



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications



# Public Sector Bodies Climate Action Roadmaps Guidance 2024

# Public Sector Bodies Climate Action Roadmaps Guidance

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## Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

SEAI is Ireland's national energy authority investing in, and delivering, appropriate, effective and sustainable solutions to help Ireland's transition to a clean energy future. We work with the public, businesses, communities and the Government to achieve this, through expertise, funding, educational programmes, policy advice, research and the development of new technologies.

SEAI is funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

## EPA

The EPA is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

**Regulation:** Implementing regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.

**Knowledge:** Providing high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making.

**Advocacy:** Working with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental practices

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## 1. Overview

This document provides guidance for public sector bodies to update their climate action roadmaps in line with the updated public sector climate action mandate, which was published in Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) at the end of December 2023.

The purpose of the climate action roadmap is to encourage strategic vision, coordination, organisation, mobilisation, and planning by each organisation.

Organisations that already undertake climate action wider than the requirements outlined in this guidance, or have plans to do so, such as reducing emissions of other greenhouse gases, reductions in other indirect emissions, or for adaptation activities, are encouraged to include these in their Roadmap as an additional section.

### 1.1 Changes since 2023 guidance

- Added additional guidance on submitting and publishing roadmaps, and on reporting on implementation of the Mandate;
- Updated to include the new elements of the Climate Action Mandate on:
  - Single use items;
  - Construction;
  - Water;
  - Paper
  - Food waste
  - building stock planning
  - Installation of charging infrastructure
- Added guidance on Climate Action Leadership Training as an appendix.

#### 1.1.1 Ensuring Public Sector Body's Functions are performed consistent with Section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021

Section 15(1) point (d) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021 states that:

- "A relevant body shall, in so far as is practicable, perform its functions in a manner consistent with the furtherance of the national climate objective."
- With this in mind, public bodies should undertake a screening exercise of their functions to ascertain whether they have a role in implementing a) the Climate Action Plan, b) the Public Sector Climate Action Strategy, or c) whether they have a material impact on the furtherance of the national Climate Objective. This could be through the provision of funding, infrastructure provision, through a planning or regulatory activity, or through another function of the public body.
- Once the Public body has completed the screening for relevant activities under section 15(1) of the Act, it should then assess what measures are necessary to ensure those relevant activities are consistent with section 15(1) of the Act.

### 1.2 Climate Action Mandate

The Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2024 was published in CAP24. The Mandate requires public sector bodies to show leadership in climate action and to demonstrate how they are taking the required actions. This document provides guidance on how to comply with the current Mandate. Public bodies may include climate action areas not currently required by the Mandate.

The adoption of the Mandate will support public sector bodies leading by example in demonstrating the necessary climate action to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 51% by 2030.

For the Mandate, and to ensure consistency of reporting requirements with energy use and energy efficiency, it has been decided to base the definition of Public Body on that used in S.I. No. 426/2014 – European Union (Energy Efficiency) Regulations 2014. Therefore, all Public Bodies who report under the existing SEAI Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) system already in place are to follow the Mandate (except for Local Authorities, Commercial Semi-State Bodies, and the School Sector where separate mandates apply).

The Public Sector Climate Action Mandate will be reviewed annually, and the changes reflected in the CAP revision. Revised roadmap guidance will then be issued, enabling public bodies to update their Climate Action roadmap to reflect the latest Mandate.

### 1.3 Definition of large public bodies

Large public bodies for the purposes of the Mandate are defined as 'Organisations that consume over 50 GWh of energy per annum'. For the purposes of building stock planning, homogenous sectors such as schools, health, further and higher education and the civil service are also defined as large public sector bodies.

### 1.4 Public Sector Climate Action Strategy

The [Public Sector Climate Action Strategy](#) was published in March 2023 and focuses on the governance required to support public sector decarbonisation. It also addresses green public procurement, sustainable travel, a strategic approach for buildings, and financing. The Strategy provides additional guidance and should be read in conjunction with the Climate Action Roadmap guidance.

### 1.5 Compliance with legal requirements

The Climate Action Roadmap focuses on meeting or going beyond the requirements of the Climate Action Mandate 2024. However, public bodies need to be aware of the legal requirements relating to energy and climate action and plan for compliance of these in their roadmaps. SEAI published a [short guide to the energy efficiency and climate change legislation](#) which affects most public bodies.

These requirements include:

- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, which requires all public bodies to perform their functions in a manner consistent with Ireland's climate ambition.
- SI393/2021 Energy Performance of buildings, which requires installation of Building Automation and Control by 2025 for buildings with HVAC rated output over 290kW; requires installation of electric vehicle charging points in carparks for new or refurbished buildings with more than 10 car parking spaces.
- SI381/2021 Clean Vehicles Directive, which sets targets for the procurement of clean light and heavy-duty vehicles, with the first target falling in 2025 and the second in 2030. The definition of clean vehicle changes to zero emission vehicles in 2025.
- SI4/2017 Energy Performance of Buildings, which requires all new public sector buildings built since 2018 to be "nearly zero emissions".
- SI646/2016, which requires that public bodies only procure energy-using products and vehicles that are on the Triple E register.
- SI426/2014, which requires the public sector to demonstrate exemplary energy management and requires public bodies to undertake energy audits every four years, and also requires that the public sector can only lease or buy buildings with BER A3 or higher.

## 1.6 Format of the Roadmap

The roadmap should cover each public body's plan for implementing the Mandate. It may be compiled in whatever format is most useful, so long as the content listed in this document is included.

For smaller public bodies, the headings and subheadings set out in Annex 1 shall serve as a template. The minimum content covers the required content for smaller public bodies.

## 1.7 Approval, sign off and publication of Roadmaps

The Roadmap must be signed off by the most senior management level within the organisation (e.g., CEO, Chair of the Board, Secretary General, etc.).

Once approved, public sector bodies are required to send their Roadmaps to the Climate and Sustainability Champion in the organisation's parent department, and to SEAI's Public Sector Team at [publicsector@seai.ie](mailto:publicsector@seai.ie). Government departments are required to submit their Roadmaps to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications at [ClimateActionRoadmap@DECC.gov.ie](mailto:ClimateActionRoadmap@DECC.gov.ie) as well as to SEAI's Public Sector Team. SEAI does not approve or publish Roadmaps; its role is to track Roadmaps completed and report compliance to government.

Where the governance/reporting relationships for a public sector body involves another public body or Government Department, the parent Department may provide separate additional guidance to the public bodies, on the submission of roadmaps, which takes into consideration the relevant governance/reporting/funding arrangements for that public body.

From 2024, Government departments are **required** to publish their Roadmaps (this fulfils the requirement to publish a Resource Efficiency Action Plan or REAP). Other public bodies are encouraged to publish their Roadmap. Roadmaps may be published electronically on the public body's website.

## 1.8 Reporting progress against the Climate Action Mandate Requirements

### 1.9 Annual reporting requirements

Public bodies must publicly report on their climate action activities in their annual reports.

Annual reports **must** include at a minimum:

- Current greenhouse gas emissions and comparison to 2016-18 baseline as per M&R;
- Progress towards implementation of the requirements of the most recent Mandate;
- A report of sustainability activities undertaken by the organisation within the last year; public bodies can include relevant sustainability activities that do not fall strictly within the requirements of the Mandate;
- Evidence of compliance with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel.

#### 1.9.1 Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System

SEAI's Public Sector M&R system (M&R) tracks progress towards the energy efficiency and energy related carbon targets. The SEAI annual report now includes energy related carbon emissions.

From October 2024 Climate and Sustainability Champions will be required to confirm, via the M&R system, if Mandate actions are complete or incomplete and to provide additional information ("comply and explain" approach). Reporting in October 2024 will be on the actions contained in the 2023 Mandate. Reporting for the 2024 mandate will be incorporated into the 2024 reporting cycle beginning in January 2025.

### 1.9.2 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

The reporting requirements relating to the mandate are reflected in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies as amended in 2023 (see [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)).

This will enable parent Departments to include climate considerations as part of the existing reporting structure for monitoring compliance statutory and governance requirements.

### 1.10 Updating the Climate Action Roadmap

The Roadmap must be in line with the Climate Action Mandate and must therefore be updated in line with any changes in the Mandate.

The Mandate will be reviewed and potentially updated annually in the context of the preparation of the annual update to the Climate Action Plan. Additional guidance will be issued by SEAI and EPA within 2 months of publication of the Climate Action Plan. Public bodies have 6 months from publication of the Climate Action Plan to update their Roadmaps to reflect the revised Mandate requirements.

2024 and ongoing years	
Within 2 months of publication of Climate Action Plan	Guidance updated
Within 6 months of publication of Climate Action Plan	Roadmaps updated and submitted

## 2. Content of Climate Action Roadmaps

This section covers the content required in Climate Action Roadmaps.

### 2.1 Our Targets

#### Climate Action Mandate Section 1 - Our targets

1. Our Targets
  - 1.1. Reduce GHG emissions by 51% in 2030.
  - 1.2. Increase the improvement in energy efficiency in the public sector from the 33% target in 2020 to 50% by 2030.
  - 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.

For the purposes of the Mandate, greenhouse gas emissions are taken to be energy-related carbon dioxide-equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions. The baseline for most organisations is the average of 2016-2018 emissions.

The total target for each individual public body is derived as follows:

- 51% reduction of direct fossil fuel related CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions (thermal and transport consumption); plus
- projected supply side reductions in indirect fossil fuel related CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from electricity.

Public bodies must ensure that they meet BOTH the 51% reduction in direct fossil fuel related emissions (thermal and transport) target and the overall total emissions reduction target.

#### 2.1.1 Achieving the energy related carbon emissions reduction targets (51% reduction by 2030)

##### *Minimum Content*

This section should explain how the organisation plans to meet its 2030 energy related emissions targets. The analysis should identify the level of emissions reduction required to meet the target, taking into account the latest emissions data from M&R and should use the SEAI Gap to Target tool or equivalent modelling tool.

The following elements should be included in the Roadmap:

- Energy related CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions baseline (average of 2016-18 emissions).
- Total emissions and thermal (heating and transport) emissions in target year (2030) if no new projects implemented.
- Any growth in emissions between the baseline and target years based on planned increase/growth in services (if applicable).
- Any planned energy related greenhouse gas emission reduction activities.
- Analysis of significant emitters.
- Identify the 'Gap to Target' that needs to be addressed.

If there is a gap, public bodies should identify potential decarbonisation pathway(s), covering:

- Proposed actions to achieve energy related carbon target, detailing specific projects and timelines.
- Resources in place or to be mobilised.
- Project readiness status.



### Recommended content

- Incorporate opportunities from any Register of Opportunities from your energy management programme, or an SI426 compliant audit<sup>1</sup>.
- Detail the project pipeline to 2030, including specific projects and actions, timelines, financing requirements and responsibilities. For multi-site organisations, there may be a capacity building phase where one or two projects are completed to develop learnings and models and a delivery phase where the programme is ramped up and the remainder of projects are completed.
- Plans for financing projects.

### Guidance/Best Practice

The energy related carbon emissions baseline for each organisation is calculated by SEAI's M&R system. This will be available in the M&R-2030 system by the end of February 2024.

Public bodies can use the Gap To Target tool to model potential pathways to achieving the targets. The tool estimates energy related carbon emissions up to 2030 based on the energy data available for the baseline period of 2016/18, and the projected emission factors up to 2030. The tool also allows organisations to model approaches to achieving the targets. The Gap to Target will be updated whenever new emission factor data becomes available from SEAI's modelling team. Public bodies can download their Gap to Target tool from the M&R system<sup>2</sup>. The 2023 Mandate required public bodies to develop building stock plans in 2023. Information gathered as part of developing these plans should be used to inform climate action planning. See section 3.1 of this guidance for more information on building stock planning.

### Additional information, training or supports

- [M&R-2030 methodology guidance](#) Chapter 6 – to understand the target methodology.
- [Gap to Target Model User Guide](#)
- [SEAI Partnership Programme](#) can provide support to SEAI partners on populating the Gap to Target tool and using it to analyse emission pathway submissions, developing pathways and project pipelines, as well as support with developing energy management and energy efficient design.
- Various agencies may be able to assist business case analysis and financing for larger projects i.e.
  - Ireland
    - [NDFA](#)
    - [Ireland Strategic Investment Fund](#)
  - EU – [InvestEU](#), [EU Life Programme](#)
    - Many of these schemes also can provide capital support. There are numerous Irish public sector projects availing of these schemes i.e. [National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project](#), [Irish Water energy efficiency project](#), [EU Horizon 2020 DeliveREE project](#)
- [SEAI Pathfinder Programme](#) provides capital support for public sector building energy decarbonisation retrofit projects.

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<sup>1</sup> An energy audit to SI426 is required for every public body with individual buildings with a total useful floor area of more than 500m<sup>2</sup> or an annual energy spend of more than €35,000 - <https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/energy-auditing>

<sup>2</sup> For 2024, please access the old M&R-2020 system to download the GTT tool <https://psmr.seai.ie>, or request from the M&R Helpdesk ([mandr@seai.ie](mailto:mandr@seai.ie))

- SEAI [Energy Contracting Support Scheme](#) - technical assistance for developing and supporting project implementation through an energy contracting approach.

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

#### *Minimum Content*

This section should explain how the organisation will achieve the energy efficiency target. It should set out analysis of target to 2030 based on the SEAI Gap to Target tool or equivalent. The analysis should cover:

- Energy efficiency baseline.
- Energy efficiency in target year (2030) if no new projects implemented.
- Any growth in energy use or change in the activity metric between the baseline and target years based on planned increase/growth in services (if applicable).
- Any planned energy efficiency activities.
- Analysis of significant energy users.
- Identify any 'Gap to Target' that needs to be addressed.

If there is a gap, identify additional energy efficiency pathways, covering:

- Proposed actions to achieve energy efficiency target, detailing specific projects and timelines.
- Resources in place or to be mobilised.
- Project readiness status.

#### *Guidance/Best Practice*

- The Gap to Target tool available from the M&R system<sup>3</sup> also allows modelling of energy efficiency performance against the 50% efficiency improvement target, including expected growth in energy use.
- This section should include information on the contribution of good energy management systems to reducing energy wastage/improving energy productivity.

#### *Additional information, training or supports*

In addition to supports listed in previous section:

- [M&R-2030 methodology guidance](#) Chapter 6 – to understand the target methodology.
- [Gap to Target Model User Guide](#)
- [SEAI Partnership Programme](#) can provide support to SEAI partners on populating the Gap to Target tool and using it to analyse energy efficiency pathways, developing pathways and project pipelines, as well as support with developing energy management and energy efficient design.

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<sup>3</sup> For 2024, please access the old M&R-2020 system to download the GTT tool <https://psmr.seai.ie>, or request from the M&R Helpdesk ([mandr@seai.ie](mailto:mandr@seai.ie))

### 2.1.3 Ensuring the public sector body's consistency with Section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021

#### *Minimum Content*

In this section public bodies should list their functions that are relevant to the Act and detail the measures that are being taken to ensure their functions are consistent with section 15(1) of the Act in addition to Action CP/23/12 as set out in Climate Action Plan 2023.

#### *Guidance/Best Practice*

As public bodies have diverse responsibilities, it is recommended that each body develops/uses an appropriate methodology. However, it is proposed that each organisation incorporates the following guiding principles:

- Build on existing taxonomies/approaches where possible, to incorporate lessons learnt elsewhere and ensure consistency.
- When screening each key activity (e.g. the provision of funding, infrastructure provision, a planning or regulatory activity, or through any another function of the public body), make an assessment as to whether it has a material role in implementing: (i) the Climate Action Plan; *and/or* (ii) the Public Sector Climate Action Strategy; *and/or* (iii) the furtherance of the national Climate Objective.
- Reflect the full climate impact of decisions made – direct and indirect, including scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.
- A public consultation on the screening report and proposed measures should be undertaken at least once, as well as after any major update of the Climate Action Plan, Long-term Climate Strategy *and/or* change in the activities of the organisation.

#### *Additional information, training or supports*

It is proposed to have a workshop on this new addition to the guidance, following which further guidance specifically relating to this action will be published.

## 2.2 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.

### Climate Action Mandate Section 2 - Our People

#### 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. Nominate a member of the Management Board as the Climate and Sustainability Champion with responsibility for implementing and reporting on the Mandate.
- 2.3. Incorporate appropriate climate action and sustainability training (technical and behavioural, including green procurement training) into learning and development strategies for staff.
- 2.4. Organise staff workshops (at least annually) to engage on climate issues, including a focus on decreasing the organisation's carbon footprint.
- 2.5. Ensure all senior management (P.O. level or equivalent and above) and members of State Boards complete a climate action leadership training course in 2023.

### 2.2.1 Leadership and governance for climate action

#### *Minimum Content*

- Names and roles of individuals appointed to Green Team, and terms of reference for Green Team.
- Governance structure for climate and sustainability including chart showing responsibilities.
- Name of nominated Climate and Sustainability Champion (minimum director level).
- Name and role of Energy Performance Officer (EPO) (minimum director level).

#### *Recommended Content*

- How climate action links to strategic energy management (if in place) and to Energy Performance Officer responsibilities.
- As annex: strategies or policies relating to energy/environment/sustainability, if available.

#### *Guidance/Best Practice*

The nominated Climate and Sustainability Champion should be a member of the Management Board reporting directly to the CEO or equivalent.<sup>4</sup> The two primary functions of the Climate and Sustainability Champion are:

- to implement and report on the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate; and
- to function as a sponsor at management board level for the organisation's Green Team.

For more information on the role of the Climate and Sustainability Champion, see the [Public Sector Climate Action Strategy 2023](#).

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<sup>4</sup> E.g., in a Government Department the Climate and Sustainability Champion should be at Assistant Secretary level, reporting to the Secretary General.

Appointment of a member of the senior management team as an Energy Performance Officer is a requirement of [the Public Sector Energy Strategy 2017](#). EPOs should have decision making powers with respect to facilities, corporate budgets, and procurement. This is usually at director level.

An appropriately ranked EPO may also serve as an organisation's Climate and Sustainability Champion. It is for each public body to decide if the Champion and EPO are the same or a different member of the senior management team.

The Green Team has two main objectives:

- to influence decision making in public sector bodies so that climate and environmental criteria are to the fore.
- to influence colleagues to commit to working and living sustainably.

It is recommended that the Green Team takes into account the mandate requirements when setting out its work programme for the year.

More information on Green Teams can be found in the Public Sector Climate Action Strategy.

#### *Additional information, training or supports*

- [The Public Sector Climate Action Strategy 2023 - 2025](#)
- [SEAI Energy Academy](#).
- SEAI Energy Basics and Carbon Basics Training <sup>5</sup>.
- [SEAI, Demonstrating Exemplar Energy Management](#)
- SEAI Energy MAP training.
- SEAI ISO50001 accelerator.

### **2.2.2 Engaging and training staff**

#### *Minimum Content*

The Roadmap should outline plans for training, including:

- actions taken or plans in place for annual staff engagement workshops on climate action.
- actions taken or plans in place to integrate appropriate climate action and sustainability actions into learning and development strategies for staff.
- actions taken or plans in place to develop or procure climate action leadership training for all senior management staff.

#### *Recommended Content*

- Information of any training needs analysis undertaken.
- Information on staff engagement already undertaken.

#### *Guidance/Best practice*

Staff engagement could take a number of forms – one off in person workshops, online workshops, energy days/weeks, Green Days/weeks. The important consideration is that the activities engage staff in climate issues and in reducing the organisation's carbon footprint.

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<sup>5</sup> SEAI courses for the public sector are listed on the Energy Link platform <https://energylink.seai.ie>

Senior leadership of the rank of Principal Officer or above (or equivalent) and members of State boards of state bodies which are subject to the Climate Action Mandate must undertake climate leadership training. This training should take place at least once every 18 months. Training should be held on a rolling basis to ensure new managers have an opportunity to attend. Separate guidance on climate leadership training has been published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and is attached as an appendix.

In fulfilment of CAP23 action PS/23/9/A, DECC has engaged with OneLearning on provision of climate related training and upskilling. CAP24 action PS/24/7 commits to the roll out of centralised climate-related training and upskilling for all Civil Service grades. This is being progressed by OneLearning.

Completion rates for training should be reported in the organisation's annual report and through M&R mandate reporting.

*Additional information, training or SEAI supports*

- [SEAI Energy Academy](#).
- SEAI Engaging People at Work Accelerator.
- SEAI Energy Basics and Carbon Basics training.
- SEAI Public sector partnership programme.

## 2.3 Our way of working

### Climate Action Mandate Section 3 - Our way of working

#### 3. Our Way of Working

##### 3.1. Report on the following in the Annual Report of the public sector body:

- GHG emissions;
- Implementation of the mandate;
- Sustainability activities;
- 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.

##### 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:

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. Green Public Procurement

3.4.1. 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.

##### 3.5. Construction

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.

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.

##### 3.6. Food Waste

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.

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.

##### 3.7. Paper

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.

3.7.2. Measure and monitor paper consumption.

### 3.8. Water

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.

### 3.9. 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

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.

## 2.3.1 Energy & environmental management systems

### Minimum Content

- Large public bodies that have not achieved environmental certification shall set out timelines for achieving certification.
- All public bodies with an energy spend greater than €2 million per annum must achieve ISO50001 certification by the end of 2024. The Roadmap must set out progress towards achieving certification.
- Public bodies should identify which energy or environmental management system they have implemented or are planning to implement.
- Other public bodies shall ensure they have an energy management body appropriate to the size of organisation, as set out in SEAI's guide to Demonstrating Exemplar Energy Management.

### Guidance/Best Practice

While energy prices will vary, meaning an organisation's energy spend could fluctuate while energy use remains the same, we highly encourage public bodies that are near or above this level of spend over a consistent period (2-3 years) to obtain ISO50001. Public bodies with a spend of this level will need to justify why they have not obtained ISO50001. Note that energy spend covers all spend on energy that is within the scope of M&R (i.e. spend on energy for heating, transport and electricity).

All public sector bodies should have some form of energy management system in place, even if not certified (as required by SI426/2024). SEAI have guidance on the appropriate level of energy management for organisations of different sizes. For organisations below the thresholds requiring ISO50001, EnergyMAP would be the most appropriate level.

### Additional information, training or supports

- SEAI, [Demonstrating Exemplar Energy Management](#)
- SEAI Partnership programme provides a range of energy management supports to embed the appropriate level of energy management in every organisation, namely:
  - Basic and advanced energy management diagnostics.
  - Energy MAP training.
  - ISO 50001 gap analysis.
  - ISO 50001 Accelerator.



- [I.S. EN ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management Systems](#)
- [I.S. EN ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems](#)
- European Commission guidance on [EMAS – Environment - European Commission](#)

### 2.3.2 Green public procurement

#### *Minimum Content*

- Implement Green Public Procurement (GPP) using the EPA Green Public Procurement Guidance and criteria/Office of Government Procurement's online Green Public Procurement Criteria Search tool as resources.
- As set out under section 2.3 Our People, incorporate green procurement training into learning and development strategies for staff.

#### *Recommended Content*

- Set up a system to gather and record data on GPP implementation.
- Measure the environmental and climate benefits achieved through the application of green criteria in future procurements.

#### *Guidance/Best Practice*

Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a process whereby public authorities can meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities by choosing solutions that have a reduced impact on the environment throughout their life cycle, as compared to alternative products/solutions. There are opportunities to introduce green criteria in procurement to support climate action ambitions including improved energy efficiency, prevention of waste and reduced consumption of water.

To assist in the provision of green criteria that can be incorporated into public procurement, the EPA has published GPP Guidance for the Public Sector and ten national criteria sets: Road Transport Vehicles & Services; ICT Products & Services; Food & Catering Services; Indoor Cleaning Services; Office Buildings Design, Construction & Management; Indoor & Outdoor Lighting; Heating Equipment; Energy related Products; Paper Products & Printing Services; and Textile Products and Services.

The Office of Government Procurement's GPP Criteria Search is an online search tool that allows the user to rapidly find, select, and download the Irish GPP criteria (as published by the EPA) relevant to a specific procurement project. The site was designed to facilitate uptake of green procurement and is available at [gppcriteria.gov.ie](http://gppcriteria.gov.ie).

There are also EU GPP criteria (including for sectors where national criteria are not yet available, e.g. Paints, varnishes and road markings).

Government Departments are required to report annually to the EPA on their implementation of GPP (since reference year 2020). Guidance and an Excel reporting template (see links below) are available as a resource that could be used by any public body looking to monitor and report on their organisation's GPP implementation.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications will publish a new GPP Strategy and Action Plan for 2024 – 2027 in early 2024.

#### *Additional information or supports*

- [Circular 20/2019 Promoting the use of Environmental and Social Considerations in Public Procurement \(DPER\)](#)
- [GPP GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND NATIONAL GPP CRITERIA SETS \(EPA\)](#)
- [GPP Criteria Search \(OGP\)](#)
- [GPP Criteria and Requirements - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Government Department GPP implementation reporting template and guidance \(EPA\)](#).

### 2.3.3 Construction

#### *Minimum Content*

- Specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2023.
- 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.

#### *Guidance/Best Practice*

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. It is recommended that procurers ask suppliers to document the carbon intensity of products procured and instruct design teams to minimise embodied carbon through thoughtful design, product specification and project carbon management.

In 2021, national Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects were published. These are voluntary guidelines; their purpose is to provide a practical approach which is informed by best practice in the prevention and management of construction & demolition wastes and resources from the design stage, through to construction and deconstruction. Public bodies are to adhere to these guidelines when directly procuring or supporting construction projects from 2024.

There are opportunities to prevent construction waste arising and use secondary materials in construction processes through availing of the circular economy regulatory mechanisms for by-products and end-of-waste. The EPA is the competent authority for these regulatory mechanisms. The EPA has to date published two national criteria for construction related materials: National by-product criteria for site-won asphalt and National end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates (see links below). National by-product criteria are well developed for greenfield soil and stone and it's expected these criteria will be finalised in 2024. Public bodies should consider incorporating green criteria in their tenders (see also Section 2.3.2 on Green Public Procurement). There is a national GPP criteria set on Office Buildings Design, Construction and Management which includes the following areas:

- Sourcing legal timber
- Installation and commissioning of buildings energy systems
- Site waste management
- Selection of fit-out materials and finishes

#### *Additional information or supports*

- [Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of resource & waste management plans for construction & demolition projects](#)
- National GPP Guidance and criteria sets (including Office Buildings): [Resources | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](#)
- [GPP Criteria Search](#) (OGP)
- [National By-product Criteria for Site-Won Asphalt \(EPA\)](#)
- [National End-of-Waste Criteria for Recycled Aggregates \(EPA\)](#)
- [Sectoral Sustainability Factsheets – Construction \(EPA\)](#)

### 2.3.4 Food Waste

#### *Minimum Content*

- 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.
- 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.

#### *Recommended Content*

- Calculate your food waste benchmark (typical benchmark for organisations is kg of food waste generated per employee per year). Set a target to reduce food waste and identify actions to meet that target. Report on progress annually.
- Green Team focus on food waste prevention.
- Support National Stop Food Waste on 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- Share Stop Food Waste resources with staff.
- Make canteen operators aware of the Food Waste Charter and encourage them to sign up.

#### *Guidance/Best Practice*

Growing, processing and transporting food uses a huge amount of resources such as land, water, energy and fertiliser. Up to 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions are associated with food waste so preventing food waste is an important climate action. Preventing food loss and food waste is a key sustainability step and supports Ireland's transition to a circular economy.

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.

Public bodies are to measure and monitor the food waste generated on premises from 2024 using a standardised approach set out in the EPA guidance (link below) to measure and reduce food waste in public sector offices. This should include food waste from onsite canteens as well as office areas and kitchenettes.

The Food Waste Charter is the national voluntary agreement for businesses across the food and drink sector (including hospitality providers) to pledge their commitment to reduce food waste and the Food Waste Charter is a priority action under Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap. Canteen service providers should be made aware of the Food Waste Charter and encouraged to sign up. Public bodies that prepare/serve food (e.g. hospitals, prisons) are also encouraged to sign up.

Green Teams could focus on food waste prevention as an activity. Stop Food Waste is the consumer-facing national food waste prevention programme, with information and tips on how to prevent food waste. Green Teams could support the annual National Stop Food Waste Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March and share Stop Food Waste resources with staff.

All new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, including events and conferences, are to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste, with a specific focus on preventing food waste and properly segregating food waste for collection in the biowaste/organic bin for recycling. The Irish GPP criteria for Food and Catering Services sets out green criteria which can be incorporated into procurement practices.

#### *Additional information or supports*

- [Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap](#)
- [EPA guidance to measure and reduce food waste in public sector offices](#)

- [Food Waste Charter](#)
- [Stop Food Waste](#)
- [Irish GPP Criteria: Food and Catering Services](#)

### 2.3.5 Paper

#### *Minimum content*

- 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.
- Measure and monitor paper consumption.

#### *Recommended Content*

- Once a baseline for paper consumption is known, set a target to reduce paper use and identify and take actions to meet that target. Report on activities in annual report.
- Measure paper waste generation (quantity and/or expenditure), e.g. waste paper collected for shredding.
- Once a baseline for waste paper generation is known, set a target to reduce the amount of paper waste generated.

#### *Guidance/Best Practice*

Paper production, distribution, use and waste management require a large amount of raw materials and energy. There are also additional resources associated with paper use such as printers, printer toner cartridges, paper clips, files and storage requirements.

An exercise to review any paper-based processes and (i) evaluate the possibilities for digitisation so it becomes the default approach and (ii) eliminate paper-based processes as far as practicable will need to be carried out, if not done previously.

Tracking systems may need to be set up to measure and monitor paper consumption if not already in place. It is recommended that tracking systems for measuring and monitoring waste paper management (e.g. on paper shredding services) is also set up if not already in place. The quantity of waste paper generated should reduce if consumption drops through taking targeted actions (e.g. digitisation of services, printing double sided as a default, or introducing managed print services). Once baseline measurements are known, targets can be set to reduce paper consumption/waste paper generated.

The EPA has published Sectoral Sustainability Factsheets for the Public Sector (linked below) which include practical actions to reduce paper consumption.

There is a requirement that where paper must be procured, purchase of recycled paper is the default.

The Irish GPP criteria for Paper Products and Printing Services sets out green criteria which can be incorporated into procurement practices.

#### *Additional information or supports*

- [Irish GPP criteria; paper products and printing services](#)
- [Sectoral Sustainability Factsheets – Public Sector](#)

### 2.3.6 Water

#### *Minimum Content*

- 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.

#### *Recommended Content*

- Green Team focus on reducing water consumption.
- Measure and monitor water consumption.
- Plan in place to reduce water consumption.

#### *Guidance/Best Practice*

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.

The public sector can play a leadership role in reducing water consumption.

By providing suitable drinking water refill stations for staff (and in any premises accessed by the public) there is the potential to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic water bottles. According to Refill Ireland, 220,000 single use plastic water bottles are generated in Ireland every day and people spend €100 million on these bottles every year in Ireland. Public bodies should consider installing mains-fed refill stations rather than bottle-fed refill stations, to reduce the use of plastic bottles and decrease transport emissions relating to service provision. Choose refill stations that can monitor usage. Uisce Éireann (formerly Irish Water) outline five steps to better water stewardship:

- Getting Started - Building initial awareness of shared water challenges and risks
- Map & Plan - Developing a Water Map and achieving a high level of awareness
- Measure & Monitor - Understanding the sites water usage establishing a monitoring regime
- Analyse & Improve - Implementing solutions and building a system of continuous improvement
- Lead & Control - Continuous water stewardship embedded in the DNA of the firm

#### **Uisce Éireann Water Stewardship Programme**

The key to achieving sustainable water usage lies in educating and empowering businesses with training to lower water consumption, reduce operating costs and protect the environment. Uisce Éireann Water Stewardship Programme has trained hundreds of water users nationwide, enabling them to understand the importance of water conservation and equipping them with practical tools and strategies to minimise their water footprint. The programme's emphasis on education ensures a comprehensive and lasting impact on water consumption practices.

Programme benefits include:

- **Be a global leader** - Set sustainability standards at work with this first training of its kind.
- **Receive free training** - The programme is fully funded by Uisce Éireann and Sustainable Enterprise Skillnet.
- **Achieve international recognition** - Receive certification from the European Water Stewardship Standard.
- **Save water and money** - Learn how to reduce water use and lower running costs.
- **Protect the local environment** - Know how to improve your business' environmental performance.
- **Earn sustainability credits** - Submit your certificate to Origin Green and be rewarded.

Uisce Éireann also have developed Business Conservation resources specific to hospitals and water saving tips for business and for households.

### *Additional information or supports*

- [Water Stewardship | Conservation | Uisce Éireann \(formerly Irish Water\)](#)
- [Hospitals | Business Conservation \(water.ie\)](#)
- [Uisce Eireann water saving tips - Business](#)
- [Uisce Eireann households](#)

## **2.3.7 Single Use**

### *Minimum Content*

- With immediate effect, 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.
- Progressively eliminate all other single use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded or sponsored.

### *Guidance/Best Practice*

Reducing overall consumption of goods is a very effective environmental action that public bodies can take. Avoiding unnecessary purchases is the first step to consider.

Single use items are used once, or for a short period of time, before being thrown away. Their use should be avoided as far as possible and public bodies should consider how demand can be met in a way that requires fewer or better value goods to be bought (e.g. reusable or refillable options).

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.

Under minimum content requirements of the mandate, public bodies must cease using disposable cups, plates and cutlery (made from plastic or other materials and including items marked as recyclable, biodegradable and compostable) 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. It is recommended that anyone procuring such items for in-house use, or procuring for advertising or broadcasting, are aware of these obligations. For example, if developing assets or content for advertising or broadcasting (TV, radio, billboards, digital marketing or other) don't use disposable cups, plates and cutlery, use reusable instead.

It is also a minimum requirement to progressively eliminate all single-use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded and sponsored by the organisation. The first step would be to carry out a review of what single-use items are used within the organisation and prepare a plan to progressively eliminate them. Procedures should be put in place so that any staff with responsibility for organising meetings and events, or funding or sponsoring events are aware of these obligations and include the obligations in any procurement or funding or sponsorship agreements.

### *Additional information or supports*

- [Green public procurement: Guidance for the public sector](#)
- [Single Use Plastics](#)
- [Repak](#) – Compliance Scheme for packaging

- [Fáilte Ireland – A guide to running green meetings and events](#)

### 2.3.8 Other Materials

The Climate Action Mandate requires public bodies to:

- Support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products.
- Use waste collection services that are segregated into a minimum of 3 streams – residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/biowaste.

#### *Minimum Content*

- Support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products.
- Use waste collection services that are segregated into a minimum of 3 streams – residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/biowaste.

#### *Recommended Content*

- Track waste generation (general waste, dry recyclables, organic waste, other wastes e.g. waste electrical and electronic equipment).
- Set out plans to prevent waste (general waste, dry recyclables, organic waste, other wastes), to progressively reduce waste generation.

#### *Guidance/Best Practice*

Ireland uses the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model for dealing with several waste streams: Packaging, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Batteries & Accumulators, End of Life Vehicles, Tyres and Farm Plastics. In such initiatives the producers (those who manufacture or place the products on the market) have a responsibility to fund the collection and environmentally sound management of their products at end of life. All of these schemes have targets. The WEEE, packaging, batteries & accumulators, and end of life vehicles EPR schemes are based on EU Directives and have EU legislative targets. The tyres and farm plastics EPR schemes are based on national regulations and have national targets.

Public bodies are to support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products. This means that for material streams/products where there is an EPR, public bodies must take into consideration any producer obligations for separate collection of those wastes and facilitate their appropriate management. Each of the EPRs has a compliance scheme which can arrange appropriate collection and management services – see links below.

National waste statistics published by the EPA have shown that Ireland is at risk of failing to meet EU legislative targets for recycling of municipal waste and recycling of plastic packaging waste. Public bodies must ensure that waste is segregated and separately collected where appropriate. Dry recyclables must be placed clean dry and loose in recyclables bins. This provides the maximum value for recycling the products at end-of-life. There are some waste streams that need to be segregated for separate collection (e.g. WEEE, batteries & accumulators) and not put into the waste bins (residual, recyclable, organic) that are collected at kerbside.

EPA waste characterisation studies on commercial waste bins have shown evidence of poor segregation; 70% of the contents of the average commercial waste bin could be diverted to recycling. This represents a massive loss of potentially recyclable material and an unnecessarily high cost for waste management, as waste charges would be lowered through proper segregation. Recyclables must be placed 'clean dry and loose' in the recyclables bin to reduce contamination and provide the maximum potential for recycling of waste packaging.

In July 2023, new waste collection regulations came into force:

- Collectors required to provide a 3-bin service to commercial customers (residual, mixed dry recyclable and bio-waste bin).
- All waste collected must be weighed, with details on the weights of the individual bins communicated to customers.

- Waste collection companies will be required to at least collect the recyclable waste materials as specified on [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie).
- Collection of recyclable waste and bio-waste must occur at least fortnightly.

The publicly funded [MyWaste website](#) is the go-to resource for information to support good waste management practices and has useful resources to download (e.g. standardised bin signage).

*Additional information or supports*

- [My Waste business advice](#)
- [a-z waste disposal \(mywaste.ie\)](#)
- [Incentivised charging for waste collection in the commercial sector \(gov.ie\)](#)
- [Factsheet for public sector offices](#)
- [Municipal waste characterisation](#)
- [Repak](#) – Compliance Scheme for packaging and waste packaging
- [WEEE Ireland and ERP Ireland](#) – compliance schemes for WEEE and batteries & accumulators
- [Circol ELT](#) – compliance scheme for Tyres and waste tyres
- [ELVES](#) – compliance scheme for end-of-life vehicles
- [IFFPG](#) – Compliance scheme for farm plastics



## 2.4 Our buildings and vehicles

### Climate Action Mandate Section 4 - Our buildings and vehicles

#### 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
  - The fossil-fuel use is only through using electricity from the grid.
  - 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.
- 4.5. In relation to existing buildings:
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
- 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

## Climate Action Mandate Section 4 - Our buildings and vehicles

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).<sup>6</sup> Public sector procurement contracts for delivery and haulage should specify zero-emissions vehicles where possible.

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.

### 2.4.1 Buildings

#### *Minimum content*

- Progress towards ensuring there is a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) in every building that meets the requirement (see guidance below).
- Update procurement and design procedures to comply with the requirement for no fossil fuel heating after 2023.
- Overview of building stock plan. Small public bodies should include their Building Stock Plan as an annex to their Roadmap.
- Where relevant, public bodies should set out their plans to commence the deep retrofit of at least one building in 2024 (see guidance below).

#### *Guidance/Best practice*

##### **Display Energy Certificates**

Display energy certificates must be displayed in buildings >250 m<sup>2</sup> that are occupied by a public body and frequently visited by the public (as defined in SI243/2012). Buildings that are exempted from these requirements are also defined in SI243/2012 and include national monuments, temporary buildings, protected structures and buildings used as place of worship. Refer to SI243/2012 for full definitions of exempted buildings.

##### **Building Stock Plans and deep retrofit requirements**

While the Climate Action Roadmap should show how an organisation is addressing all aspects of climate action set out in the Mandate, Building Stock Plans focus on delivery of energy reductions in buildings.

Guidance for developing Building Stock Plans (BSP) was published by SEAI in October 2023. It set out 11 steps for preparing a building stock plan and required that steps 1 to 5 be undertaken to complete a "Stage 1 BSP". The objectives of the Stage 1 BSP are to define and understand the extent of the public body's building stock. All public bodies were required to submit their Stage 1 BSPs by end January 2024.

Public bodies should use their Stage 1 BSP to ensure they have a good understanding of which buildings are contributing most to their emissions and which must be addressed for the public body to be able to reach its 51% GHG target. All public bodies should provide a short summary of their BSP in their roadmap, identifying which

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<sup>6</sup> Major manufacturers have indicated their commitment to increasing the availability of e-trucks to the market by mid-decade. However, it is acknowledged that it may not be possible to procure the desired number or variety of zero emission heavy-duty vehicles until the second carbon budgetary period (2026-2030). Depending on market developments, public sector bodies should, at the least, ensure to procure (purchase or lease) 'Clean Vehicles,' in accordance with the EU Clean Vehicles Directive, to meet their heavy-duty vehicle targets.

buildings are the highest energy users, and which must be addressed for the PB to reach their targets. Small public bodies should include their building stock plan as an annex to their 2024 Roadmap.

Guidance for Stage 2 BSP is expected to be published in 2024. It will detail what further planning is required, specifically detailing plans as to how and when specific energy saving actions will be implemented. For public bodies in certain sectors, Stage 2 building stock planning will be undertaken at sectoral level ('portfolio' level). What will be required for stage 2 BSP for public bodies and lead sectors will be detailed in the guidance.

These key sectors are listed below, with the 'lead' organisation which will lead stage 2 BSP for all the public bodies in that group.

- Civil service – OPW
- Health (including Section 38/39 organisations) - HSE
- Schools – Education
- Third level – DFHERIS

In the meantime, public bodies with a large estate and sectoral groups with a large estate should continue to gather data on buildings in their portfolio with a view to understanding what buildings are required now and in 2030, and what is required to achieve the 2030 and 2050 targets.

#### *Additional information or supports*

- [SI243/2012 European Union \(Energy Performance of Buildings\) Regulations 2012](#)
- [Building Stock Plan guidance](#)
- [SEAI, Guidance on Display Energy Certificates.](#)
- [SEAI Support Scheme for Renewable Heat](#)

## **2.4.2 Vehicles**

### *Minimum Content*

- Plans to promote use of bicycles and shared mobility services among employees and visitors.
- Plans to phase out parking at relevant buildings.
- Update processes for vehicle procurement to meet target for purchase of zero emission vehicles where operationally feasible, as well as the minimum targets set out by SI381/2021 Clean Vehicles Directive.
- Public bodies with a vehicle fleet should include their plan for installation of charging infrastructure in relevant locations.

### *Guidance/Best Practice*

The National Transport Authority (NTA) launched the Smarter Travel Mark (STM) in May 2023 as part of the Department of Transport's Pathfinder Programme. The Smarter Travel Mark is a three-tier certification that recognises and celebrates organisations that support active and sustainable travel on the commute and beyond for their workforce, students, and visitors, resulting in a reduction in single-person car usage. Public sector organisations are expected to pursue this accreditation in line with the ambition set in the Public Sector Mandate. To obtain the Smarter Travel Mark, organisations will be required to demonstrate robust communications, policies, facilities, incentives and supports in favour of sustainable commuting and business travel. Uptake by Public Sector bodies will be monitored by the NTA and reported to the SMP Leadership Group. Developing policy to promote the uptake of electric vehicles more widely is a priority for the Government. Emissions from transport account for about 30% of the public sector's overall GHG emissions, the second largest portion after buildings. Increased use of electric vehicles by the public sector helps to demonstrate their value to wider society, improve urban air quality, and reduce noise pollution. SI No. 381 of 2021 (the EU Clean Vehicles Directive) establishes in law binding minimum targets for the share of 'clean' vehicles in procurements undertaken by public sector bodies over the relevant

service contract value thresholds. It is important to note that the clean vehicle targets will become more stringent from 2026 onwards. For more information, SI 381 of 2021 may be found here:

<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/si/381/made/en/print>

The requirement to install charging infrastructure applies to public bodies with a vehicle fleet which are either owned or on a long-term lease. Vehicles in scope are those used to perform the functions of the organisation, excluding vehicles used to provide public transport.

#### *Additional information or supports*

- Apply for the [Smarter Travel Mark from the National Transport Authority](#)
- [SI 381 European Communities \(Clean and Energy Efficient Road Transport Vehicles\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021/2021](#)

## **2.5 Optional content**

Public bodies are encouraged to include plans on wider climate action in their Roadmaps.

This could include:

- Reducing emissions of other greenhouse gases (e.g., methane, F gases).
- Reducing other indirect emissions (Scope 3).
- Identifying impact of climate change on organisation's operations and undertaking climate adaptation measures.
- Activities to raise awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Public bodies may also report on other climate action initiatives/pledges/reporting schemes they participate in.

### 3. Template for small public bodies

Smaller public bodies can use the following headings as a structure for their climate action roadmap, including at least the minimum content set out above.

#### Climate Action Roadmap

- 1 Introduction
  - Organisational context
  - Progress to date
- 2 Our People – Leadership and governance
  - Statement demonstrating Senior management commitment
  - Nominated climate and sustainability champion
  - Governance structure
  - Green team
- 3 Our People - Engaging our staff
  - Staff training plans
  - Climate action and sustainability workshops
  - Senior leadership training
- 4 Our targets
  - Carbon emissions analysis – baseline, current emissions, emissions trends/projected growth by 2030 with no additional actions, gap to target
  - Energy efficiency analysis baseline, current energy efficiency, projected efficiency in 2030 with no additional actions
  - Actions/projects required to meet targets
- 5 Our Way of Working
  - Energy and environmental management systems
  - Digitisation of processes
  - Green procurement
  - Low carbon construction methods
  - Resource use
- 6 Our buildings and vehicles
  - Vehicles
    - Promoting alternatives to car use
    - Phasing out parking
    - Procurement of zero emission vehicles
  - Buildings
    - Fossil fuel heating systems
    - Building stock plans
- 7 Our wider climate action plans [OPTIONAL]

This is a suggested structure for a Roadmap that follows the Mandate structure closely. Other document structures might work better for particular organisations, in which case we would recommend inclusion of a table to indicate compliance with the Mandate requirements.

## 4. Mapping to requirements of the Climate Action Mandate

Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
<b>1. Our Targets</b>	
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
<b>2 Our People</b>	
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
2.5 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
<b>3 Our Way of Working</b>	

Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
<p>3.1 Report on the following in the Annual Report of the public sector body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GHG emissions;</li> <li>- Implementation of the mandate;</li> <li>- Sustainability activities report;</li> <li>- Compliance with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel..</li> </ul>	1.8 Reporting progress against the Climate Action Mandate requirements
<p>3.2 Using SEAI's Public Sector M&amp;R System, public bodies are to report annually on implementation of the individual mandate requirements using a "comply and explain" approach.</p>	1.8 Reporting progress against the Climate Action Mandate requirements
<p>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:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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&amp;R system.</p>	2.3.1 Energy & environmental management systems
<p>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. .</p>	2.3.2 Green Public Procurement
<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>	2.3.3 Construction

Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
<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>	2.3.4 Food Waste
<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>	2.3.5 Paper
<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>	2.3.6 Water
<p>3.9 Single Use</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3.9.2 Progressively eliminate all single use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded, or sponsored.</p>	2.3.7 Single Use
<p>3.10 Other Materials</p> <p>3.10.1 Support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products.</p> <p>3.10.2 Use waste collection services that are segregated into a minimum of 3 streams – residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/biowaste.</p>	2.3.8 Other Materials



Climate Acton Mandate	Section of guidance
<b>4 Our Buildings and Vehicles</b>	
<p>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.</p>	2.4 Our buildings and vehicles
<p>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.</p>	2.4 Our buildings and vehicles
<p>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.</p>	2.4 Our buildings and vehicles
<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"> <li>• There is no technically viable non-fossil alternative (generally only related to applications for a purpose other than space heating).</li> <li>• The installation of a renewable space heating system would increase final CO2 emissions.</li> <li>• The fossil-fuel use is provided for backup, peaking, or operational purposes (and makes up less than 10% of annual heating energy).</li> <li>• Where the direct replacement of existing fossil fuel heating is required for an emergency maintenance purpose.</li> </ul>	2.4 Our buildings and vehicles

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>	2.4 Our buildings and vehicles

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>

## 5. Glossary

<b>Climate and Sustainability Champion</b>	Member of the management board with responsibility for implementing and reporting on the Climate Action Mandate
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	Carbon dioxide
<b>EMAS</b>	Eco-management and Audit Scheme.
<b>Energy MAP</b>	SEAI bespoke energy management system training
<b>Energy Performance Officer (EPO)</b>	Member of senior management appointed to lead on energy management and performance
<b>Gap to Target Tool</b>	Spreadsheet model developed by SEAI for use by public bodies to evaluate their energy efficiency (EE) performance and energy related greenhouse gases
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse gases
<b>Green Campus Ireland</b>	Environmental management and award scheme for third level education
<b>Green Public Procurement (GPP)</b>	Green Public Procurement is a process where public authorities seek to source goods, services or works with a reduced environmental impact.
<b>GWh</b>	Giga Watt hour
<b>HVAC</b>	Heating, ventilation and air conditioning
<b>ISO14001:2015</b>	International standard, setting requirements for environmental management systems
<b>ISO50001</b>	International standard, setting requirements for energy management systems
<b>kW</b>	Kilowatt
<b>M&amp;R</b>	SEAI's Monitoring and Reporting system for public sector energy efficiency and carbon emissions
<b>Register of Opportunities</b>	List of energy efficiency opportunities developed as part of an energy management system
<b>SMP</b>	Sustainable Mobility Policy
<b>Triple E register</b>	List of energy efficient products. Products on this register all meet a minimum set of stringent energy efficiency criteria and typically will be of a best-in-class efficiency standard.

## **Appendix 1 Guidance on Provision of Climate Action Leadership Training**

## Guidance on Provision of Climate Action Leadership Training for P.O. level and above

The [Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2023](#) was approved by Government in May 2023 and was included in Chapter 10, Public Sector Leading by Example, Climate Action Plan 2023. This guidance relates to the Mandate requirement 2.5:

***“Ensure all senior management (P.O. level or equivalent and above) complete a climate action leadership training course in 2023, similar to the Local Authority training course as delivered by the CAROs.”***

To fulfil this requirement, public sector bodies are free to procure their own training tailored to the needs of their organisation. This guidance note provides suggested content for the core modules of climate leadership training.<sup>7</sup>

### Suggested content of training modules

#### Module 1 Sections: Climate Fundamentals

- a) Climate Change Overview - outlines the fundamental science of global climate change, how and why it has changed in the past, and human influence on the climate.
- b) Climate Change and Ireland - describes how the changing global climate will impact on Ireland through changes in temperature, rainfall, and sea level.
- c) Mitigation and Adaptation - outlines the actions that can be taken to reduce Greenhouse Gases and the actions that will help to reduce the impact of climate change.
- d) Climate Innovation - includes new and emerging technologies.

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<sup>7</sup> The guidance provided in relation to climate fundamentals and raising awareness of climate action policy in Ireland is based on “Raising Awareness” the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme. That course was developed by researchers at the MaREI Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine at University College Cork (UCC) as part of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) funded Climate Ireland programme. It was developed in collaboration with the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs), the Local Government Management Association, County and City Managers Association (CCMA) and the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG).

### Module 2 Sections: Climate Governance, Adaptation and Just Transition

- a) Climate Governance - includes UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, EU targets Fit for 55 package legislation, Irish targets, legislation and policies, planning and reporting, and delivery structures that enable climate action, emissions trading, carbon tax, Just Transition, understanding the costs and value for money of any measures/actions being considered for inclusion in the Climate Action Plan.
- b) Risk and Adaptation - how we are adapting to reduce the impact of climate change.
- c) Public Sector Climate Action - how Government Departments/public sector bodies, and their staff can change their procedures, behaviours, and practices to deliver and promote climate action. Includes overview of Public Sector Climate Action Mandate, Strategy, Roadmaps.

### Module 3 Sections: Climate Leadership

- a) What is climate leadership? - identification of the particular characteristics of climate policy that will pose distinctive challenges for leadership in response to the climate challenge.
- b) Climate Change is a “super wicked problem” – addresses implementation challenges, the need for building climate capacity, developing multi-disciplinary teams, and the need for cross-organisational collaboration.**
- c) Transformational Leadership – what skillset do leaders need to lead and embed transformational change.
- d) Driving behavioural change – effective communication and winning “hearts and minds” both within in your organisation and in your organisation’s wider sphere of impact
- e) Policy making in crisis situations or emergent sectors.

### Module 4: Optional additional content tailored to needs of individual organisations:

- a) Climate and Sustainability Reporting (including Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and “Triple Bottom Line” reporting, “Double Materiality” as per CSR Directive).
- b) Climate considerations in delivering current and capital projects.
- c) Finance, budgeting and prioritisation of spending to meet climate targets.
- d) Climate proofing policies and programmes.
- e) Deep dive into emissions profile of a specific sector of the economy.
- f) Workshop on impact of climate change on organisation’s own operations/business model.

## Duration

Training can be either remote or in-person. Modules 1, 2 and 4 can be 0.5 day sessions. It is recommended that Module 3 (Climate Leadership) be a full day session and held in person.

## Guidance

On completion of the training, participants should have:

- An understanding of climate leadership and their own role in climate action
- An understanding and awareness of global climate change and how these global changes are reflected in Ireland’s climate
- An increased awareness of climate action, international and national climate action targets, and policies

- An understanding of existing and planned actions being taken by individual sectors in response to the challenges posed by climate change, both ongoing and planned
- An increased capacity to foster and demonstrate leadership to other organisations, sectors and communities in developing and implementing climate action measures

Training should include information in relation to:

- Climate leadership: transformational management, capacity building, delivery, and implementation of solutions
- Climate change: an overview of latest science behind both the impacts and the solutions. Climate Action policy: governance, legislation, targets and emissions reporting

### Training Provision

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) is a specialist provider of education and training for the Irish Public Service and adopts a multifaceted approach, working across central and local government and state bodies in tackling whole of government challenges such as climate leadership. It should be noted that public sector bodies can go directly to the IPA for the provision of relevant training through the accredited programme they offer across Climate Action and Sustainability (<https://www.ipa.ie/public-management/professional-certificate-in-climate-action-and-sustainability-reporting.6390.html>). The programme, which is delivered through blended learning, sits at Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications, and includes micro-credential, not for credit and custom-designed options.

In the context of CAP23 action PS/23/9/A “Engage with *One Learning* on provision of climate-related training and upskilling”, it should also be noted that *One Learning* will transfer to the IPA by the end of 2023. In the interim, DECC will be working with the IPA and OneLearning jointly to explore options for providing centralised climate training for all grades/levels in 2024.

### Further Resources available to support Climate Leadership

Provider and Topic	Link to Course Details
Climate Ireland Learning Courses on climate change tailored for Irish learners	<a href="https://learn.climateireland.ie/about">https://learn.climateireland.ie/about</a>
Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Professional Certificate in Climate Action and Sustainability Reporting	<a href="https://www.ipa.ie/public-management/professional-certificate-in-climate-action-and-sustainability-reporting.6390.html">Professional Certificate in Climate Action and Sustainability Reporting (ipa.ie)</a>
UCC Certificate - Continuing Professional Development in the Climate Crisis and Local Government	<a href="https://www.ucc.ie/en/ace-ccpdcg/">https://www.ucc.ie/en/ace-ccpdcg/</a>



TCD Engineering for Climate Action (P.Grad.Dip)	<a href="https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/courses/engineering-for-climate-action-pgraddip/">https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/courses/engineering-for-climate-action-pgraddip/</a>
University of Galway MSc Sustainability Leadership	<a href="https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/sustainability-leadership.html#">https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/sustainability-leadership.html#</a>
UCD MSc Architecture, Urbanism & Climate Action	<a href="https://hub.ucd.ie/usis/!W_HU_MENU.P_PUBLIS_H?p_tag=PROG&amp;MAJR=T339">https://hub.ucd.ie/usis/!W_HU_MENU.P_PUBLIS_H?p_tag=PROG&amp;MAJR=T339</a>
Maynooth University MSc Climate Change	<a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies/courses/msc-climate-change">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies/courses/msc-climate-change</a>
DCU MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society	<a href="https://www.dcu.ie/courses/postgraduate/school-law-and-government/msc-climate-change-policy-media-and-society">https://www.dcu.ie/courses/postgraduate/school-law-and-government/msc-climate-change-policy-media-and-society</a>
SEAI Energy Academy Providing short modules on a range of energy related topics	<a href="https://www.seai.ie/energyacademy/">https://www.seai.ie/energyacademy/</a>
Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme	<a href="http://www.CARO.ie">www.CARO.ie</a>

### Micro credentials

Climate Action and Sustainability Reporting	IPA
Environmental Management for Organisations	NUI, Galway
Energy Management for organisations	NUI, Galway
Green Lab Principles & Practice	NUI, Galway
Global Food Systems	University College Dublin

Foundations of Environmental Law	University College Dublin
Natural Resources Law	University College Dublin
Marine Environmental and Conservation Law	University College Dublin
Climate Change Law and Policy	University College Dublin
Creating value with the environment sustainable goals	Trinity College Dublin
Low Carbon Power Technology	Trinity College Dublin
Global Food Systems	University College Dublin

### **What are micro-credentials?**

Micro-credentials are small, accredited courses designed to meet the demands of learners, enterprise, and organisations. Micro-credentials provide learning opportunities which offer a flexible, bite sized and accessible way of upskilling and reskilling. Micro-credentials are research-led, and quality assured. Learners may choose to undertake an individual micro-credential or continue on studying, advancing their skills and knowledge over time.

### **Other Courses (with a short time commitment)**

<b><u>Course</u></b>	<b><u>Provider</u></b>	<b><u>Time Commitment</u></b>
Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace	Solas	25 hours
Module in Global Sustainability Development: Interdisciplinary Perspectives	UCC	12 weeks
Postgraduate Diploma in Climate Entrepreneurship	TCD	5 months part time
Postgraduate Certificate in Business Sustainability Leadership	TU Dublin	9 months part time



Rialtas na hÉireann  
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