



CLIMATE ACTION & ENERGY

Q

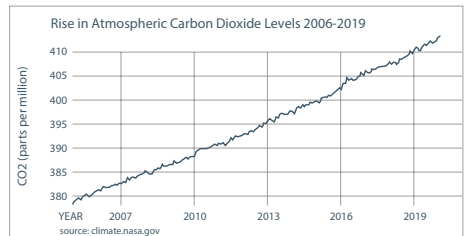
When it comes to land use, what are the key actions we can take to reduce the impacts of climate change?

The United Nations has identified Climate Change as the defining issue of our time.

Global Overview

Climate change is recognised as a significant global environmental problem. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere have risen to record levels, not present in three million years. Evidence of this can be seen in the changes to our average temperature, sea level change, **rainfall intensity**/patterns, increased **flooding**/extreme weather events, impact on **biodiversity/food production**. As populations, economies and standards of living grow, so does the cumulative level of GHGs emissions. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is one of these greenhouse

gases, which is released through human activities, such as deforestation and burning fossil fuels, as well as natural processes such as respiration and volcanic eruptions.



Irish Context

All aspects of Government policy are now underpinned by a commitment to Climate Action. The National 'Climate Action Plan 2019', sets out a course of action over the coming years to address Climate Change. The CAP recognises the role that land use and **spatial planning** can play in providing for population growth in a **compact, connected** and **sustainable** way to reduce our carbon footprint.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 led to a statutory National Adaptation Framework, published in 2018, setting out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts through a whole of government approach.



What is Climate Action?

'Climate Action' includes the two approaches necessary to tackle climate change. **Mitigation** to reduce current and future GHG emissions and **Adaptation** to take actions that will reduce the impacts that are already happening.



Adaptation

Change in land use, relocation
 Emergency & business continuity planning
 Upgrades or hardening of building & infrastructure
 Residential programs promoting adaptation
 Health programmes

Seal Buildings
 Green Infrastructure
 Water & Energy Conservation
 Smart Growth

Mitigation

Energy conservation & efficiency
 Renewable energy
 Sustainable transportation, improved fuel efficiency
 Capture and use of landfill & digester gas
 Carbon sinks

South Dublin County Council Response

Adoption of a 'Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024', with 5 key action areas:



Nature Based Solutions



Flood Resilience



Resource Management



Energy & Buildings



Transport

The Role of the Development Plan

In terms of climate change and land use planning the Development Plan plays an important role in influencing a reduction in GHG emissions by guiding the sustainable growth of the county, encouraging more compact mixed-use development and greater use of sustainable transport options such as cycling, walking and public transport, restricting development in areas that are at risk of flooding and protecting the natural landscape and biodiversity.

The county should aspire to becoming as low a carbon county as possible and make every effort to increase energy efficiency and unlock renewable energy potential. Therefore, there is a recognised need to build on previous County Development Plan energy and climate action policies, focusing on more evidence based and spatially appropriate policies.



Environment & Biodiversity

- A tool to alleviate some of the negative impacts of climate change and contribute to the prevention or slowing down of those impacts.
- Use of nature-based solutions will be prioritised whenever possible.



Accessibility & Movement

- Developing a compact and sustainable pattern of development where people can live and work in areas supported by high frequency public transport.
- Permeability and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.



Design & Layout

- Orientation of buildings.
- Location, layout and design of new development.



Energy

- Promotion of Renewable energy and encouraging energy efficient materials.
- Sharing of excess energy.



Water Management

- Use Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to provide for more natural solutions to reduce surface water run-off.
- Flood Risk Assessments and nature based solutions where possible



DELIVERY: Working together through proper planning, we can reduce our impact on climate change in order to contribute towards the development of sustainable and resilient communities.