

A World Leading SFI Research Centre



Emerging Good Practice on Climate Action in Development Plans

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Presentation outline



MaREI project overview

High level findings

Initial insights

Take Home Messages

Project Overview

(C)

Volume One

1 Overview of legislative context in Ireland

Development of a framework to assess current local authority climate mitigation planning in LA Development Plans

High level review of development plans and selection of 'pathfinders

4 Analysis of pathfinder local authorities

Engagement with Local Authority officials involved in the process to obtain practical insights and reflections

Summary of baseline emission inventory methods used to date

Write-up Research Report

Team: Alexandra Revez, Connor McGookin, Mary Venables, Barry O'Dwyer, Brian Ó Gallachóir (PI)



Climate action





Adaptation



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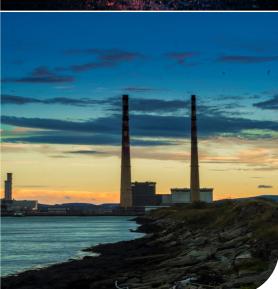
Addressing the impacts of climate change

Mitigation





Reducing, preventing and capturing GHG emissions



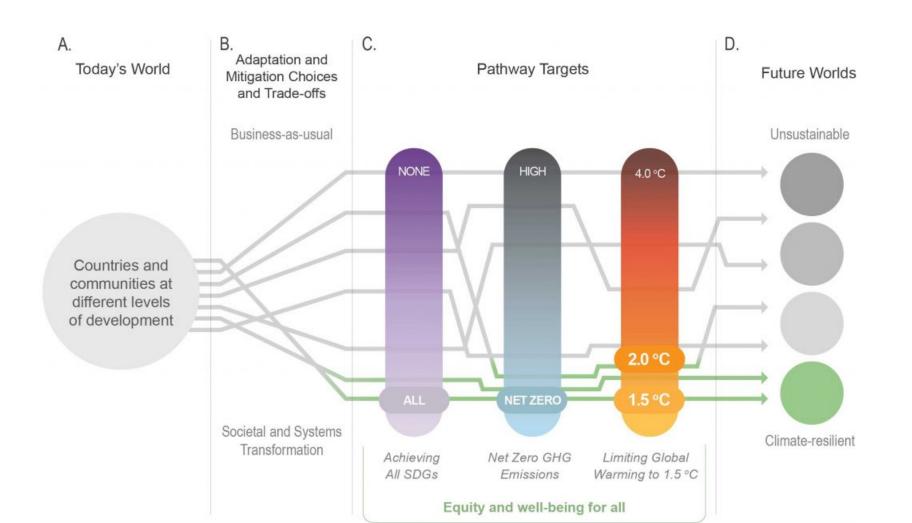
Mitigation: working definition





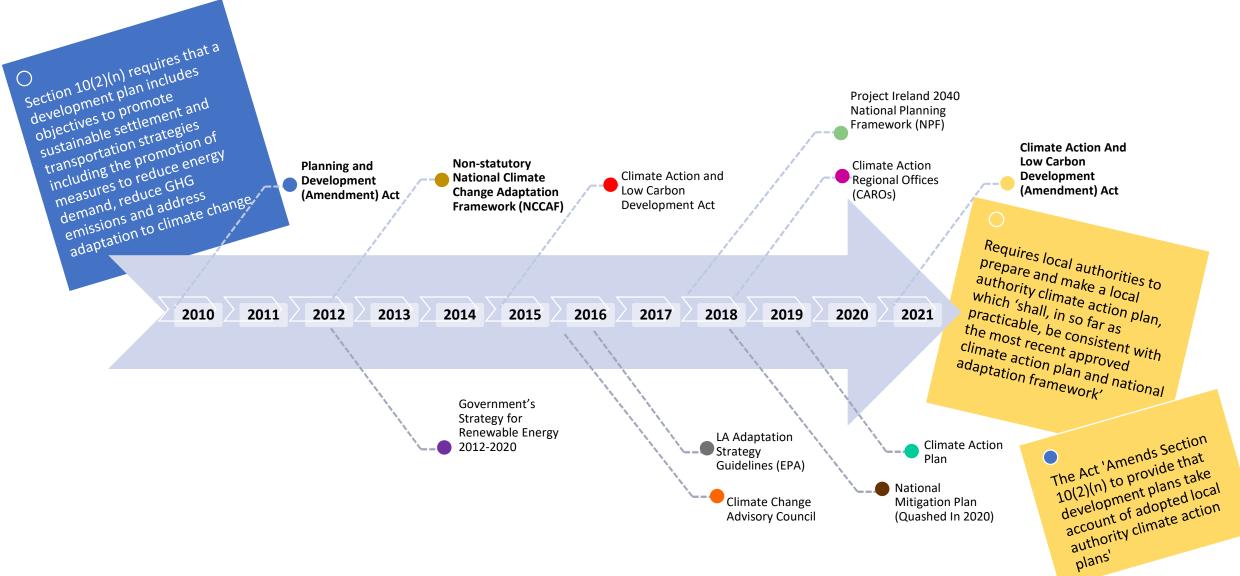
Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C Glossary

'LIMITING GLOBAL WARMING TO 1.5°C REQUIRES RAPID, FAR-REACHING AND UNPRECEDENTED CHANGES IN ALL ASPECTS OF SOCIETY'



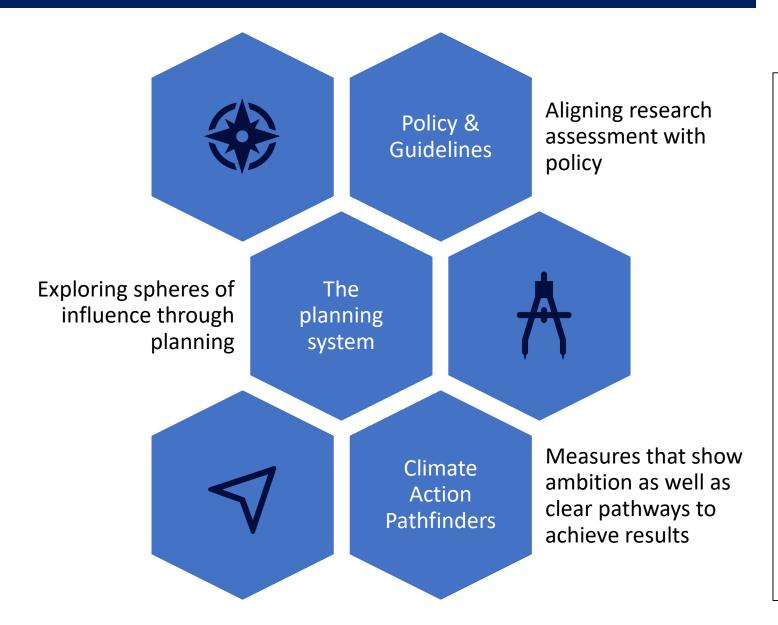
Task 1. Overview of Climate Action Policies





Task 2. Research framework





Complementary work

- The work the OPR is already doing through the review of settlement patterns
- The QGasSP project that will help LAs calculate estimated carbon footprints for future development (https://emra.ie/qgassp/)
- 3. The work the Local Government Management Agency has done on local authorities and climate action
- 4. The development of Ministerial Guidelines for writing Local Authority Climate Action Plans, which will cover methodology for estimating the baseline emissions and other aspects of climate action planning

Task 3.a The Development Plan: a high level review





Figure 2. Word cloud with top 100 words from all 31 development plans

Task 3.b emerging mitigation criteria: an overview



	© Energy	Transport	Economy	Societal	Other
100% of CDPs	Renewable Energy		Broadband Network	Consultation	Green Infrastructure
	Wind Energy	Permeability			
	Energy Efficiency				
> 50% of CDPs	Solar Energy	Modal Shift	Circular Economy	Compact Growth	Peatlands
		Walkability			
	District Heating	Cycling Infrastructure			
		EV Charging Network	Data Centers		Afforestation
< 50% of CDPs	Off-shore wind		Green Public Procurement	Decarbonization Zones	Nature Based Solutions
				Climate Justice	

Task 4. The role of the Local Authority





INDIRECT RESPONSIBILITY

DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY

e.g. own carbon emissions

e.g. granting planning permission

e.g. local leadership

Defining core areas where developments plans have greater influence

Relevance of policies and instruments that can be spatially applied through zoning or policy maps.

Leveraging influence through extended reach of local authorities, including other statutory functions

Championing and supporting the implementation of actions that fall outside the planning system

Task 5.a Engagement process

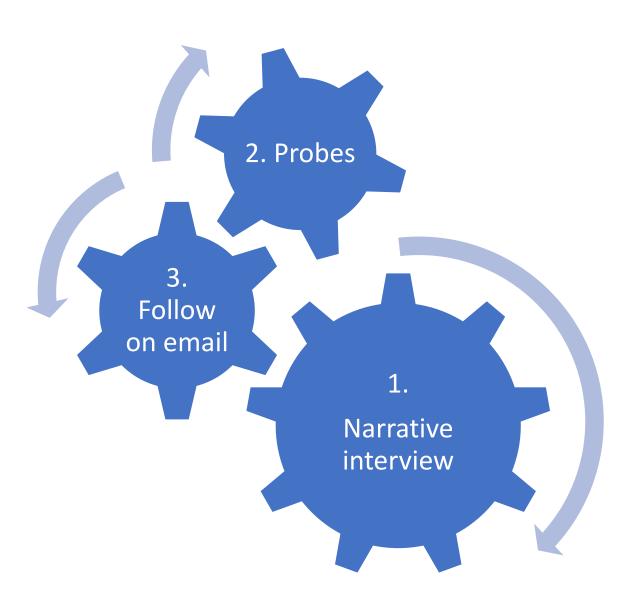


Spoke to:

7 x local authorities, 11 x planners

One single question:

'Please recount your experience, all the events and activities that have been important in the development of the most recent Development Plan, with emphasis on aspects addressing climate mitigation'



Task 5.b Integrating climate action into the CDP



Pathfinders

- Key focus with a dedicated chapter
- Climate impact assessment at end / start of each chapter, or at the end of CDP

Challenges

- Most emissions outside LA remit
- Monitoring important but challenging
- Rapidly evolving national policy

"we decided that after each chapter, at the end of each chapter, we would have this climate audit"

"it's difficult to see how development can have an immediate impact"

Task 5.c Development management



Pathfinders

- Set green / climate standards for new developments
- Manage emerging technologies

"a lot of our development management standards have been informed by climate"

Challenges

- Crossing with national legislation,
 e.g. building regulations
- Enforcement

"in our previous plan, we had brought a requirement in for an energy rating higher than building regs. [...] It was felt as a very positive thing, but there's this reluctance to cross codes"

Task 5.d Renewable energy strategy



Pathfinders

- Evidence-based mapping
- Co-ordinate regionally and nationally
- Understand LAs contribution to national targets

"it's evidence-based, based on what the evidence is telling us, this is where the opportunities are, and also, this is where the constraints are"

Challenges

- Local opposition
- Absence of guidelines
- New technologies emerging
- Distribution and equity issues

"the absence of guidelines nationally is a big issue"

Task 5.e Compact growth



Pathfinders

- Active travel / modal shift
- Co-benefits, for example: reduced commuting and local economic development

"that whole thing around where people live, how they live and how they travel to work is a big thing, and getting jobs locally"

Challenges

- Services not up to scratch
- Needs of rural communities
- Hard to see impact within development plan period

"a lot of our towns and villages do not have services. Those that have, they're probably creaking or not up to the standard"

Task 5.f Take Home Messages



- The role of local authority in climate action has been greatly expanded "What exactly does this mean for the local authority?"
- Development plans need a Climate Action lens
 "Good forward planning has to consider climate change"
- Developing an evidence-base is a vital first step "There's lots of data gaps in terms of what we need, and obviously coming down the line is the local authority climate action plan. There isn't the expertise certainly in our local authority"

Task 6.a Baseline Emissions Inventory



What are the current GHG emissions in your area (not just council emissions)?



12 LAs have already submitted action plans

https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/plans-and-actions/action-plans.html



Task 6.b Baseline Emissions Inventory



Region	Industry	Agriculture	Residential	Services		Tuonanaut
				Commercial	Public	Transport
Kilkenny 2017	population	land area usage	Building Energy Rating (BER)	population	Monitoring & Reporting system	number of vehicles
Tipperary 2017	employee numbers	land area usage	number of households	employee numbers	Not Applicable	number of cars
Dublin City 2016	energy benchmark & floor areas	energy benchmark & land area	Building Energy Rating (BER)	energy benchmark & floor areas	Monitoring & Reporting system	NTA Regional Modelling System
Carlow 2015	population	land area usage	number of households	population		population (public) & number of vehicles
Kerry 2013	fuel spending	land area usage	Building Energy Rating (BER)	energy benchmark & floor areas	Monitoring & Reporting system	number of vehicles







■ data available □ most commonly used

Planned output – Research Report



- Summary of policy and legislative context
- Examples of climate mitigation in LA planning to date
- Insights from interviews with pathfinders
- Providing suggestions for developing, implementing and monitoring climate change mitigation as part of local authority climate action planning

Conclusion



 CDPs must take account of the new Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Good practice identified through review of CDPs

Identification of challenges facing PA's when adopting CDPs

Opportunities for shared learnings between PAs





Energy · Climate · Marine





