



Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

For
**Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Cavan County
Council**

*Determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental
Assessment for Cavan County Council Climate Change
Adaptation Strategy prepared under the National Climate
Change Adaptation Framework*

August 2019

ON BEHALF OF
Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

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DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Revision	Status	Author(s)	Reviewed	Approved	Issue Date
1.0	Draft	Mairead Foran <i>Environmental Consultant</i>	Jim Dowdall <i>Director</i>	Jim Dowdall <i>Director</i>	26/04/2019
2.0	Draft	Mairead Foran <i>Environmental Consultant</i>	Muriel Ennis <i>Principal Consultation</i>	Muriel Ennis <i>Principal Consultation</i>	30/04/2019
3.0	Final	Muriel Ennis <i>Principal Consultation</i>	Mairead Foran <i>Environmental Consultant</i>	Jim Dowdall <i>Director</i>	27/08/2109

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Earth's Climate is changing. While natural fluctuations in climate are considered normal, emerging research and observational records from across the world show rates of change that are far greater than those experienced in recent history. Global temperatures have risen and are projected to rise further bringing changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather. Ireland's climate is changing in line with global patterns and these changes are bringing significant and wide ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

Climate change is now recognised as a global challenge with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and in adapting to the now inevitable consequences of our changing climate. Action at local level is vitally important to help reduce the risks and impacts of climate change across communities.

This local authority Climate Change Adaptation Strategy forms part of Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation as set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was produced under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.¹

It is tasked with mainstreaming climate change adaptation over time into all functions, operations and services of the local authority. It seeks to inform or 'climate proof' existing plans and policies produced and implemented by the local authority. This ensures a considered, consistent and coherent approach, facing head-on the challenges of a changing climate. Crucially, it also helps in building resilience within the local authority organisation itself as well as across all communities.

2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or program, or variation to a plan or program, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive² requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programs or variations to these.

The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004) and The Planning and Development Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004). These Regulations have since been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011) and the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011). The criteria as set out in Annex II of The SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and as also set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) need to be considered while drafting of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.

¹ *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015* (S.I. No. 25/2016). Available at <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/46/enacted/en/htm>

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

This SEA screening report is consistent with the process as recommended by The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance document entitled *Implementation of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment November 2004*, specifically Chapter 3 (SEA: Screening and Scoping) and furthermore uses the criteria for SEA screening criteria set out in the SEA Directive.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has also being prepared for this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in line with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

2.2 Climate Change Adaptation

2.2.1 International Context

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is an international environmental treaty adopted in May 1992. The framework's objective is "*to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system*". The framework did not set binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions and contained no enforcement mechanisms. However, the framework outlined how specific international treaties may negotiate further action towards its key objective. **The Paris Agreement 2015** is a protocol set within the context of the UNFCCC (ratified by Ireland on 4th November 2016) and it is aimed at:

- Limiting global warming to less than 2^oC above pre-industrial level and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5^oC.
- Building resilience and increasing the ability to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The agreement states the need for Parties to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans.

2.2.2 EU Context

The 2013 EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change encouraged all Member states to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It sought better informed decision making through the identification and addressing of gaps in knowledge about adaptation. The European Climate Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT, was developed as a resource mechanism to help users access and share information on adaptation.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is a voluntary, bottom up, approach for cities and local governments to combat Climate Change and move towards a low emission, resilient society. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy brought the Compact of Mayors and the EU Covenant of Mayors under one international body in January 2017 incorporating over 9,000 cities and local governments.

2.2.3 National Context

The 2012 National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) was Ireland's first step in developing a national policy on adaptation actions to combat the impacts of climate change.

The National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development 2014 restated the policy position of the NCCAF, 2012. Greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change were to be addressed in parallel national plans under an evolving climate policy to 2050.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 was a landmark national milestone in the evolution of climate change policy in Ireland. It provides the statutory basis for the national transition objective laid out in the National Policy Position (as per above). Further to this, it made provision for and gives statutory authority to both the National Mitigation Plan (NMP), published in 2017 and the

National Adaptation Framework (NAF) published in 2018. This Local Adaptation Strategy forms part of the National Adaptation Framework.

The Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines 2018 provides guidance to Local Authorities to develop their own Climate Action Adaptation Strategy. In developing this adaptation strategy Cavan County Council has been consistent with these guidelines.

2.3 Cavan's Climate Change Adaptation Objectives

The purpose of the Cavan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is to achieve the national objective of becoming a more climate resilient society and economy by 2050. In order to help tackle current and future challenges that climate change can present, Cavan County Council have set out a number of key objectives in their strategy, under six thematic principles. Table 1 below outlines Cavan County Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy objectives per theme.

Under each theme in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy there are a number of actions that have been detailed to achieve each Objective. All the actions per theme can be found in Appendix 1.

TABLE 1 CAVAN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Theme 1: Local Adaptation Governance and business Operations	
1	To ensure the progression and implementation of local climate change adaptation actions in Cavan County Council.
2	To ensure that climate change adaptation actions are mainstreamed into all activities of Cavan County Council.
3	To build resilience in Cavan County Council to support service delivery.
4	To build capacity within Cavan County Council to respond effectively to extreme weather events.
5	To Identify and support opportunities that may arise from pursuing adaption efforts through the functions of Cavan County Council.
Theme 2: Infrastructure and Built Environment	
1	To ensure and increase the resilience of infrastructural assets and inform investment decisions.
2	To work towards the objective for a low carbon society.
Theme 3: Landuse and Development	
1	To Integrate climate action considerations into landuse planning policy and influence positive behaviour
Theme 4: Drainage and Flood Management	
1	To promote flood risk mitigation measures and manage the risk of flooding through a variety of responses.
Theme 5: Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure	
1	To promote effective bio-diversity management and enhance protection of natural habitats and landscapes.
Theme 6: Community Health and Wellbeing	
1	To build capacity and resilience within communities.

2.4 Consultation

2.4.1 Environmental Authorities

Article 5 (4) of the SEA Directive specifies that each Member State should designate the relevant Environmental Authorities which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibility, are likely to be

concerned with the potential environmental effect of any plan or programme. Article 9(5) and 9(6) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended) details the need for the competent authority (Cavan County Council) to consult the relevant environmental authorities regarding the development of certain plans and programmes. On an Irish context, as a minimum the following environmental authorities should be contacted when developing county plans and programmes:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- The Minister for the Environment (Minister Communications, Climate Action and Environment) – *where the planning authority considers that a plan might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation*; and
- The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine) - *where the planning authority considers that a plan might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment*.

Cavan County Council on the 2nd May 2019 sent the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the SEA Screening Report to the following Environmental Authorities:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- The Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment;
- The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;
- The Department of Agriculture and the Marine; and
- Inland fisheries Ireland (IFI).

2.4.2 Public Consultation

Post Environmental Authority consultation, Cavan County Council conducted a four-week period from 6th June 2019 to 5th July 2019, where the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, with the accompanying SEA Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment Screening report were presented for public consultation. The follow outreach methods were used:

- Presentation at SPC meeting on 25/03/2019
- Following local elections, strategy was issued to new county councillors
- Notification sent to adjoining location authorities:
 - Leitrim County Council on 31/05/2019;
 - Meath County Council on 30/05/2019;
 - Longford County Council on 30/05/2019;
 - Westmeath County Council on 30/05/2019;
 - Monaghan County Council on 30/05/2019;
 - Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on 30/05/2019;
 - Climate Northern Ireland on 30/05/2019.
- Advertisement in Anglo Celt on 05/06/2019;
- Documents placed on Public Display in County Libraries on 05/06/2019;
- Documents placed on public Display in all 3 MD offices on 05/06/2019;
- Notification placed on Council website on 30/05/2019 <http://www.cavancoco.ie/climate-change.htm>;
- Notification request on the www.gov.ie public consultation portal on 30/05/2019;
- Notification sent to LAWPRO (LAWCO and LAWSAT) on 30/05/2019

A number of submissions came in during the consultation period, and 5 submissions were received in total, from the following organisation and individuals:

- The Office of Public Works (OPW);

- Irish Water;
- Daniel and Yasmin Peeters;
- Gas Networks Ireland (GNI); and
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

2.4.3 Summary of Consultation submissions

Table 2 details the summary of responses from each of the organisations and individuals that made a submission to the consultation periods and a summary of the response from Cavan County Council to each of the submissions is detailed.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS AND RESPONSES

Organization / individual	Summary submission	Cavan Co. Co. response
OPW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended wording changes and update to a number of actions to recognise OPWs role in flood risk management and the cycle of the CFRAMS process. 	<p>Updated Theme 4, Action 1 to</p> <p><i>Work with CFRAM programme to prioritise projects to reduce flood risk and provide for detailed mapping of areas prone to flood risk. The outputs from the second cycle of CFRAMS will also help inform the implementation of the Strategy.</i></p> <p>Added new action to Theme 4, as follows:</p> <p><i>Cavan County Council will support the OPW schemes of Flood Relief Management Plans (FRMPs) and Flood relief schemes</i></p> <p>Updated chapter 7 working, Actin 3 to:</p> <p><i>Presently, Cavan County Council is reliant on various stakeholders, sectors, state agencies and central government for data and actions such as OPW for flood risk data</i></p> <p>Updated Theme 4, Action 6 to:</p> <p><i>Ensure that potential future flood information is obtained/generated by way of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and used to inform suitable adaptation requirements within the Development Management process and for preparation of the County Development Plan, in line with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Flood Risk Management (DoECLG & OPW, 2009).</i></p>
Irish Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome the publication of Cavan Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, 	<p>Cavan County Council acknowledge the submission to the consultation period.</p>

	<p>and that they look forward to collaborating with Cavan County Council in implementing the measures set out in the recently published Government Climate Action Plan and in the Draft Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan: Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure published in May by the DHPLG, in particular as regards using Integrated Catchment Management [ICM] to provide a cost-effective, sustainable means to reduce the sources of pollutants, and to slow, limit or restrict pathways of pollutants to waterbodies.</p>	
<p>Daniel and Yasmin Peeters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests to either create a new strategy focusing purely on mitigation or fuse both together: climate adaption and mitigation strategy. • Suggests organisations so that Cavan can have the dedicated people working in them helping to tackle environmental issues in Cavan. • Recommends putting more investment into projects such as clean energy (harnessing our waterways) and local cleanups. • Suggests educating people about the dangers of environmental damage. Encourage schools to teach it in science or nature studies. • Suggests banning plastic in shops restaurants and places of entertainment or putting a tax on plastic products and to provide recycling bins and encourage people to use them. It is also necessary to educate people on how to recycle properly and impose a fine for misuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cavan County Council recognises the need for adaptation and mitigation, however also recognize climate change for the hugely complex issue that it is. Responses and efforts are required from every sector in society. There is no one strategy, no 'one size fits all' solution to the challenges faced. Responding to climate change requires a suite of measures that will collectively represent a coherent approach to dealing with these challenges. Adaptation planning in Cavan County Council is recognized as one such measure that will work cohesively and constructively with ongoing and future mitigation efforts to represent an ever increasing and collective response. • Include a new action in Adaptation Strategy in Goal No 6.5, as follows: <i>Liaise and collaborate with the CARO and the EPA on the implementation of the National Dialogue on Climate Action.</i> <p>New action added to Theme 2, as follows:</p> <p><i>Support Waste Management policies for the reduction of waste and other initiatives that promote the transition to a circular economy and as per the objectives of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan.</i></p>
<p>Gas Networks Ireland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests that the Council considers the role that renewable gas and CNG in transport, for example the role it can play in reducing carbon emissions in the region and their contribution to 	<p>The suggested inclusion of an additional action to "Encourage and promote the development of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) infrastructure" would be best</p>

	<p>providing economic benefits to the local economy. In addition to the support for anaerobic digestion plants, CNG refuelling stations and renewable gas injection points would help establish these technologies in the region.</p>	<p>dealt with under central government, national policy and the county development plan.</p> <p>The support for anaerobic digestion is already established in the plan in goal 1.5.15 <i>Encourage and promote technologies (ie anaerobic digestion) that will contribute positively and grow the Circular and Bio-economy to promote sustainable rural and urban economic development as part of the overall aim of transitioning to a low carbon economy with reduced green house gases.</i></p>
<p>The Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine (DAFM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested the need to reference and create a sense of ownership/ inclusion to the agricultural/forestry sector and the impact that it can have in helping adaptation/mitigation goals and objectives. 	<p>This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy has been developed particularly to focus on the remit and operational control of Council functions and activities. Insofar as the request by the DAFM to examine issues facing agricultural/forestry activities it is considered that these are best explored and dealt with in the Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood. The Council though will support the DAFM in its efforts to deliver actions of the Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood Adaptation Plan where in particular the council is identified as having a particular role and where it forms an integral aspect of the functions of the council also.</p>

The Chief Executive Report attached with Cavan’s Climate Change Adaptation Strategy provides a details response to each of the submissions.

2.5 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has also been prepared for this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in line with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

The Report concludes:

In conclusion, further to a screening of Cavan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for possible significant effects on Natura 2000 sites no significant effects were identified.

The screening outlined in this report included an assessment of possible in-combination effects. Based on the objective information contained in this report and applying the precautionary principle, it is concluded that the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will not have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.

The AA Screening Report accompanies Cavan’s Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

3 DETERMINING WHETHER AN SEA IS REQUIRED

The objective of the SEA Directive for the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment is to

“provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”³

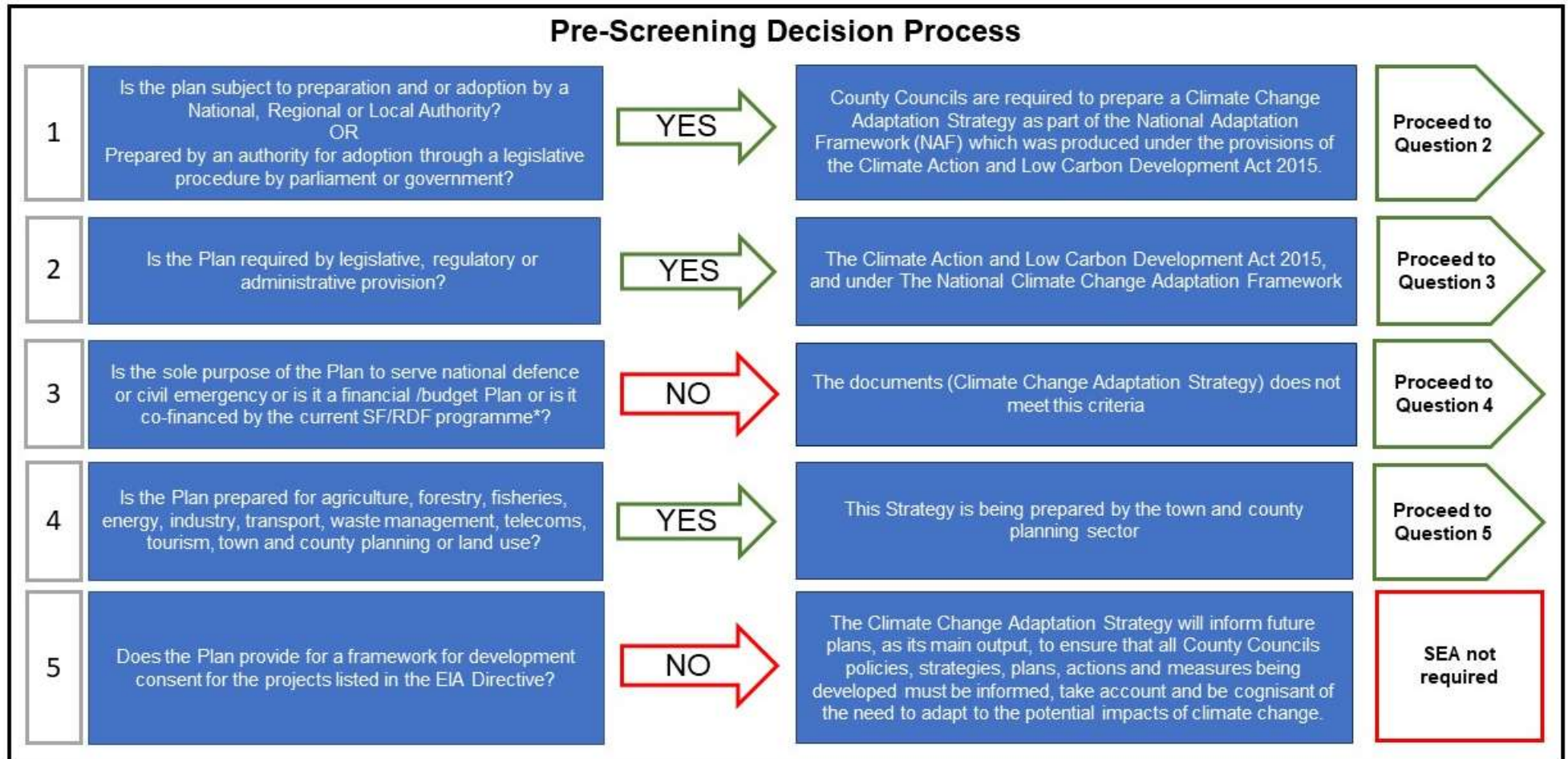
Post the Environmental Authority and Public Consultation, the updated Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was screened for SEA requirements. The below details the SEA screening process carried out.

3.1 The requirement to carry out SEA – Pre-Screening Checklist

In order to determine if this Strategy is considered a plan/programme under Article 3 of the SEA Directive, a pre-screening check is necessary. Figure 1 below provides details of the pre-screening checklist; this checklist is based on the decision tree published by the EPA in the *Development of SEA methodologies for plans and programmes in Ireland*.⁴

³ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

⁴ P. Scott & P. Marsden., 2001-EEP/DS-2/5 *Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland* Synthesis Report © Environmental Protection Agency 2003



*SF/RDF: Structural Funds and Regional Development Funds under Council Regulation (EC) Nos. 1260/99 and 1257/99 which operate programming periods of 2000–2006 and 2000–2007, respectively.

FIGURE 1 PRE-SCREENING DECISION PROCESS

4 SEA SCREENING DETERMINATION

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was screened using the criteria contained in Annex II of the SEA Directive. Table 3 and Table 4 below, details the screening assessment using the *criteria for determining the likely significance of effects* as set out in the SEA Directive, Annex II.

TABLE 3 SCREENING DETERMINATION FOR ANNEX II (1.), CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

The Characteristics of the Plan and Programmes having regard, in particular, to, the following criteria	
Criteria	Screening Determination
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	<p>The purpose of this Climate Adaptation Strategy is to identify the risks to Cavan County associated with climate change, and to set strategic goals, objectives and actions to adapt to these changes.</p> <p>Cavan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy forms part of Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation as set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was produced under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</p> <p>Cavan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, if adopted, will not set a framework for future development consent of projects, i.e. projects listed in both Annex I and Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.</p>
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	<p>This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will inform other future plans, as its main output, to ensure that Cavan County Councils policies, strategies, plans, actions and measures being developed must be informed, take account and be aware of the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Future individual county development policies, strategies, plans and projects must be considered under the SEA, EIA and/or AA processes.</p>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	<p>As the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into Cavan County Councils plans, strategies and management team's agendas, the climate change adaptation measures will be implemented via future plans.</p> <p>This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy's main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies and</p>

	<p>plans for Cavan County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Individual county development policies, strategies, plans and projects must be considered individually under the SEA, EIA and/or AA process.</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;</p>	<p>The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy looks to integrate climate change adaptation into Cavan County Council as a management function and/or an important criterion to be considering in developing Local Authority Plans or Actions. The climate change adaptation actions taken will be implemented via future plans as its main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and measures for Cavan County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Individual county development policies, strategies, plans and projects must be considered individually under the SEA, EIA and/or AA process.</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).</p>	<p>As the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into identified Cavan County Councils Plans and Strategies and future Plans and Strategies, with some specific actions to help raise awareness of climate change both within management team and the wider public in Cavan County, these actions can support plans and programmes that are related to waste generation, management, flood resilience and protection.</p> <p>However, these climate change adaptation actions will be implemented via future plans as its main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and measures for Cavan County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p>

TABLE 4 SCREENING DETERMINATION FOR ANNEX II (2.), CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Characteristics of the Effects and of the Area Likely to be Affected, taking account of the following criteria	
Criteria	Screening Determination
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cavan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into the Local Authorities plans, strategies and management agendas, this in itself will help develop climate resilience. The climate change adaptation actions will be implemented via future plans as its main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and measures developed by Cavan County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change. Individual policies, strategies, plans and measures must be considered individually under the SEA, EIA and/or AA process. Any and all effects uncovered as part of this process will be considered in relation to the characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected and the process will have regard, in particular, to the criteria as listed, according to the legislation.
The cumulative nature of the effects	
The transboundary nature of the effects	
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</i> - <i>exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; and</i> - <i>intensive land-use.</i> 	
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	

5 CONCLUSION

This SEA Screening Report was carried out in order to determine the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment for Cavan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy prepared under the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework. It has been concluded, based on the pre-screening check, and review against the environmental significance criteria as set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. This is due to the fact that this Strategy does not provide a framework for development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive. Furthermore, the purpose of this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is to inform Local Authority policies, procedures and further plans on the need to incorporate climate change adaptation measures and it does not set out projects, plans or specific measures.

APPENDIX 1 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY - ACTIONS

Theme 1: Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations	Actions
1	Building on adaptation planning actions set out in this strategy, support and compliment the practical implementation of actions arising from the National Climate Action Plan – to Tackle Climate Breakdown (as revised and updated annually), across the broad range of functions of the local authority to achieve the national climate ambition i.e. decarbonisation targets to 2030 and objectives to 2050.
2	Establish an adaptation Steering Group with representatives from across key functions of local authority to ensure the successful implementation of the actions of this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and to report on progress.
3	Mainstream Climate Action policy as integral consideration in the Corporate Plan objectives providing for the all local authority activities and the delivery of functions and services across the administrative area.
4	Consider the appointment of a Climate Action officer.
5	Include for Climate change in directorate role and title.
6	Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership with the sectors identified in the National Adaptation Framework, subject to funding, in the delivery of the Government approved sectoral adaptation actions, where they relate and are relevant to the functions and activities of the council at local level/in local communities.
7	Integrate Climate Action into the Service Delivery Programme and provide for its translation to Team Development Plans to enable actions to be directly pursued per operational area.
8	Promote green procurement in Cavan County Council such that services, goods, and works procured contribute to and support climate action objectives and wider environmental objectives whilst representing value for money.
9	Develop a Business Continuity Plan to identify and address specifically, the impacts associated with extreme weather events on all IT functions/services of the local authority and explore potential opportunities to increase resilience. This will involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Preparing for critical services disruptions, •Assessment of the Local Authority's back-up system's infrastructure and review of power outage back-up procedures to ensure resilience. •Developing a network access contingency plan for identified essential key staff to be able to access all essential council systems remotely due to a climate event to reduce or eliminate climate event impacts on statutory deadlines and backlog.
10	Assess Cavan County Council's vehicle policy and undertake vehicle suitability assessments regularly to ensure timely and necessary maintenance for effective operation in challenging conditions.
11	Cooperate with and ensure implementation of Guidance for National Local Authority Policy and Procedure for the Management of the Local Authority Response to specific weather events ie Storms
12	Evaluate and document resources deployed for the management, maintenance, repairs and clean up operations after extreme weather events taking full account of hours and costs involved and impact on service delivery and including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increased operational costs •Increased maintenance costs •Increased contractor and out-of hours costs •Additional funding sought/received.
13	Build expertise, capacity and increase knowledge base through relevant training programmes on Climate Change and its implications on the operations/functions of Cavan County Council. Training programmes may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oClimate Change awareness training to staff, Councilors and communities
14	Identify and source funding streams for the active implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation actions and measures across County Cavan.
15	Encourage and promote technologies (ie anaerobic digestion) that will contribute positively and grow the Circular and Bio-economy to promote sustainable rural and urban economic development as part of the overall aim of transiting to a low carbon economy with reduced green house gases.

Theme 2: Infrastructure and Built Environment	Actions
1	Identify asset manager and apply a robust risk assessment and management framework to Local Authority owned buildings and properties to identify and protect against the key vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change and mitigate against service disruption
2	Integrate climate considerations into the design, planning and construction of all roads, footpaths, bridges, public realm and other construction projects.
3	Undertake a Risk Assessment of road infrastructure to identify the severity of climate change risks on their function and condition. The risk assessment should provide for an understanding and quantification of risks posed. The findings should be integrated into decision making processes, road infrastructure programmes and investment strategies.
4	<p>Explore ways to minimise the expected increase in maintenance requirements and costs to road infrastructure from climate stress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Integrating climate change considerations at design stages. •Explore the climate resilience of materials used in road construction and maintenance. •Examine options to reduce road settlement due to severe weather events •Assessment of gully clearing and maintenance plans with aim to become more proactive to reduce costs in the future
5	Energy engagement strategy adopted for the organisation to facilitate behavioural change relating to improved energy efficiency and associated reduction in carbon emissions.
6	Review of Cavan Co Co developments with a view to ensuring energy efficiency measures are being considering at the design stage and incorporated during construction and operation phases.
7	Support the public lighting retrofits programme currently in operation.
8	Seek to participate in OPW programme <i>Optimising power @ Work</i> to effect staff energy awareness and behavioural change
9	Support Waste Management policies for the reduction of waste and other initiatives that promote the transition to a circular economy and as per the objectives of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan

Theme 3: Landuse and Development	Actions
1	Identify and integrate climate change as a critical consideration and guiding principle informing core strategies, strategic objectives, policy and development control standards of the County Development Plan.
2	Integrate and promote climate-smart building and urban design performance outcomes in development standards through the development management process.
3	Promote the integrated planning, design and delivery of green infrastructure (including urban greening) through appropriate provisions in planning policies, development standards, infrastructural, public realm and community projects. Some of the wider environmental benefits of green infrastructure, are microclimate benefits including providing shade to alleviate heat stress, supporting for urban biodiversity, water retention, and flood alleviation etc.
4	Research and incorporate, in the content of the County Development Plan, measures in accordance with section 10 (n) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) for: (n) 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, and (iii) address the necessity of adaptation to climate change; in particular, having regard to location, layout and design of new development;
5	Encourage the development of a policy to support and develop Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure on: •Sites owned and occupied by Cavan County Council owned and operated buildings •Private sites through supportive policies and development control standards of the County Development Plan.

Theme 4: Drainage and Flood Management	Actions
1	Work with CFRAM programme to prioritise projects to reduce flood risk and provide for detailed mapping of areas prone to flood risk. The outputs from the second cycle of CFRAMS will also help inform the implementation of the Strategy.
2	Stipulate the requirement for the design and specification of urban stormwater drainage systems for new developments to take account of the potential future impact of climate change.
3	Incorporate the requirement for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems where appropriate in local authority projects and private development sites.
4	Assess the need for upgrades of drainage systems including separation of sewer and surface water required to reduce risk of capacity pressure on drainage systems.
5	Incorporate considerations of the impact of climate change into proposals submitted under the OPW Minor Works Programme to ensure that measures proposed are adaptable to future changes.
6	Ensure that potential future flood information is obtained/generated by way of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and used to inform suitable adaptation requirements within the Development Management process and for preparation of the County Development Plan, in line with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Flood Risk Management (DoECLG & OPW, 2009).
7	Ensure that emergency response plans are reviewed annually to ensure the appropriate resource capacity is in place to provide an effective emergency response, to issues increasing as a result of climate change including floods and wildfire.
8	Develop a gulley maintenance and cleaning plan to ensure that programs are in place in all towns and villages prone to flooding and that all gulleys are cleaned in advance of the Autumn and winter seasons.
9	Cavan County Council will support the OPW schemes of Flood Relief Management Plans(FRMPs) and Flood relief schemes.

Theme 5: Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure	Actions
1	Review Heritage Plan which incorporates the Biodiversity Plan. The actions within this plan will promote best practice in relation to the adverse impacts of climate change on historically important structures and the natural environment
2	Develop and implements an awareness campaign around the role of the natural environment and its positive contribution to Climate Action through green schools.
3	Encourage utilisation of the Waste Permitting Process to protect sensitive sites from inappropriate infilling activities
4	Integrate natural borders/buffers as an integral component of the design of greenways, tracks and trails, and amenity areas to promote natural enhancement. (NPWS to be consulted to ensure that buffer zones are provided, maintained, and protected to avoid potential impacts on designated habitats or protected species and habitats and to protect and enhance wider biodiversity)
5	Develop a strategy to support an active native Tree Planting programme in the context of climate adaptation

Theme 6: Community Health and Wellbeing	Actions
1	Through public participation network raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and ways for communities to increase response and resilience to these impacts.
2	Encourage community groups particularly Tidy Towns groups to consider climate change adaptation in their multi annual plans and programs to reduce climatic risks in their communities
3	For any significant festivals / events in the County, integrate climate change considerations at the planning and development stage
4	Encourage more communities to actively pursue projects to reduce energy consumption and reduce their carbon footprint.
5	Liaise and collaborate with the CARO and the EPA on the implementation of the National Dialogue on Climate Action.