

# AILG

Association of Irish Local Government  
Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann

Saolta

*Empowerment for a better world through  
Adult and Community Education.*



## IDEA

IRISH DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## Local Authority Climate Action Plans Building Sustainable Communities Wexford 23 March 2023

# Agenda

## **Session 1: Setting the scene of the SDGs and CAP**

- Why Global Citizenship Education?
- Where are we on the map and timeline?

## **Session 2: Implementation**

- What we can do to localise SDGs & CAP
- How to use the skills and perspectives of GCE for engagement and participation to build sustainable cities and communities
- Keep up to date with GCE, and further training opportunities

# Workshop objectives

- Identify how the SDGs are relevant to your role as a Councillor.
- Evaluate issues in local communities using the SDGs as a framework.
- Apply learning about SDGs to find solutions to problems facing constituents and communities.
- Explore ways to mainstream the SDGs into Development Plans and Climate Action Strategies contributing to policy change for sustainable development.
- Link local Climate Action Plans to the SDGs.

# SAOLTA

Saolta is a Global Citizenship Education strategic partnership programme for the Adult and Community sector in Ireland.



## Strategic Goal:

Increase accessibility, quality and effectiveness of GCE in the Adult and Community Education Sector

SDG Advocate  
Training

Training of  
Trainers

Public  
Participation  
Networks

Local Authority  
SDG workshops

FEI  
&  
ITE

Research and  
Resources

# DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES



development



perspectives

DP is an independent development education NGO that works with the adult and community sector both nationally and internationally.

## Who we are

- National network for Global Citizenship Education in Ireland
- IDEA members use the terms-
  - Development Education,
  - Education for Sustainable Development,
  - Global Citizenship Education, and others..
- Represent and support members involved in Global Citizenship Education in formal, non-formal and informal settings.
- Promote the essential role of Global Citizenship Education in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

# UN SDGs – Leave no-one behind

17 Goals

169 Targets

235 Indicators

193 Countries



# Sustainable Development Goals: Agenda 2030

## Leave No One Behind

- A blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.
- A call for action by all countries to address the global challenges
- The order of the 17 Goals does not signify any priority as all are critical and interdependent.
- In order to achieve the SDGs by 2030, it requires all players (i.e. governments, local government, civil society, academia, and the private sector) to champion this agenda and work together in partnership.



# How Are the SDGs Measured?

- **SDG Tracker**: The 17 Goals are built on 169 Targets which are measured against 232 Indicators. These indicators are meant to guide standardised, collective measurement of global development progress.
- **High-level Political Forum (HLPF)**: To track progress, the UN HLPF on Sustainable Development meets annually in July and features inputs from national governments, intergovernmental bodies, relevant UN agencies, civil society and other stakeholders.
- **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**: Countries are encouraged to review implementation of the SDGs regularly and present VNRs at the HLPF. Ireland presenting VNR in July 2023.
- **Ireland's SDGs Data Hub** Geohive
- **Sustainable Progress Index**: The Index, commissioned by Social Justice Ireland, compares 15 EU countries across all SDGs, assesses their performance on each individual SDG, and creates a ranking table for performance overall


# Second National Implementation Plan

## Review of progress to date

- **Cross-Government SDG governance structures** in the form of the Senior Officials Group for Sustainable Development, the Inter-Departmental Working Group and the CSO Data Governance Board.
- **The SDG National Stakeholder Forum** as a key mechanism for discussing national implementation and for sharing learnings, examples of best practice and SDG relevant events from both a national and international perspective.
- **The SDG Champions programme** as an initiative to raise public awareness, showcase work being carried out by appointed organisations to progress the SDGs and illustrate practical ways in which organisations and individuals can contribute to achieving the SDGs.
- **The SDG Policy Map** as a means to identify lead Departments for each of the 17 Goals and 169 targets, map all SDG targets against national policies and identify contact details for each relevant policy area.
- **SDG data management processes and SDG data hub (Geohive)** with sourced information for UN, EU and National SDG indicators data, development of the [SDG data hub](#) where data can be accessed, visualised and downloaded; and the release of electronic SDG publications on UN SDG Goals 1-12 with a national focus

# Public Consultation: Top 5 SDGs

Table 6: Public Consultation - Top 5 SDGs by importance

	SDG 13: Climate Action
	SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being
	SDG 1: No Poverty
	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
	SDG 4: Quality Education

Source: Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022 – 2024 Chapter 2, p.34 (2022)

# Public awareness of SDGs

Public awareness of the SDGs	
Aware of the SDGs and familiar with their purpose	17%
Aware of the SDGs but not familiar with their purpose	25%
Not aware of the SDGs or familiar with their purpose	58%

Source: Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022 – 2024 Chapter 2, p.36 (2022)

# National and Local Government SDG Awareness

**Table 8: National and Local Government - SDG awareness Levels**

	Government Departments	State Agencies	Local
Aware of the SDGs and how they relate to their work	24.7%	28.3%	24%
Aware of the SDGs but not how they relate to their work	35.4%	34.6%	33%
Not aware of the SDGs or how they relate to their work	39.9%	37.1%	43%

Source: Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022 – 2024 Chapter 2, p.36 (2022)

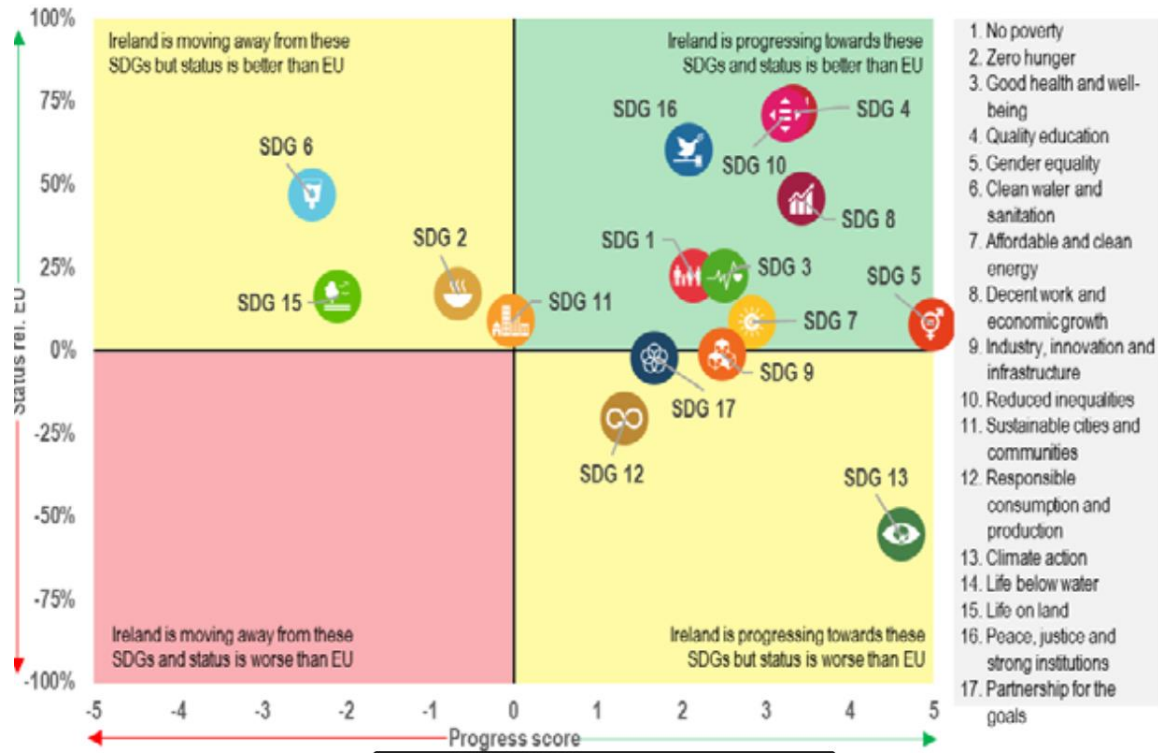
# National and Local Government SDG Engagement

**Table 9: National and Local Government - SDG Engagement**

Engagement Methods	Government Departments and State Agencies	Local Authorities
Used SDG Branding	5%	6%
Used the SDGs to inform their engagement with stakeholders and the public	9%	10%
Used the SDGs to inform their decision making and/or policy development	10%	11%
Referenced the SDGs within their work	16%	12%
Linked their work with specific targets or goals	16%	15%
Worked individually or as part of a team to progress an SDG target or goal	26%	26%
Have not used any of the methods outlined above to incorporate the SDGs into their work	66%	64%

Source: Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022 – 2024 Chapter 2, p.36 (2022)

# How is Ireland performing on the SDGs ?



Source: Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022 – 2024  
Chapter 2, p.39 (2022)



An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh

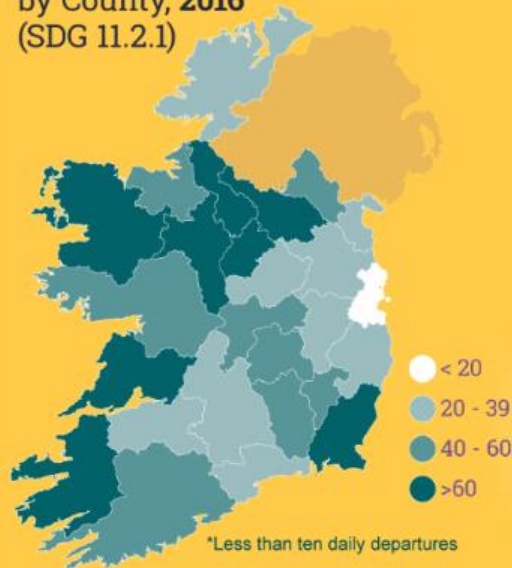
Central  
Statistics  
Office

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



## Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

Percentage of Persons Where  
Nearest Public Transport Stop had  
Low Frequency Daily Services\*,  
by County, 2016  
(SDG 11.2.1)



Source: CSO, SDG Division

Heritage - Government  
Allocated Expenditure,  
2022 (SDG 11.4.1)

€166m



Source: Government of Ireland

Land Area that is Open Space for  
Public Use, 2021, (SDG 11.7.1)



m<sup>2</sup> per person

Dublin  
City 36.0

Cork  
City 36.8

Limerick  
City 17.0

Source: City Council Websites  
and CSO Population Estimates

Municipal Waste, 2019  
(SDG 11.6.1)



Generated  
**3.1 million tonnes**

Source: Environmental Protection Agency



Recycled  
**37%**

Recorded Crime Incidents,  
Q2 2021, (SDG 11.7.2)



**3,241**  
Sexual  
Offences

**18,701**  
Attempts or  
Threats to  
Murder,  
Assaults,  
Harassments

Source: CSO, Recorded Crime Statistics

# Second National Implementation Plan

## Role of Local Authorities

### Integrating the SDGs into Local Authority work

- Corporate and City/County Development
- Local Economic Community Plans (LECP)
- Joining/establishing local and/or international partnerships
- Development of a mapping tool to map SDG-related actions in the Council area
- Provision of training for staff
- Holding information events with external groups including universities, PPNs, Tidy Towns and Creative Ireland
- Undertaking Voluntary Local Reviews – (incorporating into work programmes of SPCs)
- Appointing SDG Champions within each local authority






## Second National Implementation Plan (2022-24)

### Actions for Local Authorities

- Local Authority SDG Training (Staff and Councillors)
- Development of LA SDG Toolkit
- Establishment of SDG Networks
- SDG Point of contact in every local authority
- Incorporate SDGs into new Guidelines and 2025 Corporate Plans
- Review reporting frameworks
- Incorporate SDGs in all new City/County Development Plans and Local Economic and Community Plans
- Undertake Ireland's first Voluntary Local Review

# Climate Action Plan 2023 & the SDGs

The top 5 overall SDGs which CAP23 is contributing to include:

	<b>SDG 13 Climate Action</b>	The actions set out in CAP23 progress all 5 targets under SDG 13.
	<b>SDG 2 Zero Hunger</b>	The actions set out in CAP23 progress all 8 targets under SDG 2.
	<b>SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>	The actions set out in the CAP23 progress 8 out of 10 targets under SDG 11.
	<b>SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy</b>	The actions set out in CAP23 progress 4 out of 5 targets under SDG 7.
	<b>SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production</b>	The actions set out in CAP23 progress 8 out of 11 targets under SDG 12.

# SDGs & Climate Action Plan 2023

At target level, 85 out of 169 SDG targets are being progressed by actions set out under CAP23 as illustrated in the below infographic

100% of Climate Action Targets addressed

80% of Sustainable Communities Targets are addressed through the CAP



# SDG 4.7 & Global Citizenship Education

- SDG Target 4.7 calls for equipping people of all ages with the knowledge and skills to foster sustainable development as well as human rights, gender equality and global citizenship, thus linking education to the wider sustainable development objectives.
- Global Citizenship Education is fundamental to addressing key global challenges such as inequality, poverty and climate change because it encourages us to reflect upon our assumptions, make informed decisions and demand policies that create a fairer, more equal and more sustainable world.



# IPCC Report and the Irish Climate Action Plan

On average countries need to reduce their emissions by ~60% by 2030, Ireland's goal in the CAP is 51% by 2030. Each percentage does count.

Bold Action needs to be taken

The Climate Action Plan is ambitious, and the Local Authority Climate Action Plans need to be even more so. The UN calls for radical action in response to the IPCC report and the attainment of Agenda 2030



Westminster

LIVE



Dublin

sky news

08:26

£1 = €1.14

of explaining to do" over partygate

BREAKING NEWS

Former At

# What we know...

That the current global heating recorded is agreed by the scientific community to be due to human activity advanced since the Industrial revolution and the burning of fossil fuels.

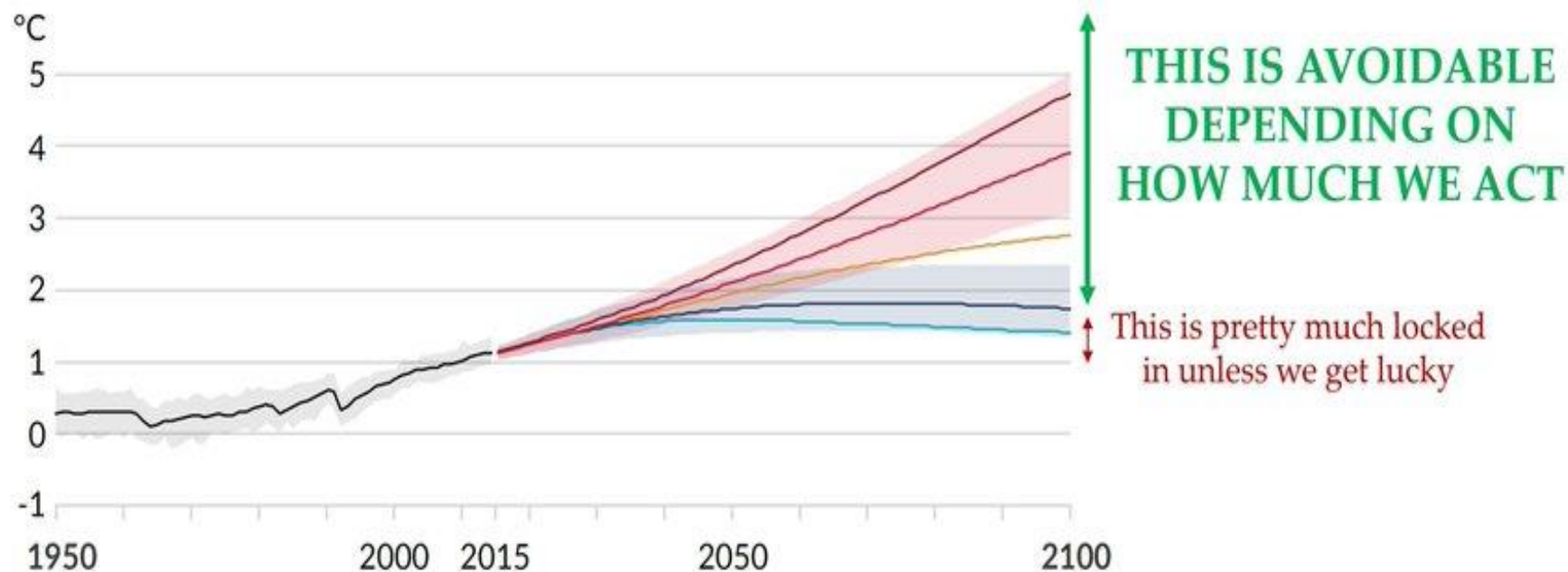
That global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced significantly, not only carbon dioxide

That climate change is also a consequence of colonisation and imperial activities (IPCC report, AR edition 4+5)

We need to keep the +1.5 degree target in reach, with global emission peak by 2025. And Ireland needs to reach net zero 10 years earlier than the agreed 2050 goal.

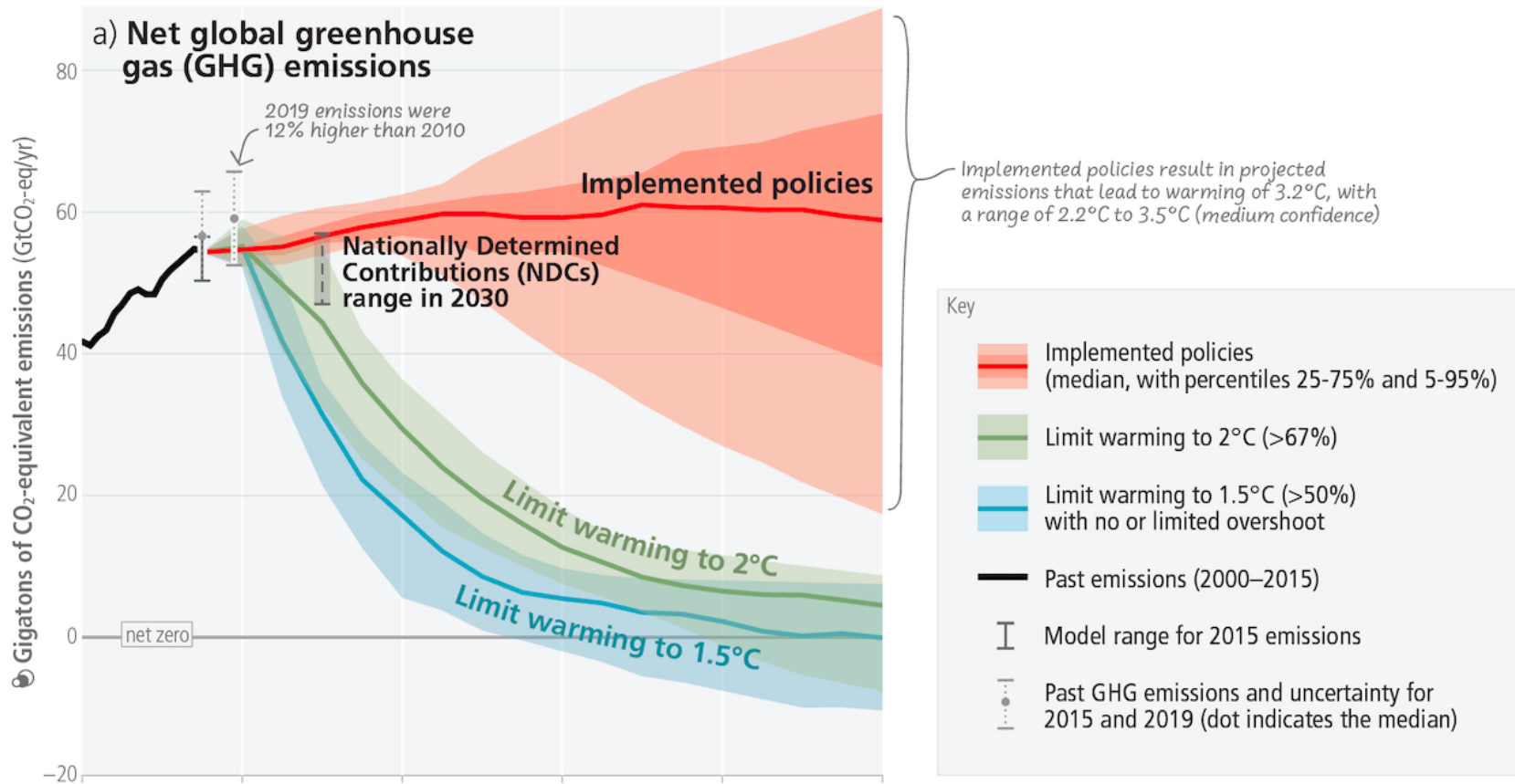
Communities, people and nations that have contributed the least emissions are generally those most vulnerable and experiencing climate based natural disasters.

a) Global surface temperature change relative to 1850-1900



# Limiting warming to 1.5°C and 2°C involves rapid, deep and in most cases immediate greenhouse gas emission reductions

Net zero CO<sub>2</sub> and net zero GHG emissions can be achieved through strong reductions across all sectors



## Ireland's failure to hit climate targets leaving it short of sustainable development goals

Oireachtas Committee hears planning system is 'single greatest hurdle' to achieving goals by 2030

Addressing the committee on Tuesday, Shane Conneely of Chambers Ireland said it was “deeply concerned that, as things stand, Ireland will not be able to meet our climate targets, our National Development Plan, nor our climate action plan”.

## Pressure on Ireland to cut emissions after IPCC issues ‘final warning’

UN secretary general calls on wealthy countries to mobilise resources to keep global temperature down

✕ [Expand](#)



Ms Donnelly remained concerned, however, “that a significant acceleration of existing and planned actions is required for Ireland to achieve its legally-binding targets in full and on time”.

# What is Global Citizenship Education?

- Global Citizenship Education is an active and creative educational process to increase awareness and understanding of the world we live in. It challenges perceptions and stereotypes by encouraging optimism, participation and action for a just world (Trócaire, 2017).
- Irish Aid defines Global Citizenship Education (GCE) as a lifelong educational process, which aims to increase public awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing, inter-dependent and unequal world in which we live. By challenging stereotypes and encouraging independent thinking, GCE helps people to critically explore how global justice issues interlink with their everyday lives and how they can act to build a better world.

# Global Citizenship Education

Policy directives- Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education Strategy 2021-2025

ESD to 2030: Second National Strategy on Education for  
Sustainable Development

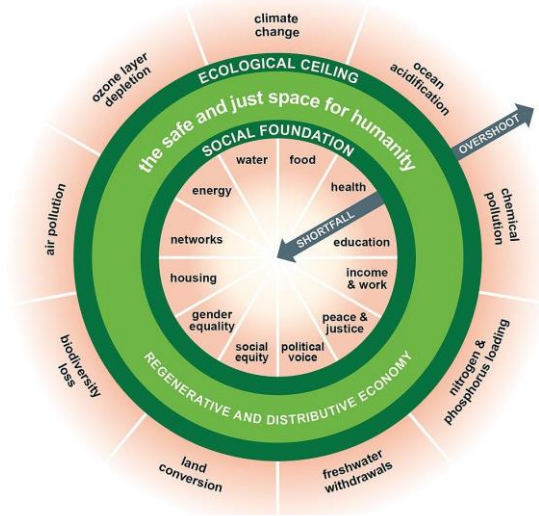
(Dept. Education)

Sustainable Development Goals- **Goal 4.7- Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship**

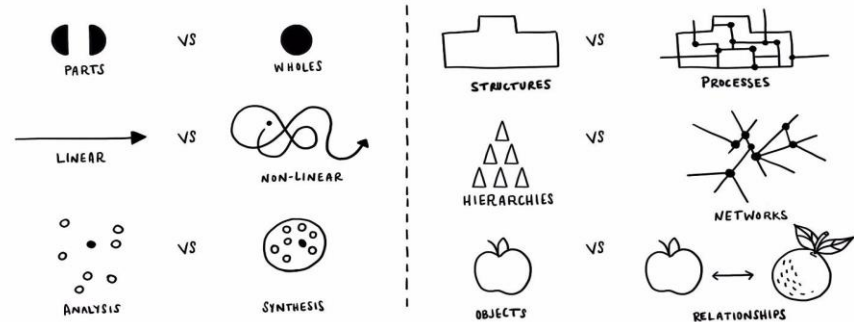
Public awareness, engagement and stakeholders of democratic processes

# The Four pillars of Global Citizenship Edu

- Critical Thinking
- Systems Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Active citizenship



## TOOLS OF A SYSTEM THINKER



# GCE attempts to show the interrelated nature of social and environmental issues and work towards solving them

Climate Breakdown and Biodiversity loss

Food Systems

Gender Equality

Movement of People- displacement, forced migration

Global Inequality and naming systems of power, locally, nationally and internationally

Democratic and equitable participation

# Why is this important in the context of the work of LA

IPCC Report

Climate Action Plan

2nd National Implementation Plan for the SDGs

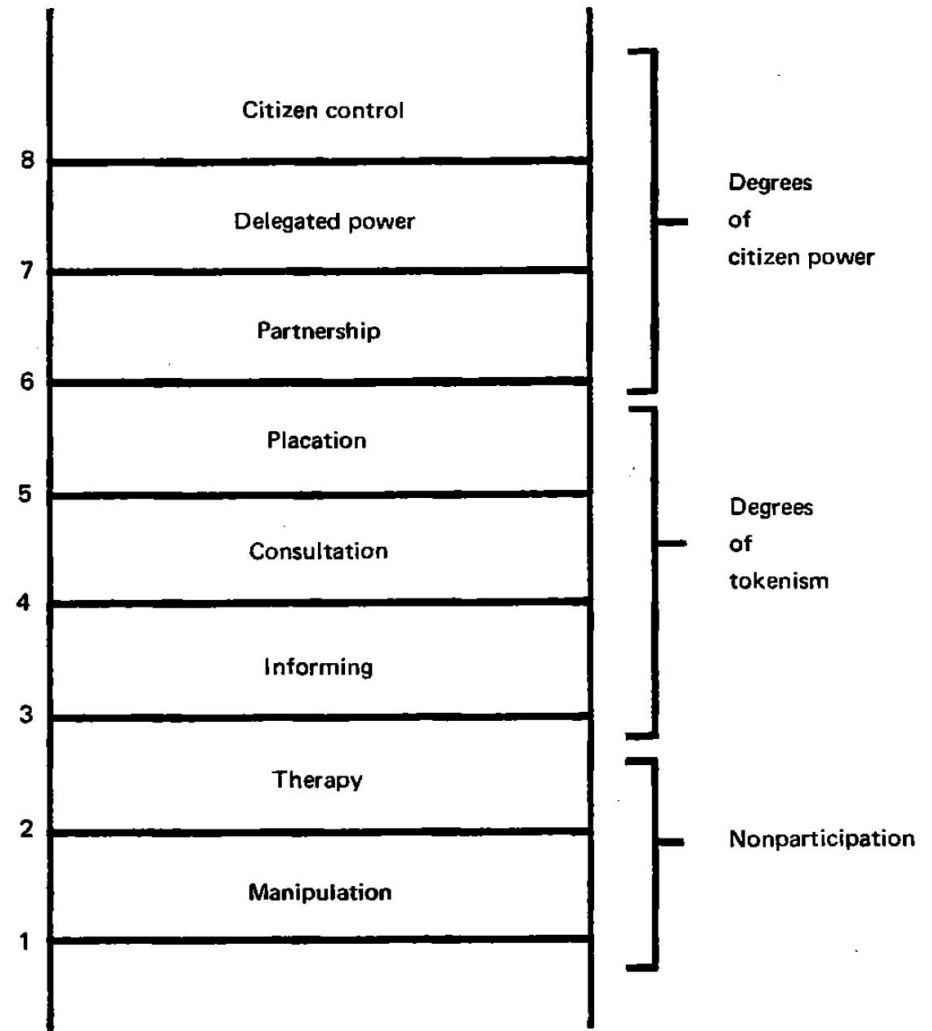
The Well-being Framework for Ireland

Solutions that ensure the most marginalised and vulnerable to social and environmental stressors are not further disadvantaged

Building sustainable communities

Participation that is meaningful moving from non-participation to higher degrees of citizen power\*  
Inclusion of non-citizens also.

# Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation (1969)



# Activity- Check-in

Put a finger down if the rainwater is safe to drink where you live

Put a finger down if you or your community has been impacted by climate change

Put a finger down if you are able to make sustainable and ethical choices in your food shop

Put a finger down if you have access to a reliable public transport service (without a car)

Put a finger down if you are eligible for government schemes to support shifts to sustainable energy or home retrofitting

# What are two issues facing your communities

Write down 1 issue that is related to climate change

Write down 2nd that isn't related to climate change

Share with your table the two issues and decide on 4 issues to use as a group

2 climate related

2 not climate related







# Session 2

# Localising the SDGs – Creating Sustainable Communities









- City and County Development Plans Corporate Plans
- Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)
- Local Area Plans (LAP)
- Local Environmental Improvement Plans (LEIP)
- Climate Action Plans
- Strategic Policy Committee Work Programmes






# Localising the SDGs – Bristol Case Study

 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>The proportion of children living in poverty increased between 2013 and 2018, and 32% of neighbourhoods had income poverty rates of 20% or more in 2015. More data is needed to monitor this goal effectively.</p>
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>Some areas of Bristol experience high levels of food insecurity and the percentage of underweight children has risen. Several large partnership-based initiatives have been launched to address these challenges.</p>
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease and from preventable forms of non-communicable diseases have declined, but the life expectancy gap between the most deprived and least deprived has increased since 2012.</p>
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>Education attainment and early years readiness scores have increased, with notable convergence across ethnic groups, although the proportion entering higher education is below the UK average and varies significantly across wards.</p>
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>The proportion of female elected officials has been rising in Bristol, but the gender pay gap in the city has not been reduced and rates of domestic abuse and sexual violence have risen. More data is needed to monitor this goal effectively.</p>
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>Citizens enjoy near-universal access to clean water and sanitation, and Bristol is not currently at risk of water stress. There is scope to reduce per capita consumption to ensure sustainable resource consumption as the city grows.</p>

# Localising the SDGs – Bristol Case Study

<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> 	<p>Household energy consumption and the energy intensity of Bristol's economy have both fallen. Installed capacity of renewables has risen. An acceleration in these trends is required to achieve the 2030 target and fuel poverty persists</p>
<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>Bristol's economy has grown strongly since 2010, unemployment is decreasing, and wages have risen. Youth and ethnic inequality within unemployment remain significant challenges.</p>
<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 	<p>The carbon intensity of Bristol's diverse economy has been declining since 2010 while the proportion of commuters walking and cycling has increased, alongside the proportion of citizens accessing the internet.</p>
<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<p>Bristol's Gini coefficient is slightly below the national average, but the gap in earnings between the top 10% and bottom 10% has been rising. Reported incidents of racial discrimination and harassment have also risen sharply.</p>
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>The ratio of income to house prices has increased significantly, and homelessness has risen since 2010. Public transport use and air pollution have both improved, but perceptions of safety have worsened.</p>
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	<p>Recycling rates have increased and total waste production has decreased slightly over the past year, however food waste has increased. More data is needed to monitor this goal effectively.</p>

# Localising the SDGs – Bristol Case Study

 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>In 2018 Bristol was the first UK city to declare a climate emergency. Strong civic will to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 will need to be followed by ambitious action across sectors and support from higher levels of government.</p>
 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>According to EU Water Framework Directive, 86% of Bristol's rivers are in 'moderate' ecological condition. Community based initiatives are working to improve conditions alongside larger organisations in the region.</p>
 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>Bristol citizens benefit from extensive green spaces and tree canopy cover has increased since 2010. A recent award of £1 million will support the further development of sustainable management practices for parks and open spaces.</p>
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>Bristol is a safe city with strong judicial institutions, but violent crime and domestic abuse rates have risen in step with national trends. Reports of modern slavery have increased. There has been an encouraging reduction in young offending.</p>
 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>The SDG Alliance has grown rapidly in the last two years and partnerships are forming across the city and across sectors to tackle specific challenges. A number of organisations are also operating internationally to tackle the SDGs.</p>

Economy		9
SDG 8	Good Jobs and Economic Growth	8
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	11

Society		6
SDG 1	No Poverty	10
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	13
SDG 3	Good Health and Wellbeing	5
SDG 4	Quality Education	1
SDG 5	Gender Equality	10
SDG 10	Reduced Inequality	7
SDG 16	Peace and Justice	7
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals	10






Environment		9
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	11
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	10
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	3
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	10
SDG 13	Climate Action	10
SDG 14	Life Below Water	6
SDG 15	Life on Land	7

# Sustainable Progress Index Report: Social Justice Ireland

Ireland ranks 9<sup>th</sup> of 14 EU Countries:

- Report concludes that Ireland is still seriously underperforming in areas such as Poverty(SDG1), inequality (SDG5) and climate action(SDG13), Clean Water & Sanitation) (SDG 6)
- We are performing well in some areas – education(SDG4) & Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) and our environmental score has improved.

The top 5 overall SDGs which CAP23 is contributing to include:

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## Climate Action Plan 2023 & the SDGs

# Going Forward- Building Sustainable Communities

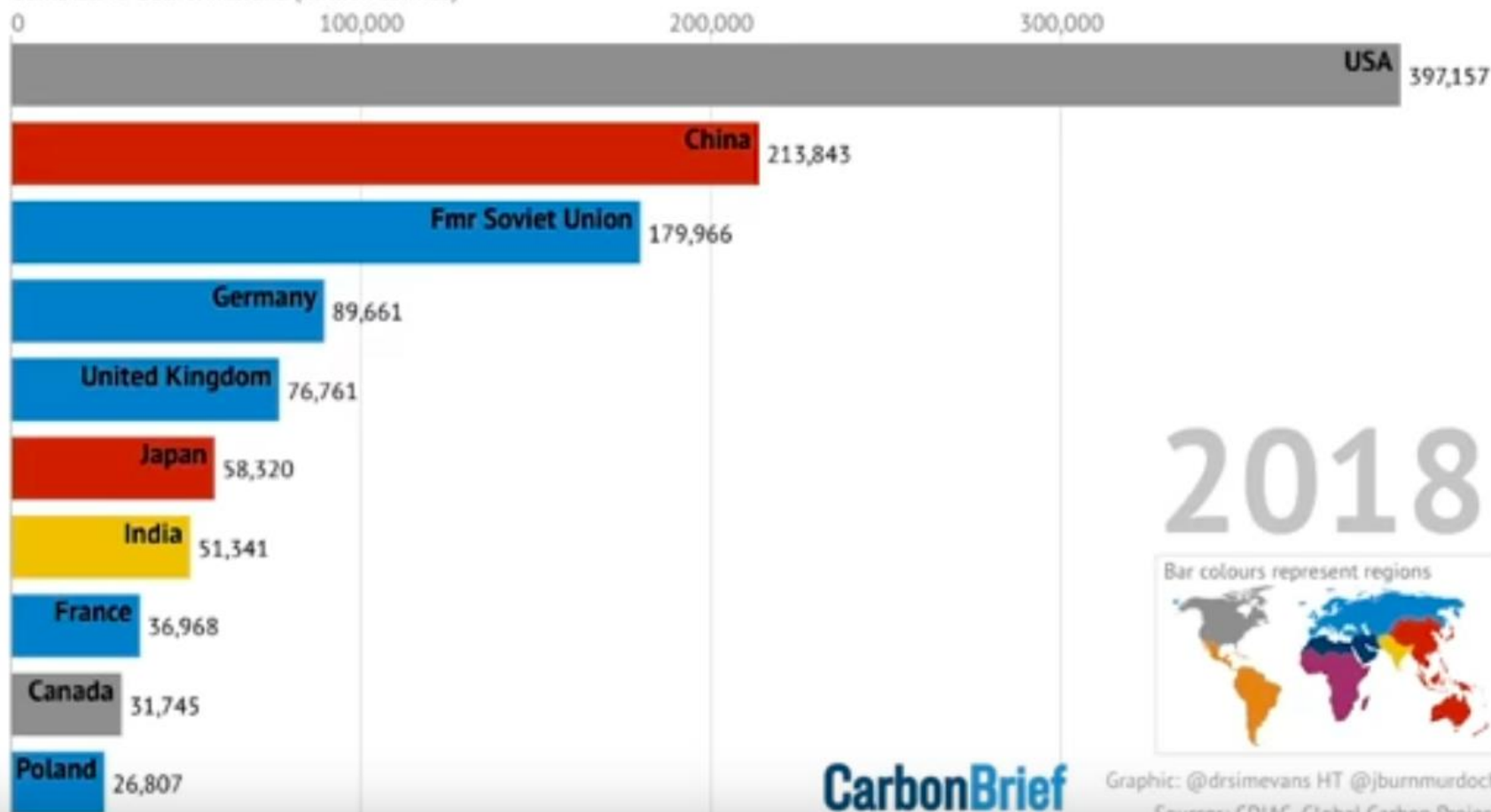
Participation and  
Partnership

SDG 11 Sustainable  
Cities and Communities



# The countries with the largest cumulative CO2 emissions since 1750

Cumulative CO2 emissions (million tonnes)



Graphic: @drsimevans HT @jburnmurdoch

Sources: CDIAC, Global Carbon Project

# Historical CO2 Emissions per person

Area Population Wealth Extraction Emissions Consumption **Historical** Reserves People at risk Sea level Poverty



Shade by

CO<sub>2</sub> per person

CO<sub>2</sub> per person from energy and cement, 2013 (tonnes)

< 0.25  
0.25–0.5  
0.5–1  
1–3  
3–6  
6–10  
10–15  
15–20  
> 20

**i** This map

Country sizes show **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy use 1850–2011**. These historical (or 'cumulative') emissions remain relevant because CO<sub>2</sub> can remain in the air for centuries. Europe and the US dominate, having released around half the CO<sub>2</sub> ever emitted.

ABOUT THIS TOOL DATA SOURCES

## A 4C rise in global average temperatures would force humans away from equatorial regions

### Canada, Siberia, Scandinavia, and Alaska

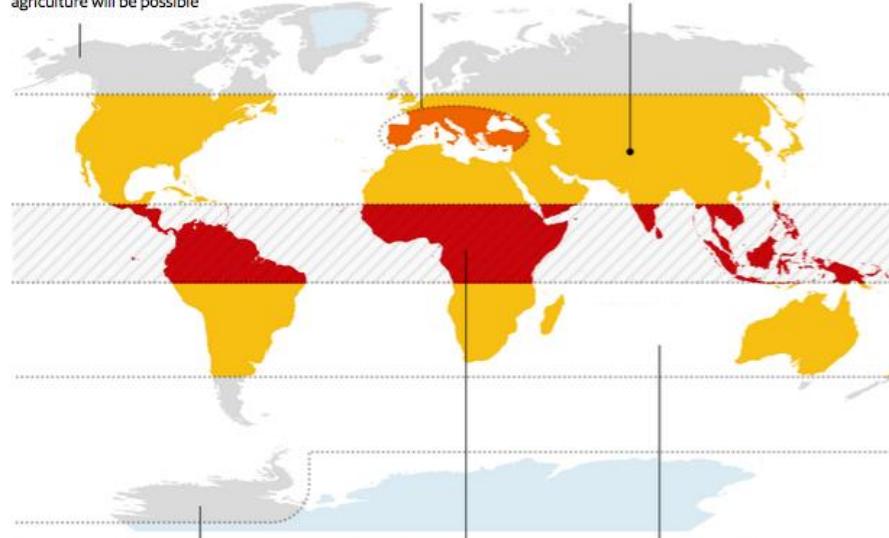
The vast majority of humanity will live in high-latitude areas, where agriculture will be possible

### Southern Europe

Saharan deserts will expand into southern and central Europe

### Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Himalayas

Two-thirds of the glaciers that feed many of Asia's rivers will be lost



### New Zealand, Tasmania, Western Antarctica and Patagonia

Some of the only habitable parts of the southern hemisphere - likely to be very densely populated

### Equatorial belt

High humidity causing heat stress across tropical regions will render them uninhabitable for much of the year. To the north and south will lie belts of inhospitable desert

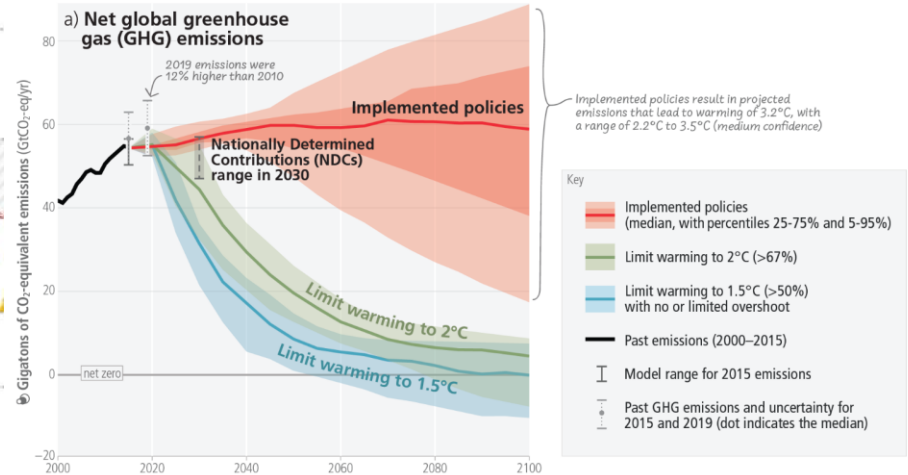
### Oceanic dead zones

Coral reefs, shellfish and plankton will be wiped out by rising acidity and algae starving the oceans of oxygen. Without prey, larger sea life will decline rapidly

Guardian graphic

## Limiting warming to 1.5°C and 2°C involves rapid, deep and in most cases immediate greenhouse gas emission reductions

Net zero CO<sub>2</sub> and net zero GHG emissions can be achieved through strong reductions across all sectors

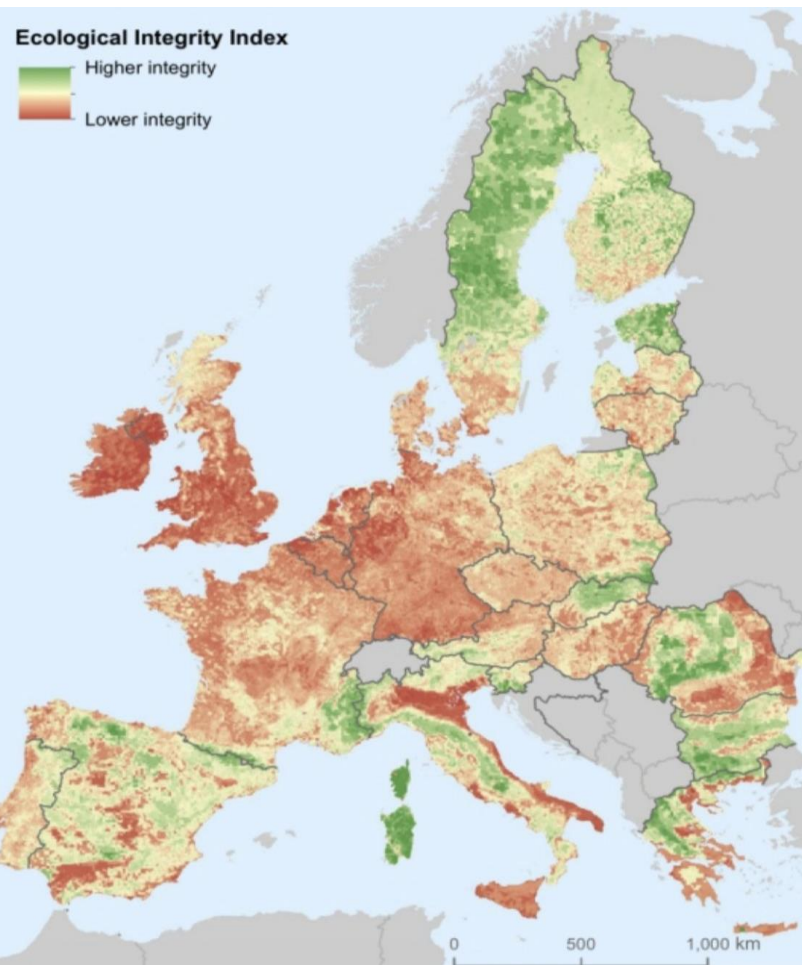


# and the SDGs

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SDG 13	Climate Action	10
SDG 14	Life Below Water	6
SDG 15	Life on Land	7



# Root Cause Tree

Locked in biodiversity loss

Plastic Pollution

Support the rapid mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions

Understand the root causes of the climate crisis

Consider how we have arrived at the current crisis and support the pursuit of climate justice

Reduce all emissions and protect or enhance carbon sinks (e.g., forests and oceans)

Address the interactions between climate change and other systems

Support regenerative and resilient systems and communities, both to reduce emissions and also adapt to the unavoidable impacts of the climate crisis

## CLIMATE CRISIS

Human-caused increase in greenhouse gas emissions, driving climate change at a catastrophic pace and scale

Interactions between changing climate and other systems, including food and agriculture, energy, economy, housing, democracy, and education

## MECHANISMS

Fossil fuels

Economic growth-at-all-costs mentality



Extractive resource use



Extractive capitalism

White supremacy

Colonialism



Patriarchy

Poverty

Ice Melt

Ocean Acidification

# How did we get here? And does it matter?

Movement of resources

Land-use

Production and consumption

Extractionism

A sustainable future?

Forced Migration

Sustainable Solutions: Critical Thinking, Systems Thinking, Problem Solving, Active Citizenship

# Climate Justice

Is Gender Justice

Is housing security

Is population health

Is racial justice

# Climate Justice is a Human Rights issue

Ireland

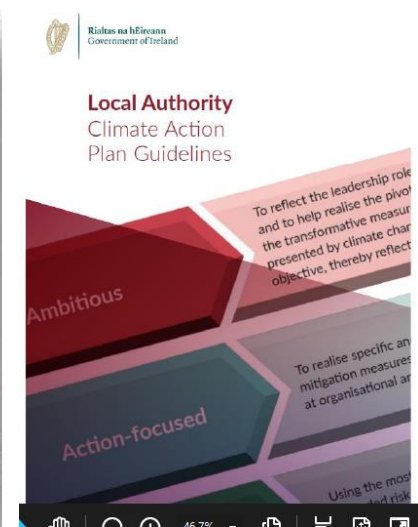
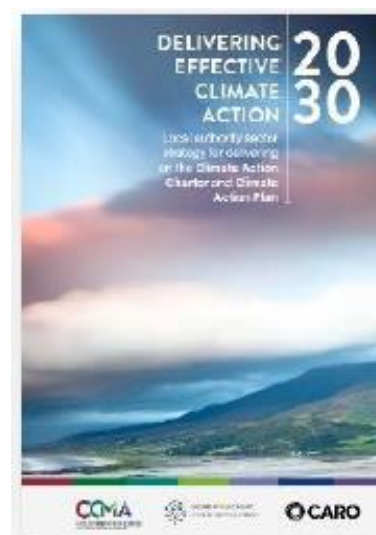
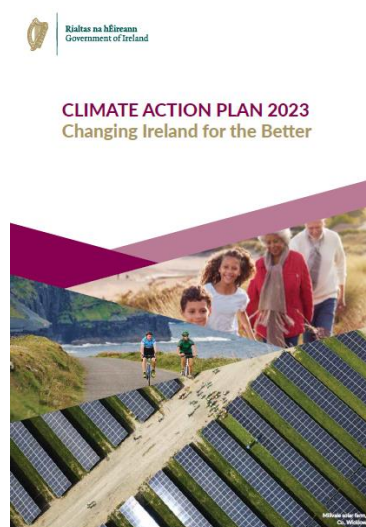
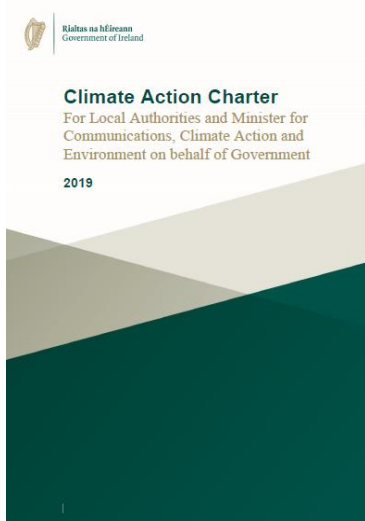
Migration

Europe

Minerals

Global South

# Climate Action Plan 2023 – Policy Basis



# Local Authority Climate Action Charter (2019)

All local Authorities will:

- Be advocates for Climate Action in our own policies and practices, and in our many various dealings with citizens and to underpin this role through the corporate planning process.
- Put in place a process for carbon proofing major decisions, programmes and projects on a systematic basis, including investments in transport and energy infrastructure.
- Deliver on a new target for the public sector of 50% energy efficiency and a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.
- Ensure all suppliers provide information on their carbon footprint and steps they plan to reduce its impact.
- **Build local citizen engagement, particularly with young people.**
- **Partner & collaborate on climate action initiatives with local community groups, local enterprise and local schools and higher-level institutions.**
- Support employees to undertake changes in their lifestyles both at work and at home, to reduce carbon impact and encourage work-based employee-led groups to identify and implement ideas for improvement.
- Monitor, evaluate and report annually on the implementation of activities under the Charter.

# Delivering Effective Climate Action (DECA) 2030

## Local Government Strategy on Climate Action (2021)

### **Vision:**

To leverage the capability, reach and resources of local authorities to effectively lead and coordinate climate action across Ireland.

### **Mission:**

To deliver transformative change and measurable climate action across our cities and counties and within our own organisations, through leadership, example and mobilising action at a local level.

# National Climate Action Plan 2023

## Some Key Actions

- Delivery of Local Authority Climate Action Plans
- Ongoing inclusive programme of citizen and stakeholder engagement to inform climate policy, improve climate literacy, ensure transparency in decision-making, and empower people to take climate action.
- Climate related training and upskilling for public sector employees
- Implement Just Transition Framework through climate sectoral policies.

# The SDGs & Local Climate Action Plans

- Local Authorities closest to the people are at the heart of creating sustainable communities
- Local Authorities in a unique position to identify and respond to development needs and gaps - supporting local goals and national objectives.
- They are crucial actors in tackling the climate crisis
- Their political leadership is instrumental in achieving consensus among different stakeholders and institutional actors focusing on tangible results
- They are pivotal in developing and promoting civic pride and active citizenship across their communities

# Local Authority Climate Action Plans

- The local authority climate action strengthens the links between national and international climate policy
- Ensures the delivery of effective climate action at local and community levels, through place-based climate action.
- Reinforces the commitment by the local government sector to lead on climate action at local and national levels, as reflected in the local government strategy DECA 2030.
- As part of the climate action plan, the individual local authority will be responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing and facilitating others to meet their own targets.

## Legislative Basis:

### Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act 2021

1. Each local authority shall **prepare and make a plan relating to a period of five years** (... referred to as a 'local authority climate action plan') which shall specify the **mitigation and the adaptation** measures to be adopted by the local authority
2. A local authority shall make a local authority climate action plan—
  - (a) in the case of the first such plan, within 12 months of the receipt of a request from the Minister, which request shall be made not later than 18 months after the coming into operation of section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and
  - (b) in the case of each subsequent plan, not less than once in **every period of five years**.
3. A local authority climate action plan shall, in so far as practicable, be consistent with the most recent approved climate action plan and national adaptation framework,

## Legislative Basis: Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act 2021

- (4) In making the climate action plan a local authority shall –
  - (a) consult and co-operate with adjoining local authorities,
  - (b) consult with the Public Participation Network and others as considered appropriate,
  - (c) co-ordinate, where appropriate with adjoining local authorities on mitigation and adaptation measures and consider to be adopted,
  - (d) consider any significant effects of the implementation of the climate action plan on adjoining local authorities.

## Legislative Basis:

### Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act 2021

The local authority climate action plan will:

- Provide a strong emphasis on a **place-based** approach to climate action, delivering a better understanding of greenhouse gas emissions and **climate-related risks at a local level**, while addressing context-specific conditions and support for **locally tailored policy making**.
- Deliver and promote **evidence-based** and **integrated climate action** by way of **adaptation and mitigation** measures, centred around a strong understanding of the role and remit of the local authority on climate action.
- Translate and provide **strategic direction** at local and community levels on the delivery of the national climate objective which is seeking to curb further global warming and to transition to a **climate**

# Key Principles for Local Climate Action Plans

- **Ambitious:** Reflecting leadership role of local government on climate action
- **Action-focused:** Realise specific and deliverable actions to achieve adaptation and mitigation measures
- **Evidence-based:** Using most up-to-date scientific information, data on emissions and vulnerability assessments, local knowledge
- **Participative:** Involve a range of stakeholders to contribute to development of plan and also its delivery
- **Transparent:** Open process with inclusive and collaborative engagement that supports decision-making

# Scope of Local Climate Action Plans

Develop a good understanding of the scope of LA on climate action will help to:

- Manage Expectations of all stakeholders
- Clarify role and areas of responsibility of LA
- Develop relevant CA evidence base to inform action focussed approach
- Facilitate effective monitoring

# LA Areas of Responsibility on Climate Action

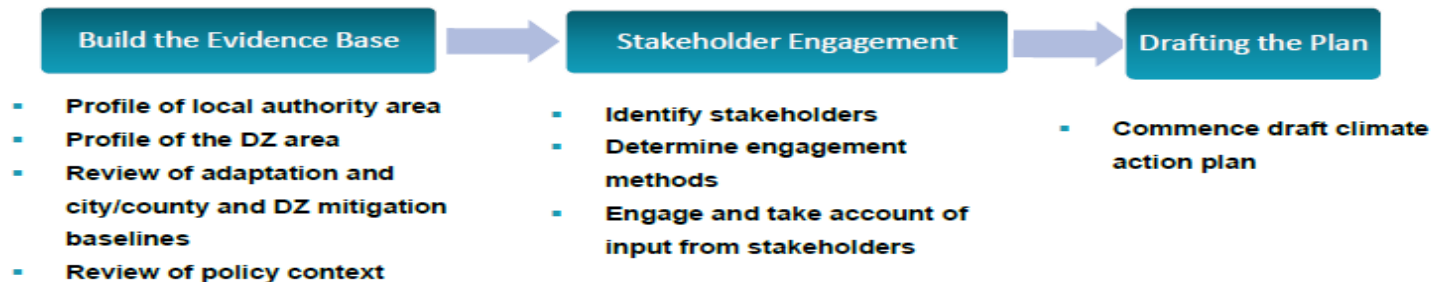
- **Accountability:** within LA – including emissions from internal operations, buildings, facilities & building resilience to negative impacts of CC
- **Influence:** Business, communities individuals through services and use sector's broader remit to support them
- **Co-ordinate and Facilitate:** bring together stakeholders, engage in partnerships, create interactions which would not otherwise occur
- **Advocate:** for climate action by raising awareness, communicating and engaging in open dialogue on climate related issues

# Stages in developing Local Climate Action Plans

1. Preparing the ground:
2. Building the evidence base:
3. Developing the framework of climate actions
4. Implementation and reporting

# LA Climate Action Plans – Main Steps

## Core Tasks:



## Stage Outputs

- Key summary report on evidence base gathered.
  - Stakeholder engagement activities undertaken and report on engagement outcomes completed.
  - Drafting the (draft) local authority climate action plan commenced.
-

# Key Stakeholders

- Elected Members
- Adjoining Local Authorities
- CAROs
- Strategic Policy Committees
- Public Participation Networks
- Local Community Development Committee
- Other Fora: Comhairle na NÓg, Age friendly programme, integration/culture etc.
- Local authority staff
- Members of the public

# Purpose of Stakeholder Engagement

- Facilitates **clear communication** and exchange of information, to develop a better understanding of issues, **potential solutions** and **alternative perspectives**.
- Elicits the **insights and contributions** of stakeholders to help **inform and shape** the climate action plan.
- **Forge partnerships** to carry actions through and to mobilise the **support of citizens** for future decisions that need to be made.
- Maximise the **integrity and transparency** of the plan-making process

# Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Spend time planning a clear approach to who and how stakeholder engagement will be accomplished:
- Identify the stakeholders to engage with, including with members of the local Public Participation Network (PPN),
- Establish what is required from the engagement process,
- Determine the level of engagement,
- Determine the approach to be deployed, and
- Identify the timeframe and time ranges for engagement

# Stakeholder Engagement

- Each local authority must plan and make appropriate provisions for stakeholder engagement.
- Due account of the outcomes of stakeholder engagement must also be undertaken
- Engagement process involves compromises and trade-offs that balance the interests of stakeholders as a whole and enable priorities to be identified

# Contents of LA Climate Action Plan

## **1. Executive Summary**

## **2. Introduction**

- Overview of climate change, its significance, impacts and risks for Ireland (observed and projected)
- Brief description of local level impacts and risks on local authority and local area
- Summary of Climate Policy Context
- Need for the Climate Action Plan
- Structure of the Climate Action Plan

## **3. Evidence-based Climate Action**

- Importance of evidence-based climate action planning
- Summary of local authority's climate change risks
- Summary of local authority's current emissions profile

# Contents of LA Climate Action Plan

## **4. Framework of Climate Actions**

- Plan Vision
- Plan Mission
- Thematic Focus

### **Strategic Goals ...**

- Objectives
- Actions

## **5. Decarbonising Zone**

- Summary of local authority's DZ emissions profile
- DZ Vision
- Register of Opportunities
- DZ Actions

# Contents of LA Climate Action Plan

## **DZ Strategic Priority area 1...**

- Objectives/Outcomes
- Actions

## **D6. Implementation and Reporting**

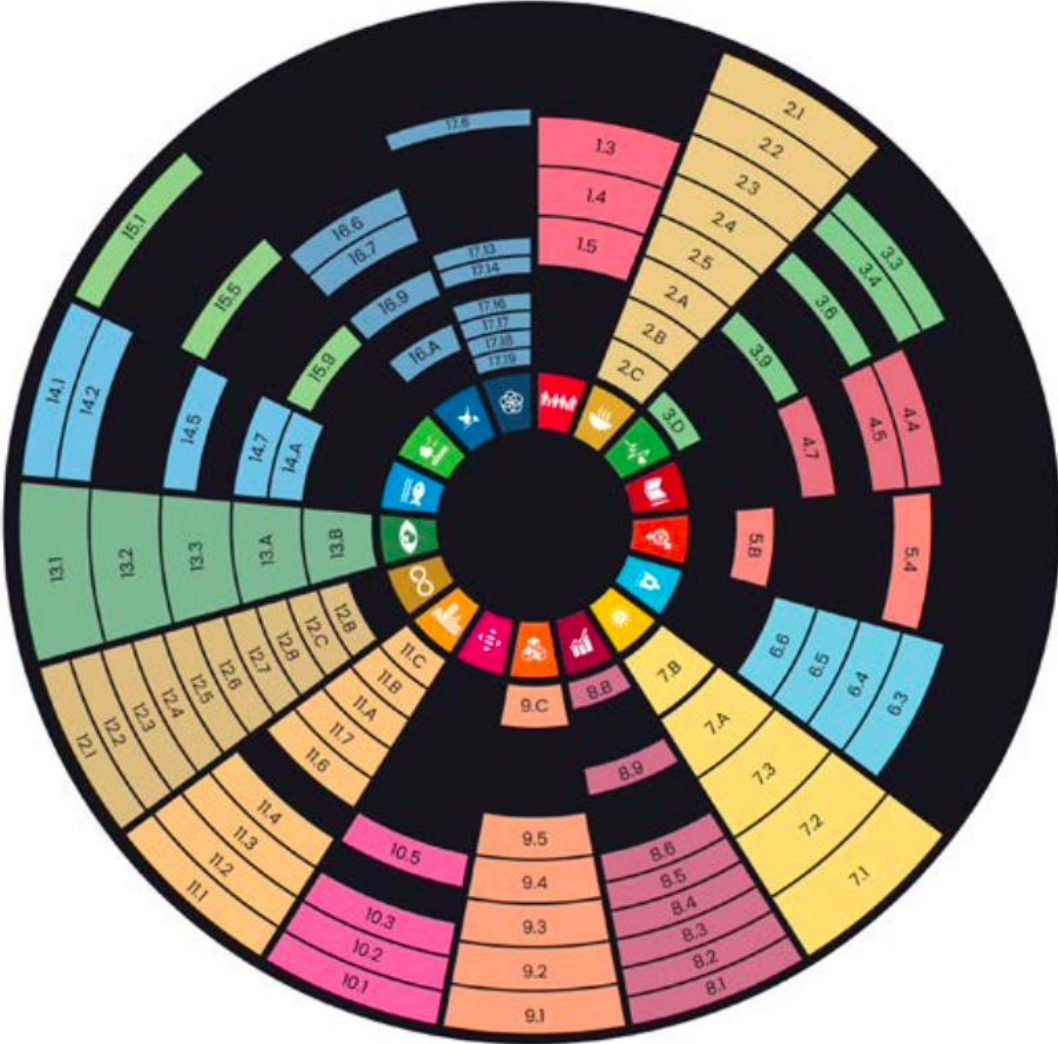
- Setting out an approach to implementation
- Identifying/Using metrics for measuring progress
- Reporting requirements and arrangements

# Supporting Role of Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO)



Figure 4: Four Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) areas

Slide on the link to the  
SDGs and the Climate  
Action Plan assessment



# What are two issues facing your communities

4 issues to use as a group: 2 Climate related, 2 that were said to not be climate related

Map out these 4 issues in relation to the SDGs and LA Climate Action Plans. How to mitigate and adapt to the challenges, where is the stakeholder voice?

Challenges: fair voice, agreements/disagreements, finding the links between as many SDGs as possible.

Your tool kit: The Root Cause Tree, Critical thinking, problem solving, systems thinking and active citizenship