

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the first time, Dublin's four local authorities have joined together to develop Climate Change Action Plans as a collaborative response to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have, on the Dublin Region and its citizens. While each plan is unique to its functional area, they are unified in their approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and their commitment to lead by example in tackling this global issue.

This Climate Change Action Plan features a range of actions across five key areas - Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions and Resource Management - that collectively address the four targets of this plan:

- A 33% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2020
- A 40% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events
- To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change

In order for Fingal County Council to achieve these targets, this Climate Change Action Plan sets out the current and future climate change impacts and greenhouse gas emission levels in the County, through the development of adaptation and mitigation baselines. It also examines the future impacts that climate change may have on the region and then sets out a first iteration of actions that will be used to reduce the source and effects of these impacts.

The adaptation baseline has identified that the effects of climate change are already impacting the Fingal area at a significant rate and are very likely to increase in their frequency and intensity. Dublin Bay's sea level appears to be rising faster than initially forecasted and has risen by twice the global average in the last 20 years. The number of days with heavy rainfall has also increased, and the amount of extreme flooding events in the County has risen in the last 10 years. Fingal has also experienced extreme temperatures, as witnessed recently in 2018, with Met Éireann issuing its first ever Status Red warning for snow in February, followed by one of the hottest summers on record during June and July. All these extreme weather events clearly highlight the need to reduce the impacts that climate change is having on the environment, the economy and the citizens of Dublin.



The mitigation baseline calculates the greenhouse gas emissions for the Council's own activities and also for the entire Fingal County (including a breakdown of the residential, transport and commercial sectors). It found that Fingal County Council produced 12,620 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2017 and has reduced its emissions by 19% in the last 10 years. In addition, the Council has improved its energy efficiency by 30.3% and is currently on track to meet its 33% energy efficiency target by 2020.

The actions in this plan have been gathered to close the gap between the current baselines and the stated targets, and will be regularly updated and added to on the Dublin Climate Change platform ([www.dublinclimatechange.ie](http://www.dublinclimatechange.ie)). These actions have many co-benefits, such as improved health through cleaner air and active travel, a better environment through habitat protection, and a stronger economy from new markets and job opportunities.

However, given that the Council's buildings, operations and social housing account for less than 2% of the total emissions in Fingal, it highlights the need to tackle the remaining 98% of emissions produced county-wide. In recognising this challenge, Fingal County Council will work with key stakeholders to influence and support carbon reduction initiatives across the County's transport, commercial and residential sectors.

In addition, as public awareness is key to tackling both climate adaptation and mitigation, Fingal County

Council commits through this plan to address the current knowledge-gap and will encourage citizens to act on climate change through a range of awareness and behavioural change actions.

This Climate Change Action Plan has been developed by the Dublin energy agency Codema on behalf of Fingal County Council, following an extensive process of research, policy analysis, one-to-one meetings and workshops with staff and regional working groups. It follows on from the publication of *A Strategy towards Climate Change Action Plans for the Dublin Local Authorities*, which was published in January 2017.

The actions in this plan are a starting point and will be regularly monitored and updated by a dedicated Climate Action Team, working with an Interdepartmental Steering Group representative of all Council Departments. They will be assisted by the newly established Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office, which will ensure that the overall plan is fully updated every five years to reflect latest policy, technology and climate-related impacts. The new office will work with Codema, as technical support and research partner, to ensure that the plans continue to be informed by international best practice and regional research institutions.

The seriousness of the situation has been recognised by the Oireachtas through the declaration of a Climate Emergency by Dáil Éireann.

# ABOUT THE PLAN

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Fingal County Council’s Climate Change Action Plan sets out how the Council will improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its own buildings and operations, while making Fingal a more climate-resilient region, with engaged and informed citizens. This will be achieved by a range of ongoing and planned actions in five key areas, which will be continuously monitored, evaluated and updated to 2030 and beyond.

## KEY TARGETS

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**33%**

improvement in the Council’s **energy efficiency** by 2020



Make Dublin a **climate-resilient region** by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events

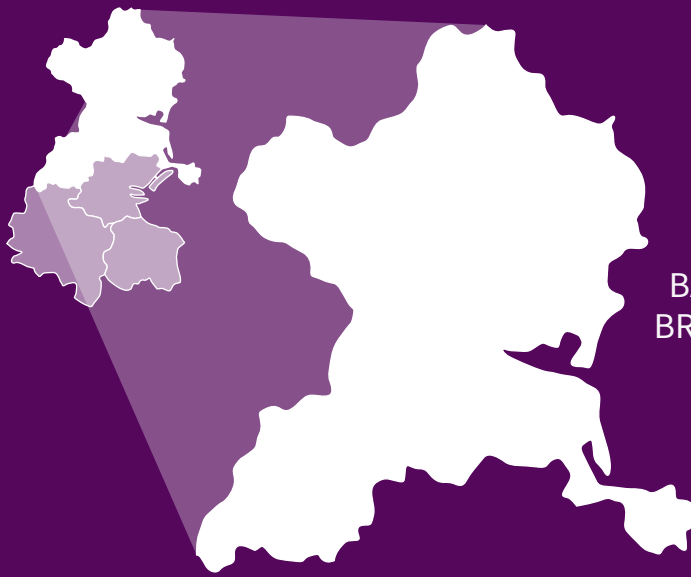
**40%**

reduction in the Council’s **greenhouse gas emissions** by 2030



Actively engage and **inform our citizens** on climate change

# OVERVIEW OF FINGAL



**MAIN RIVERS**  
 WARD  
 DELVIN  
 CORDUFF  
 BALLYBOUGHIL  
 BROADMEADOW  
 SANTRY  
 TOLKA  
 LIFFEY  
 SLUICE  
 MAYNE



## MAIN RISK AREAS:

SEA LEVEL RISE

FLOODING

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS  
 such as storms, cold spells, heat waves



POPULATION  
**296,020**



**104,851**  
 HOUSEHOLDS



**88 km**  
 OF COASTLINE



# ACTION AREAS

The actions in this plan have been organised under the action areas shown below, reflecting Fingal County Council’s range of services.

