coastal areas including those subject to flooding
Fingal County Council	T 2	Increase the km of protected cycle lanes and off road cycle lanes and greenways in the county annually; in line with the Greater Dublin Cycling Network Plan, and the FCC Greenway Plan - including Fingal Coastal Way, the Sutton to Malahide Cycleway, the Broadmeadow Way, Church Fields Link Road, and the Royal Canal Urban Greenway, etc.
Fingal County Council	F 3	To engage with the Fingal Coastal Liaison Group with the integration of adaptation strategies into planning policies, etc.
Fingal County Council	F 4	Develop and implement Coastal Protection Plan for Portrane
Fingal County Council	F 8	Develop a coastal monitoring programme to measure coastal erosion along the Fingal coast
Fingal County Council	F 9	Facilitate the development of a National Coastal Monitoring Survey Programme
Fingal County Council	N 12	Carry out feasibility studies of developing a Marine Protection Area along the Fingal Coast and on the restoration of Oyster beds, Shellfish beds, Seagrass beds and Kelp stands
Fingal County Council	N 13	Restore marine ecosystem along Fingal coast by supporting restoration projects of Oyster beds, Shellfish beds, Seagrass beds and Kelp stands
Fingal County Council	C 17	Provide resources including equipment and funding for marine clean-up and awareness events. Deliver an annual coastal event in the community such as awareness of and protection measures for sand dunes.
Galway County Council	AD 1.1	Collaborate with OPW and other relevant stakeholders in assessing the likely impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, coastal erosion and flooding, on the built environment and heritage sites. Prioritise areas for further assessment and seek funding/support to mitigate the risk. Assist CARO in the development of a register of critical infrastructure, systems and assets at risk from existing and projected climate events.
Kerry County Council	2.2.2	Flood alleviation projects and coastal protection schemes to investigate the use of Nature Based Solutions. having due regard for environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
Kerry County Council	2.2.4	Work with stakeholders to protect coastal environments through the use, where possible, of such measures as bye-laws, controlled parking and Nature Based Solutions.

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Kerry County Council	2.3.1	Continue to undertake vulnerability assessment and monitoring of coastal infrastructure and communities at risk from climate change.
Kerry County Council	2.3.2	Work with stakeholders in the designation of nature conservation sites on land and our coastal waters.
Kerry County Council	2.3.3	Collaborate with research being undertaken on the impacts of climate change on coastal areas and communicate results/findings.
Kerry County Council	2.3.4	Work with communities to pursue regenerative/sustainable tourism initiatives in coastal areas.
Kerry County Council	4.4.4	Work with communities under threat from climate change (e.g., coastal communities) taking learnings from community-based adaptation practitioners
Louth County Council	NEGI 9	Develop a Coastal protection plan for Louth. Ensure the plan has due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.
Meath County Council	CRT 10	Carry out a Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Study for County Meath and implement the recommendations whilst as feasible prioritise nature-based solutions.
Sligo County Council	31	Complete the work of the SCORE project with ATU (ends July 2025) and identify ways of continuing the work of the Coastal City Living Laboratory model.
Sligo County Council	33	Continue to monitor coastal erosion along Sligo shoreline and maintain existing sea defences, considering application of nature based solutions, and in line with conservation management objectives of European Sites.
Waterford City & County Council	3.21	Act on findings of Copper Coast Cliff Stabilisation report
Waterford City & County Council	3.24	Investigate the possibility of using seaweed at the coast to reduce the amount of nitrates going near Seagrass plantations
Waterford City & County Council	4.18	Put in place a Coast Guardians programme to report on local erosion and environmental issues to the Council
Wexford County Council	BET 8	Work with Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Programme to prioritise projects to reduce flood risk and provide for detailed mapping of areas prone to fluvial and tidal flood risk. The National Indicative Fluvial Mapping (NIFM) and the National Coastal Hazard Flood Mapping are published and will help inform the implementation of this plan having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value

Wexford County Council	NEGI 1	Ensure impacts of climate change and sea level rise are considered for developments in the coastal zone
Wexford County Council	NEGI 2	Wexford County Council will develop and progress suitable coastal protection measures, as identified through the monitoring and inspection programmes for vulnerable areas of coast and existing public coastal defences subject to funding, statutory consent and national policies and guidelines, including schemes such as Rosslare, Courtown and Seaview having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value
Wexford County Council	NEGI 3	Undertake a Monitoring and Maintenance programme on existing public coastal defences and develop suitable protection measures, having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value
Wexford County Council	NEGI 9	Implement the objectives outlined in Section 12.8 of Volume 1 Written Statement of the Wexford County Development Plan to restrict development outside the boundaries of existing coastal settlements to that which is required to be located in that particular location, and direct new housing away from areas prone to flooding/coastal erosion and require new planning applications for housing to show climate change adaptation has been considered in the siting, layout and design of the proposal in accordance with the County Development Plan
Wexford County Council	NEGI 10	Implement Chapter 12 Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning in Volume 1 of the County Development Plan. Ensure collaborations with Waterford and Wicklow County Councils in relation to integrated Coastal Zone management having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value
Wexford County Council	NEGI 17	Ensure the protection and quality of all surface, ground and coastal waters in County Wexford by continuing to implement the National Agricultural Inspection Plan while ensuring sustainable transport modes are used to travel to and from inspection sites, where feasible.
Wexford County Council	NEGI 24	Continue to support measures to protect and enhance beaches in the county to retain the blue flag status and green coast award and identify where possible additional beaches for inclusion
Wicklow County Council	1 NEGI	Engage with neighbouring local authorities and other relevant organisations (including Irish Rail) on coastal erosion, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported coastal erosion works and development promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
Wicklow County Council	11 NEGI	Incorporate Nature-Based measures for coastal erosion in order to support the conservation and management of sand dunes at Brittas Bay, having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.

Table 2: DZ Coastal actions

Local Authority	Action No	Action
Clare County Council	N1.14	Research sites of high cultural and natural conservation value along the Clare coast to fully understand the implications of climate change and sea level rise and the potential approaches to mitigation, adaptation and building resilience, with an initial focus on the area of the Loop Head Peninsula which has been identified as a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ)
Clare County Council	DZ-BE3	Incorporate into county assessment the risks associated with coastal flooding and coastal erosion in the DZ
Mayo County Council	DZ 28	Devise and implement a coastal management plan in collaboration with other coastal communities

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