



15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# **Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) Atlantic Seaboard South**

## **Presentation to Clare Public Participation Network**

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# Content



- 1. Climate Change**
- 2. Policy & Legislation**
- 3. Climate Action Regional Offices**
- 4. Current Climate Action Projects with Local Authorities**

# 1. Climate Change



## Definition of Climate Change:



*“A **change** of climate which is **attributed directly or indirectly to human activity** that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and **which is in addition to natural climate variability** observed over comparable time periods”.*

# Projected climate impacts

As the climate changes, we can expect:

## Higher Temperatures



Maximum, minimum and average temperatures are projected to rise 0.9-1.7°C

## Frost



Decrease in the frequency of frost days

## Rainfall events

The intensity of heavy events is likely to increase



## Drought

Likely increase in drought conditions from low rainfall and increase in likelihood of heatwaves



## Hotter days

The number of warm days is expected to increase and heatwaves are expected to occur more frequently.



## Wind



Expected increase in extreme wind speeds in winter

## Sea Level Rise



Sea levels will continue to rise for all coastal areas by up to 0.8m by 2100.

## Ocean Temperature



Sea surface temperatures are expected to increase 1.9°C by 2100

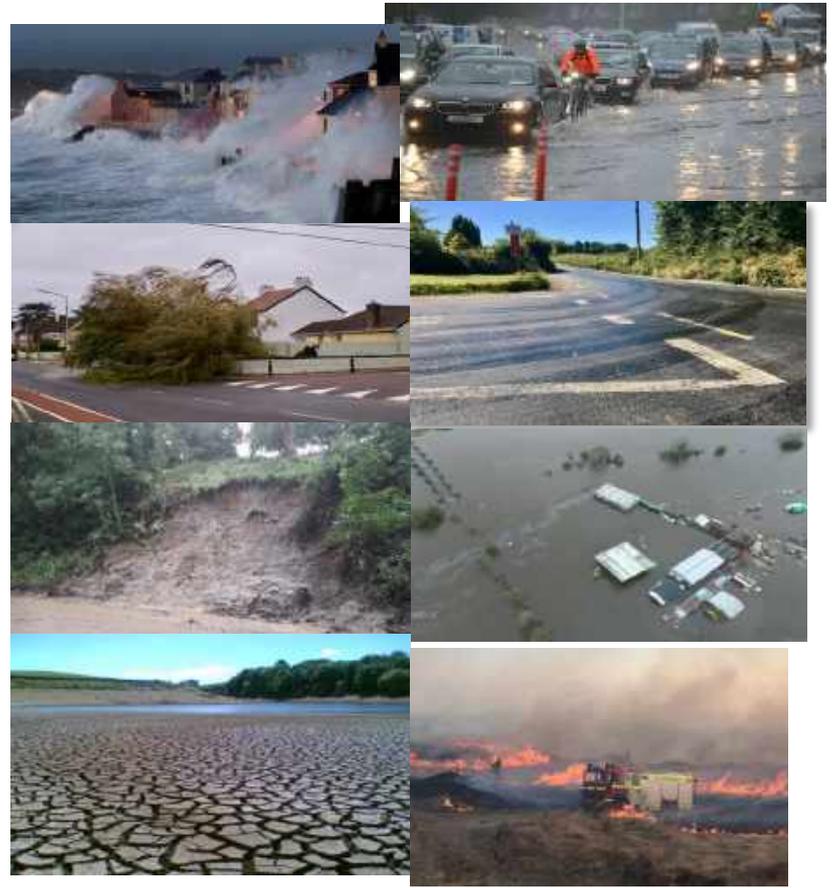
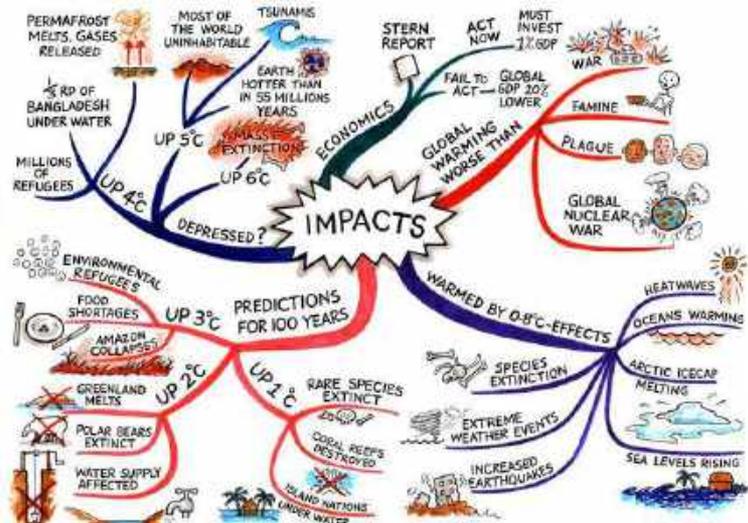
## Sea level extremes

Higher Sea Levels will increase the risk of coastal hazards from storm surge and inundation



# Impact of extreme weather events:

- risk to life
- property damage
- environmental damage
- infrastructure damage
- loss of utilities
- disruption to livelihoods



# Climate Action

- **Mitigation** refers to actions to **reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases** that are driving climate change. It includes strategies to reduce activities that give rise to greenhouse gases and to enhance carbon sinks.
- **Adaptation** refers to the process of **adjustment to actual or expected** climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm and exploit beneficial opportunities (IPCC, 2014)



## 2. Policy & Legislation



# International Policies & Agreements

## 2016 Paris Agreement – 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC



- Hold the increase in the global average temperature to well **below 2°C** and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to **1.5 °C**
- Increase the ability to **adapt to impacts** of climate change and foster climate resilience

# Irish Policies



# Climate Action & Low Carbon Development Act 2015



- Ireland's first overarching piece of climate change legislation.
- Statutory basis for the establishment of a national framework with the aim of achieving a low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 (referred to in the Act as the “**national transition objective**”).

Obliges state bodies, in performance of their functions, to have regard to

- the most recent approved **national mitigation plan**;
- the most recent approved **national adaptation framework** and approved sectoral adaptation plans;
- the furtherance of the **national transition objective**; and
- the objective of **mitigating** greenhouse gas emissions and **adapting** to the effects of climate change in the State.

# January 2018: National Adaptation Framework



- National Adaptation Framework (NAF) was published in January 2018
- It sets out the **potential implications** of climate change for Ireland and specifies the **national strategy** for the development of adaptation measures by **key sectors and by local authorities** to **reduce the vulnerability** of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to **avail of positive impacts**.

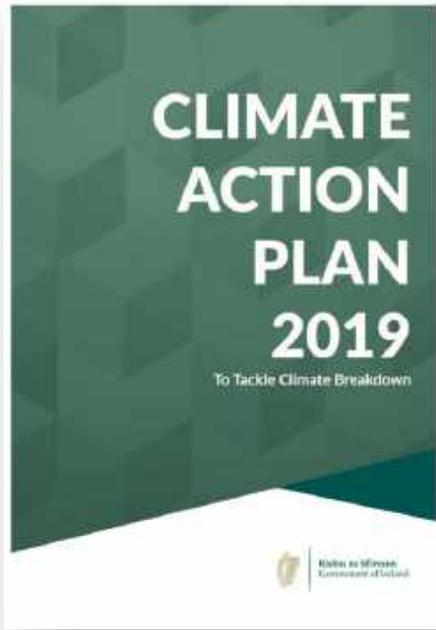
# January 2018: National Adaptation Framework

- Under the Framework, seven Government Departments (or Agencies, where appropriate) with responsibility for **twelve priority sectors** were required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans
- Sectoral plans were to be submitted to Government for approval by 30 September 2019
- Local Authorities to prepare Local Adaptation Strategies by same date

Theme	Sector Level	Lead Department for Sectoral Adaptation Plans
Natural and Cultural Capital	Seafood	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
	Agriculture	
	Forestry	
	Biodiversity	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
	Built and Archaeological Heritage	
Critical Infrastructure	Transport infrastructure	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
	Electricity and Gas Networks	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
	Communications networks	
Water Resource and Flood Risk Management	Flood Risk Management	Office of Public Works
	Water Quality	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
	Water Services Infrastructure	
Public Health	Health	Department of Health

# July 2019: Climate Action Plan 2019

Government published the Climate Action Plan 2019 on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to “**Tackle Climate Breakdown**”



- Identifies how Ireland will achieve its **2030 carbon emissions** and puts us on a trajectory to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050
- **183 Actions** and 100s of Sub Actions across every relevant sectors; Electricity, Enterprise, Housing, Transport, Agriculture, Waste & Public Bodies.
- Plan also includes actions to ensure that all of us as citizens become more **engaged and mobilised**.

# Public Sector Leading By Example

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

**13: Public Sector Leading By Example**

**13.1 State of Play**

Engaged and empowered public bodies can achieve more than just reduce their own emissions, they can stimulate and inspire action across whole society. The Plan clearly recognises that Ireland must significantly step-up its commitments to tackle climate disruption. The leadership role public bodies can play in taking early action on climate is fundamental to achieving our decarbonisation goals. While important changes to the policy framework will be a key factor in our transition to a low-carbon economy, public bodies must go beyond shaping the policy framework. They must act as exemplars of best practice in taking climate action across all sectors and use their capacities to lead a wider transition.

To that end, we must support the emergence of public sector champions, who in addition to achieving their own ambitious climate action objectives, engage, motivate and empower businesses, industry, communities and individuals to act to mitigate climate change.

Altogether, public sector buildings accounted for only 1.3% of our emissions on emissions in 2017.

**Table 13.2 Trends in Public Sector Buildings GHG Emissions**

Year/ave	Percentage Change	Absolute Change, CO <sub>2</sub> e
2005-11	-5.2%	-0.05 Mt
2016-17	-0.3%	-0.001 Mt

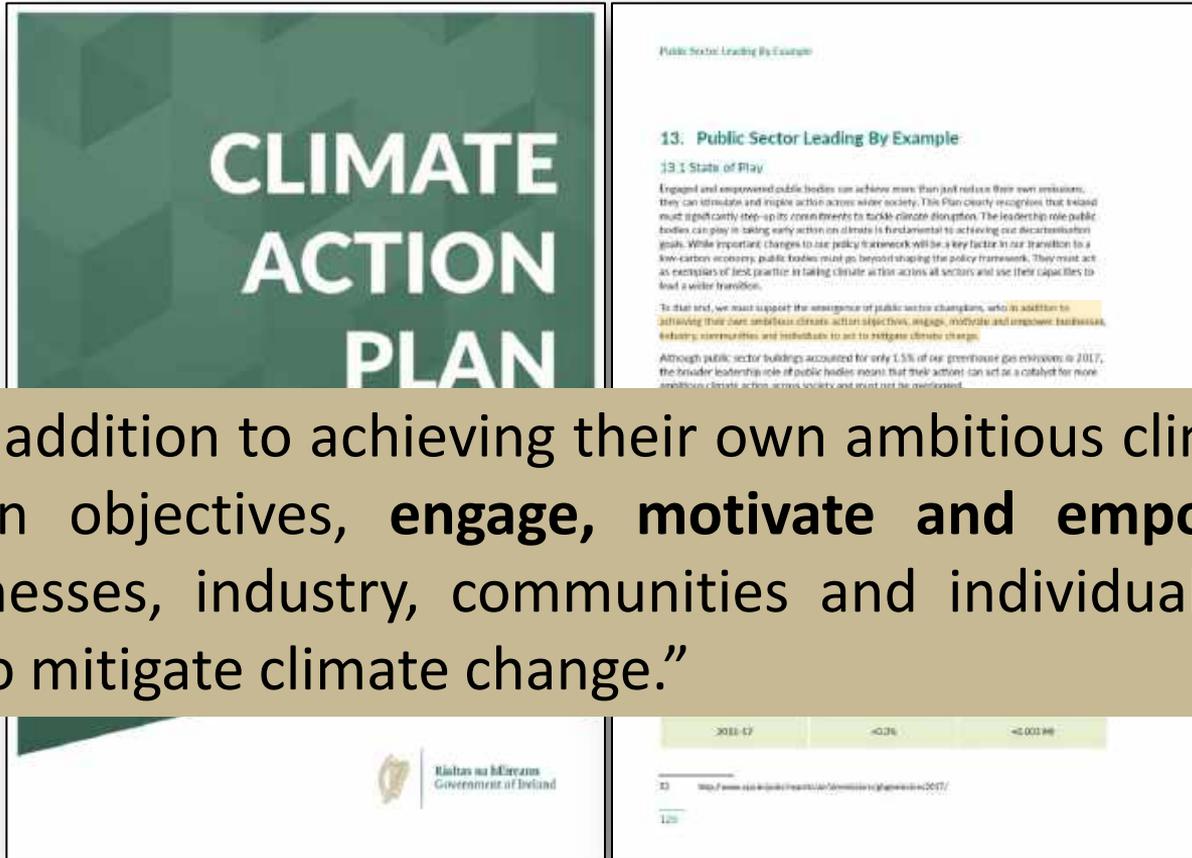
13 <http://www.gov.ie/public/translations/2017/07/20170701-climate-action-plan-2017/>

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**Riadas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

***“The leadership role public bodies can play in taking early action is fundamental to achieving our decarbonisation goals.”***

# Public Sector Leading By Example



“...in addition to achieving their own ambitious climate action objectives, **engage, motivate and empower** businesses, industry, communities and individuals to act to mitigate climate change.”

# Public Sector Leading By Example

Upgrade all public buildings to BER 'B' Level

Greater Transparency on our Emissions

Partners in Sustainability Communities

First movers in EV Charging Networks & Electrifying the fleet

Ambitious Targets for Energy & Emissions

Mandating Climate Action

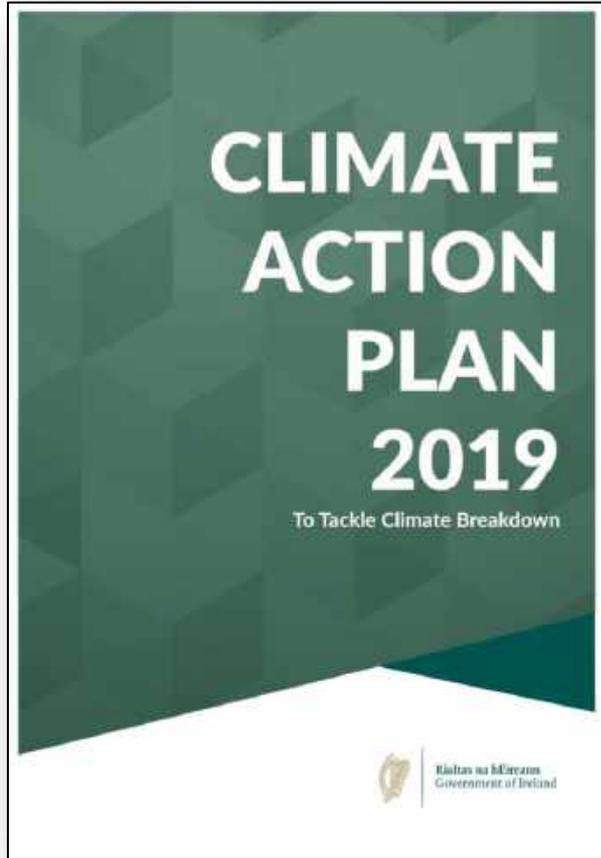
Upskilling, Knowledge Sharing, Citizen engagement

More Sustainability Reporting

Green Procurement (change markets)

Driving investment towards low-carbon practices

# Public Sector Leading By Example



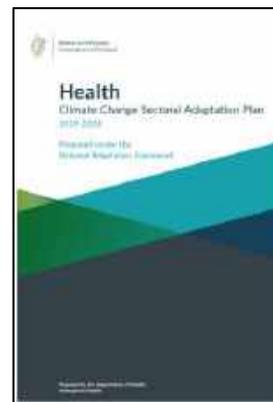
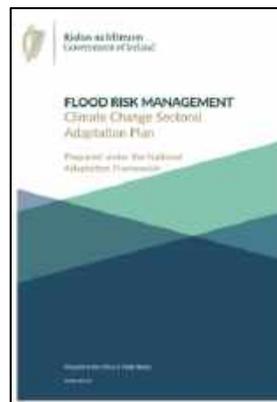
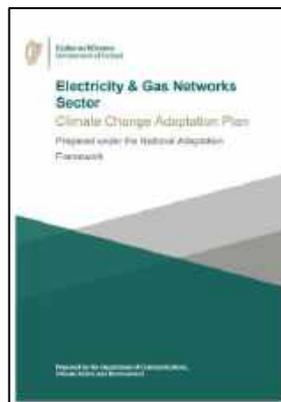
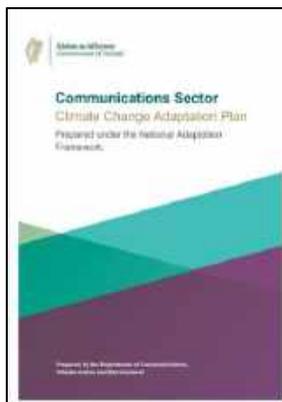
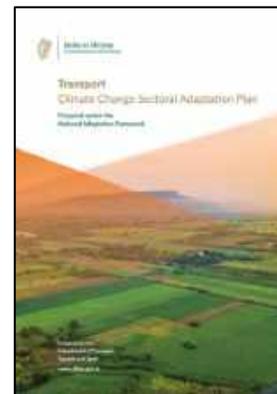
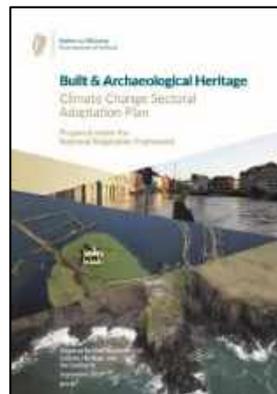
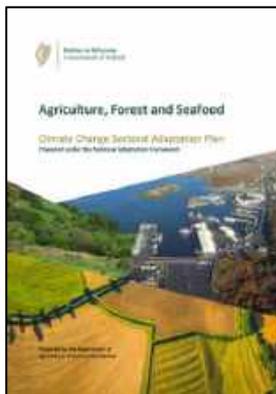
Climate Action Charter for Local Authorities

Public Sector Energy Efficiency & Decarbonisation Strategy

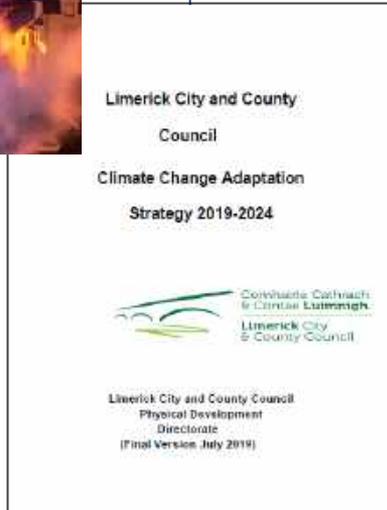
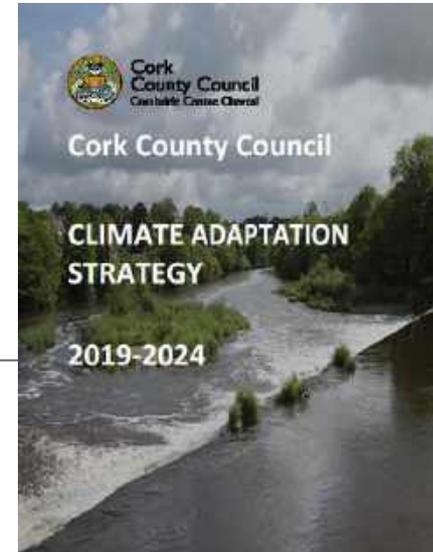
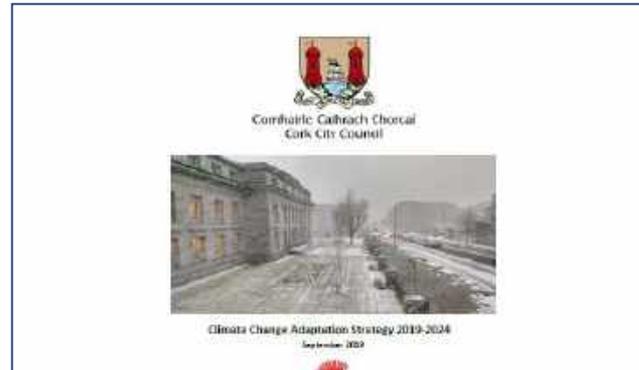
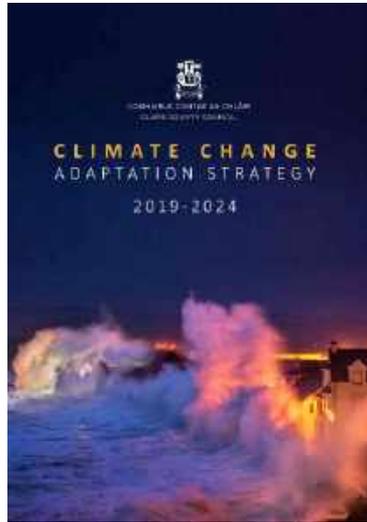
Green Public Procurement

Local Government Leadership

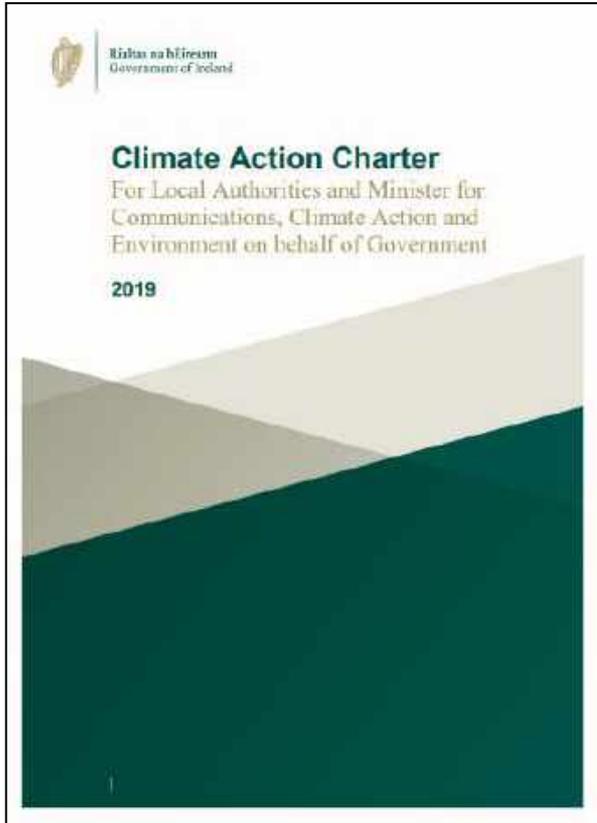
# September 2019: Sectoral Adaptation Plans



# September 2019: Local Authority Adaptation Strategies



# October 2019: Local Authority Climate Action Charter



## Sample commitments:

- a) Be **advocates for Climate Action in our own policies and practices**, and in our many various dealings with citizens and to underpin this role through the corporate planning process
- e) Deliver on a new target for the public sector of **50% energy efficiency and a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030**.
- f) Put in place a process for **carbon proofing major decisions, programmes and projects** on a systematic basis, including investments in transport and energy infrastructure
- g) Ensure all suppliers provide information on their carbon footprint and steps they plan to reduce its impact

# January 2020: Heads of Climate Action (Amendment) Bill



Draft General Scheme of the Climate Action (Amendment) Bill 2019

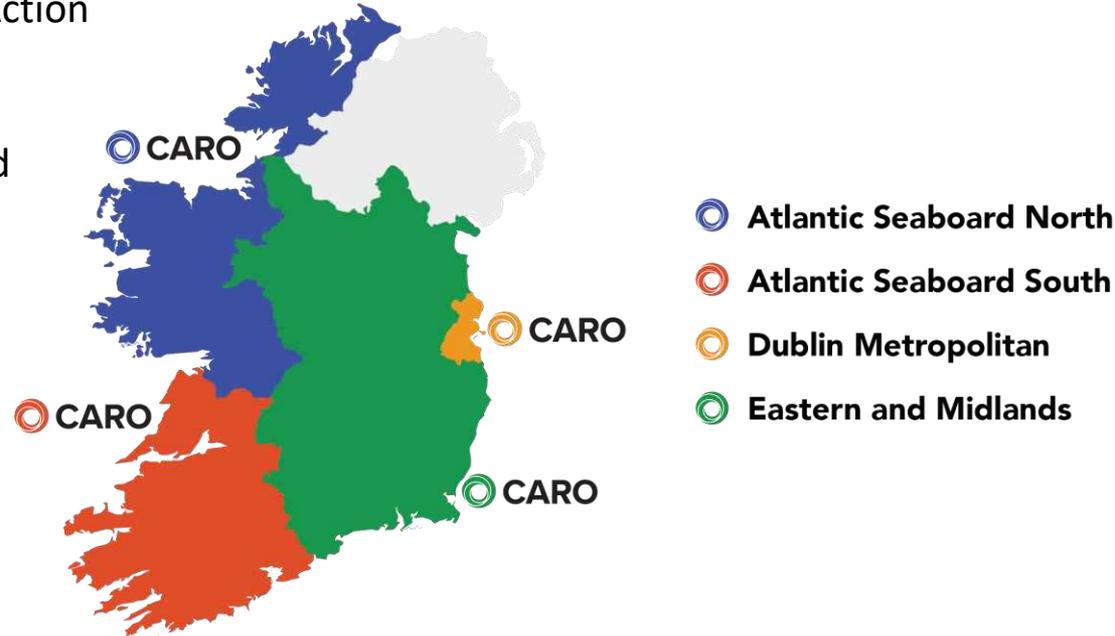
- aims to enshrine in law the approach outlined in the **Climate Action Plan**,
- including the requirement for **local authorities to prepare a Climate Action Plan** not later than 18 months after the passing of this amendment.

These Local Authority Climate Action Plans shall contain **both mitigation and adaptation** measures that contribute to the national transition objective and shall be reflected specifically within the development planning processes.

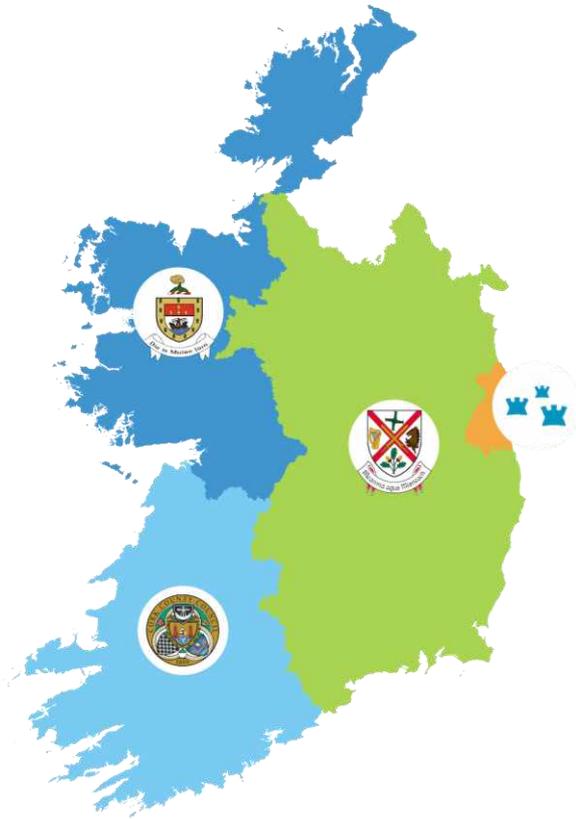
### **3. Climate Action Regional Offices**

# Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO)

- Four Offices established in response to Action 8 of the National Adaptation Framework
- Regions determined by topographical and geographical vulnerabilities/risks to the negative impacts of Climate Change
- Four lead Authorities were established following a bidding process
- April 2018 – 5 year funding of €10m committed by Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.



# Climate Action Regional Office



## Role:

- Provide **expertise and capacity** at local/regional level
- Ensure **efficient use of resources** in risk assessment, option assessment and adaptation strategy and action development.
- Enable a more **co-ordinated** approach for how Local Government liaises centrally with relevant Government Departments.
- **Centres of Expertise** with Academic Partnerships

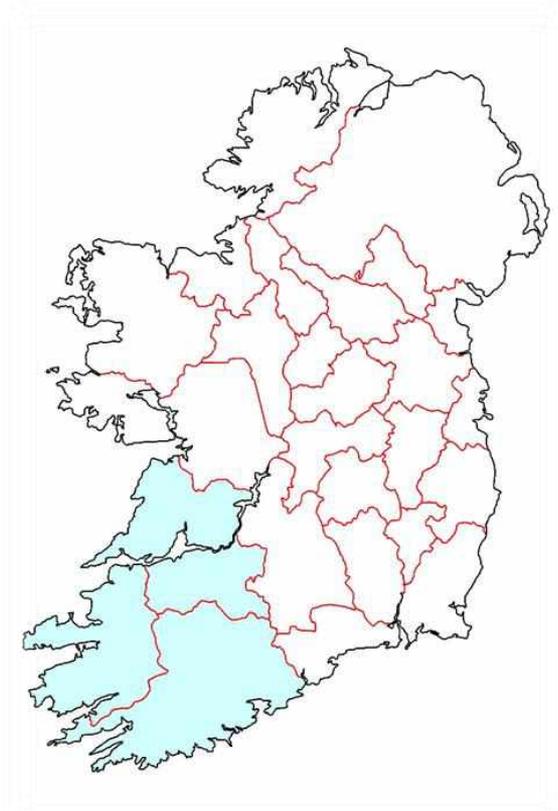
# Atlantic Seaboard South

- Clare County Council
- Cork City Council
- Cork County Council
- Kerry County Council
- Limerick City & County Council

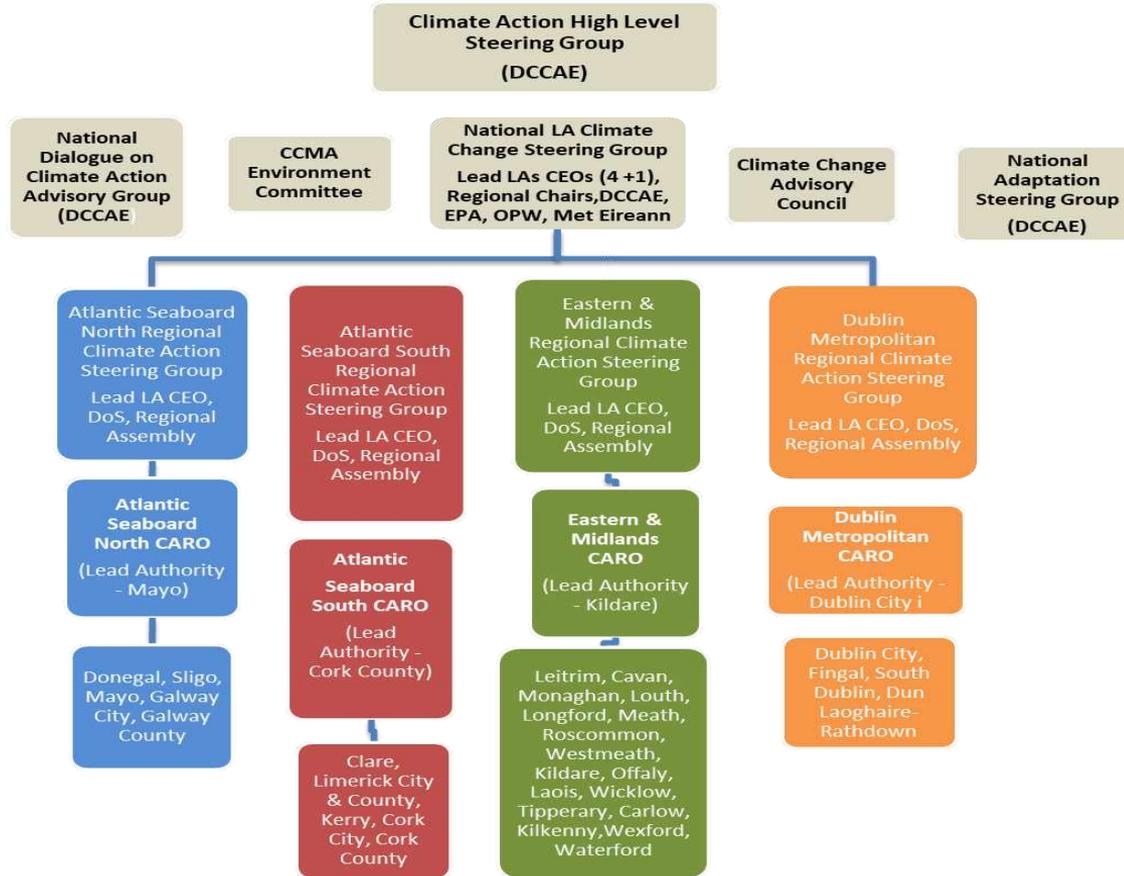
## Regional climate risks:

Atlantic Seaboard  
South

Sea level Rise  
Coastal Flooding  
Storms  
Groundwater Flooding  
Rural Pluvial



# CARO Governance Structure



## 4. Current Climate Action Projects with Local Authorities



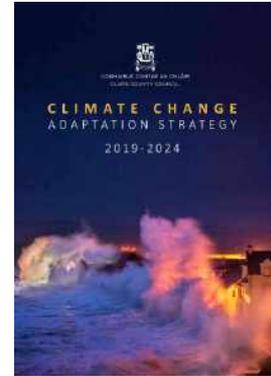
## 2020 Focus:

- **Assist in implementation of Actions**
- **Provision of Guidance**
- **Development of Regional Projects**
- **Development of standard reporting templates**
- **Training**
- **Build on existing relationships with Gov Depts. and state bodies**
- **Productive relationships with 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Institutions**



## Sample of CARO Projects to date:

- **Adaptation Strategies**
  - Guidance Document from DCCAE
  - CARO provided template document, training, etc
  - SEA and AA screening
- **ISO 50001 Energy Management System**
  - establishing, implementing, maintaining and improving an energy management system
  - Cork County and Kerry already accredited
  - Clare, Cork City and Limerick County & City now accredited
- **Roads Adaptation Guidance Project**
  - Guidance being developed in partnership with DTTAS & RMO



## Sample of CARO Projects to date:

- **Local Authority Training Plan**
  - 28,000 LA staff, 949 Elected Members
  - Pilots by end of the year
- **Native Woodland Creation on Public Lands**
  - Scheme announced by DAFM in August 2020
  - CARO preparing Guidance document for LAs
- **LA Tenants Handbook**
  - Action in a number of Strategies
  - CARO preparing Guidance for LAs
- **Enterprise Opportunities in Climate Action**
  - In partnership with E&M CARO and Maynooth University



Dublin City Council  
Housing and Community  
Services Tenant Handbook



Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) Atlantic Seaboard South

***Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.....***