

# 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 Councils' 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 South Dublin County Council to achieve these targets, this Climate Change Action Plan sets out the current 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 South Dublin at a significant rate and are very likely to increase in their frequency and intensity. The number of days with heavy rainfall has increased and the amount of extreme flooding events has also risen in the last 10 years. South Dublin 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 County (including a breakdown of the residential, transport and commercial sectors). It found that South Dublin County Council produced 11,800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2017 and has reduced its emissions by 17% in the last 10 years. In addition, the Council has improved its energy efficiency by 25.4% 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 3% of the total emissions in South Dublin, it highlights the need to tackle the remaining 97% of emissions produced county-wide. In recognising this challenge, South Dublin 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, South Dublin 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 South Dublin 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 will be continually monitored and updated by a dedicated climate action team working across 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.



# ABOUT THE PLAN

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South Dublin 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 South Dublin 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 SOUTH DUBLIN



**MAIN RIVERS:**  
LIFFEY  
DODDER  
CAMAC  
PODDLE



## MAIN RISK AREAS:

FLOODING

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

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## MAIN URBAN CENTRES:

Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Rathfarnham, Tallaght, Templeogue, Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle



POPULATION  
**278,749**



**92,363**  
HOUSEHOLDS



**223 km<sup>2</sup>**  
ADMINISTRATIVE FOOTPRINT

## ACTION AREAS

The actions in this plan have been organised under the action areas shown below, reflecting South Dublin County Council's remit.

