

Key Themes and Actions:

Water:

- Water harvesting for public pitches, parks and gardens.
- Ensure that sustainable urban drainage systems are a requirement of any new housing developments and that they are implemented wherever possible in urban areas.
- Identify and designate Natural Flood Plains by way of a Green Infrastructure Strategy to allow for natural and unhindered inundation.
- Explore the use of natural water retention measures in suitable areas to manage flood risk, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, manage soil and sediment and provide new or additional amenity areas. (liaise with OPW)
- Provide grant funding for community water harvesting projects and supply water butts at a reduced cost for households in Kildare.

Natural Resources & Cultural:

- Plant native trees in conjunction with an awareness campaign to highlight the benefits of trees, i.e. improving air quality, promoting biodiversity, sequestration of carbon dioxide, limiting flood risk, reducing urban heat as well as their aesthetic benefits. Assess risk of existing trees in context of severe weather events, use of trees as fire breaks to reduce spread of wildfires, use technology to implement regular tree survey and ensure all trees that have to be removed be replaced at suitable locations.
- Reduced use of chemicals/spraying in Council areas.
- Protect and enhance Green infrastructure through the protection and nurturing of existing natural ecosystems e.g. designate the Curragh as an SAC, and make provision for the integration of appropriate planting schemes into all infrastructural and community development projects.
- Make provision for natural borders/buffers and include as integral component of the design of green/blue way, tracks, trails, amenity and tourism areas to promote natural enhancement and influence positive user experience. Consult with NPWS to ensure appropriate buffer zones are provided, protected and maintained to protect and enhance individual species and wider biodiversity.
- Using the Kildare biodiversity plan, provide for actions that ensure all risks from adverse climate change have been identified, measures have been employed to address these issues, carbon capture within habitats is considered, changes in seasonality are examined, along with the impact of invasive species on biodiversity.
- Research and map areas considered beneficial for use as local carbon offset through carbon sequestration and include in Green Infrastructure Strategy e.g. Curragh.

Community Health & Wellbeing

- For projects subject to funding and investment of public money, integrate climate change considerations as criteria for assessment so that community projects are designed to be climate resilient.
- Reduce single use plastics, increase awareness of refill.ie and conscious cup campaign.
- Ban use of single use plastics in KCC buildings, libraries and council managed or supported events.
- Ban sky lanterns and balloons.
- Through the PPN, raise awareness of Climate Change and the need for mitigation.
- Work with Kildare Leader Partnership to identify funding streams available to enable local climate action projects.
- Encourage and incentivise local food production – establish or facilitate markets and provide grants or funding for local food businesses to reduce food miles.

Development, Transport & Built Environment:

- Develop infrastructure for cycle lanes, walking paths, amenity trails, and links to existing greenways and blueways, new greenways and blueways. Forge links with existing and future national cycle networks and greenway/blueway options with a view to creating a dedicated, safe network of cycle lanes and walking lanes for travel by bike or foot in line with the strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways 2018.
- Develop bicycle parking infrastructure throughout the county.
- Promote modal shift from private car ownership to alternative transport e.g. car sharing initiatives, bike sharing initiatives. (Focus on benefits to health, air quality, low carbon footprint....)
- County council coordination of car and bike sharing initiatives.
- Development of serious public transport system that competes successfully with private car transport. (More bus stops.....)
- Develop Climate Change Awareness Campaign for business and start-ups to inform of climate action measures that can be integrated into business activities. Information on building resilience, adding climate change considerations to the agendas of conferences and training programmes, marketing campaign identifying business supports and funding options to businesses seeking to become more climate resilient.
- Organise a green business conference with SEAI creating awareness for business and develop a pilot project to audit businesses on their energy efficiency.
- Develop a sustainable urban and rural plan, use incentivisation and supportive policy to enhance climate action and control standards/criteria to enhance climate action, develop clean tech hub in Kildare.
- Support the development of co-working hubs that work towards reducing the carbon footprint of local communities.
- Housing – ensure new housing is correctly located and ensure that it's not impinging on water resources or natural areas of conservation and that it is laid out within the context of adaptation to climate change.

Transition to Low Carbon:

- Work with SEAI and mentors to support existing Sustainable Energy Communities in County Kildare and encourage sustainable energy systems, promote energy efficiency, use renewable energy and develop decentralised energy supplies. Encourage more communities to establish Sustainable Energy Communities and actively pursue projects to reduce energy consumption.
- Rollout of EV charging infrastructure on KCC sites and private sites via supportive policy and control standards of the County Development Plan.