



Galway County Council

CLIMATE ACTION

Galway County Council Decarbonisation Zone

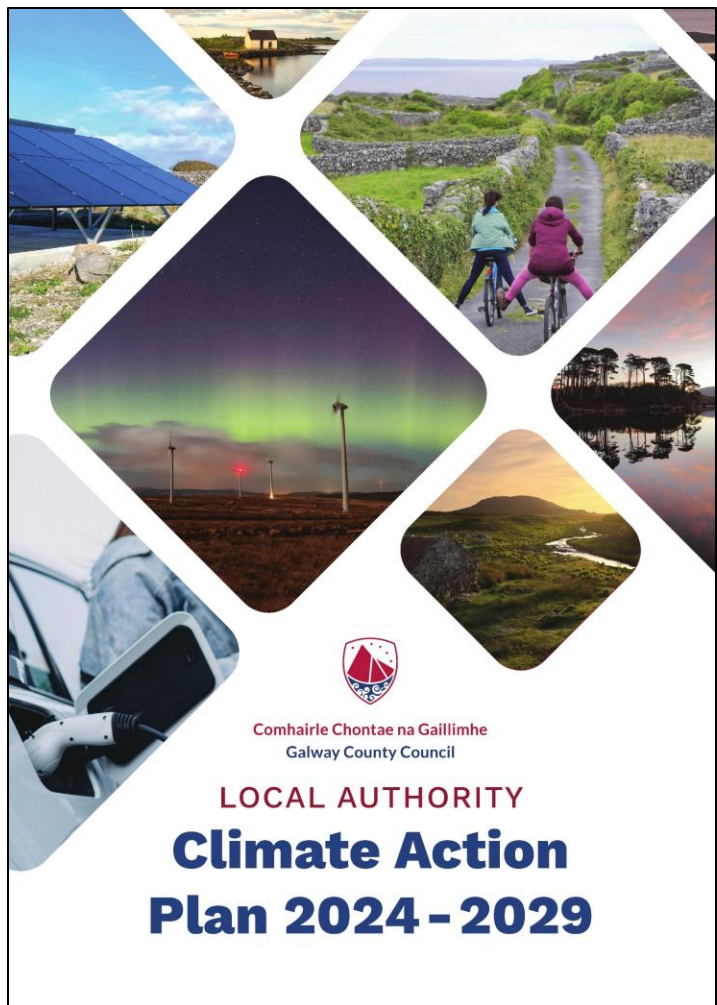
Oileáin Árann Climate Action Fund

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30th April 2025



Galway County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029



Adopted: February 2024

Mission: To deliver and enable transformative change and measurable climate action across our county and within our own organisation, ensuring a just transition to a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.

107 Actions identified under the following themes:

- Governance and Leadership
- Energy and Built Environment
- Transport
- Communities and Enterprise
- Circular Economy
- Land Use and Green Infrastructure
- Adaptation to Climate Risk
- Decarbonisation Zone

Includes Chapter on Oileáin Árann Decarbonising Zone with 15 actions.

Galway County Council Decarbonisation Zone



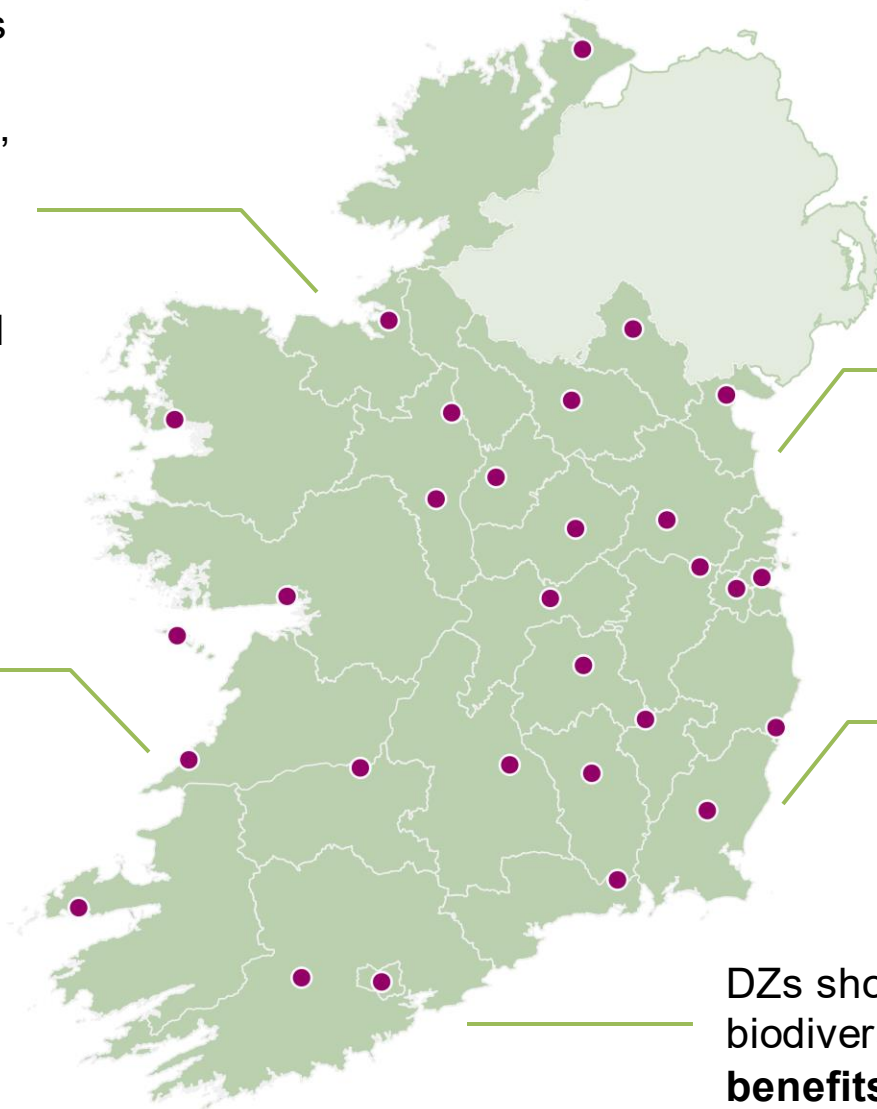
Oileáin Árann is Galway County Council's designated Decarbonisation Zone,

A Decarbonisation Zone is a specific geographical area, an area where the local authority and the community will work together to reduce their impact on the environment by looking within the community for ways to live and work more sustainably, we seek to find local solutions to global problems, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, protecting biodiversity and reducing waste.

What is a Decarbonising Zone?

A Decarbonising Zone (DZ) is a **spatial area**, identified by each local authority in Ireland, in which a **range of climate change mitigation measures are identified** to contribute to meeting national climate action targets

Through a feedback loop of experimentation and evaluation, the **DZ enables a flexible, incremental and community-driven approach** to ensure that its objectives are delivered

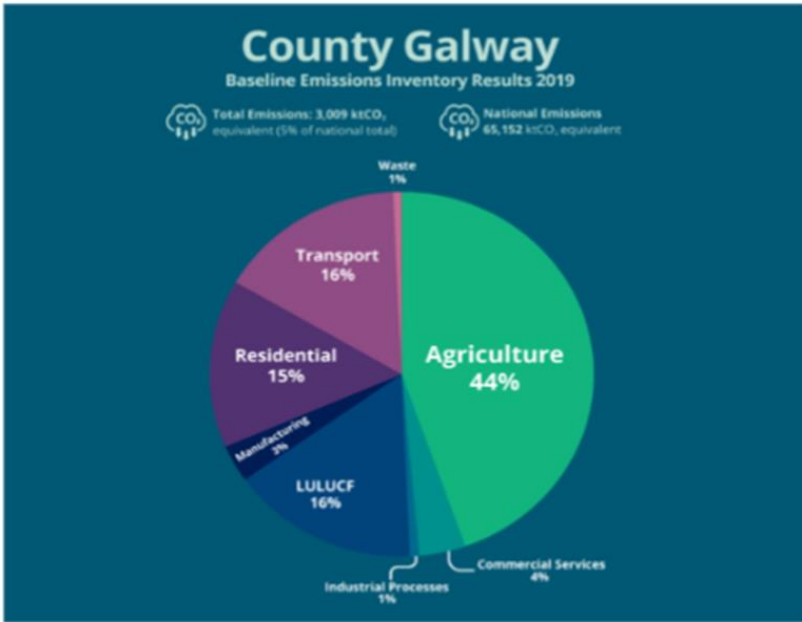
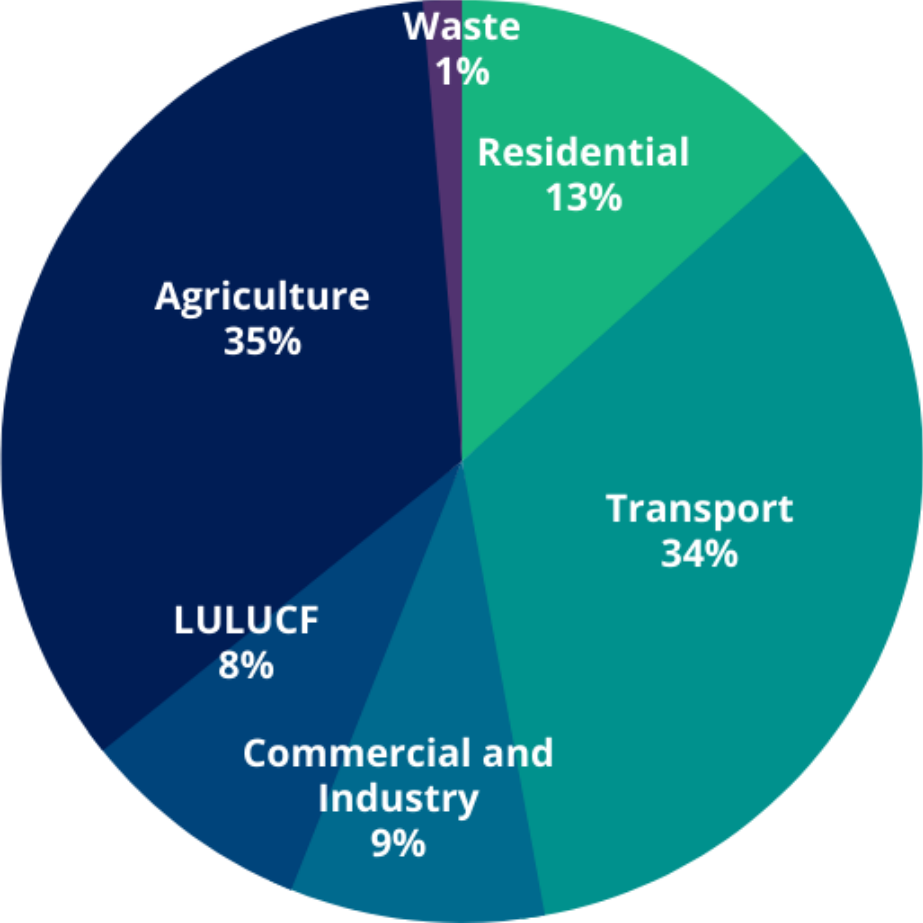


DZs are a **demonstration and testbed** of what is possible for Decarbonising and climate action at a **local and community level**

Each DZ is unique, there is **no 'one size fits all'** approach to developing a DZ

DZs should consider adaptation and biodiversity and **address wider co-benefits**

Aran Islands Baseline Emissions Inventory



| Emissions Category | Aran Islands DZ Emissions ktCO ₂ e | County Galway Emissions ktCO ₂ e | National Emissions ktCO ₂ e |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| Residential | 2.15 (13%) | 450 (15%) | 9,552 (15%) |
| Transport | 5.45 (34%) | 478 (15%) | 12,196 (19%) |
| Commercial and Industry | 1.44 (9%) | 239 (8%) | 13,622 (21%) |
| LULUCF | 1.32 (8%) | 478 (20%) | 6,899 (10%) |
| Agriculture | 5.56 (35%) | 1,132 (43%) | 22,134 (34%) |
| Waste | 0.22 (1%) | 27 (1%) | 991 (1%) |
| Total | 16.13 (100%) | 2,631 (100%) | 65,152 (100%) |

Draft Vision: Oileáin Árann Decarbonisation Zone



Energy self-sufficient,
generating community-
owned energy.

Fuel poverty eliminated
with comfortable, well-
insulated homes. All homes
B2 (minimum) with
decarbonised heat source.

Sustainable transport to the
islands as well as on the
islands

Low waste

Carbon neutral

DZ Climate Action Fund

- 100% project funding
- €60,000 to build low carbon communities on the Aran Islands
- New (Pilot) fund to open now (closes May 28th)
- Funding can go towards capital, equipment, training, resourcing, workshops
- Open to schools, businesses, community groups etc
- The fund will support climate action projects in four key theme areas:
 - Energy
 - Travel
 - Food & Waste
 - Local Environmental Action.



Projects must do one or more of the following:

- Reduce emissions
- Increase production or use of renewable energy
- Improve resilience to climate change
- Enhance biodiversity
- Support the low carbon economy

Theme 1: Energy

To reduce climate impact of buildings by using less energy, using renewable energy and avoiding heat loss.

- Examples of projects:
 - Retrofitting,
 - Small renewable energy projects (solar panels, hydro, wind)
 - Upgrade of lighting in accordance with Dark Skies best practice
 - EV charging points
- Strong applications include:
 - **Efficiency First** guiding principal,
 - Energy **audits** indicating what retrofitting should take place,
 - Level of emissions reductions **calculated**,
 - **Low cost** per tonne of CO2 reductions,
 - 3 adequate **quotes** and clear delivery **plan**



Theme 2: Travel

To reduce climate impact of travel by decreasing dependence on private vehicles, increasing uptake of EVs, investigating potential for greener travel to the islands .

- Examples of projects:

- Bicycle parking/racks, Bicycle repair stations,
- Improved access to cycles ways
- Community cargo bikes
- Research into decarbonising ferry/flight emissions
- Facilitation of use of EVs
- Safe and Active routes to schools, walking and cycling buses

- Strong applications included:

- Good design of active travel project include consideration of the elements,
- 3 adequate quotes and clear delivery plan



Theme 3: Food and Waste

To increase recycling facilities and initiatives aimed at designing out waste, reducing, reusing and recycling & upcycling, as well as improving access to local food and produce

Examples of projects:

- Community gardens and allotments, Community fridges, food markets
- Composting facilities and anaerobic digestion
- Local business pledges
- Water refill stations
- Segregated bins
- Community repair hubs
- Swap shops and “Library of Things” e.g Toys/Musical Instruments/Equipment/Sports Kits
- Single-use item elimination initiatives
- Paint recycling



Theme 4: Local Climate & Environmental Action

Projects that take a holistic approach to managing the local environment, including in relation to climate action

Examples of projects

- Mini forests, forest schools, and dispersed orchards
- Rainwater harvesting
- Roof gardens
- Energy gardens
- Pollinator projects including wildflower meadows
- Climate resilience projects

Strong applications include:

- Planting plan included with plants of local provenance,
- Maintenance proposals included,
- 3 adequate quotes for all elements of the project
- Price indicating good value for money
- Cross community benefit

No funding wildflower seeds – preferable to rewild an area directly.

Don't forget the all-Ireland Pollinator Plan for planting!



How will projects be evaluated, selected and approved?

1. Evaluation:

All applications will be reviewed and assessed by an independent evaluation committee against the evaluation criteria to determine that the project is suitable for funding. In order to be considered for funding, the project needs to achieve at least 50% and meet the minimum requirements

2. Selection:

Following evaluation, it will then decide the final selection of projects taking account of:

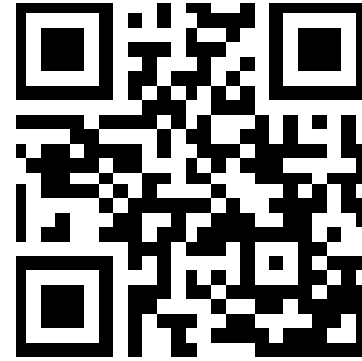
- The desirability to fund a variety of different projects and across multiple themes
- The geographical distribution of projects
- The contribution of the projects to the climate action objectives of GCC

| Selection Criterion | Weighting | Min. Required |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Relevance and Impact | 30% | 15% |
| Innovation and Scalability | 20% | 10% |
| Value for Money | 20% | 10% |
| Achievability | 10% | 5% |
| Partnership Approach | 10% | 5% |
| Governance Agreements | 10% | 5% |
| | 100% | 50% |

Application process

- Submit online application via Submit.com portal
at <https://submit.link/3y1> (English)
or <https://submit.link/3zO> (Gaeilge)
 - Describe your project;
 - Outline how the project is relevant to the purpose of the grant
 - to shape and build low carbon communities on the Aran Islands
- Outline how many of the four programme themes (Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Local Climate or Environmental Actions) your project will address and how you will address them
 - address as many themes as possible
- Include quotes for any costs for the project
- Funding only available for costs incurred after project selection

Thank
You!



Scan here for English version of
application form

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/environment/climate/>

Míle
buíochais!

Scanáil anseo le haghaidh leagan
Béarla den fhoirm iarratais

