

County Longford Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 Progress Review 2025

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Working in partnership



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Introduction

It's been two years since the adoption of the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

Longford County Council continues to :

- Incorporate Climate Action in to all its services.
- Maintain and increase the awareness of the need for Climate Action
- Aid communities through grants and by leading by example.

With so many immediate national and international crises—climate change has faded into the background for many. It is not that people have stopped caring, but their daily survival needs have temporarily overtaken long-term environmental concerns. The challenge is to recast climate action as the antidote to this chaos, promising a better and brighter future.

This report evaluates the progress made during the second year of the council's five-year climate plan, detailing specific projects, funding allocations, and energy performance metrics.

County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 (Action 27)

Longford County Council adopted the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 on 10 September 2025.

The overall goal of the plan is to protect and enhance biodiversity in County Longford. It contains 60 actions spread over the following thematic areas in the county that includes:

1. Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats.
2. Enhance the knowledge base on habitats and species.
3. Positively promote biodiversity in plans and strategies for the county.
4. Develop training and monitoring programmes to track and protect biodiversity in the county.
5. Promote biodiversity and engagement in County Longford.



The County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan was launched at Edgeworthstown Library on the 25 September 2025.



Photo 1 Launch of County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030

Community Climate Action Fund (Action 34)

In 2025 Longford County Council funded 13 Community Climate Action Programme Phase 1 Projects for a total of €328,000. The communities that received funding are:

- Ballymahon Tidy Towns
- Longford Rugby Club
- Lús na Greine
- Stonepark Community Group
- Co-Worx
- Moyne Latin School Community Centre
- Drumlish Ballinamuck Area Development group
- Dromard GAA
- Rathcline GAA
- Abbeyshrute Tidy Villages Association
- EDI Centre
- Longford Athletics Club
- Clonguish GAA

Longford County Council funded one community project under Strand 1a which was a Shared Island project with a community group from Northern Ireland. The grant amounted to €61,000 and the communities that received the funding are:

- Ardagh Community Centre
- Strabane and District Young Farmers Club

Applications for Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme fund closed on 22 December 2025 and 17 projects to the value of €328,000 have been recommended to the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment and POBAL. Approval is expected in Q2 2026.



Photo 2 Solar PV on the roof of Longford Athletics Club.

Housing (Action 15)

In 2025 Longford County Council added 20 houses to its social housing stock. New houses continue to be constructed to BER A standard. Examples include the eight new houses constructed at Forthill, Aghnacliff.

Under the National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, the Housing Department completed works on 51 housing units at various locations throughout the county.

The council also secured €396,000 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which was used to restore 36 void properties. A further 20 empty properties had pre-letting repair work completed. This work included many energy efficiency measures.



Photo 3 New local authority houses at Forthill, Aghnacliff.



Photo 4 Newly energy retrofitted houses at Abbeycartron Lane.

Vacant Property Refurbishments Grant (Action 34)

The Vacant Homes Unit operates as part of a coordinated approach with the Town Centre First team to address vacancy and dereliction across the county.

This work supports the reactivation of existing housing stock, promotes sustainable use of the built environment, and contributes to wider housing delivery and climate action objectives by reducing reliance on new build development.

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant provides funding of up to €50,000 for vacant properties and up to €70,000 for derelict properties. The scheme applies to properties built up to 2007 and supports their refurbishment for use as a principal private residence or rental property. To date, the scheme continues to support the return of vacant and derelict properties to active use, contributing to housing supply and regeneration objectives.

In 2025 the Vacant Homes Unit processed 255 valid applications for the grant of which 182 have been approved.



Photos 5 & 6 Vacant Property Refurbishment

Climate Adaptation and Resilience projects (Action 21)



Photos 7 & 8 Ringowney Lane, before and during construction.

The existing public road edge on Ringowney Lane had been eroded by regular flash flooding by the river along the road edge. 400m of the roadway was impacted. Two potential options to rectify this were considered,

- Option 1 being to pipe the drain which would be extremely expensive and would impact on fish life in the river.
- Option 2 was to move the road away from the river and strengthen the riverbank to prevent future erosion.

Option 2 was chosen following consultation with the adjoining landowners on the grounds that this solution was more environmentally friendly.

The total cost of the project was €130,000.

A further €167,000 was allocated to smaller schemes at Foygh, Clooneen, Bracklin Road and Cloontirm.

Warm Mix Macadam (Action 20)



Photo 9 Laying warm mix macadam in North Longford

Warm mix macadam relates to climate action by reducing the energy consumption and environmental impact of road construction. By allowing macadam to be produced and laid at temperatures 20–40°C lower than traditional hot mix macadam, warm mix macadam reduces fossil fuel usage, lowers greenhouse gas emissions and reduces air pollutants.

In 2025 Longford County Council used 29,394 tonnes of macadam on road projects throughout the county, 40% of the macadam was “warm mix”. This greatly exceeded the 25% target set by the Department of Transportation for 2025.

Using warm mix macadam saves 9 kg of CO₂/tonne. This means that in the 2025 Roads Programme Longford County Council saved 106 tonnes of CO₂ by substituting hot mix with warm mix.

Green procurement is now a feature of all tenders for the supply of road materials.

Road Recycling (Action 45)



Photo 10 Road Recycling at Cloughernal, North Longford MD.

Road recycling is a sustainable construction process that pulverises damaged, existing road pavement and mixes it with binding agents (like bitumen emulsion) to create a new, durable road base on-site. This technique reduces the need for new materials, cuts down on waste disposal, lowers transport emissions, and saves up to 45% in costs compared to traditional reconstruction.

In 2025 Longford County Council used this process to restore 3.5 km of local roadways – 2 projects were in the Mid Longford Municipal District (MD) and five projects in North Longford MD.

Longford County Council Bridge Remediation Works 2025 (Action 21)

Bridge rehabilitation is directly related to climate action through both **adaptation** (strengthening infrastructure against climate-related damage) and **mitigation** (less carbon emissions associated with rehabilitation than replacement at a future date). As climate change causes more frequent flooding leading to structural decay, rehabilitating existing bridges is more cost-effective and environmentally friendly than building new ones.



Photo 11 Kilnacarrow Bridge after rehabilitation works in 2025

Longford County Council completed works on seven bridges in the county in 2025. These bridges comprise of one composite, one clapper and five masonry arch bridges on local roads around the county. The nature of the works include, but are not limited to the following: reconstruction of masonry elements, allowing fencing to tie into masonry parapets, repointing of masonry elements, replacement of soft verges with concrete rubbing strips, removal of vegetation and removal of debris from the riverbed. The bridges repaired were:

- Esker Old Hall Bridge (Masonry Stone Arch)
- Killnacarrow Bridge (Masonry Stone Arch)
- Monascallaghan Bridge (Composite Bridge)
- Kiltycreavagh Bridge (Clapper)
- Castlebaun Bridge (Masonry Stone Arch)
- Cloonshannagh Bridge (Masonry Stone Arch)
- Drumlougher Bridge (Masonry Stone Arch)

A total of €463,000 was spent on bridge rehabilitation in 2025.

Public Lighting (Action 24)

Upgrading public lighting to LED (Light Emitting Diode) technology acts as a powerful catalyst for climate action by reducing energy consumption, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and decreasing maintenance waste.



Photo 12 Upgraded public lighting at Pauric Colum Heights showing new cabling.

Longford County Council has approximately 6,000 public lights in the county. As of the end of 2025, 86% have been upgraded to LEDs.

Recent upgrade works have become very expensive as ESB networks now require the replacement of existing cables and other electrical modifications to bring the public lighting up to modern standards. This will significantly slow the rate of upgrade going forward.

Public lighting accounts for 24% of Longford County Council's energy usage and 26% of its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. This 86% upgrade is a major factor in the council's energy and GHG reductions to date.

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) (Action 25)



Photo 13 Filling County Council truck with HVO at Corrigan's EMO filling station, Moyne.

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is considered a key tool for climate action because it offers a renewable, low-carbon alternative to traditional diesel. It can reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90% while requiring no modifications to existing diesel engines or infrastructure.

Longford County Council started using HVO in 2025 in the North Longford MD. The council purchased and used 8,461 litres which represents 4.6% of 2025 fleet diesel purchases.

As more filling stations around the county start to provide HVO the council's usage will increase. Substituting HVO for diesel will help Longford County Council reach its 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 51%.

Electric Vehicles (Action 25)

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are better for the environment because they produce zero tailpipe emissions, reducing greenhouse gases and improving air quality in cities. Even when charging from a grid that uses fossil fuels, EVs are more efficient and generate lower overall emissions per kilometre than petrol/diesel vehicles.



Photo 14 New electric vehicles

In 2025, Longford County Council added two new EVs to its fleet bringing the total to three. This represents an incremental but important step in fleet decarbonisation.

The two vehicles shown above are used by Longford Town Community Warden and North Longford Litter Warden.

Range is a key factor in determining the extent of EV integration across the fleet. As EV range evolves, their role within the fleet is expected to grow.

EV Chargers (Action 16)

The provision of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure is essential for combating climate change because it directly enables the widespread adoption of electric vehicles, replacing internal combustion engines that rely on fossil fuels.



Photo 15 EV charging points in Granard

The Eir/EasyGo/Longford County Council project has installed EV chargers in all the major towns in the county.

The final installation in Granard was completed in Q2 with 2no. 50KW and 2no. 22KW charging points. Under the project 50-75KW charging points have been installed at the following locations: Longford Library, Ballymahon St. Carpark-Longford, Riverside Carpark-Ballymahon, Lanesborough Carpark.

EasyGo, has also installed charging points at the new Connaught Road housing development in Longford town, at the COWORX hub in Edgeworthstown and at Aras an Chontae.

ESB eCars has 50KW charging points at Texaco filling station, Dublin Road-Longford and 22KW charging points at Church St, Market Square and Longford train station. They also have 22KW chargers on Main St-Ballymahon and at Edgeworthstown train station.

Lidl has installed 2no. 50KW chargers at their stores in Longford and Ballymahon. ePower has installed 4no. 200KW chargers at the Longford Axis Centre and there are plans for 12no. high powered Tesla chargers at this location.

The roll out of EV charging infrastructure is rapidly gathering pace in line with the increasing numbers of EVs on our roads.

Active Travel (Action 13)

Active travel concentrates primarily on walking and cycling, and is a vital climate action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions by replacing short car journeys with sustainable, zero-emission modes. It directly supports climate goals by cutting transport-related carbon emissions, alleviating traffic congestion, improving air quality, and promoting healthier, more sustainable communities.

June 2025 marked the official opening of the €3.5 million Battery Road Active Travel Scheme, a 1.3 km segregated pedestrian-cycle route connecting Longford Town to the N4 Axis Centre. Delivered under the National Pathfinder Programme, the scheme includes Ireland's first coloured cast-in-situ separator kerbs, signalised junction upgrades, and comprehensive traffic calming. It was praised nationally as a blueprint for rural sustainable transport and is already improving safety and accessibility for schoolchildren, commuters and residents.



Photo 16 Official opening of Battery Road Active Travel Scheme 17 June 2025

Other schemes in 2025 include:

- Raised crossing and school safety measures at Clondra, Keenagh, Drumlish, Clontumpher, Melview and Legan.
- Aghafad pedestrian and cycle link.
- Link road and active travel route in Granard.
- Trail enhancement works at Leebeen Park and Newcastle Woods.
- Monduff to Gaique Cross pedestrian and cycle link.

Connolly Barracks, Longford (Action 14)

Restoring historic buildings preserves heritage and boosts economic revitalisation. It is also crucial for climate action because it **avoids the massive carbon emissions** generated by demolishing structures and manufacturing new construction materials.



Connolly Barracks Proposal

The main Connolly Barracks building in Longford town was completed in 1815 and was in military use until 2009. The barracks was purchased by Longford County Council in 2012 and needs major refurbishment.

In 2025, the Regeneration/Town First teams secured €7 million “Thrive” funding to commence restoration work.

Robin Lee Architecture has been appointed to lead a multidisciplinary design team which also includes:

- Martin Peters Associates (MPA) Consulting Engineers (Civil and Structural Engineers)
- Nolan Construction Consultants (Quantity Surveyor)
- Delap and Waller (M&E Building Services Engineer /Sustainability Consultant)

Work is expected to commence in Q3 of 2026.

Orchard in Albert Reynolds Peace Park (Action 28)

Sports Partnership funded the installation of an edible orchard in the Albert Reynold Peace Park through the "Sports Ireland Participation Nation" programme. The orchard contains 81 fruit trees, mainly apples, pears and plums. There is also an assortment of currant and gooseberry bushes.

This project demonstrates that food can be produced locally and the benefits of locally grown organic produce. It also enhances the tree count in the park with consequential benefits for biodiversity.

The cost of the project was €15,000.



Photo 17 Edible Orchard installed at the Albert Reynolds Peace Park.

Cycle Right Programme (Action 13)

Another significant project promoted by Sports Partnership is the “Cycle Right” programme. In 2025, 22 primary school groups took part in the eight-week “Cycle Right” programme which teaches children to cycle. A total of 481 primary school students were involved. Teaching children to cycle directly mitigates **climate change** by promoting a zero-emission mode of transport that reduces reliance on fossil-fuel powered vehicles.



Photo 18 Sports Partnership cycle event along the Royal Canal

There are 42km of cycle paths along the Royal Canal in County Longford. This represents a significant but under-utilised sustainable tourism asset.

Longford Town Allotments Project (Action 33)

Community gardens and allotments support climate action, enhance urban biodiversity and create essential green spaces for residents living in high density accommodation. They provide a social space and facilitate a link between urban and rural.

In 2025, Longford County Council secured funding of €40,000 from the Housing Finance Agency Social Fund to develop a 0.6 Ha Allotments site in Aghadegnan, on the outskirts of Longford town.

Work commenced in Q4, 2025 to clear the site of scrub vegetation, undertake some enabling works and to import topsoil. With assistance from Longford Community Resources CLG, a community group has been established to take on responsibility to manage the site going forward. A landscape architect has also been engaged to help design a layout for the site.



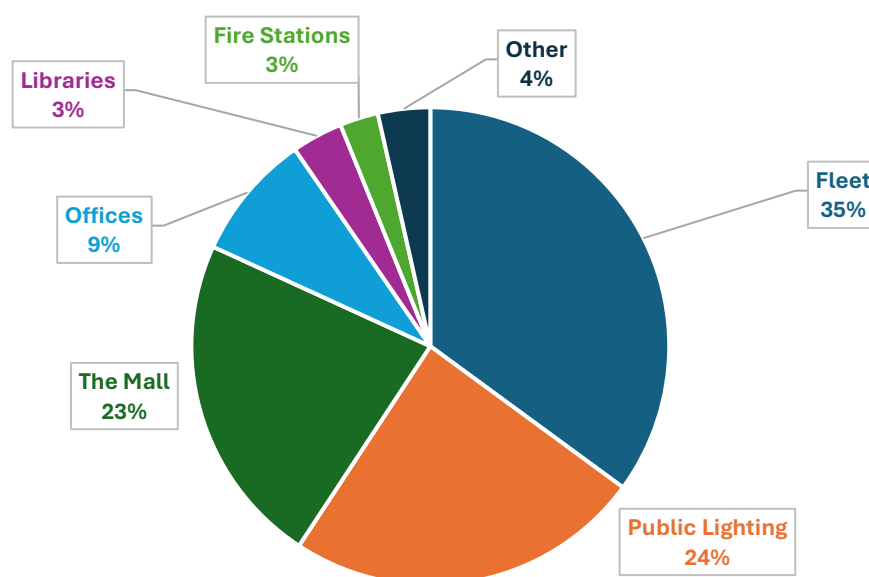
Photo 19 Aghadegnan community garden and allotments site in early 2026

Longford County Council Energy 2025 (Action 26)

Longford County Council has implemented an internal energy management system which closely tracks energy usage.

In 2025, the council's energy usage increased 2.3% on 2024, though GHG emissions reduced by 4.3%. The reduction in GHG emissions was due to the use of HVO, public lighting upgrades and increased use of biomass to heat the Mall Leisure Centre.

Total 2025 Energy Consumption per SEU



	Consumption (kWh)	Percentage kWh (%)	Cost (€)	Carbon (Kg CO ₂ e)
Fleet	2,419,617	35.9	377,067	643,248
Public Lighting	1,784,338	24.8	458,511	347,854
The Mall	1,663,991	23.1	156,347	64,860
Offices	632,232	8.8	129,186	138,366
Libraries	254,904	3.5	61,313	56,816
Fire Stations	191,815	2.7	27,297	46,474
Other	94,279	1.3	93,543	20,947
Total	7,207,486	100.0	1,288,064	1,318,566

In 2025 Longford County Council, using SEAI's Pathfinder Programme, appointed Kenny Lyons Associates to lead a multidisciplinary design team to retrofit and decarbonise Aras an Chontae. Work is expected to start in Q3 of 2026.

Public Engagements (Action 33)

The Climate Action and Biodiversity Team participated in many public awareness engagements during 2025. Examples include:

- Climate Action Course for Over 55s
- Reuse and Repair workshop
- LCRL Community Engagement programme
- Biodiversity Summer School
- World Africa Day
- Pollinator Friendly Planting workshop
- Dreamspace
- Regular public engagements in conjunction with Longford Libraries.

The team also organised Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) training for staff in technical and planning roles.

One very successful event was the Christmas Toy Swap, held in the Temperance Hall on 28 November 2025.



Photo 20 Toy Swap at Temperance Hall 28 November 2025

Information Technology (Action 47)

The IT section continues to improve the resilience of Longford County Council's computer network to ensure that it is "climate proof". In 2025 they installed a new energy efficient Un-interrupted Power Supply (UPS) Unit to guard against power outages.

The section also facilitated the STEM passport for inclusion programme at remote working hubs whereby lecturers could deliver QQa level 6 courses directly to students saving on transport and accommodation costs.

Community (Action 34)

In 2025, the LEADER Programme supported several communities and businesses to implement projects aimed at reducing energy use and addressing climate change at local level with grants totalling over €361,000 for five projects listed below:

Ballinamuck Enhancement	Christmas Lights
Drumlsh Christmas Lights	Christmas Lights
Lus na Greine Family Resource Centre	Sustainable Community Garden
Ethical Tours Ltd.	Sustainable energy efficient building
Templemichael Parish Resources Clg	Templemichael hall refurbishment works

Enterprise (Action 42)

The Local Enterprise Office provided 40no. "Green for Business" grants in 2025. As a result of the energy audits undertaken with these grants a further 27no. Energy Efficiency grants were awarded.

The Local Enterprise Office commenced a feasibility study on the development of a circular economy centre of excellence for Longford town.

Green Procurement (Action 44)

In 2025, green procurement was rolled out across all sections of Longford County Council.

Libraries (Action 33)

Longford Libraries, in partnership with Age Friendly Ireland organised a six-part climate action course for over 55s. The facilitator was Ms Jacinta Barrins who was supported by Longford County Council's Climate Team and LAWPRO.

The Libraries also supported a number of other initiatives such as Radon monitoring programme, birding backpacks, storm packs and a number of workshops under the Sustainable Lifestyles and Environmental Awareness theme.

Conclusion

The County Longford Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 Progress Review 2025 demonstrates a year of significant momentum and practical achievement. By successfully integrating climate considerations into core municipal services—from infrastructure and housing to community engagement and biodiversity—Longford County Council has moved beyond planning into active implementation.

Key highlights from 2025 include:

- **Infrastructure & Energy:**
Surpassing national targets by using 40% warm mix macadam for roads, upgrading 86% of public lighting to LED, and beginning the transition to low-carbon fuels like HVO and electric vehicles.
- **Built Environment:**
Advancing the decarbonisation of social housing and historic structures, notably securing €7 million for the restoration of Connolly Barracks and retrofitting 51 housing units.
- **Community & Nature:**
Funding over €328,000 in community climate projects, adopting a comprehensive Biodiversity Action Plan, and launching initiatives like the Longford Town Allotments and the edible orchard at Albert Reynolds Peace Park.

While global crises may temporarily shift public focus, this review confirms that climate action remains a central pillar of Longford's future. The progress made in 2025 establishes a solid foundation for the remaining years of the plan, ensuring the county remains on track to meet its 2030 emission reduction targets and build a more resilient, sustainable community for all.

LACAP progress on actions

5.2.1 Governance and Leadership

Strategic Goal: To integrate climate change considerations into all the functions and activities of Longford County Council.

Action and <i>Action Type</i>		
1	Longford County Council is fully committed to effectively resource climate action. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council maintained its Climate Team in 2025. Progress with respect to Climate Actions in the plan are discussed below.
2	Longford County Council will ensure that climate action is a recurrent standing item on the agenda at County Council, Council Management Team, and relevant Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meetings. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	Climate Action remains a standing item on both Senior Management Team and SPC meetings,

3	Longford County Council will maintain an active liaison and collaboration with the Eastern and Midlands CARO and adjoining Local Authorities. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	Through the Midland Energy Agency, Longford County Council has continued to pursue SEAI Pathfinder funding to retrofit Aras an Chontae and the Camlin Court office block. Kenny Lyons Associates were appointed in 2025 to lead a multidisciplinary design team to retrofit Aras an Chontae. Retrofit work is scheduled for Q3 2026. Longford County Council continues to work closely with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).
4	Longford County Council will align its Climate Policies to the National Climate Policy and the UN Sustainability Goals. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	The Climate Action Plan adopted in 2024 is fully aligned with the UN Sustainability Goals. Preparation of the Biodiversity Plan was completed in September 2025. Climate Action was also embedded in the new Corporate Plan which was adopted after the election of the new council in June 2024. The specific objective to "Place climate action, biodiversity and environment at the heart of local decision making" is listed under the strategic objective "Our Place".
5	Longford County Council fully commits to Climate Action Training for all staff and elected representatives. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	Climate Action training for staff stalled in 2024 after the successful roll out of training in 2022 and 2023. 15 Councillors (84%) of the elected members and 19 senior staff members attended the "Championing Leadership" training in 2022. The Raising Awareness module was completed by 220 (67%) of all staff by the end of 2025.

6	Longford County Council is fully committed to the inclusion of all employees in climate action initiatives. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	From 2024, new employees are now required to undertake the climate action "Raising Awareness" module as part of their induction.
7	Longford County Council will ensure that climate action policy is translated into all functional plans, strategies, and projects throughout Longford County Council. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	All plans produced by Longford County Council are now climate-proofed.
8	Longford County Council commits to implementation, monitoring and progress reporting on its climate actions. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	Currently Longford County Council reports on climate action KPIs to the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and also reports annually to SEAI on energy usage and carbon emissions. This report is the second annual review of progress in climate action since the Climate Action Plan was adopted in February 2024.

9	Longford County Council will lead by example. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council is engaged in Climate Action through all of its services. Most notably through the Housing Retrofit Programme, Active Travel, Public Lighting Upgrade and the Pathfinder decarbonisation programme. In addition, the council administers several community grants programmes which have climate action requirements. In 2025, the Climate Action Team continued outreach programmes with communities and the business & agricultural sectors on the importance of climate action.
10	Longford County Council will ensure its Major Emergency Plan (MEP) and Local Emergency Plans (LEP) will strongly take the effects of climate change into account. <i>Adaptation</i>	Longford County Council's Major Emergency Plan, Severe Weather Plan and the Flood Response Plan are climate-proofed. The Plans are regularly updated when new information is presented. There is regular training for all emergency services staff. In addition, ongoing training on major incident management is provided to all council staff responsible for control of operations, information management and media liaison.
11	Longford County Council will promote smarter working practices through remote working and use of technology. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	MS Teams has been rolled out across Longford County Council. This facilitates remote working and also cuts down on the number of in-person meetings required by many of the council's undertakings. Blended working is available to staff with a maximum of two days per week remote working allowed. In 2025, 176 members of staff are approved for blended working though few avail of the maximum allowed.

5.2.2 Built Environment and Transport

Strategic Goal: To increase the climate resilience of infrastructural assets and to ensure that climate change informs Longford County Council's service provision.

Objective 1: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of renewable energy and increase energy efficiency throughout the council's housing, offices infrastructure and transport fleet In line with the national 2030 and 2050 targets.

Objective 2: To champion sustainable development throughout the county.

Objective 3: To promote a 'modal shift' towards sustainable transport.

Action and <i>Action Type</i>		
12	Longford County Council will incorporate climate action initiatives into all future urban regeneration projects. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	"Longford 2040 - a Town Centre First Strategy" was developed in 2024. Longford 2040 envisions "A sustainable town that prioritises climate change adaptation and the regeneration of public spaces and town centre living". Climate change considerations are deeply embedded in the strategy. A similar plan for Granard is being developed.

13	Longford County Council will positively promote active travel and sustainable smart mobility, increase, and improve Local Link travel. <i>Mitigation</i>	Work was completed on the Battery Road, Longford and on a stretch between Market Street and Barrack Lane in Granard. The link between Monaduff and Gaigue Cross was also completed. It is now possible to cycle between Drumlish and Ballinamuck on a dedicated cycle path. Work commenced on active travel scheme on Park Road, Longford. Planning for cycle lanes on the Athlone Road and Phase 2 of the Battery Road in Longford were advanced in 2025.
14	Longford County Council will actively work to protect built heritage. <i>Adaptation</i>	Longford County Council secured €7 million funding to rehabilitate Connolly Barracks, Longford. A design team has been appointed and work is scheduled to commence in 2026.

15	Longford County Council will energy retrofit its social housing and construct new houses to a Building Energy Rating (BER) A standard. <i>Mitigation</i>	In 2025, Longford County Council completed 11 new housing units to BER A rating and the retrofit programme completed 36 houses.
16	Longford County Council will provide EV charging infrastructure at its offices and libraries and will facilitate its installation around the County. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council joined with counties Laois, Offaly, Westmeath and Roscommon to develop an EV charging strategy in 2024. The development of the strategy is being supported by Zero Emissions Vehicle Ireland (ZEVl). It is anticipated that the strategy will be complete by Q2 2026. Longford County Council entered into agreement with Eir and Easy Go to install 50kw chargers in the main towns within the county. By the end of 2024. this project has completed charging stations in Ballymahon, Lanesborough and Longford. The final installation in Granard was completed in Q2 2025. Longford County Council had previously facilitated the installation of a 50kw charger in Edgeworthstown. In addition, the Housing Section also installed 4no. 50kw chargers at their new housing development on Connaught Road, Longford. There are now 17no. 50kw and 4no. 22kw chargers provided by Longford County Council in the county . Private providers have installed a further 4no. 200KW, 6no. 50kw and 10no. 22kw public access charging points as of the end of 2025. Tesla is constructing 12no. 150KW charging points at the Axis Centre, Longford which are due to be commissioned in Q2, 2026.

17	Longford County Council, through the planning process will condition the provision of EV charging infrastructure in all large scale and domestic developments. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council conditions the provision of ducting and cabling for EV charging on all commercial and housing developments that were granted planning permission in 2025. Longford County Council is also using the planning process to encourage private developers to use Nature Based Solutions when design estate drainage and other features. In addition to granting permission Longford Council has building regulations inspection programme and also undertakes planning enforcement where granted conditions are not complied with.
18	Longford County Council will improve urban drainage maintenance to prevent flooding and where applicable, nature based solutions will be used. <i>Adaptation</i>	In 2025, Longford County Council conducted essential repairs on an old reservoir at Lisfarrell to prevent flooding. It supported Longford Tidy Towns with a feasibility study on the future of the weir on the Camlin River in Longford town.
19	Longford County Council will develop a programme for the protection of critical infrastructure. <i>Adaptation</i>	Longford County Council has surveyed over 400 road bridges in the county. They range from large culverts to arch masonry bridges. An annual remediation programme is in place to repair and maintain the bridges. In 2025, seven bridges were repaired for a total cost of €463,000. A similar allocation has been made to continue the work in 2026.

20	Longford County Council will actively collaborate with state infrastructure providers in preparation for climate change impacts on national strategic infrastructure in the County. <i>Adaptation</i>	In 2025, Longford County Council worked with TII and Uisce Eireann to repair failing embankments on the N55 near Fowlards bridge over the Royal Canal. Uisce Eireann plan to replace watermain on Park Road Longford to facilitate the construction of the new active travel corridor.
21	Longford County Council will be pro-active in integrating climate considerations into the design, planning and construction of all roads, footpaths, bridges, public realm construction and housing projects. <i>Adaptation</i>	As a matter of policy, Longford County Council integrates climate considerations in all infrastructural projects currently underway or being planned.
22	Longford County Council will actively identify roads and streets suitable for road space reallocation. <i>Mitigation</i>	"Longford 2040 - a Town Centre First Strategy" was developed in 2024 which identifies cycleway and pedestrian extensions to link the existing schemes. The proposed extensions include Lower Battery Road and Church Street, Bridge Street to Earl Street, Demense Lane and Lisbrack Road. In addition, there are plans for improving civic spaces in the town and public transport.

23	Longford County Council will increase and invest in climate action measures to make the Dog Control Service more sustainable. <i>Mitigation</i>	In 2024, Longford County Council purchased an electric van for the dog warden and installed an EV charger at the dog pound. In 2025, Energy efficiency upgrade works for the dog pound were completed and installation of 6no. EV charging points commenced.
24	Longford County Council will further invest in the upgrade of all public lighting to be energy efficient and smart. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford has a total of 6,019 public lights. As of the end of 2025, 86% are now energy efficient LEDs.
25	Longford County Council will work to improve the energy efficiency of its trucks, vans, and other vehicles and to replace fossil-fuelled vehicles with low-carbon emission vehicles where practicable. <i>Mitigation</i>	In 2025, North Longford MD started using HVO in some of its vehicles. 5% of the fleet fuel use in 2025 was carbon neutral HVO. It is planned to increase this percentage as more service stations install HVO pumps around the county. Longford County Council continues to track fuel usage closely through quarterly reporting. Two EV vans were added to the fleet in 2025 bringing the total electric vehicles in the fleet to three.

26	Longford County Council will increase energy efficiency of council buildings. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council remains on target to hit its obligation to reduce its energy usage by 50% by 2030. This is reflected in SEAL's Measurement and Review annual report. Energy Improvements in council buildings are ongoing with continuing upgrades to internal lighting, internal awareness programmes and continuous internal energy usage monitoring and reporting. using Energy Elephant and telematics on the council's fleet. The council appointed Kenny Lyons Associates to design energy retrofit works for Aras an Chontae. This work is being funded by SEAL's Pathfinder programme.
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5.2.3 Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure

Strategic Goal: Longford County Council will promote biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions across County Longford.

Objective 1: Promote and protect the environment.

Objective 2: Promote green infrastructure.

Objective 3: Protect and restore peatlands.

Action and <i>Action Type</i>		
27	Longford County Council will pro-actively promote, protect, and preserve our Natural Heritage and Biodiversity. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council Biodiversity Action Plan was adopted by Longford County Council on 10 September 2025. It contains 60 actions spread over 5 thematic areas. Longford County Council continued with its annual invasive species eradication programme: Work continues on treating 295 stands of Japanese Knotweed on national, regional and local road verges. 2025 was year three of a four year contract with Knotweed Ireland Services Ltd. Funding for the national roads is being provided by TII and the remainder from Longford County Council. Expenditure in 2025 was € 39,900. In 2025, the NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Fund supported nine Biodiversity Projects to the value of €96,700.

28	Longford County Council will actively promote green landscaping and nature-based solutions to adapt to the effects of climate change. <i>Adaptation</i>	Longford County Council organised 3 training sessions with Teagasc and landowners on proper hedge-laying in 2025. Climate Action in conjunction with Sports Partnership planted 81 fruit trees as part of an orchard project in the Albert Reynolds Peace Park in Longford town. 200 trees were dispersed to community groups during National Tree Week in Q1 of 2025. The trees comprised a variety of native species.
29	Longford County Council will continue to ensure the promotion of the transition from solid fuel heating to climate friendly alternatives. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council has an environmental inspection programme of fuel retailers to ensure that only smokeless fuels are sold. 10 retailers were inspected in 2025 and fuel samples were taken from two premises for analysis. Longford County Council in conjunction with the DCEE commenced an air quality monitoring project in Longford Town. The project will continue in 2026. The Council continued with its own housing retrofit programme in 2025, replacing fossil-fuel heating systems with air-to-water heat pumps.
30	Longford County Council will engage, support, and collaborate with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the review of biodiversity and habitat conservation strategies. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council opened regular communications with NPWS in 2025 on biodiversity matters. With support from NPWS, Longford Council continued with a barn owl survey and a woodland bats survey for the county in 2025. A grassland survey is planned for 2026.

31	Longford County Council will actively work with its Partners to achieve the objectives of the River Basin Management Programme. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	In conjunction with the EPA, Longford County Council took part in the 2025 River Monitoring Programme, taking 56 water samples from rivers and lakes in the county. This work forms the basis for the EPAs annual report on river quality across the nation. Longford County Council initiated its own catchment monitoring programme for “at risk” catchments. Longford County Council monitors 14 private water supplies and 2 private group water schemes for drinking water quality. In 2025, Longford County Council conducted 78 farm inspections and 11 Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant inspections - all part of the Council's programme to maintain and improve water quality in the rivers and streams in County Longford.
32	Longford County Council will continue planned river channel maintenance and flood alleviation measures. <i>Adaptation</i>	In 2025, Longford County Council repaired an old reservoir at Lisfarrell that was leaking and flooding agricultural land.

5.2.4 Communities, Resilience and Transition

Strategic Goal: Longford County Council will empower communities to become sustainable and resilient through a Just Transition.

Objective 1: Build capacity and readiness in communities to effect transformative climate action.

Objective 2: Ensure that the Emergency Services are equipped to protect communities vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Objective 3: Implement and support Just Transition actions in County Longford.

Action and <i>Action Type</i>		
33	Longford County Council will continue to actively engage, listen to, and collaborate with citizens and key stakeholders on climate actions. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	In 2025, Climate Action took part in engagement activities. Major events are listed below: ▪ Sustainable Energy Communities: Climate Action is engaged with 4no. Sustainable Energy Communities (Drumlish, Granard, Longford and Lanesborough on the development of Energy Master Plans. ▪ Dreamspace: Climate Action had a stand highlighting the Climate Action and Biodiversity to primary school children and teachers. ▪ Heritage Week: The Biodiversity Officer participated in a number of events around the county during Heritage Week. ▪ Biodiversity Week: The Biodiversity Officer participated in a number of events around the county during Biodiversity Week. ▪ Climate Action Week ▪ The Community Climate Action Officer presented to full council in relation to the Community Climate Action Programme. ▪ Hedgerow maintenance training ▪ LAWPRO and Coillte event at Newcastle Woods ▪ Supported OPW bogland walks at Corlea

		▪ Post Primary Tech Awards 2025: Climate Action assisted in the adjudication and presented and prize for the best project with strong Climate Action/Environment elements. ▪ Climate Action Course for Over 55s ▪ Reuse and Repair workshop ▪ Christmas Toy Swap ▪ LCRL Community Engagement programme ▪ Biodiversity Summer School ▪ World Africa Day ▪ Pollinator Friendly Planting workshop ▪ Reduce your Use/Powering Change campaigns
34	Longford County Council will strongly engage and support community climate action initiatives. <i>Adaption and Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council approved 14 projects under the Community Climate Action Programme. All but one of the projects were completed in 2025 The value of the approved projects totalled €328,000. Green Clubs programme in County Longford did not progress in 2025.
35	Longford County Council will work towards a just transition for all by greening the economy in a fair and inclusive way. <i>Adaptation</i>	Longford County Council secured funding to undertake a feasibility study for a Circular Economy Centre of Excellence for Longford Town.

36	Longford County Council will support Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs). <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council continues to support the 4no, SECs in County Longford: ▪ Longford town ▪ Drumlish and Ballinamuck ▪ Granard ▪ Lanesborough
37	Longford County Council will seek solutions to energy poverty. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council installed 6no. Energy Cloud devices as part of a pilot programme in Longford Town. It is planned to expand the project in 2026. Energy Cloud allows local authority tenants avail of free electricity to heat their water tanks on nights when there is overproduction of renewable electricity from wind power. This electricity would otherwise go to waste.
38	Longford County Council will play an active role in supporting and seeking opportunities to promote climate action through the Arts, Culture and Creativity. <i>Adaption and Mitigation</i>	The County Longford Arts Strategy 2023-2028 Goal 2.1 states that "Longford Arts Services will work with all statutory bodies to implement current climate action and carbon mitigation legislation relevant to the arts in County Longford. " The largest festival promoted by the Longford County Council in 2025 was the Longford Lights Festival. 80% of artwork was local and great efforts were made to ensure that sustainable materials were used. For example, the lanterns were made from recyclable materials and are reusable. In general, the Arts and Culture sector in County Longford is moving towards using sustainable materials and is moving away from plastic and other fossil fuel derived materials.

39	Longford County Council will align its climate actions with the Local Economic and Community Plan. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford's Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 was adopted by Longford County Council on the 13/12/2023. The Plan is climate-proofed with a strong emphasis on supporting increased resilience and sustainability. Goal 6 states "<i>A sustainable county with a growing Green Economy, fostering climate action and building on Longford's strengths and resources.</i>"
40	Longford County Council will support remote working hubs. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council continued to support the eight remote working hubs in 2025. In 2025, Longford County Council supported the STEM passport programme whereby lecturers from Maynooth University were able to use the hubs to deliver QQA level 6 courses directly to students.
41	Longford County Council will identify communities vulnerable to climate change risks as part of its major emergency planning. <i>Adaptation</i>	Longford County Council's Major Emergency Plan, Severe Weather Plan and the Flood Response Plan are climate-proofed, taking vulnerable communities into account. The Plans are regularly updated when new information is presented. There is regular training all for emergency services staff. In addition, in 2025, training on major incident management was provided to council staff responsible for control of operations, information management and Media liaison.

42	Longford County Council will support local businesses with climate projects and initiatives. <i>Adaption and Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council supported 40 local businesses with "Green for Business" assistance in 2024. This scheme provides professional assistance to businesses seeking to improve energy efficiency and resilience. Longford County Council also approved 27no. energy efficiency grants to businesses that had used "Green for Business" to identify energy efficiency measures.
43	Longford County Council will support the regional climate change objectives outlined in the Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan (MREP) with reference to relevant projects in the European Just Transition Fund. <i>Adaption and Mitigation</i>	In 2025, Longford County Council Local Enterprise Office appointed Accelerating Change Together (ACT Studio), Ballina to conduct a feasibility study on developing a Circular Economy Centre of Excellence in Longford town. Final report is due in Q2 2026.

5.2.5 Sustainability and Resource Management

Strategic Goal: Longford County Council will play its part in developing an efficient circular economy and establishing sustainable practices.

Objective 1: Support circular economy initiatives in County Longford.

Objective 2: Promote sustainability initiatives in County Longford.

Action and <i>Action Type</i>		
44	Longford County Council will develop, implement, and promote a green procurement policy. <i>Mitigation</i>	In 2025, Longford County Council implemented green procurement across all sections of Longford County Council.
45	Longford County Council will improve its management of its own waste streams. <i>Mitigation</i>	In June 2024, the Climate Action Team produced a report on all the waste streams being used by the council. The report establishes a baseline from which progress can be measured in respect of waste reduction and recycling. As part of the "Powering Change" programme, a major drive on recycling within council offices has been initiated. Regular recording of waste origin, tonnages and recycling rates is underway so that progress can be tracked.

46	Longford County Council will promote the circular economy. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council operates 23 bring banks which recycled 794 tonnes of glass in 2025. Longford County Council has issued grants under the Community Climate Action Fund promoting the Circular Economy. Longford County Council has an annual programme of inspections relating to packaging. Significant packaging producers are obligated to contribute to producer schemes to fund recycling e.g. REPAK.
47	Longford County Council will increase the resilience of its information technology. <i>Adaptation</i>	As part of its programme to increase the resilience of the council's information technology to severe weather and other threats IT upgraded the councils "Un-interrupted Power Supply system in 2025.
48	Longford County Council will investigate onsite renewable energy projects. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council has installed 40 KW of solar PV at the Mall Leisure Centre, Longford Town. It also plans to install PV at Aras an Chontae in 2026.

49	Longford County Council, through the Planning process will condition compliance with the Building Regulations and other climate related government regulations and policies. <i>Adaptation and Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council conditioned compliance in relation to near-zero energy building and the provision of ducting and cabling for EV charging on all commercial and housing developments that were granted planning permission in 2025. In addition to granting planning permission, Longford County Council has a building regulations inspection programme that undertakes planning enforcement where granted conditions are not complied with.
50	Longford County Council will stipulate sustainable urban storm water drainage systems (SUDS) for new developments. <i>Adaptation</i>	Longford County Council continued to stipulate SUDS on all new developments in 2025.
51	Longford County Council will investigate clean energy production developments e.g., anaerobic digestion. <i>Mitigation</i>	In 2023, with the assistance of Just Transition Fund, Longford County Council commissioned a feasibility study on the development of anaerobic digestion and associated circular economic activities. The final report was issued by KPMG in February 2023.

52	Longford County Council will regulate and support the safe production of sustainable local food of animal origin. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council's responsibility in regulation of sustainable local food production of animal origin transferred to the FSAI in 2024.
53	Longford County Council will support and collaborate on local/regional based research and development projects that explore alternative renewable technologies. <i>Mitigation</i>	Longford County Council is supporting Technical University Shannon (Athlone) Living-Labs project targeting our young population and investigating how they interact with a reusable packaging systems.