









KE4CAP EU-Japan BKE Event #1: 'Enhancing Connections across National and Local Platforms to Support Adaptation Action', June 29th 2021

CLIMATE IRELAND'S SUPPORT IN LINKING LOCAL AUTHORITY ADAPTATION ACTION WITH NATIONAL ADAPTATION OBJECTIVES

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INTRODUCTION: CLIMATE IRELAND









COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Climate Ireland has been developed on the basis of a collaborative approach to support science-based policy-focused best practice adaptation decision-making:

- Science What information is available to support adaptation (Science of Adaptation)?
- **Policy** What are the requirements of national policy (climate and non-climate)?
- Practice How can science be best mainstreamed into decision-making (Science for Adaptation)?





IRELAND'S LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CLIMATE ACTION

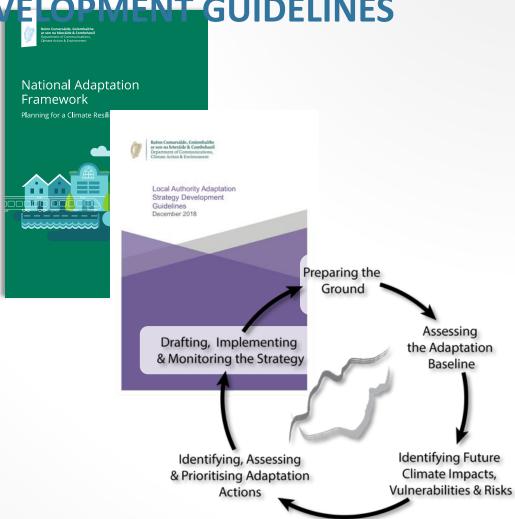
- Ireland comprises of 31 individual Local Authorities (LAs);
- Multi-purpose bodies responsible for delivering a broad range of services in relation to roads; traffic; planning; housing; economic and community development; environment, recreation and amenity services; fire services and maintaining the register of electors;
- Under Ireland's National Adaptation Framework, Ireland's LAs are required to developed climate adaptation strategies;
- To support LAs in planning for and co-ordination of climate action, four Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) have been established.





SUPPORTING LOCAL AUTHORITY ADAPTATION PLANNING: LOCAL AUTHORITY ADAPTATION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

- To support LAs is developing adaptation strategies as required by Ireland's NAF (2018);
- Developed by the Climate Ireland Team at MaREI University College Cork at the request of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications;
- Developed on the basis of:
 - International best practice;
 - Requirements of the NAF (2018);
 - Consultation and testing.
- Based around a **5 step iterative** adaptation planning cycle;
- Align to local authority decision making processes;
- Aim is to **address the challenges** of planning for climate change adaptation.





SUPPORTING LOCAL AUTHORITY ADAPTATION PLANNING: TRAINING IN IMPLEMENTATION OF LA ADAPTATION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES



LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO THE NAF

- **31 Local Authority Adaptation Strategies** were prepared and published in September 2019.
- All Strategies followed the LA Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines, providing consistency in approach;
- Climate Ireland is directly referred to in all of the strategies.



Significant effort on behalf of the Local Government Sector.

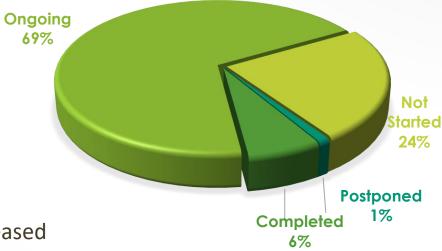


PROGRESS ON DELIVERING LA CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

In total, LAs adopted 2451 actions:

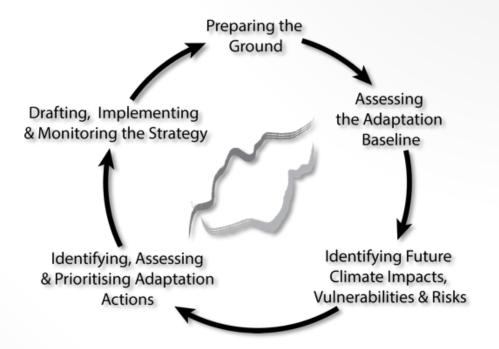
- Completed action:
 - Establishment of Steering Groups;
 - Mainstreaming into plans and policies;
 - Business continuity planning;
 - Increasing capacity of emergency response;
 - Monitoring and review systems for impacts;
 - Flooding management and alleviation.
- Success Factors:
 - Climate Action Teams have been established in all LAs;
 - Awareness of climate change impacts and adaptation have increased across LA;
 - Adaptation to climate change is now on the **political agenda** and included in all **LA corporate plans and risk registers**.





EVOLVING CLIMATE POLICY AND EXPERIENCE

- Climate Adaptation is an iterative/learning by doing process;
- The NAF (2018) and first cycle of adaptation planning is a significant step forward in delivering on a climate resilient Ireland;
- The development of the first iteration of local plans is an essential foundation but there is now a requirement to build on these on an ongoing basis and in preparation for the second cycle of adaptation planning.





EVOLVING CLIMATE POLICY AND EXPERIENCE AND

- An assessment of the application of the LA Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines has been undertaken and updated guidelines for LAs are being developed;
- A wide range of training programmes have been developed to:
 - Address awareness of climate action amongst all local authority staff (22,000);
 - Build capacity of the LA Climate Action Planning Team;
 - Targeted **technical training** (e.g., bespoke training for road engineers).
- Semi-quantitative risk assessment tools are being developed in collaboration with the CARO and to support assessment of LA assets and infrastructure.





TO CONCLUDE

- The NAF (2018) and **first iteration** of adaptation strategies represents a **significant step** in adaptation planning at local and sectoral scales;
- To deliver effective adaptation action, there is a requirement to build on this experience and advance the development and implementation of adaptation action;
- This requires further collaboration and co-ordination across scales, information gathering, evidence-based planning, advances in risk assessment and mainstreaming;
- It is essential that planning for climate change is considered as part of development planning and in ensuring social, economic and environmental sustainability and resilience.





