



Climate Action Roadmap 2024

Dynamic | Diverse | Innovative



lwetb

*Bord Oideachais agus Fíricíora
an Longfoirt agus na Bliainní*
Longford and Westmeath
Education and Training Board

LWETB Climate Action Roadmap 2024

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

Fáilte go Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí. Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) was established under the Education and Training Boards Act, 2013 and is the statutory body responsible for the provision of education, training and youth services in counties Longford and Westmeath. LWETB delivers educational services to over 4,587 students, 12,792 learners, apprentices, and beneficiaries. The authority employs circa 1,128 staff. It has an average annual budget of circa 60 million euro across all its divisions.

LWETB delivers a wide range of education and training services and has responsibility for:

- 8 Post-Primary schools,
- 1 Community National School,
- 3 Adult Guidance Centres,
- 14 Further Education and Training locations,
- Music Generation and Youth Services accommodating community groups in approximately 50 locations throughout Longford and Westmeath.



Registration Charity Number (RCN) 20083762

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A message from the Chief Executive

Dear colleagues and stakeholders,

I am pleased to present the updated Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) Climate Action Roadmap. This LWETB Climate Action Roadmap outlines our strategy to achieve a 51% reduction in our emissions by 2030.

The targets outlined in this roadmap aims to minimise impact of our activities to achieve continual sustainability and energy improvements; prevent emissions; measure and reduce waste; adapt to climate change and encourage environmental awareness within and across our organisation.

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) was established under the Education and Training Boards Act, 2013 with responsibility to provide education and training services in Counties Longford and Westmeath. As an organisation we strive to provide high quality education and training programmes including appreciation for the planet we inhabit, and how to protect it for future generations. Longford and Westmeath ETB (LWETB) is at the heart of delivering quality education and training services including leading by example in our public sector responsibility in climate action–

LWETB is committed to our responsibility to leading and educating staff, learners, and whole education community on the practical steps they can take to help the country as a whole to achieve our climate action targets. This document outlines key focus areas for staff including climate targets, our way of working, buildings, vehicles and LWETB's gap to target. The organisation is committed to making efficient use of energy in offices, schools and campuses in Longford and Westmeath. LWETB is also committed to maintaining and reviewing appropriate systems and processes to continually improve our energy performance.

By continuing to adopt this systematic approach to energy management and implementing the necessary action plans, LWETB will strive continuously to improve and achieve the most efficient delivery of energy services throughout the organisation.

Finally I would like to acknowledge and thank the LWETB Climate Action Steering Group, supported by Corporate Services in head office for their continued work in this area, and SEAI in the development and delivery of this comprehensive Climate Action Roadmap for LWETB.

Liz Lavery
CE, Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

1. Introduction

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) was established under the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 and is the local statutory, education and training authority for counties Longford and Westmeath. LWETB delivers a wide range of education and training services including:

- Post-Primary Schools and Colleges
- Community National School
- Post Leaving Certificate
- Further Education and Training Centres
- Further Education and Training Services
- Youth Services
- Music Generation

LWETB is governed by a Board comprising of 21 members. The Board also has an Audit and Risk Committee, a Finance Committee, advisory Youth Committee and Local Music Education Partnership all of which are composed of external members in addition to board members. The work of the Board is further supported by Boards of Management in each of LWETB's 8 post primary schools. The general functions of an Education and Training Board are stipulated in the Education and Training Boards Act 2013.

LWETB head office is located in Mullingar. LWETB offices provide financial, human resource, corporate services, buildings, procurement, governance, planning and leadership support for all education provision delivered by LWETB. Information on the full range of education and training provision offered by LWETB is available on our website at: www.lwetb.ie.



OUR MISSION

To provide dynamic, diverse and innovative education and training services.

OUR VISION

To develop and deliver nationally and internationally recognised high quality, vibrant, professional education and training services.

OUR VALUES

Learner Centred
Celebrates Inclusion
Acts with Integrity
Leads with Innovation

Our mission is to provide dynamic, diverse, and innovative education and training services. This includes the need to provide knowledge of and mechanisms for the reduction of our use of fossil fuels, for power generation or packaging or water usage.

Our remit is directly and indirectly aligned to sustainable energy and providing necessary supports and guidance with a broader focus on this issue for our whole education community, including staff,

students, learners, and their families and the communities in our counties of Longford and Westmeath. As a public sector body, we are also required to reduce emissions relating to our own buildings and operations. We have a very small contribution in absolute terms; however, we recognise the importance for public sector bodies to demonstrate leadership.

The LWETB Climate Action Roadmap 2024, hereinafter referred to as the Roadmap, sets out our plan to achieve our decarbonisation and energy efficiency targets pursuant to the National Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24). LWETB is committed to achieving its 2030 carbon emissions and energy efficiency targets. We will adhere to the requirements of the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2024 (the mandate) and demonstrate leadership within the public sector. The Mandate requires public sector bodies such as LWETB to demonstrate climate action leadership by implementing and reporting on the actions of the Mandate. The Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2024 was published in CAP24.

This Roadmap focuses on energy-related greenhouse gas emissions within our operations, in line with the target of a 51% absolute reduction by 2030. It also focuses on training our staff, learners and communities on the issues and steps available and implementable to reduce their emissions and help achieve our national targets.

This Roadmap aligns entirely with LWETB's vision: "To develop and deliver nationally and internationally recognised high quality, vibrant, professional education and training services" for the benefit of society. In the LWETB Strategic Plan, the first strategic outcome listed is: "Achievement of the carbon reduction targets we have set ourselves over the lifetime of this strategy."

The LWETB Climate Action Roadmap has been approved by the CEO and the Board of LWETB and will be reviewed and updated quarterly. The quarterly review will consider our own climate action progress, Gap-to-Target and any updates to the National Climate Action Plan and the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate. We will also update on progress on informing and training our staff, learners, and whole education community.

1.1 Summary of focus areas

Our people

LWETB staff are passionate about energy, the environment and sustainability. LWETB has established a Climate Action Steering Committee that is focused on delivering the managerial, technological, and behavioural improvements that will help us achieve our climate action targets. There is an Energy Committee in each of our schools and an energy champion appointed for FET.

Our targets

The Public Sector Climate Action Mandate sets emissions reduction and energy efficiency targets for LWETB:

- 51% reduction in energy related GHG emissions in 2030 (2016-2018 baseline)
- 50% increase in the improvement of energy efficiency by 2030 (2009 baseline)
- a net zero energy-related emissions target for 2050 at the latest

To note guidance 51% reduction of direct fossil fuel related CO₂e emissions (thermal and transport consumption); plus projected supply side reductions in indirect fossil fuel related CO₂e emissions from electricity.

Our ways of working

Leadership and governance are fundamental factors to oversee our delivery.

Structures are in place for the delivery of our identified actions. These actions include staff engagement, integration of actions into departmental business planning, goals, and objectives. We will promote best practices in the office, the remote office and in daily life, supported by appropriate training. We shall consider improvements made through blended working and review paper-based processes in our drive toward digitalisation.

We are subject to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. LWETB will continue to report our GHG emissions and energy consumption. Like all public sector bodies, our data will be returned into the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting System (M&R).

We have smart meters on all our sources of power (electricity, Oil and Gas) in all our locations.

Our buildings and vehicles

The largest contributor to carbon emissions is the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in our buildings.

Our Head Office is in a rented building, and we are working with the management company to reduce our usage particularly at times when the building is not in use.

Our schools are of varying ages and structures, and we currently have active approved plans for the removal of all fossil fuels over the next five years. We also have various projects that are aimed at improving the fabric of our buildings that are at an advanced stage of progression.

Our training centre is one of the biggest energy users in the organisation and we have a Strategic Infrastructure Upgrade Fund (SIUF) under development that will provide the masterplan for future development of the site in line with the national targets for climate action as they develop.

A lot of our FET buildings are rented, and we are reviewing the possibility of developing facilities in Mullingar and Longford town to centralise these activities into appropriate modern and climate friendly environments.

We will ensure that our Display Energy Certificates (DEC) are displayed in each of our locations as soon as practicable.

Gap-to-Target

LWETB have responsibility for the ongoing monitoring and reporting of public sector energy efficiency. This includes the data collection process into our Monitoring and Reporting System, annual reporting and supporting the public sector in this regard. In LWETB we are using our real time information from our smart meters to inform real time decision making and prevention. LWETB is using our data to model decarbonisation Gap-to-Target over the period to 2030. This will help us configure our GHG emissions target to 2030. It will also help us to model and report the impact of our planned actions, revisit our Gap-to-Target quarterly and assess future emissions pathways.

2. Our people

The Climate Action Mandate requires that leadership and governance structures for climate action are set up, and that staff are engaged with climate action and have appropriate training.

During 2022, LWETB established and resourced a Climate Action Steering Committee. This committee reports to senior management ensuring sustainability actions are integrated at senior levels of the organisation. The LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee comprises of representation from across the organisation with roles including technical, engineers, Finance and Schools and Further Education Centre representatives.

Since its establishment in 2022, the LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee has outlined and prioritised a range of action points including a commitment to:

- Focus on energy decarbonisation, outlining the steps required to meet or exceed our 2030 targets
- Set up Climate Action Energy Committees in each of our schools
- Present a Sustainability Policy to the LWETB Board for approval
- Implementing the action of the Reduce Your Use (RYU) in Public Sector (public sector winter mandate)
- Commence strategic project identification and modelling the Gap-to-Target
- Preparing this Climate Action Roadmap and presenting it for LWETB Board approval

Reduce your use	Green teams	Smart Meter data reporting
Sustainability Policy	Green Procurement	Strategic projects
Climate Action Roadmap		

LWETB ensure that all staff are knowledgeable and continuously aware of our actions. LWETB will ensure that learners are as knowledgeable as possible and are as informed of the positive impacts of our actions. Training will be provided and integrated with our climate action roadmap. Sustainability training, both technical and behavioural, will be integrated into learning and development strategies for staff with a defined focus on reducing LWETB emissions across all categories possible.

2.1 Leadership and governance for climate action

The Governance Structure for Climate and Sustainability is embedded in our organisational structure. Responsibility to implement and report on the Mandate is assigned to the Climate and Sustainability Champion.

The Climate and Sustainability Champion is Charlie Mitchell, Director of Organisation, Support and Development and a member of the Executive Leadership Team in LWETB and the Energy Performance Officer (EPO).

We recognise that responsibilities of LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee members and these will be supported in all appropriate resources available. All our locations will be supported by either energy committees or qualified staff to support them in making as much progress as possible at the earliest time. The membership of the Steering committee and the Energy Committees will be updated as required and at least reviewed on an annual basis.

LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee Membership

Team member	Representation
Charlie Mitchell	Director of Organisation, Support and Development
Neill Hanley	FET Buildings and Capital Development Officer
Adrian Farrelly	FET Buildings and Capital Development
Elaine McEvoy	Administrative Officer Corporate Services
TBC	Finance Representative
Ronan Murray	Athlone Training Centre Representative
Orna McCabe	Castlepollard Community College
Martin Boyhan	Student Representative Castlepollard Community College
Fechin Heery	Lanesboro Community College
TBC	SEAI Representative

2.2 Additional reference documentation

Policies currently in place:

- LWETB Sustainability Policy found [here](#)
- LWETB Energy Policy found [here](#)

2.3 Engaging and training staff

LWETB Statement of Strategy refers to our “highly skilled and engaged staff community, who recognise and are committed to the critical work they perform and its importance for Longford and Westmeath; and who know that they are valued for and supported in this important work.”

Given that our staff are knowledgeable and passionate about the work that we do, LWETB plans to demonstrate leadership and innovation in this field by creating a programme of training for LWETB staff.

Training modules will cover the LWETB Climate Action Committees (and Green Network’s) activities. Modules focused on topics relevant to staff and SEAI initiatives will be shared every two months.

Modules suggested for this initiative include:

- Winter (2023) Energy Reduction – Initiatives and Achievements
- Energy and Carbon Basics
- SEAI Monitoring and Reporting Performance
- Climate Action Plan – LWETB Response
- Travel and Transport – Our Individual Carbon Footprint

As we grow our workforce, we believe that it is important that staff are familiar with all the activities carried out within LWETB. As with a smaller staff number in the past, and while working together in offices, we had a greater opportunity to share details of activities in each department in an informal way.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) shall be agreed, posted, and updated regularly in central areas in all LWETB locations.

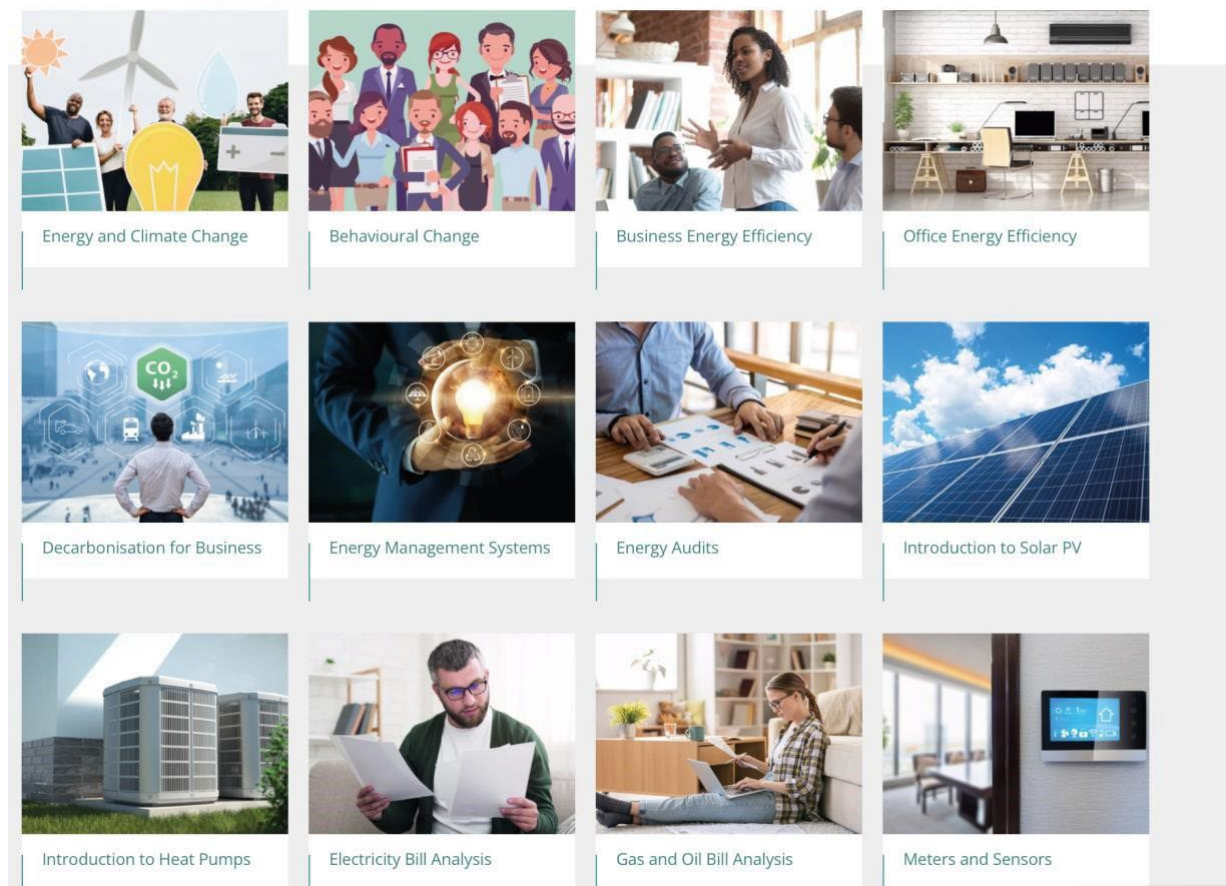
Staff initiatives shall be encouraged to promote awareness. We are considering rewards for recognition of effort and innovative ideas.

Staff will also be made aware of information, training and other SEAI supports that are elements of external programmes focusing on engagement and awareness.

These include:

- Reduce Your Use in the Public Sector – Energy Awareness Programme
- SEAI Engaging People at Work Accelerator
- SEAI Energy Basics and Carbon Basics
- SEAI Public Sector Partnership Programme

Modules Available



3. Our targets

The Climate Action Mandate sets key targets for emissions reduction and energy-efficiency for LWETB:

- 51% reduction in GHG emissions in 2030 (2018 baseline), targets set for both thermal and total emissions.
- 50% energy efficiency improvement by 2030 (2009 baseline).
- A net zero energy-related emissions target for 2050 at the latest.

3.1 Achieving the carbon emissions reduction target (51% reduction by 2030)

Our greenhouse gas emissions target is based on energy-related carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, with the baseline average of 2016-2018 emissions. It requires energy emissions, for heating and transport, and overall energy-related emissions (including electricity) to be reduced by 51%. The LWETB Monitoring and Reporting records for this period allow us to set the baseline.

The first project addressed by LWETB was the reliability and timeliness of our data sources and we introduced smart meters for Electricity, oil and Gas on all sites. All sites were reviewed for efficient use of energy and individual managers and actions by site were rolled out over the first nine months of 2022. The Reduce Your Use in the Public Sector initiative was a mandated winter energy savings initiative, driven by the Energy Security Emergency Group, with a goal of saving up to 15% energy consumption in buildings in quarter four of 2022. It required significant steps in lighting, heating controls and basic energy management.

A Register of Opportunities (ROO) was established and completed to achieve the 15% savings targeted. Projected energy savings are estimated based on available metering in place for heat/cooling and electricity in our buildings. The SEAI Monitoring and Reporting System, in combination with our own Smart Meter data, will be used to validate savings.

We are in the process of completing a comprehensive audit of our operations to determine additional opportunity and viability of energy efficiency, and further energy saving project initiatives. This assessment stage is the first key phase of our new Climate Action Roadmap to 2030.

Smart Meters - In 2021 LWETB began a project to install Electricity, Oil and Gas (Natural Gas & LPG) Smart Meters in all LWETB locations. These Smart Meters are now installed, and we are constantly monitoring and examining our energy usage in all our locations and making changes where and when necessary. Already we can see huge benefits in the data supplied by the Smart Meters, and this is help us to reduce energy waste and ensure energy efficiency in all LWETB locations.

An energy audit to SI426 is required for every public body with individual buildings containing a total useful floor area of more than 500m², or an annual energy spend of more than €35,000. We have completed nine energy audits by the end of June 2023. More will be considered if appropriate.

LWETB is currently experiencing an increase of fifteen percent in our school's student population and a thirty percent increase in our floor area approximately, due to planned extensions. Energy efficiency and related energy consumption reduction is crucial to any emissions reduction strategy. It will reduce or remove the need to use the current fossil fuel systems. By moving to heat pump and other renewable technologies this will allow for expected increased capacity in operations without requiring more energy for lighting and heating. Ultimately, our approved capital investment projects allow for the removal where possible of fossil fuels while minimising the investment necessary. LWETB will ensure continued staff awareness and engagement as these and other initiatives progress.

The most significant projects will combine an increase capacity in each of our schools with a removal or reduction of non-renewable heating and power sources. The biggest users of energy in our organisation is Athlone Community College followed closely by the Further Education and Training Campus in Athlone, the remaining schools make up the majority of the rest, with the Further Education and Training Campus in Longford being the largest energy user of the remaining FET campuses.

Work is actively being progressed in each of these sites with a view to greatly improving the energy efficiency or relocating to more appropriate facilities. The Department mandate that one can only enter into leases for property that has an A3 rating or higher will greatly enhance our progression to achieving our climate targets.

In collaboration with other public sector tenants and the landlords, we intend to explore the viability of solar energy in all suitable LWETB locations.

LWETB has completed an initial comprehensive Gap-to-Target assessment to understand the combination of initiatives necessary to achieve our emissions target. We intend to use experts from our Public Sector Partnership Framework to assist in this activity alongside experts from SEAI, who are extremely capable and willing to support the initiatives.

Future building plans will need to consider long-term occupancy needs. Any building consideration will take into account energy and emissions in decision-making. Any new leases will be required to be minimum A3 rated.

The Roadmap will identify savings, the impact on energy, finance, resources, and public spending considerations.

3.2 Achieving the energy efficiency target (50% improvement by 2030)

Our work-from-home practices during the Covid-19 pandemic taught us the value of digitalisation as our default approach.

Within our network of buildings we have a range of projects that include upgrades to the fabric of buildings, introduction of renewables where appropriate, removal of fossil fuels as a primary energy source and also relocation to alternative accommodations. With the outcome that all locations will be focused on with a longer-term focus between now and 2030.

In addition to these initiatives and those detailed in Section 3.1. for emissions reductions, other ideas considered by the LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee include the following:

- Feasibility of performing projects focused on recommissioning or retro-commissioning of LWETB buildings.
- Blended working requirement of two days per week attendance at the office to be spread over 4 days – with offices closed on the selected fifth day and all services turned off – as per current Saturday/Sunday profile.
- Setting, managing, and achieving ambitious targets through continuous improvement projects as part of our smart metering project.
- Training of staff and learners on energy efficiency and carbon footprint to improve personal responsibility both within our environment and in the greater community.

4. Our ways of working

We are subject to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. LWETB adhere to the principles and standards that must be followed by Irish public sector organisations to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective management. We will analyse and report annually on our impact and progress on GHG emissions and sustainability activities in our Annual Report. We will report on implementation of Green Public Procurement sustainability activities.

In addition to ensuring strong leadership and governance structures for oversight in implementation of the LWETRB Climate Action Roadmap, LWETB will underpin this through our smart metering management system.

Alongside our plans in relation energy efficiency and carbon using in buildings, the LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee and staff are committed to a waste action plan that increases recycling and minimises waste generation by focusing on minimising packaging, promoting eco-design and managing our segregation.

4.1 Energy and environmental management systems and accreditation

The Climate Action Mandate requires large public sector bodies to achieve formal certification in environmental and/or energy management systems. LWETB is not a large public sector body, however, we will maintain a smart metering energy management system. LWETB will further develop the availability of this information at a local level over the next year.

LWETB shall update its processes, records, and practices with an objective to agreeing our roadmap setting out the achievement of our targets by late 2023:

- Our Energy Policy (2023) is being updated to reflect our Climate Action Team and associated projects.
- Our Energy monitoring Smart meters data determines how we manage energy in LWETB and is an important reference document for our practice, as well as for staff onboarding.
- Our Energy Review is completed monthly and forms a key aspect of reacting to data to inform impact, benefits, issues, and opportunities.
- Our Smart Metering System is proving invaluable and allows LWETB to interrogate energy usage data in real time.
- The Climate Action Steering Committee is assisting with communication and awareness among staff.

- Training plans are being drawn up to keep staff abreast of our activities.
- Document control processes are in place.
- Operational control and maintenance procedures are in place; however, they will need updating as the data is reviewed.
- Green Public Procurement processes are addressed in Section 4.2 below.
- Systems for Internal Audit, Management Review and Corrective Action Procedures to ongoing.

We will consider any additional measures as they arise and are deemed appropriate by the Climate Action Steering Committee. This is a requirement under the Mandate for large public sector bodies.

4.2 Green Public Procurement

LWETB is committed to environmental management principles in its activities, and it encourages the implementation of sustainability principles in its procurement practices. Tenderers and contractors are required to make all reasonable efforts to minimise adverse environmental impact in the methods of service delivery and in materials used.

Tenderers should demonstrate either current or planned Green Public Procurement practices that provide increased sustainable awareness and work practices. Examples of environmental considerations factored into delivery operations may include an outline environmental management plan, an outline waste management plan or evidence of commitment to staff training in waste minimisation. LWETB encourages tenderers to develop green initiatives and to provide relevant information in their tenders as to their carbon footprint, ISO14001 or other certification, or proof of working towards a greener environment.

While we apply green criteria where it is applicable in our tenders, for example IT product procurement, most tenders are for professional services and these need to be updated so that Green Public Procurement and relevant carbon footprint and energy efficiency data is readily available as part of the process.

Where possible, LWETB will apply green award criteria in tenders such as:

- Proposed contract management approach, relationship management approach and company's own credentials and approach on sustainability and climate action.
- Evidence of climate and sustainability credentials, accreditations, or affiliations. A high-level approach to minimising own climate impacts should be provided.
- Demonstration of current or planned Green Public Procurement and work practices that provide increased sustainable awareness, and how these will be employed in the delivery of works on this project.

4.3 Resource Use

LWETB is reviewing our paper-based processes and evaluating the possibilities for digitalisation as the default approach. The move to working from home during the Covid-19 public health emergency meant that all processes required change for business continuity. During this time, our staff adjusted to working with online resources, cloud-based storage and sharing documents using links, rather than printing documentation. Many of our processes are completed and processed online using electronic signatures. Payments are made through online electronic transfers.

4.4 Construction

Climate Action Plan 2023 sets out in action EN/23/12 the need to specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2023. The Cement and Construction Sector Decarbonisation Working Group is working on providing technical guidelines aimed at reducing embodied carbon in public procurement of cement and concrete. Once finalised, these guidelines should be taken into consideration by public bodies for directly procured or supported construction projects.

LWETB will work towards procurers asking suppliers to document the carbon intensity of products procured and:

- Specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable for directly procured or supported construction projects.
- Adhere to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects for directly procured or supported construction projects.

LWETB tenderers should demonstrate either current or planned Green Public Procurement practices that provide increased sustainable awareness and work practices.

4.5 Food Waste

Under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, Ireland has committed to halving food waste by 2030. In November 2022, Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap 2023 – 2025 was published, which sets out actions to meet this ambitious goal. With approx. 750,000 tonnes of food waste generated each year in Ireland (and approx. 70% of that generated from non-household sources), the public sector can play a leadership role in focussing on food waste prevention and signalling to the market the importance of introducing green criteria when procuring food and catering services.

LWETB will work towards the measure and monitor of the food waste generated on premises to include:

- Currently introducing food waste bins across areas of LWETB as part of contract with current waste management company which will work toward the measure and monitor the food waste generated on premises.
- All new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste, with a specific focus on food waste prevention and food waste segregation.

4.6 Paper

LWETB is reviewing our paper-based processes and evaluating the possibilities for digitalisation as the default approach. The move to working from home during the Covid-19 public health emergency meant that all processes required change for business continuity. During this time, our staff adjusted to working with online resources, cloud-based storage and sharing documents using links, rather than printing documentation. Many of our processes are completed and processed online using electronic signatures. Payments are made through online electronic transfers.

LWETB will continue to assess and monitor paper consumption through:

- Ongoing review of paper-based processes and evaluate the possibilities for digitisation so it becomes the default approach.
- Continuing to eliminate paper-based processes as far as is practicable
- Where paper must be procured, ensure that recycled paper is the default
- Measure and monitor paper consumption
- Measure and monitor printing consumption

4.6 Water

Sustainable water management is central to building the resilience of societies and ecosystems and to reducing carbon emissions. With growing demand for water (50% increase in global water demand expected by 2030) this increases the need for energy-intensive water pumping, transportation and treatment.

LWTEB will continue its role in reducing water consumption by:

- Monitoring water consumption data through WPRN meters

4.7 Single Use

Recent EU legislation has focused on reducing the impact of certain single-use plastic products on the environment (often referred to as the Single Use Plastics Directive, Directive (EU) 2019/904). This has introduced various legislative requirements including a ban on certain items being placed on the market, labelling requirements to inform consumers of the presence of plastic and the introduction of extended producer responsibility initiatives. Since 3 July 2021, the following single-use plastic items have been banned from being placed on the market: cotton bud sticks, cutlery, plates, stirrers, chopsticks, straws, extended polystyrene single use food and beverage containers, all oxo-degradable plastic products.

LWETB aim to progressively eliminate all single-use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded and sponsored by the organisation. LWETB will aim to:

- To cease using disposable cups, plates and cutlery in any public sector canteen or closed facility
- Progressively eliminate all other single use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded or sponsored.

5. Our Buildings and Vehicles

LWETB has planned and implemented strategies to ensure that all buildings leased, and all vehicles purchased meet the requirements set out in legislation, the Climate Action Plan and the Mandate.

5.1 Our Buildings

LWETB has 20 locations including Schools, Further Education Centres, Administrative Offices and a Training Centre across Longford and Westmeath. We continually seek to ensure that all owned and leased buildings are operated as efficiently as possible and in the case of leased buildings will negotiate with the Landlord to this end. LWETB will improve performance where feasible. Areas of focus could include operational control procedures, housekeeping audits, Smart Metering, temperature control, timers, maintenance, and other controls, or by investing in more energy-efficient lighting with improved controls. LWETB will ensure there is a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) in each building

For procurement of office space, LWETB will observe the requirement where possible for no fossil fuel heating after 2023 in any lease agreement (except for backup supply for up to 10% of the heating load) where possible. Additionally, we will exercise due diligence in ensuring that any building selected has the best available Building Energy Rating (BER) given the urgency of occupation, location, building configuration and price range.



5.2 Our vehicles

LWETB owns multiple vehicles, and as these are updated, we will move to the most energy efficient option available. EV chargers are already provided in designated LWETB parking spaces at our FET campuses in Athlone and Longford. As the current approved capital projects are progressed more EV charging points are planned to be provided at each of our schools and campuses.

LWETB will ensure procurement of vehicles meets the CAP23 Public Sector Mandate requirement for purchase of only zero-emission vehicles, as well as the minimum targets set out by SI381/2021 Clean Vehicles Directive.

5.3 Bicycles

All LWETB locations are bicycle friendly for staff and learners. There are safe and secure access-controlled bicycle parking facilities at ground level.

5.4 Climate action initiatives

Considerations will be given to what steps LWETB can take in relation to reducing other indirect emissions (Scope 3 emissions, e.g. from business travel, commuting, working from home, and purchased goods and services), identifying the impact of climate change on organisational operations and undertaking climate adaptation measures.

Additionally, we plan to encourage staff to suggest improvements and initiatives to raise awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation (as mentioned in Section 2.3 Staff Engagement above). Any initiatives/pledges/reporting schemes will be documented in the Roadmap updates.

6. LWETB Climate Action Roadmap

LWETB uses our Public Sector Programme, Gap-to-Target Tool (v3.10), to evaluate our energy performance over time, using data and methodologies from SEAI's Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System, which includes a feature to model the decarbonisation of your organisation's energy use over the period to 2030.

The latest version incorporates 2022/2023 data. This will allow for the modelling of initiatives in terms of carbon and energy reductions toward 2030 and 2050 targets.

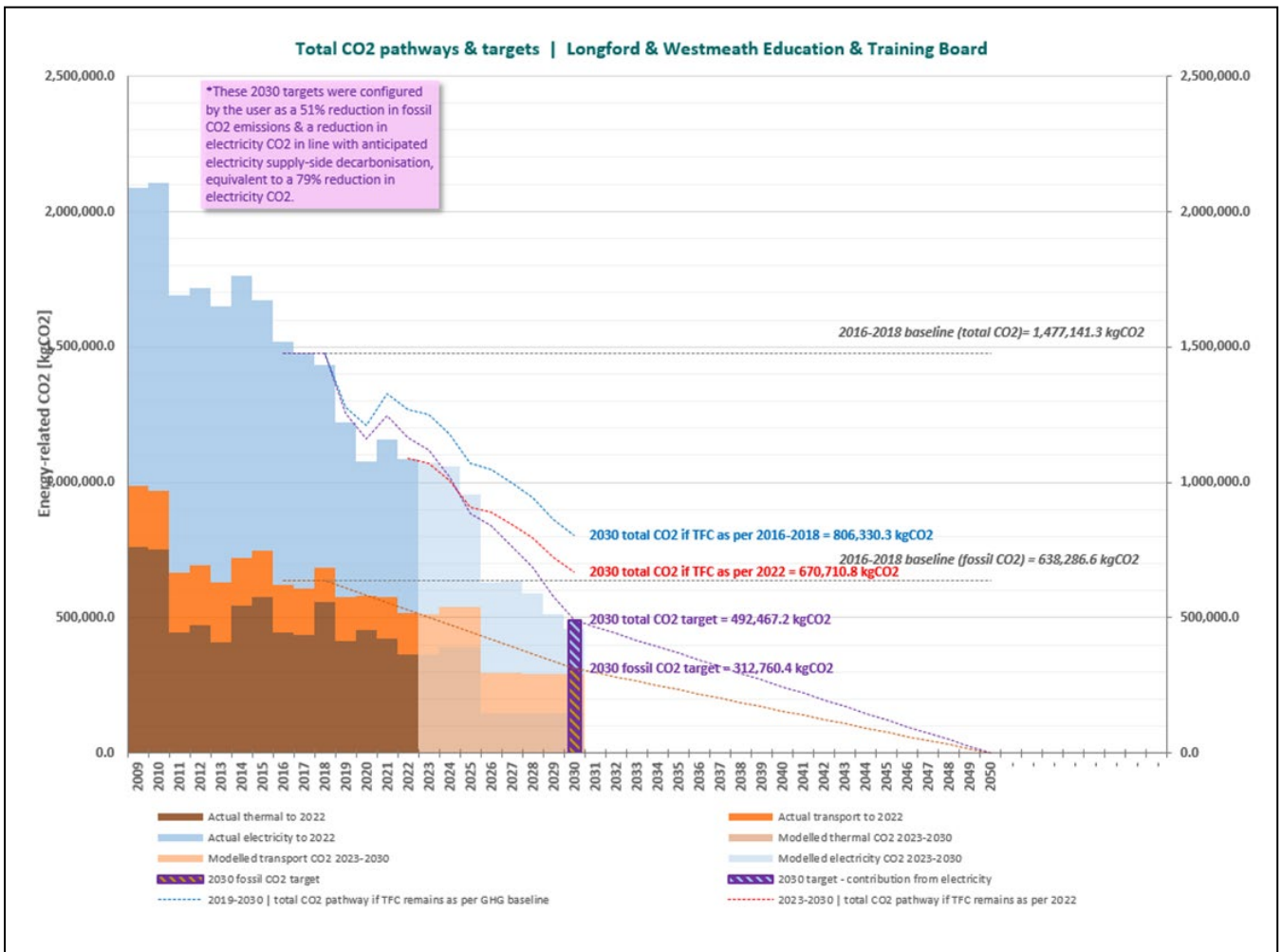
6.1 Progress to date

LWETB has established a Climate Action Steering Committee in 2022. Energy Committees at each of our schools have been established in 2023.

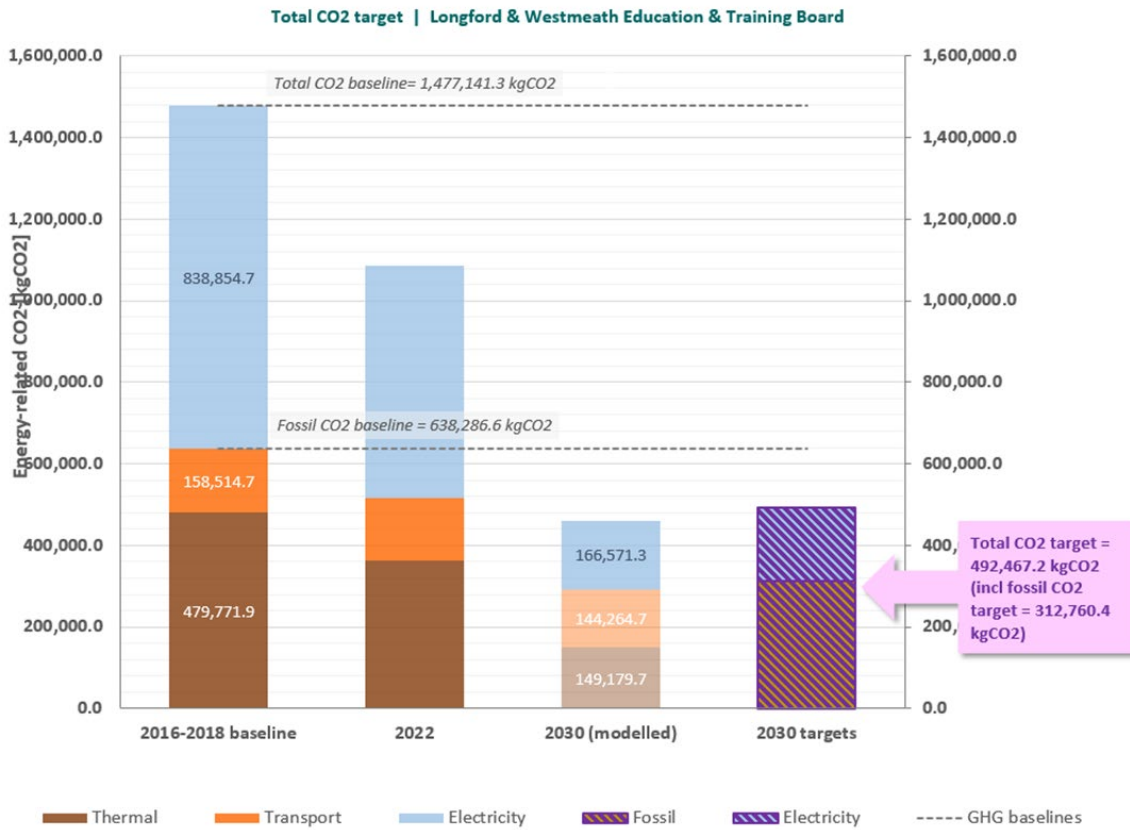
LWETB has been recording and reporting on our greenhouse gas emissions since 2009. Significant progress may be seen in the profile, and the 2016-2018 period sets out the baseline.

In 2021 LWETB began a project to install Electricity, Oil and Gas (Natural Gas & LPG) Smart Meters in all LWETB locations. These Smart Meters are now installed and have been providing real time data for over a year on most sites. LWETB are constantly monitoring and examining our energy usage in all our locations and making changes where and when necessary. Already we can see huge benefits in the data supplied by the smart meters, and this will help us to reduce energy waste and ensure energy efficiency in all LWETB locations.

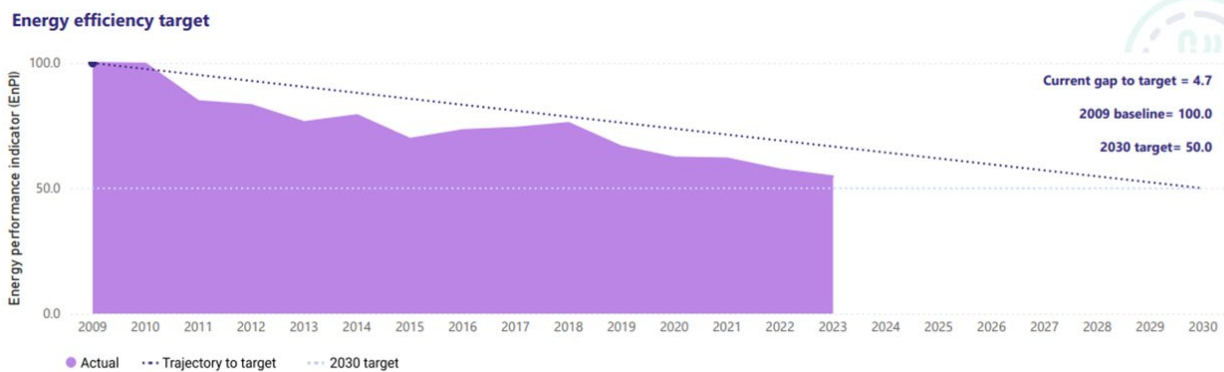
LWETB’s Greenhouse Gas (GHG) pathway and targets with 2022/2023 Data



LWETB's 2022 Total Emissions toward 2030 Target



LWETB's Energy Performance Indicators - 2023



6.2 Closing the gap

There is significant action required before 2030 and a programme of action is being considered to close the gap. In summary, the current plans are outlined below:

- Focus on energy efficiency, engagement of people and continual improvement.
- Building upgrades, office strategy and space optimisation across all our schools and FET locations.
- Solar PV as an opportunity for NZEB.
- Scope 3 further considerations.

A significant number of projects have received approval and are at design stage with the Department of Education and the Department of Further and Higher Education Innovation and Science. These projects are the core of our plan. The remainder of the plan will be dynamic. As we validate the impact of these actions, we will refine the Roadmap plans and take additional or alternative steps necessary to achieve the required GHG reductions.

We have commenced modelling on the major project contributors and the completed energy audits will lead to more detailed modelling in the coming months.

6.3 LWETB Climate Action Roadmap planning

Our Statement of Strategy 2022-2025 places significant focus on delivering our Targets – Setting, Prioritising, Monitoring and Delivering Targets.

Early in this programme, we will educate our staff through targeted training sessions and regular updates. The Climate Action Steering Committee will also promote participation in promotional activities and encourage engagement with various actions. Our Gap-to-Target shall be properly modelled and reviewed regularly for performance and improvement.

1. Planning phase (Step 1)

Conduct initial energy audit of all buildings

- Develop a decarbonisation strategy for building(s)
- Define emissions reduction targets for each building
- Identify possible building adjustments or moves to accommodate organisation growth
- Develop a capital budget plan and support for decarbonisation efforts

2. Energy efficiency improvements (Step 2)

- Upgrade lighting systems, controls, and operational control measures
- Develop HVAC improvements and operational control to increase efficiency
- Incorporate building adjustments to facilitate the growth of LWETB activities
- Feasibility and implementation of other ideas for energy performance improvement

3. Renewable energy installations (Years 3-4)

- Transition to electrification of heat using heat pump heating system in appropriate locations.
- Identify heat electrification opportunities in other buildings, if applicable.
- Conduct feasibility studies for potential alternative renewable energy sources (solar, biofuel, biomass), as appropriate.
- Installation of solar panels with battery storage, as applicable.

4. Monitoring and reporting (Years 1-8)

- Monitor energy usage and emissions to track progress towards emissions reduction targets
- Report impact to maintain momentum and build support for LWETB climate action efforts
- Annual Management Review process
- Evaluate and adjust the energy management plan as necessary based on monitoring and reporting results

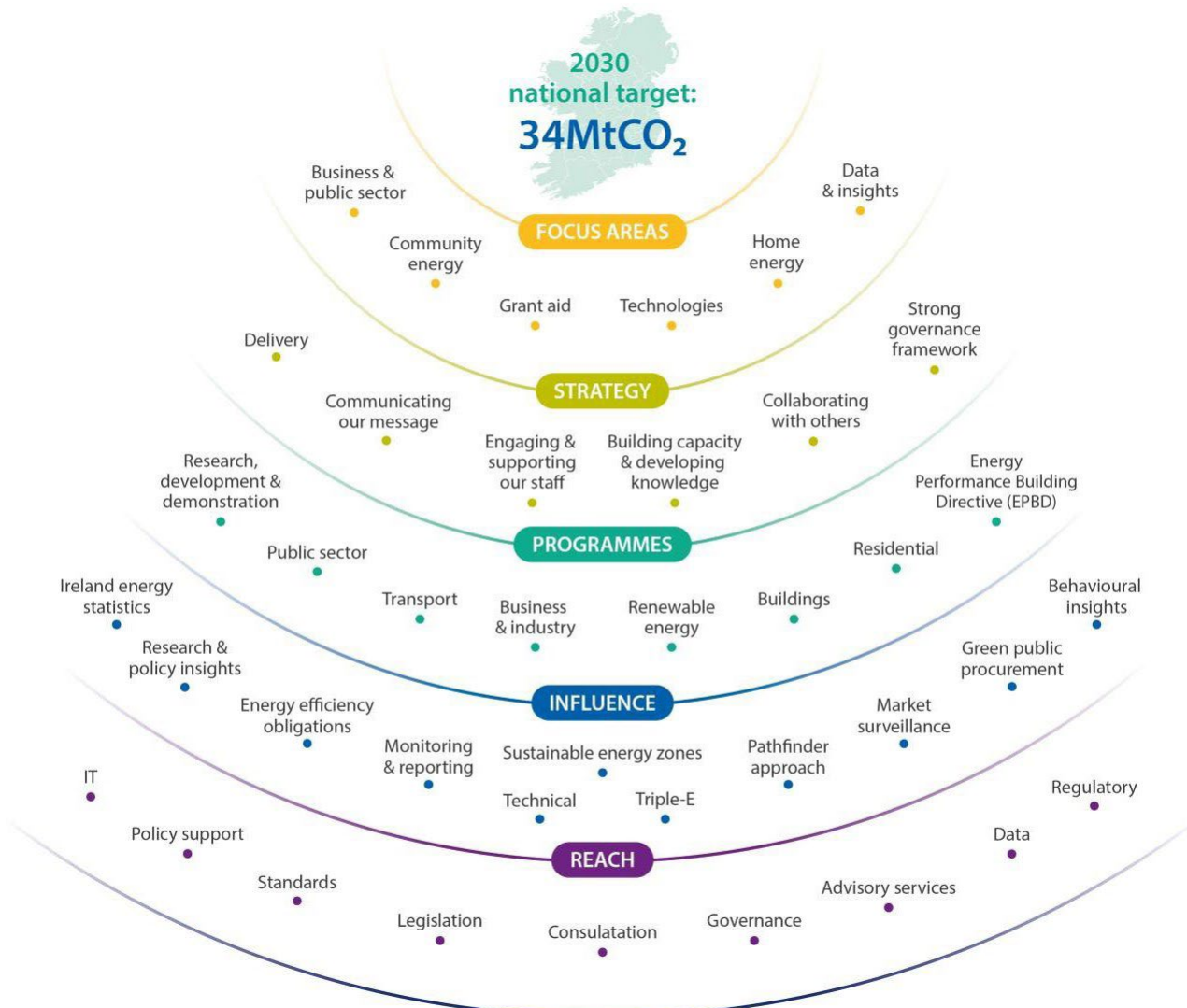
5. Education and training (Years 1-8)

- Conduct awareness campaigns to encourage behavioural changes
- Develop and deliver training programmes to educate employees, building occupants and learners on energy efficiency and emissions reduction
- Raise awareness about the LWETB and SEAI climate action efforts through communication and engagement with stakeholders
- Encourage employee participation in energy conservation and emissions reduction initiatives.

Our design teams and advisors will explore technical designs that will facilitate reaching our targets, all the while collaborating, educating, and informing our public sector colleagues, our landlords, staff, learners, and whole education community. The shift from fossil fuelled thermal energy to clean electrical energy is pivotal to meeting our targets.

As our Roadmap progresses, we will continue to report, monitor, and explore future opportunities. These might include the addition of further renewables, in consultation with our landlord and head tenant.

6.4 National climate action support



7. Conclusion

The LWETB Climate Action Roadmap outlines the plan to reduce our organisation’s greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency up to 2030. It is our hope this will achieve and indeed exceed the 2030 targets and progress us significantly towards the 2050 targets. LWETB will add greater detail to the proposed steps, monitoring progress towards goals and implementing improvement steps where required. LWETB will also engage, educate, and involve staff in the initiative and collaborate with co-tenants in buildings to make sustainable enhancements. The management systems will be optimised to support the Climate Action Steering Committee.

Best practice guidance, information and figures sourced from SEAI

Addendum: Mapping the requirements of the Climate Action Mandate

Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
1. Our Targets	
1.1 Reduce energy related GHG emissions by 51% in 2030.	2.1.1 Achieving the carbon emissions reduction target
1.2 Improve energy efficiency in the public sector by 50% by 2030.	2.1.2 Achieving the energy efficiency target
1.3 Update Climate Action Roadmaps annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan. Develop Climate Action Roadmaps if none are in place.	1.9 Updating the Climate Action Roadmap
2 Our People	
2.1 Establish and resource Green Teams, reporting to senior management, to become integrated drivers of sustainability in every public sector body.	2.2.1 Leadership and governance for climate action
2.2 Nominate a member of the Management Board as the Climate and Sustainability Champion with responsibility for implementing and reporting on the mandate.	2.2.1 Leadership and governance for climate action
2.3 Incorporate appropriate climate action and sustainability training (technical and behavioural, including green procurement training) into learning and development strategies for staff.	2.2.2 Engaging and training staff
2.4 Organise staff workshops (at least annually) to engage on climate issues, including a focus on decreasing the organisation's carbon footprint.	2.2.2 Engaging and training staff
2.4 Ensure all senior management (P.O. level or equivalent and above) and members of State Boards, complete a climate action leadership training course.	2.2.2 Engaging and training staff

3 Our Way of Working

Climate Acton Mandate

Section of guidance

3.1 Report on the following in the Annual Report of the public sector body

1.8 Reporting progress against the Climate Action Mandate requirements

- GHG emissions;
- Implementation of the mandate;
- Sustainability activities report;
- Compliance with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel.

3.2 Using SEAI's Public Sector M&R System, public bodies are to report annually on implementation of the individual mandate requirements using a "comply and explain" approach.

1.8 Reporting progress against the Climate Action Mandate requirements

3.3 Achieve formal environmental certification for large public sector bodies, such as ISO 50001 (Energy Management Standard) or ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System), with a view to going beyond ISO 14001 to adopting Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). Specifically:

2.3.1 Energy & environmental management systems

3.3.1 All public sector bodies with an energy spend greater than €2 million per annum to achieve ISO 50001 certification by end-2024;

3.3.2 All remaining public bodies to implement energy management programmes as per SEAI's energy management guidance (S.I. 426 of 2014) and report to SEAI annually on its M&R system.

3.4 Implement Green Public Procurement, using the EPA Green Public Procurement Guidance and criteria/Office of Government Procurement's online Green Public Procurement Criteria Search tool as resources. .

2.3.2 Green Public Procurement

Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
<p>3.5 Construction</p> <p>3.5.1 Specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2023.</p> <p>3.5.2 Adhere to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024.</p>	<p>2.3.3 Construction</p>
<p>3.6 Food Waste</p> <p>3.6.1 Measure and monitor the food waste generated on premises from 2024, using a standardised approach to food waste measurement set out in the EPA Protocol/Pathway.</p> <p>3.6.2 All new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, including events and conferences, to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste, with a specific focus on food waste prevention and food waste segregation.</p>	<p>2.3.4 Food Waste</p>
<p>3.7 Paper</p> <p>3.7.1 Review any paper-based processes and evaluate the possibilities for digitisation so it becomes the default approach. Eliminate paper-based processes as far as is practicable. Where paper must be procured, ensure that recycled paper is the default.</p> <p>3.7.2 Measure and monitor paper consumption.</p>	<p>2.3.5 Paper</p>
<p>3.8 Water</p> <p>Provide suitable drinking water refill points for all staff and in any premises accessed by the public and measure and monitor usage of the refill points.</p>	<p>2.3.6 Water</p>

Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
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3.9 Single Use

2.3.7 Single Use

3.9.1 Cease using disposable cups, plates and cutlery in any public sector canteen or closed facility, excluding clinical (i.e., non-canteen healthcare) environments, and in publicly funded advertising or broadcasting, where feasible.

3.9.2 Progressively eliminate all single use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded, or sponsored.

3.10 Other Materials

2.3.8 Other Materials

3.10.1 Support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products.

3.10.2 Use waste collection services that are segregated into a minimum of 3 streams – residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/biowaste.

4 Our Buildings and Vehicles

4.1 Promote the use of bicycles (including push bikes, electric bikes, and cargo bikes) and shared mobility options as an alternative to car use among employees and visitors by creating and maintaining facilities (both inside and outside of buildings) that support such options, including secure and accessible bicycle parking, shared mobility parking, and charging stations, as appropriate, with a view to achieving the National Transport Authority's Smarter Travel Mark.

2.4 Our buildings and vehicles

4.2 Phase out the use of parking in buildings that have access to a range of public transport services and active/shared mobility options for the majority of staff/visitors, while providing that sufficient accessible parking is maintained for those with physical mobility issues.

2.4 Our buildings and vehicles

4.3 Display an up-to-date Display Energy Certificate in every public building that is open to the public to clearly show energy use.

2.4 Our buildings and vehicles

Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
<p>4.4 The public sector will not install heating systems that use fossil fuels after 2023, in (1) new buildings, and (2) "major renovation" retrofit projects as defined in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) unless at least one of the following exceptions applies:</p> <p>The fossil-fuel use is only through using electricity from the grid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no technically viable non-fossil alternative (generally only related to applications for a purpose other than space heating). • The installation of a renewable space heating system would increase final CO2 emissions. • The fossil-fuel use is provided for backup, peaking, or operational purposes (and makes up less than 10% of annual heating energy). • Where the direct replacement of existing fossil fuel heating is required for an emergency maintenance purpose. 	<p>2.4 Our buildings and vehicles</p>

Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
<p>4.5. In relation to existing buildings:</p> <p>4.5.1 Public sector bodies and sectoral groups with a large estate should commence a deep retrofit of at least one building in 2024 in pursuit of the 2030 51% emissions reduction target. The planning of deep- retrofit building measures will be undertaken at sectoral level for homogenous sectors, e.g., in relation to the Civil Service, the OPW will plan the deep retrofit of Government Departments' building stock.</p> <p>4.5.2 Public sector bodies and sectoral groups with a large estate should develop a portfolio building stock plan (including determining the buildings necessary for their activities), in line with guidance published by SEAI, by end 2024 to mobilise large scale programmes towards meeting the Climate Action Plan targets.</p> <p>4.5.3 As part of the building stock plan, large public sector bodies and sectoral groups with a large estate should undertake data gathering and consider the long term (to 2050) retrofit key performance indicators to upgrade their building stock to Nearly Zero Energy Buildings or Zero Emission Buildings as outlined in the EPBD proposal and recast Energy Efficiency Directive.</p> <p>4.5.4 Small public sector bodies should include a basic building stock analysis or statement as part of their Climate Action Roadmap, in line with the guidance published by SEAI.</p>	<p>2.4 Our buildings and vehicles</p>

Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
<p>4.6 Procure (purchase or lease) only zero-emissions vehicles from the end of 2022, enabling Ireland to go beyond the requirements of the EU Directive, amending Directive 2009/33/EC on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles (EU Directive 2019/1161, the Clean Vehicle Directive) and act as an international leader in this area. An exception applies where the vehicle is exempt under European Communities (Clean and Energy-Efficient Road Transport Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations (S.I. 381 of 2021). Public sector procurement contracts for delivery and haulage should specify zero-emissions vehicles where possible.</p> <p>4.6.1 As an enabler for the switch to zero-emissions vehicles and meeting Climate Action Plan targets, in 2024 public sector bodies with a vehicle fleet should develop a plan for installation of charging infrastructure in relevant locations. The plan should align installation of infrastructure with timelines for decarbonisation of the body's fleet. The plan should be included in the body's Climate Action Roadmap.</p>	<p>2.4 Our buildings and vehicles</p>



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