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Office of the
Planning Regulator

Energy and Development Plans

Emerging Good Practice

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Plans Evaluation Function



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Responsible for **independently assessing all statutory plans** for consistency with:

- National Planning Framework (NPF) and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES)
- Section 28 Guidelines and SPPR's
- Policy Directives
- Other matters expressed by the Minister
- Section 10(2)(n) of the Act in relation to Climate Change and reduced energy demand



Plans Evaluation and Climate Change



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Section 10(2)(n) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended:

The promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies in urban and rural areas including the promotion of measures to-

- (i) Reduce energy demand in response to the likelihood of increases in energy and other costs due to long-term decline in non-renewable resources,
- (ii) Reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, emissions and address the necessity of adaptation to climate change, taking account of the local authority climate action plan, where such plan has been made for the area in question.

In particular, having regard to **location, layout and design of new development.**



Plans Evaluation and Climate Change

National Planning Framework

NPO 42

- To support, within the context of the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) and its successors, the progressive development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy potential, including domestic and international grid connectivity enhancements.

NPO 54

- Reduce our carbon footprint by integrating climate action into the planning system in support of national targets for climate policy mitigation and adaptation objectives, as well as targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

NPO 55

- Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050.

NPO 64

- Improve air quality and help prevent people being exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution in our urban and rural areas through integrated land use and spatial planning that supports public transport, walking and cycling as more favourable modes of transport to the private car, the promotion of energy efficient buildings and homes, heating systems with zero local emissions, green infrastructure planning and innovative design solutions.



What does this mean?



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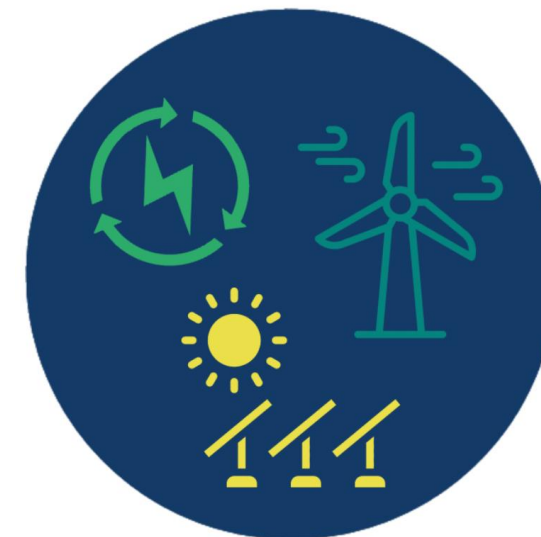
**Compact Growth and
Sequential Development**



**Climate Change Mitigation
and Adaptation Strategy**



**Sustainable
Transport and
Mobility**



**Renewable Energy
Strategy**

Compact Growth and Sequential Development



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Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy



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Sustainable Transport and Mobility



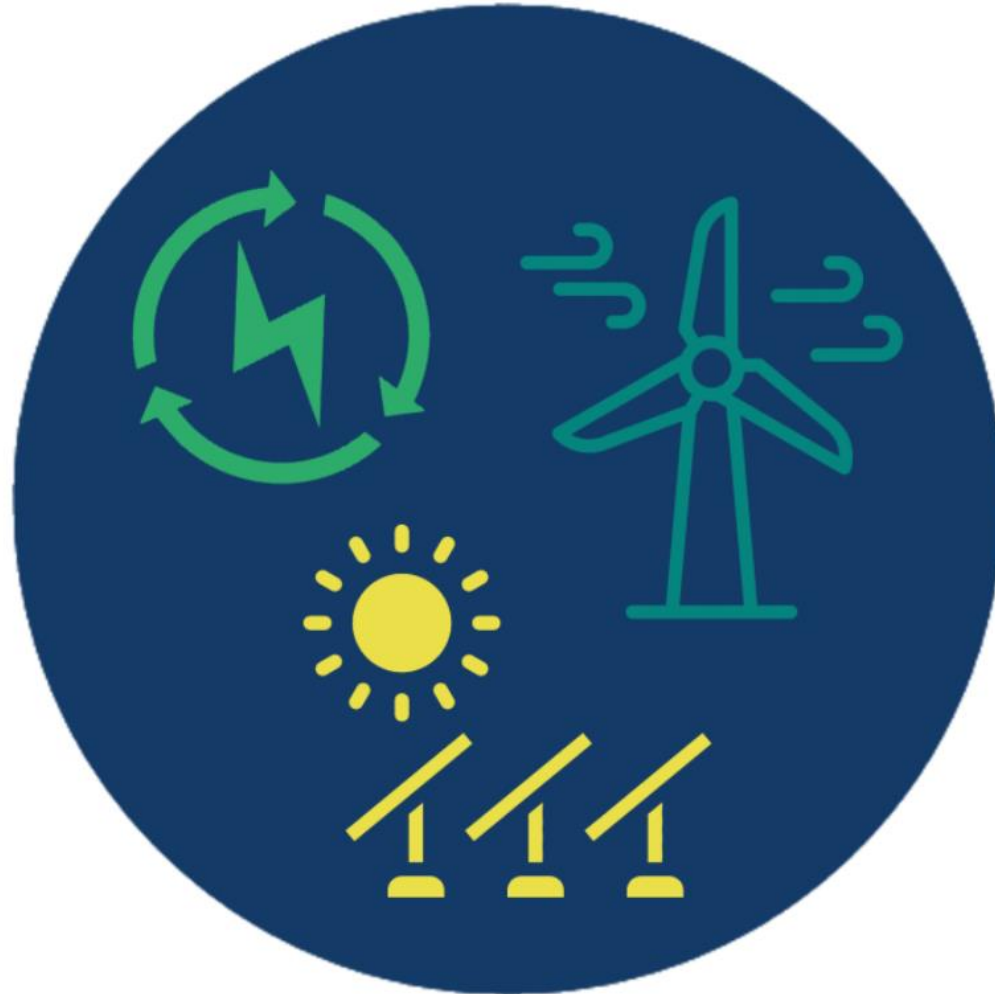
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Renewable Energy Strategy



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Good Practice Examples



South Dublin Development Plan 2022-2028



- Climate action is a cross-cutting and overarching theme.
- A holistic approach to ensuring Climate Action is at the forefront of all future development within the county.
- ‘Climate Positive Objectives’ highlighted with the climate symbol.
- Each chapter has a Climate Action Audit with:
 - an overview of potential sources of GHG emissions, and
 - measures implemented to address same.



Good Practice Examples



7.11 Climate Action Audit



Climate Action Audit

Source of Green House Gases (GHGs)

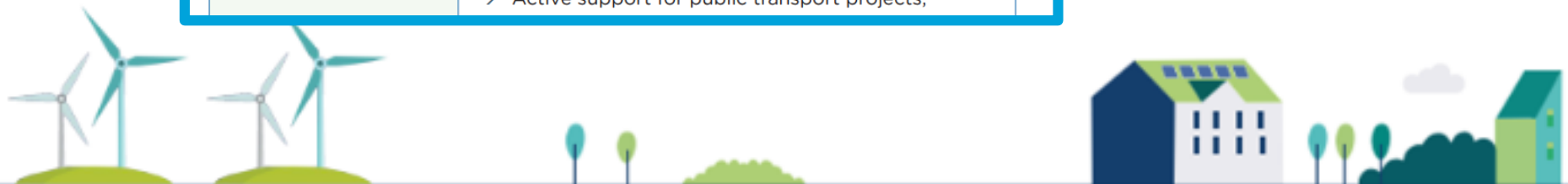
The source of GHGs from **transport** principally arises from:

→ Emissions from engines powered by petrol and diesel.

Measures to Address Climate Impacts

The Development Plan contains policies and objectives which promote measures that have the potential to reduce the climate impact of **transport** by encouraging a shift from private motorised transport to walking, cycling and public transport. Measures to achieve this modal shift include the following:

- Implementing compact growth and sustainable movement and placemaking concepts in the planning and design of new development areas;
- Planning, design and implementation of major walking and cycling networks (for example, *Cycle South Dublin*, Grand Canal and Dodder Greenways);
- Implementation of permeability projects to facilitate active travel and connectivity to public transport;
- Active support for public transport projects;





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In 2028 South Dublin will be a place that our communities are proud of, that our businesses can thrive in and that will help us to live greener and healthier lives.



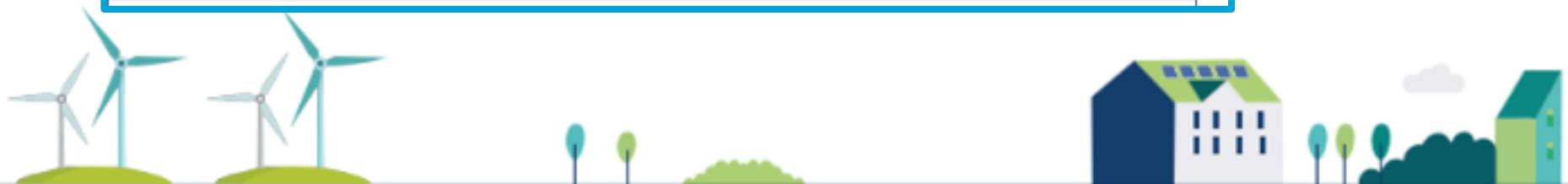
CA1 Objective 3:

To implement the South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 (SDCC CCAP) or superseding plans and to facilitate a just transition to a climate resilient low carbon County (consistent with SO8 of the NPF, RPO 7.32, 7.33 of the RSES).



CS6 Objective 5:

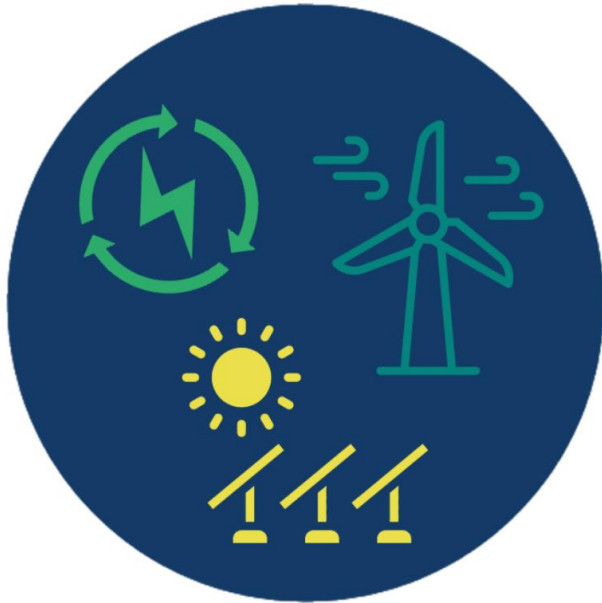
To design future development in a manner that facilitates sustainable travel patterns, with a particular focus on increasing the share of active modes (walking and cycling) and public transport use and creating a safe attractive, universally-accessible street environment for pedestrians and cyclists, where adequate transport links are in place, or will be situated, close to new developments and to existing developments which need them.



Renewable Energy Example- Mayo CDP



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SO 4

Low Carbon and Climate Resilient County

To transition to a low carbon and climate resilient county, by promoting sustainable settlement patterns, the integration of land-use and sustainable modes of transport, encourage walking, cycling and public transport, increasing reliance on green energy sources, encouraging urban and rural communities to facilitate effective change and by building climate change resilience and climate action into all services and functions of Mayo County Council.



REO 23

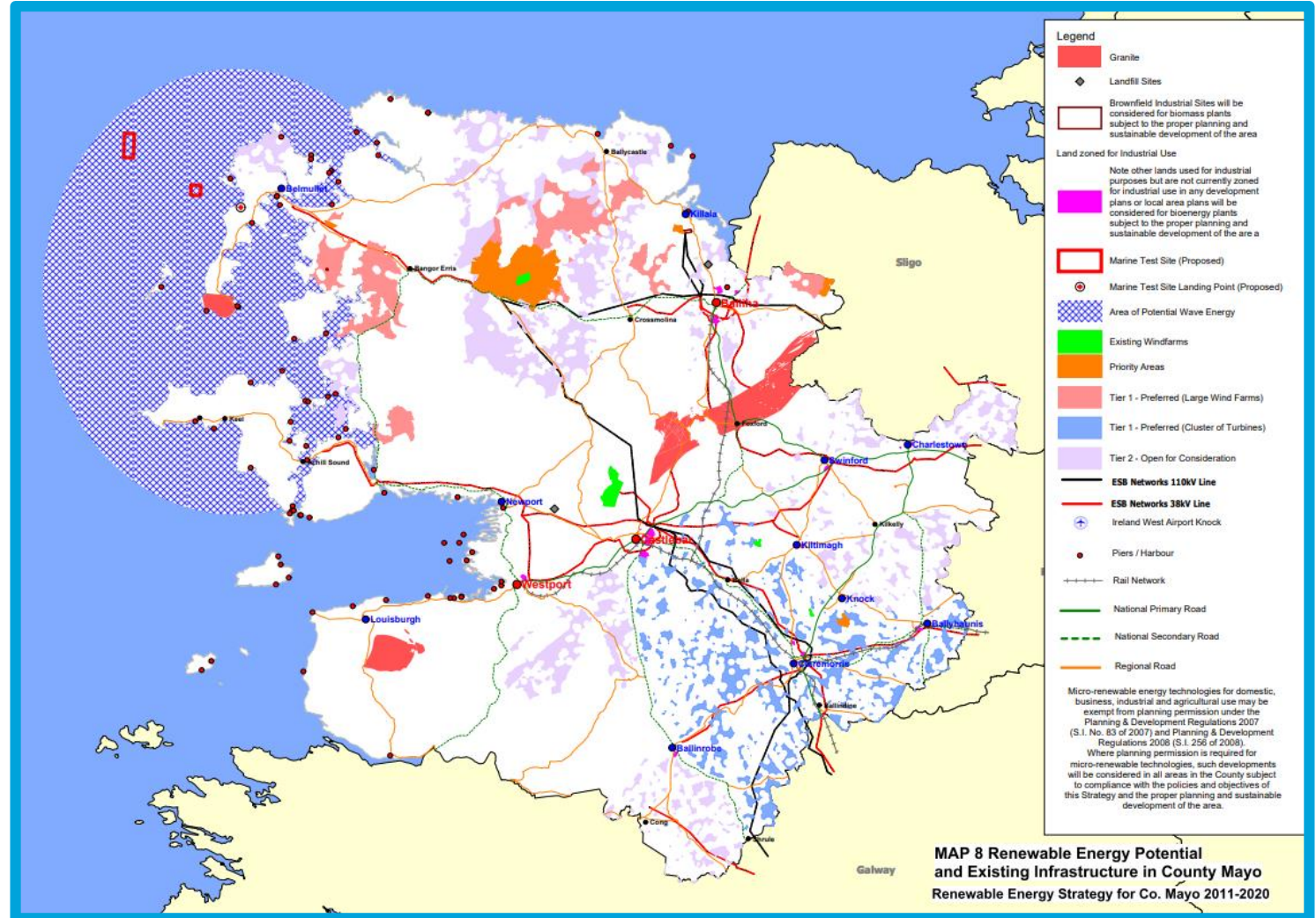
To support and facilitate the achievement of the minimum renewable energy target of 600MW for County Mayo over the plan, and to review/revise this target to ensure consistency with any future renewable energy strategies for the Northern and Western Region.

Renewable Energy Potential- Mayo CDP



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Mayo County
Development Plan



Decarbonisation Zone Example – Laois CDP



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CS 02

Implement all land use planning policy and objectives in a manner which takes account of and is consistent with the Core Strategy in order to accelerate a transition to a greener, low carbon and climate resilient county with a focus on reduced travel demand through the promotion of sustainable settlement patterns.



CA 2

Support and facilitate the creation of a Decarbonisation Zone in the Key Town of Portlaoise.



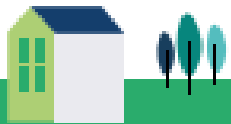
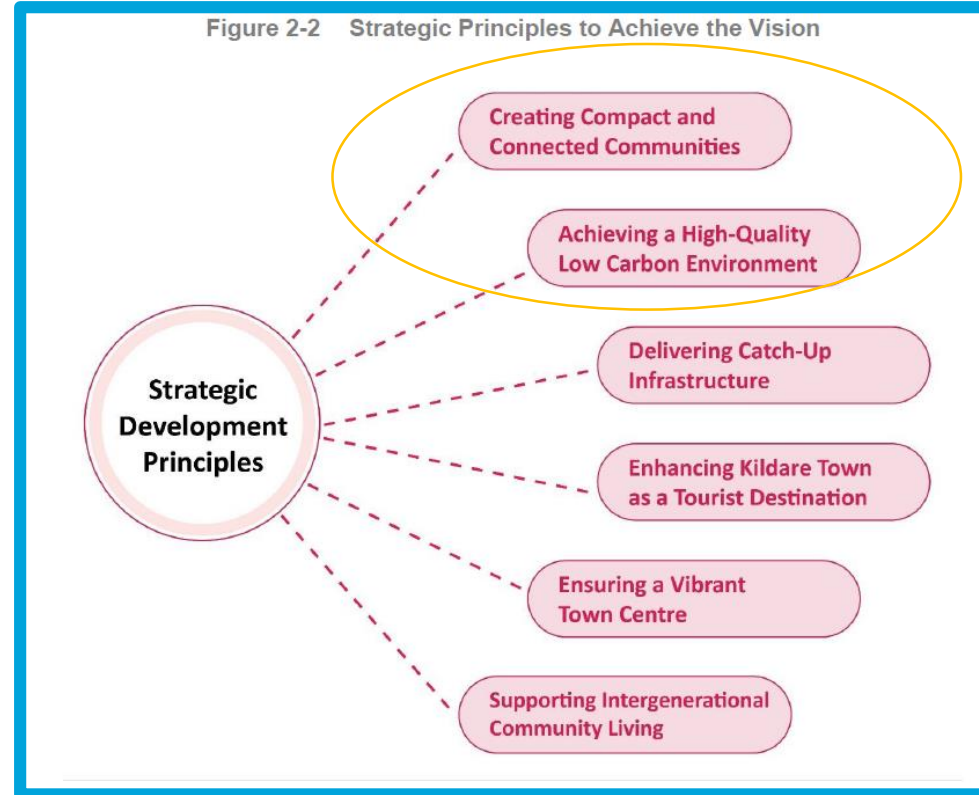
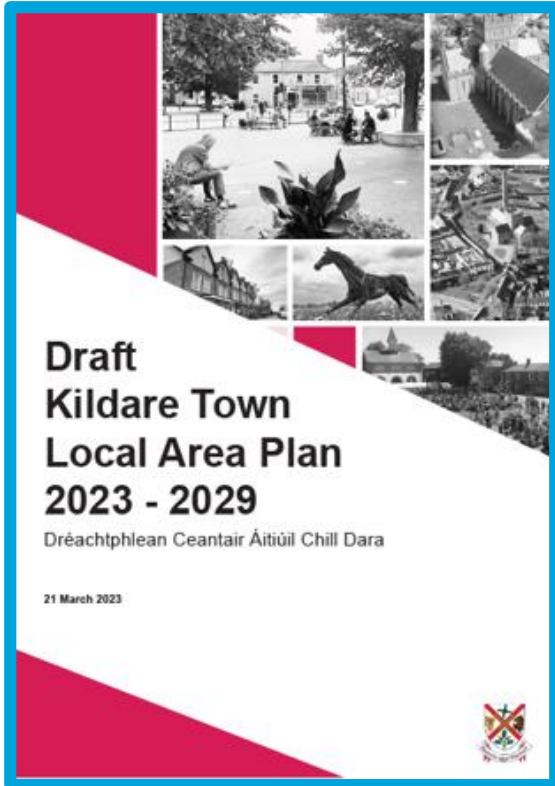
ACTION AREA 2 – Local County Target

Introduce a Decarbonisation Zone¹⁶ within Portlaoise Town which will seek to boost energy efficiency and reduce fossil energy use as this is vital to manage rapidly growing energy consumption in urban areas.

Local Area Plan (LAP) Example



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Positive Features of LAP related to Climate Action






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- Promotes a **town centre first approach** with supporting retail / transport objectives and measures such as a link from outlet centre to town centre. 
- Promotes a **'10-minute settlement'** through its land use approach and sustainable transport measures which include 41 permeability measures and 56 cycling measures. 
- Promotes a more **self-sustaining settlement** with a job ratio of 0.70 and includes an economic development strategy to achieve this. 
- Promotes **green infrastructure** features to enhance identified biodiversity habitats, encourage nature based solutions and increase tree canopy coverage. 



Other Examples

- EV charging and parking standards 
- Objectives and targets for 30 kmh zones 
- Policies facilitating district heating systems e.g DCC 

It is the Policy of Dublin City Council:

CA16

The Dublin District Heating System (DDHS)

To support, encourage and facilitate the development and expansion of any necessary energy infrastructure which will deliver the low carbon Docklands and Poolbeg catchment of the Dublin District Heating System (DDHS) project including, its pipeline infrastructure and its energy centre with energy storage and back-up heat production.





Summary

- Energy is an inter-related topic across all considerations in development.
- Must consider settlement pattern impacts on energy demand and consumption.
- Sustainable Transport essential in reducing energy usage.
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation key consideration in preparation of development plans and local area plans.
- Renewable energy strategies needed to ensure sustainable energy usage.