August 2024
Dr. Bernie O'Donoghue Hynes
and Robert Keane

2023 Local Government Climate Action Key Performance Indicators Report

CARO

LGMA
An Ghníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil
Local Government Management Agency

CCMA
Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach
County and City Management Association

2023 Local Government Climate Action Key Performance Indicators Report

August 2024

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Climate Action KPI Working Group membership in 2023:

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- Breda Maher, Eastern and Midlands CARO (Project Manager)
- Bernie O'Donoghue Hynes, LGMA (Research Support)
- Anthony McNamara, Climate Action Coordinator, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
- Alex Grassick, Climate Action Coordinator, Kerry County Council
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- Eibhlin Smith, Eastern and Midlands CARO (Administrative Support)
- Rob Keane, LGMA (Research Support)
- Holly Morrin, LGMA (Research Support)

Foreword

This is the second year the local government sector has published an annual Climate Action Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) report. It contains information relating to progress across key actions being delivered to mitigate against and adapt to climate change, and to affect behavioural change amongst stakeholders. The KPIs also monitor whether the required infrastructure is in place to deliver on the sector's commitments to addressing climate change.

The report highlights the cross departmental approach being taken within each local authority to address climate related issues. This includes the involvement of staff from all aspects of local authority work on Climate Action Teams and sub-groups.

The report shows that in 2023 all local authorities had core climate action staff in place for the first time. While this was a very positive development, there appears to be a challenge for some local authorities to maintain their Climate Action Teams, in large part due to the staff turnover and recruitment issues across many functional areas. However, despite this, the total number of local authority staff who were members of Climate Action Teams increased in 2023 compared to previous years and the number of sub-group meetings also rose, signifying an increase in overall activity across all work areas.

To ensure all 30,000+ local authority staff are aware of the need to consider sustainability and the implications of climate change in decisions across all local authority activity, climate action training is available to everyone working for local authorities, as well as elected members. Over the past three years, 25,977 climate action training places have been accessed by both staff and councillors.

The sector's efforts to affect behavioural change did not stop with internal staff and councillors. Through the local authority Local Enterprise Offices, the Green for Micro programme helps local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to explore how to become more sustainable, and the numbers participating were shown to have grown each year since 2021.

In addition to mainstreaming responsibility for climate action, and affecting changed behaviours, the report shows how local authorities advanced climate adaptation actions and mitigated against climate change through increased delivery of active travel actions. In 2023, there was also an increase in the reaction of local authorities to extreme weather events as the number of meetings increased compared to the previous year, as did the number of times plans had to be activated.

A key objective for all public bodies is the reduction of energy consumption. The report details an annual reduction in energy consumption of 65,617.5 MWh/Yr. and carbon emissions of 18,975.8 tCo2/Yr. as a result of retrofitting 4,728 social houses in 2022 and 2023. These savings assist the sector in meeting targets while also resulting in lower energy bills for local authority tenants.

Local authorities will continue to work to develop resilience to the impacts of climate change through a wide range of initiatives and actions. 2023 was an important year as local authorities commenced a programme of extensive consultation and engagement on the development of 31 local Climate Action Plans. These plans provide an opportunity to develop and explore more performance indicators for the sector. They will provide a road map to bring people together to affect positive change.

John McLaughlin
Chair
CCMA Climate Action, Transport, Circular Economy and Networks Committee

Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach
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Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of the 2023 Climate Action Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for all local authorities. The reported data was gathered from local authorities, Enterprise Ireland, the Local Authority Services Network Training Group (LASNTG), and the LGMA Housing Delivery Coordination Office (HDCO).

The key findings for 2023 are:

Mainstreaming

Climate Action Staff

- All local authorities had at least one Climate Action Officer or Coordinator in place on December 31st, 2023.
- The total number of FTE climate action staff in place on December 31st, 2023, was 55, up from 28.5 in 2022.

Climate Action Teams

- 24 local authorities had a cross-departmental Climate Action Team operational at year-end 2023 and seven were working on reconstituting their teams.
- There was a total of 647 Climate Action Team members across all Climate Action Teams at year-end 2023, compared with 616 in 2022 and 544 in 2021.
  - 436 of the 2023 Climate Action Team members had participated in local authority climate action training.
- There was a total of 95 Climate Action Team meetings held across the sector over the course of 2023.
- 18 local authority Climate Action Teams had sub-groups in place at the end of 2023, and combined they held a total of 164 meetings over the course of 2023, an increase of 10 compared to 2022.

Mitigation

Active Travel

- There were 1,989 active travel projects being delivered by local authorities: 50% were completed, 9% under construction, and 41% at design stage on December 31st, 2023.

Social Housing Retrofit Energy Savings

- 30 local authorities completed retrofitting 2,445 social housing units in 2023 resulting in an estimated annual energy saving of 35,663.4 MWh/Yr. which equates to a saving of 10,373.3 tCo2/Yr.

Local Authority Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Greenhouse gas emissions data was not available for 2023 but in 2022 there was an aggregate reduction of 25.4% compared to the baseline average for all local authorities between 2016 and 2018.

Adaptation

Climate adaptation actions being delivered

- The sector was implementing 2,488 adaptation actions detailed in the Local Authority Climate Action Plan/Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019 - 2024) on December 31st, 2023: 34% were completed, 58% were in progress, and 6% were not started.
- Climate Adaptation Actions completed rose from 13% in 2021, to 20% in 2022 and 34% in 2023.

Emergency Weather Events

- 272 Severe Weather Response Team meetings were held across 28 local authorities during 2023, an increase of 73 compared to 2022.
- There were 168 Severe Weather Emergency Response Plans activated during 2023. Rain accounted for 32% of activations, wind and coastal wind combined accounted for 37% of activations, snow/ice/low temperature for 20%, while thunderstorms accounted for 10% of activations.

Internal behavioural change and capacity building

Climate action training

- Local authority staff and elected members accessed 8,965 training places relating to climate action in 2023.
- Over the three-year period, 2021 to 2023, a total of 25,977 training places have been accessed.

SME support

- 554 businesses were supported by local authority Local Enterprise Offices under Green for Micro Programme in 2023, compared with 413 in 2022 and 293 in 2021.

Introduction

The Climate Action KPI Working Group (CA KPI WG) was convened by the CCMA Climate Action and Transport Networks (CATN) Committee in 2021[1]. The group was tasked with developing climate action KPIs that align to the goals and objectives detailed in Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 (CCMA and CARO, 2020), the sector's strategy for addressing the issue of climate change as well research commissioned by the group to explore international best practice (Clarke, 2021 and 2022).

Data for five of the nine indicators was collected directly from local authorities. The 2023 data was collected in March-April 2024 using the LGMA Central Data Unit (CDU) online survey tool. A detailed guidelines document was developed by the CA KPI WG and circulated with the survey to ensure there was a consistent interpretation of the data.

Table 1 Local Government Climate Action KPI list 2023

Local Government CA KPIs Theme	Climate Action Theme	Data Supplied by	First year of data collection	Month 2023 data collected
1. Climate Action Staff	Mainstreaming	Local authorities	2021	March 2024
2. Climate Action Teams	Mainstreaming	Local authorities	2021	March 2024
3. Active Travel Projects	Mitigation	Local authorities	2021	March 2024
4. Social Housing Retrofit	Mitigation	LGMA Housing Delivery Coordination Office (HDCO)	2022	May 2024
5. Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Mitigation	SEAI	2022	Nov 2023
6. CAP Adaptation Actions	Adaptation	Local authorities	2021	March 2024
7. Severe Weather Responses	Adaptation	Local authorities	2022	March 2024
8. Councillor and Staff Training	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	Local Authority Service Network Training Group (LASNTG)	2021	May 2024
9. Green for Micro Business	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	Enterprise Ireland	2022	May 2024

[1] The CCMA Climate Action, Transport and Networks (CATN) Committee, was renamed as the Climate Action, Transport, Circular Economy and Networks Committee (CATCEN) in 2022.

Enterprise Ireland provided the Green for Micro Business programme data, the LGMA Housing Delivery Coordination Office (HDCO) supplied the Social Housing Retrofit data, and the Local Authority Services Network Training Group (LASNTG) supplied the staff and elected members' training data.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) greenhouse gas emissions data for 2023 was not available in time for publication of this report but the 2022 data, that had been supplied by the SEAI in November 2023, has been included in the report for reference.

The results are presented under four themes:

- mainstreaming,
- mitigation,
- adaptation, and
- internal behavioural change and capacity building.

Where possible the 2021 and 2022 findings are included to give an indication of the trends relating to the theme.

Modifications made to KPIs and data collection processes in 2023

Prior to collection of the 2024 data, the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) requested an expansion of the social housing retrofit data for their report. Therefore, additional information in relation to BER ratings and heat pumps was gathered and reported for 2023, and retrospective data for 2022 has been included. The data relating to training places accessed by local authority staff and elected members was supplied by local authorities and the LASNTG in 2022 but in 2023 all data was sourced directly from the LASNTG, to ensure consistent reporting.

2023 Data Findings

Mainstreaming

This section considers the number of staff working both directly and indirectly to advance the local authorities' climate action goals. The number of climate action staff working as either Climate Action Coordinators or Climate Action Officers are presented. This is followed by a review of the number of local authority staff actively progressing climate related activities via their membership of a Climate Action Team or one of their sub-groups.

Climate Action Staff

At year-end 2023, all local authorities had dedicated climate action staff in place. The number of local authorities with dedicated staff increased from 24 local authorities in 2021 and 27 in 2022 to 31 local authorities in 2023.

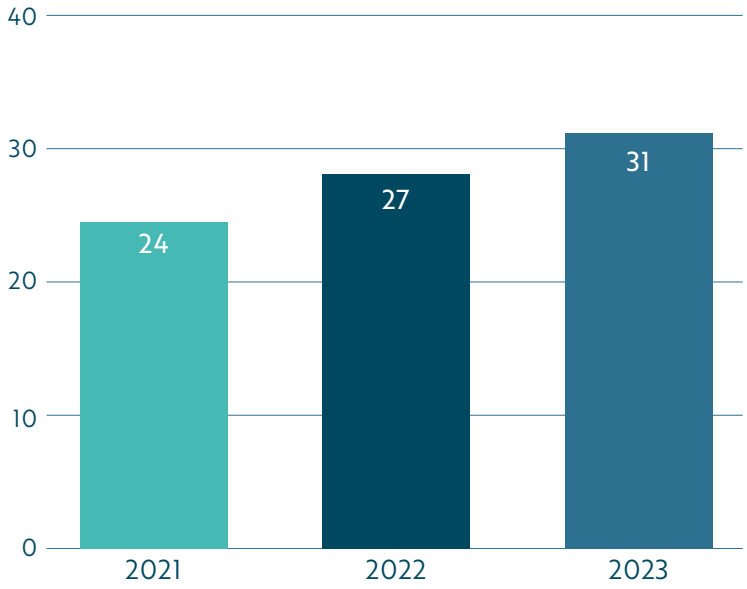

Figure 1 Local authorities with climate action staff in place at year-end

"Mainstreaming: Organisational support systems, including qualified employees … play an essential role in ensuring functional sustainability performance systems"

Clarke (2021), p.13

Table 2 Local authorities with climate action staff in place at year-end

	2021	2022	2023
Carlow		•	•
Cavan	•	•	•
Clare		•	•
Cork City	•	•	•
Cork County	•	•	•
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	•	•	•
Donegal	•		•
Dublin City	•	•	•
Fingal	•	•	•
Galway County	•	•	•
Galway City	•	•	•
Kerry	•	•	•
Kildare	•	•	•
Kilkenny	•	•	•
Laois	•	•	•
Leitrim		•	•
Limerick	•		•
Longford	•	•	•
Louth		•	•
Mayo	•	•	•
Meath	•	•	•
Monaghan	•	•	•
Offaly	•	•	•
Roscommon			•
Sligo	•	•	•
South Dublin	•	•	•
Tipperary			•
Waterford	•	•	•
Westmeath		•	•
Wexford	•	•	•
Wicklow	•	•	•

A count was undertaken to identify how many of the staff in place were Climate Action Officers or Climate Action Coordinators. When compared with results in 2022, it is evident that there has been an increase in the number of local authorities that have both categories of staff in place.

The number of local authorities that have both Climate Action Officers and Coordinators in place jumped from four in 2022 to 24 in 2023. Of the remaining seven local authorities with dedicated staff in 2023, six had Climate Action Coordinators and one had a Climate Action Officer.

The number of full-time equivalent staff has increased from 28.5 in 2022 to 55 in 2023. The number of Climate Action Coordinators continues to exceed the number of Climate Action Officers (i.e., 30 Climate Action Coordinators in 2023 and 25 Climate Action Officers) but the rate of increase of Climate Action Officers, at 178%, exceeds that of the Climate Action Coordinators, at 54%.

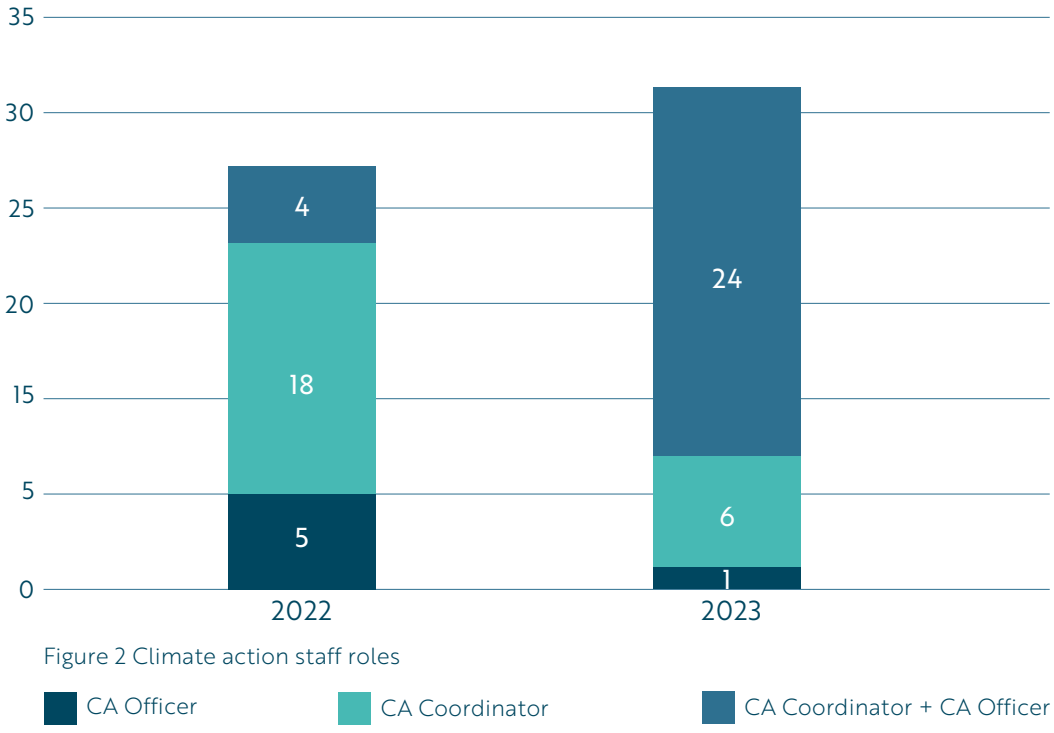

Figure 2 Climate action staff roles

Table 3 Category of climate action staff in place at year-end

	2022	2023	Increase	Rate of increase
Climate Action Officer	9	25	16	178%
Climate Action Coordinator	19.5	30	10.5	54%
Total	28.5	55	26.5	93%

Climate Action Teams and sub-groups

"...the need to mainstream climate goals across all municipal operations and assign clear lines of responsibility is widely recognised for climate change metrics"

Clarke (2021), p.14

The Climate Action Teams bring local authority staff together across multiple functional areas, to ensure climate action staff are not operating in a silo and actions are considered and monitored from the perspective of multiple operational and policy perspectives.

Some changes in the number and status of Climate Actions Teams were evident in 2023. At year-end there were 24 active local authority teams in place while seven were being reconstituted. Staff changes across all functional areas was the primary challenge for local authorities in maintaining the teams operationally.

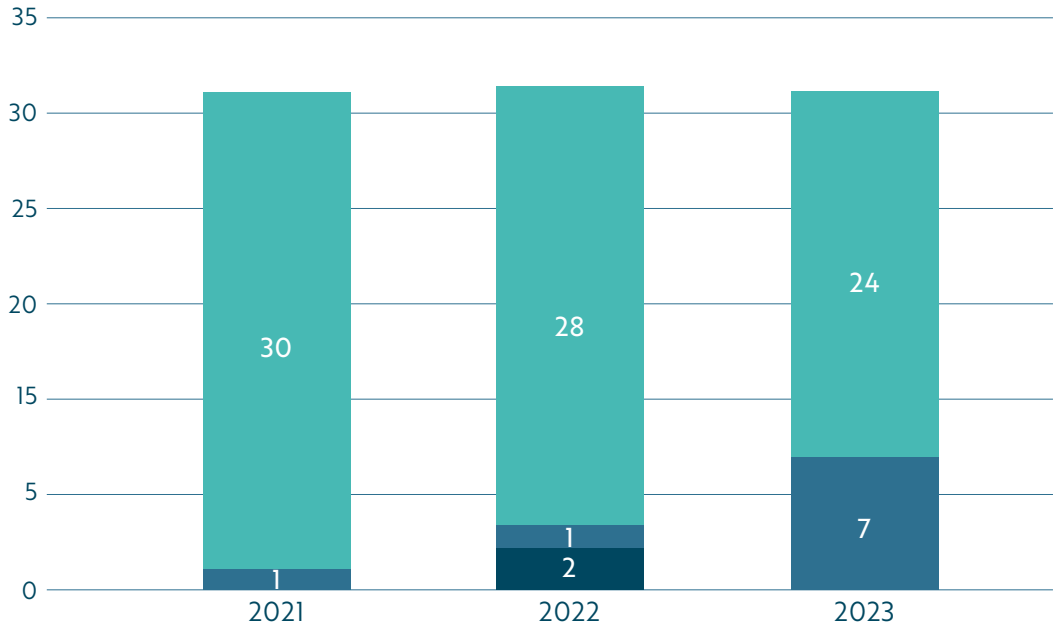

Figure 3 Status of local authority Climate Action Teams at year-end

Table 4 Local authority Climate Action Team status at year end

	2021	2022	2023
Carlow	YES	YES	YES
Cavan	YES	YES	YES
Clare	YES	YES	YES
Cork City	YES	YES	YES
Cork County	YES	YES	YES
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	YES	YES	WIP
Donegal	YES	YES	WIP
Dublin City	YES	WIP	WIP
Fingal	YES	YES	YES
Galway County	YES	YES	YES
Galway City	YES	YES	YES
Kerry	YES	YES	YES
Kildare	YES	YES	YES

Table 4 Local authority Climate Action Team status at year end (cont'd)

	2021	2022	2023
Kilkenny	YES	WIP	YES
Laois	YES	YES	YES
Leitrim	YES	YES	WIP
Limerick	WIP	NO	WIP
Longford	YES	YES	YES
Louth	YES	YES	YES
Mayo	YES	YES	YES
Meath	YES	YES	YES
Monaghan	YES	YES	YES
Offaly	YES	YES	YES
Roscommon	YES	YES	YES
Sligo	YES	YES	WIP
South Dublin	YES	YES	YES
Tipperary	YES	YES	YES
Waterford	YES	YES	YES
Westmeath	YES	YES	YES
Wexford	YES	YES	YES
Wicklow	YES	YES	WIP

Consequently, the number of meetings held has dropped relative to previous years. One hundred and thirteen meeting were held in 2021 and 116 in 2022. This dropped to 95 meetings held in 2023.

Despite the decreased number of teams active at year-end in 2023, the number of staff engaged on Climate Action Teams has increased from 616 in 2022 to 647 in 2023. Seventeen teams have increased in size compared with 2022.

Table 5 Number of Climate Action Team meetings held annually

	2021	2022	2023
Number of Climate Action Team meetings during the year	113	116	95

Table 6 Number of Climate Action Team members at year-end

CAT Members	2021	2022	2023
Carlow	14	21	22*
Cavan	12	22	21
Clare	10	11	11
Cork City	21	33	24
Cork County	11	6	18*
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	10	20	-
Donegal	21	18	-
Dublin City	19	-	6*
Fingal	8	8	8
Galway City	13	16	10
Galway County	13	28	39*
Kerry	19	10	12*
Kildare	38	43	45*
Kilkenny	35	30	38*
Laois	14	18	20*
Leitrim	8	14	-
Limerick	-	-	15*
Longford	8	16	17*
Louth	25	25	24
Mayo	31	30	30
Meath	14	16	17*
Monaghan	23	32	48*
Offaly	24	23	29*
Roscommon	21	23	45*
Sligo	20	15	10
South Dublin	11	14	13
Tipperary	23	28	29*
Waterford	16	15	19*
Westmeath	24	27	27
Wexford	32	46	50*
Wicklow	6	8	-
Total Number of Members	**544**	**616**	**647**

* Increased in size in 2023 compared with 2022

In 2023, 436 of the 647 team members participated in climate action training. This training enhances the contribution Climate Action Team members can make at meetings and in the delivery of actions.

While the number of members trained remains high, the percentage of members trained has fallen from 76% in 2021, to 74% in 2022 and 67% in 2023.

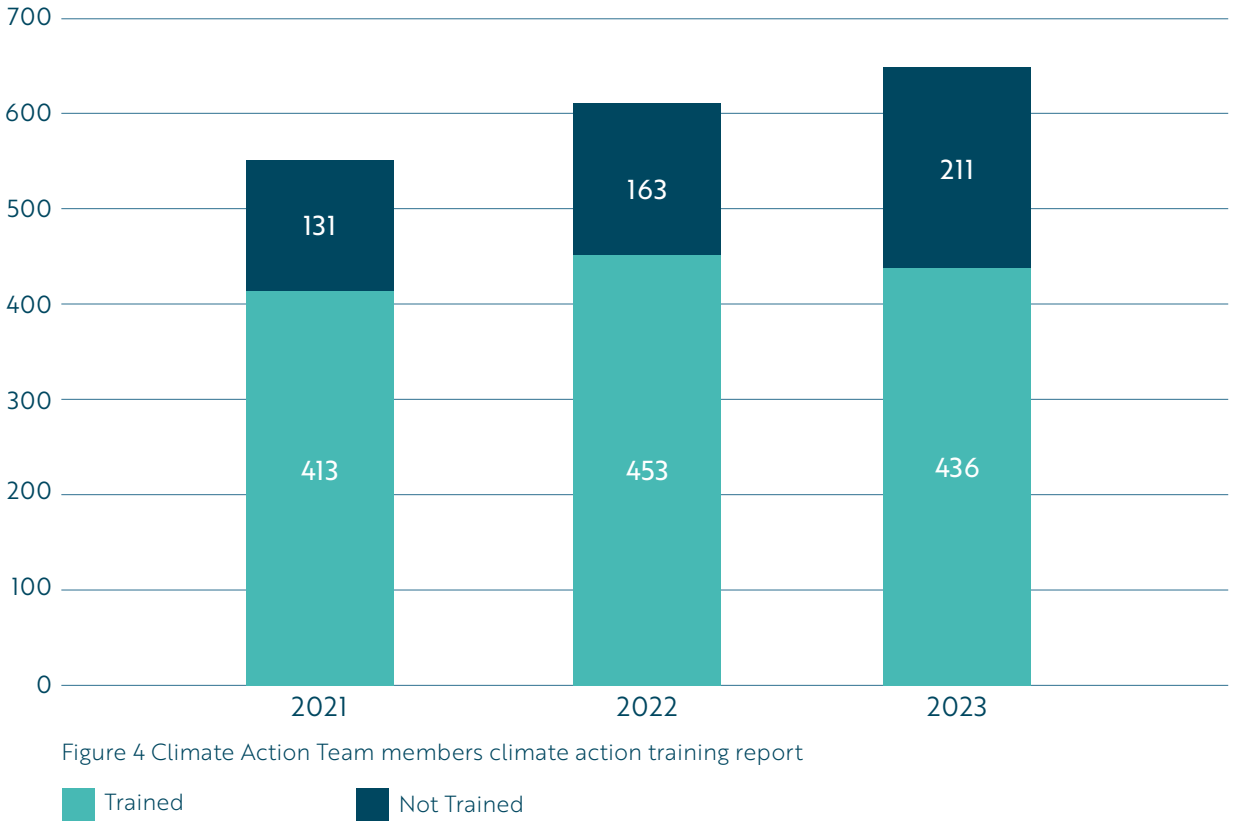

Figure 4 Climate Action Team members climate action training report

Climate Action Team Sub-Groups

Sub-groups have been set up by many of the local authorities. The number of local authorities with sub-groups has fluctuated over the years.

In 2021 there were 14 local authorities with sub-groups in place, this increased to 22 in 2022 and decreased to 18 in 2023.

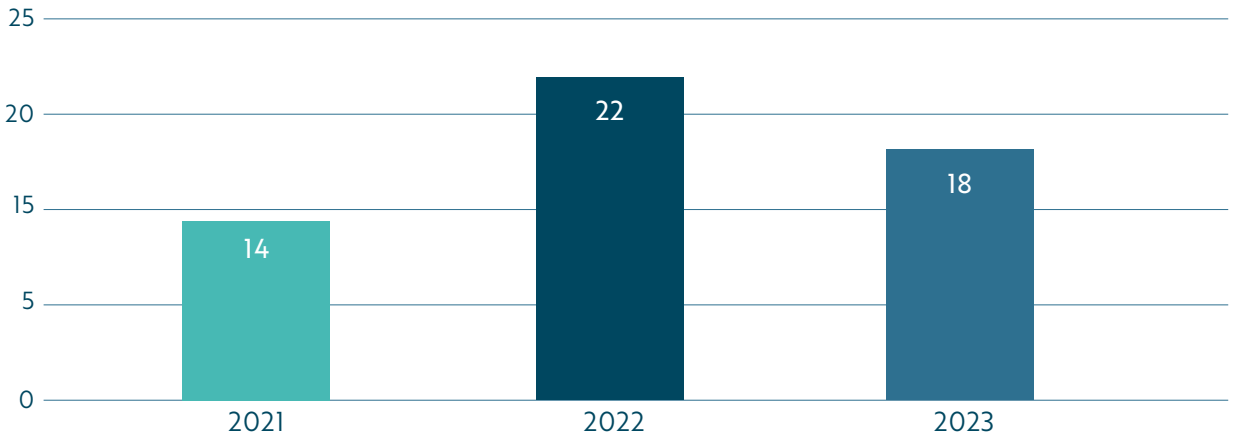

Figure 5 Local authorities with Climate Action Team Sub-Groups

Despite fewer local authorities using sub-groups, there was an increase in the number of meetings held by these groups in 2023. There were 164 sub-group meetings held in 2023, up from 154 in 2022 and 105 in 2021. As local authorities were preparing the local Climate Action Plans in 2023, there was an increased requirement for staff and/or Climate Action Team members to participate in national workshops and section specific meetings (i.e., sub-group meetings) which led in some cases to a decrease in the number of meetings of the Climate Action Team, but an increase in sub-group activity.

Table 7 Climate Action Team Sub-Group meetings held annually

Local Authority	2021	2022	2023
Carlow	-	2	1
Cavan	-	15	12
Clare	-	4	4
Cork City	-	-	-
Cork County	-	15	-
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	8	9	-
Donegal	4	-	-
Dublin City	5	4	10
Fingal	8	8	14
Galway City	6	5	7
Galway County	-	3	17
Kerry	-	-	1
Kildare	-	1	-
Kilkenny	-	6	25
Laois	-	-	-
Leitrim	-	-	-
Limerick	-	-	-
Longford	4	-	-
Louth	4	5	7
Mayo	1	10	15
Meath	-	1	1
Monaghan	2	-	-
Offaly	10	12	8
Roscommon	-	2	-
Sligo	2	2	10
South Dublin	34	24	16
Tipperary	1	4	3
Waterford	-	-	-
Westmeath	-	2	-
Wexford	16	10	12
Wicklow	-	10	1
Total Meetings	**105**	**154**	**164**

Mitigation

"Given the urgent need to mitigate climate change, an important recurring theme with respect to climate action KPIs developed … is the framing of … climate action plans around a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within a certain timeframe"

Clarke 2022 p.18

Mitigation focuses on preventing further climate change from occurring (Clarke, 2022). Two key areas of focus by local authorities are the increased investment in active travel projects, to facilitate a reduction in private car use and fuel consumption, and retrofitting the social housing stock to reduce energy consumption. Both measures impact upon greenhouse gas emissions.

Active Travel Projects

The number of active travel projects increased from 1,678 in 2022 to 1,989 in 2023. Of these, the number completed jumped from 641 in 2022 to 986 in 2023 as 345 projects were completed in 2023. Therefore, fifty percent of all projects had been completed by year-end 2023, an increase from 38% at year-end 2022.

The number of projects at design phase also increased from 775 in 2022 to 821 in 2023. There was a drop in the number of projects in the construction phase from 262 in 2022 to 182 in 2023.

Table 8 Status of active travel projects at year-end

	2022			
	Complete	**Construction**	**Design**	**Total**
Projects (Number)	641	262	775	**1,678**
Projects (Percent)	38%	16%	46%	**100%**
	2023			
	Complete	**Construction**	**Design**	**Total**
Projects (Number)	986	182	821	**1,989**
Projects (Percent)	50%	9%	41%	**100%**

The level of activity varies considerably across local authorities, with the majority reporting under 100 projects. However, Cork City have reported 128 projects and Cork County 554 projects.

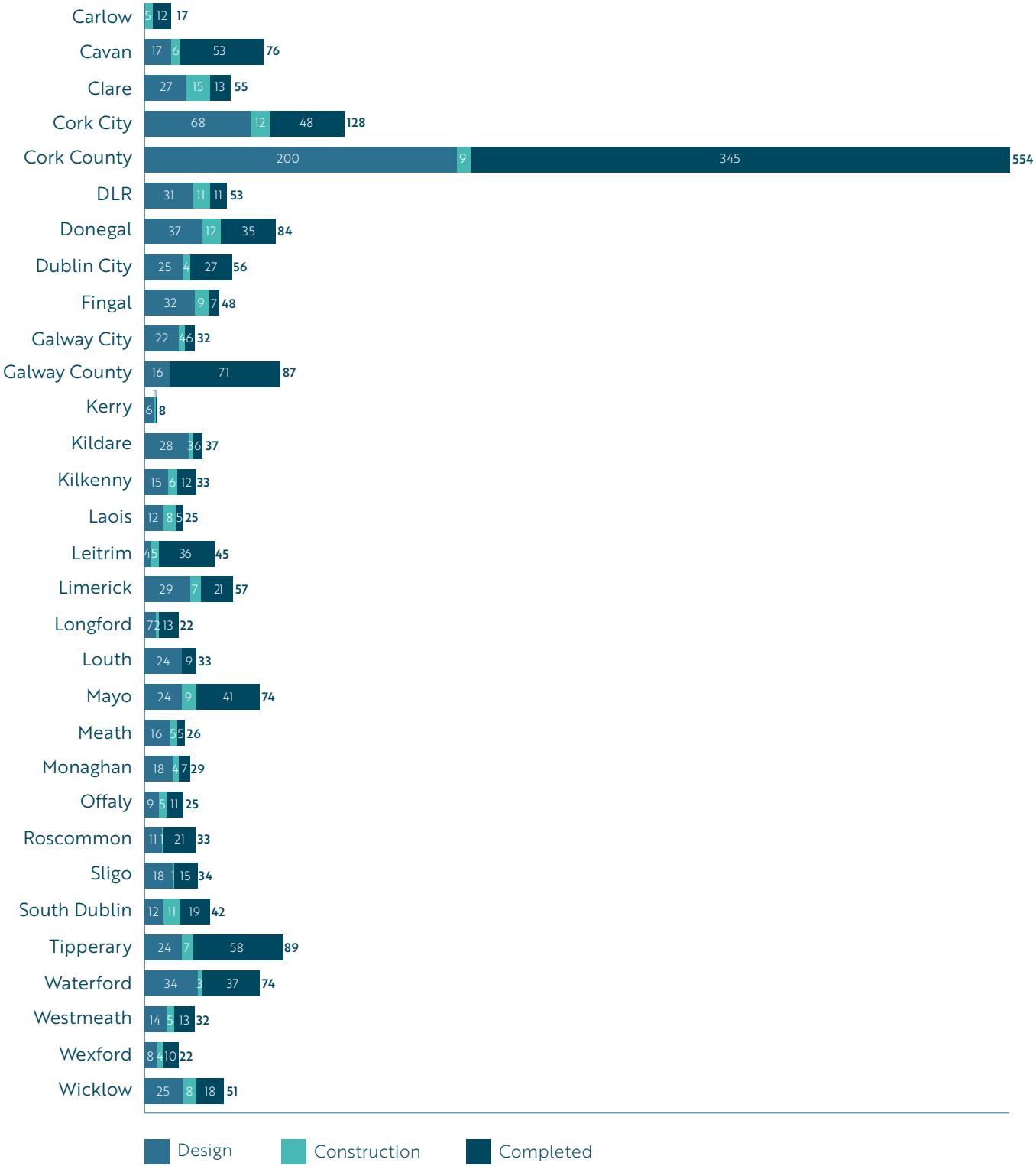

Figure 6 Status of active travel projects for each local authority at 2023 year-end

Social Housing Retrofit Energy Savings

In 2022, most local authorities were participating in the expanded Local Authority Retrofit Programme, and a total of 2,283 houses were retrofitted[2]. The objective of the programme was to bring houses up to "a B2/cost optimal standard with a heat pump" (2022, p.8)[3]. In 2023, the number of social houses retrofitted by local authorities increased to 2,445. Each year, almost all houses were brought up to a B2 or cost optimal standard. In addition, local authorities reported that funding had been drawn down for the installation of heat pumps in 68% of retrofitted properties in 2022 and 90% of properties in 2023.

Table 9 Social housing retrofit figures

	2022	2023	Total
Social Houses Retrofitted	2,283	2,445	4,728
With BER B2 or above	(88%) 2,011	(95%) 2,315	(91%) 4,326
With BER Cost Optimal	(11%) 248	(5%) 111	(8%) 359
Heat pumps installed	1,554	2,200	3,754
MWh/Yr Energy Saving per annum	29,954	35,663	65,617
tCo2/Yr Carbon Savings per annum	8,600	10,376	18,976

[2] The units counted are those funding by the DHLGH. There are cases where retrofits have been completed but funding not drawn down within the relevant year. Those units will appear in the following year.

[3] (gov - National Retrofit Plan (www.gov.ie)).

The number of properties retrofitted varies across local authorities, but all local authorities had reported retrofitting activity over the course of 2022 and 2023. There is only a minor correlation between the size of the local authority and the number of houses retrofitted.

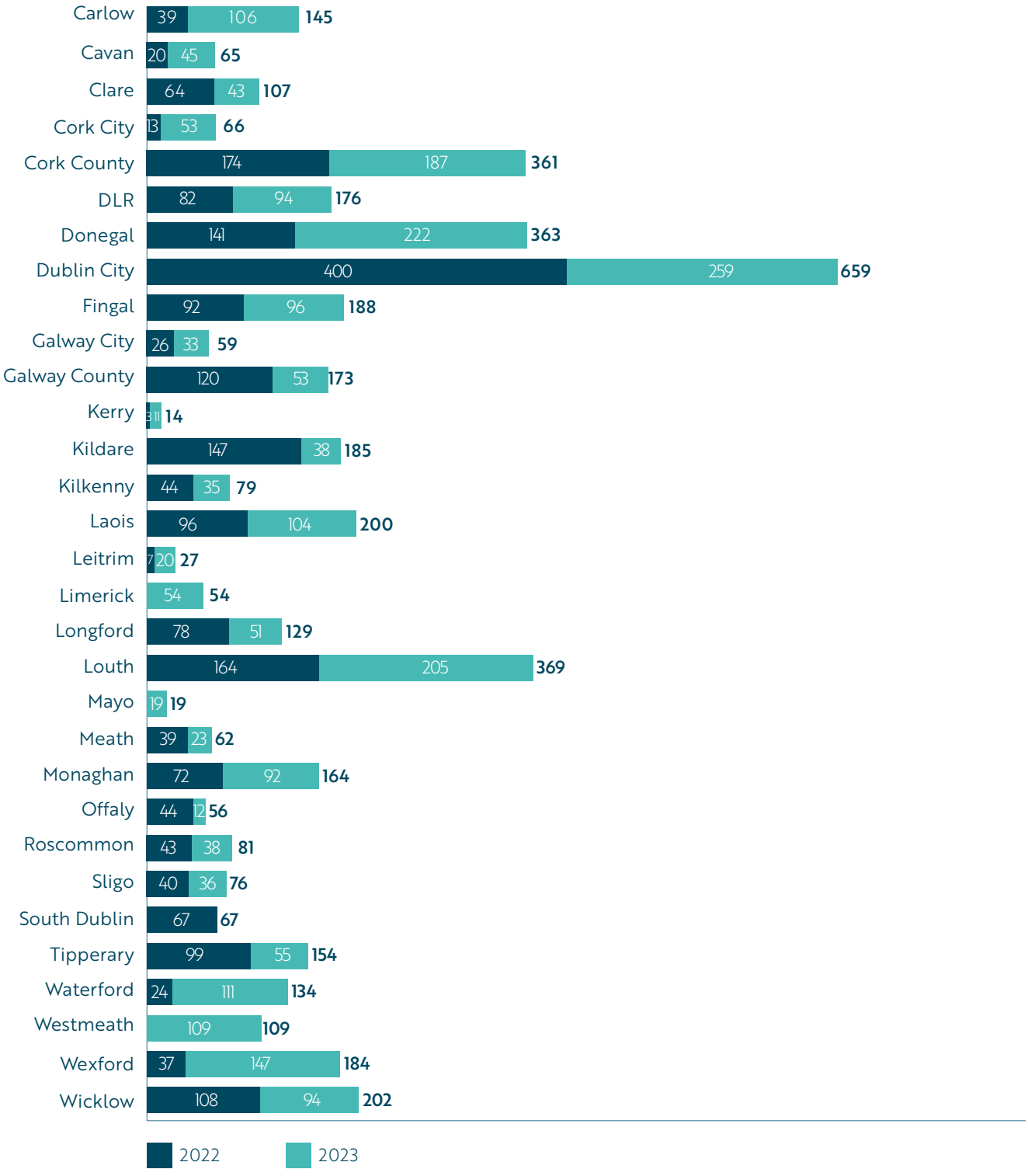

Figure 7 Number of social houses retrofitted by local authority

The retrofits result in energy savings and carbon emissions reductions. An estimate of annual savings were calculated by the HDCO by reviewing BER Certificates before and after retrofitting. Over the two-year period (2022-2023) all local authorities have reported energy savings and carbon reductions.

Total annual MWh energy savings for 2022 were 29,954.1 and 35,663.4 in 2023. This resulted in total annual savings of 65,617.5 MWh/Yr. across the 4,728 properties retrofitted.

Table 10 Social Housing Retrofit Energy Savings MWH/Yr.

Energy Savings MWh/Yr	2022	2023	Cumulative Annual Energy Savings
Carlow	511.1	1,473.8	1,984.9
Cavan	414.3	755.8	1,170.1
Clare	1,039.8	692.7	1,732.5
Cork City	202.7	630.8	833.5
Cork County	2,173.3	2,139.0	4,312.3
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	702.4	719.9	1,422.3
Donegal	1,991.6	3,009.2	5,000.8
Dublin City	4,951.0	4,277.0	9,228.0
Fingal	646.2	779.7	1,425.9
Galway City	430.3	708.7	1,139.0
Galway County	1,899.5	721.9	2,621.4
Kerry	54.0	222.2	276.2
Kildare	1,404.3	359.5	1,763.8
Kilkenny	722.6	605.8	1,328.4
Laois	2,148.4	2,280.1	4,428.5
Leitrim	89.1	231.2	320.3
Limerick	0.0	858.1	858.1
Longford	1,177.4	796.9	1,974.3
Louth	1,400.8	2,545.8	3,946.6
Mayo	0.0	241.3	241.3
Meath	474.1	318.5	792.6
Monaghan	770.5	1,275.8	2,046.3
Offaly	836.1	342.9	1,179.0
Roscommon	605.9	515.3	1,121.2
Sligo	580.4	525.6	1,106.0
South Dublin	381.3	0.0	381.3
Tipperary	1,738.5	860.3	2,598.8
Waterford	345.2	1,706.2	2,051.4
Westmeath	0.0	2,256.3	2,256.3
Wexford	608.1	2,359.7	2,967.8
Wicklow	1,655.1	1,453.4	3,108.5
Total	**29,954.1**	**35,663.4**	**65,617.5**

The carbon savings followed the same pattern with savings increasing from 8,599.5 tCo2 annually in 2022 to 10,376.3 tCo2 in 2023 as the number of houses retrofitted increased. Together these resulted in annual carbon savings of 18,975.8 tCo2 across 4,728 social houses.

The total energy used and carbon emitted reduced by almost half as a results of upgrading homes with very low BER rated to B2 or higher.

Upgrades from G-rated homes to a B2-rated homes can reduce energy consumption by up to 71% and reduced carbon emissions by up to 66%[4]. The total energy savings and emissions reduction across the local authorities retrofit for 2022 and 2023, equated to the energy required to run more than 4,000 additional households.

Table 11 Social Housing Retrofit Carbon Savings tCo2/Yr.

Carbon Savings tCo2/Yr	2022	2023	Cumulative Annual Carbon Savings
Carlow	157.2	422.4	1,984.9
Cavan	139.2	262.8	402.0
Clare	375.6	214.4	590.0
Cork City	49.7	148.8	198.5
Cork County	652.9	622.1	1,275.0
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	141.8	160.6	302.4
Donegal	629.5	985.4	1,614.9
Dublin City	1,052.5	913.4	1,965.9
Fingal	153.0	176.6	329.6
Galway City	120.7	228.1	348.8
Galway County	601.0	198.6	799.6
Kerry	16.9	64.5	81.4
Kildare	334.9	91.8	426.7
Kilkenny	215.1	195.6	410.7
Laois	701.7	779.9	1,481.6
Leitrim	26.3	75.3	101.6
Limerick	0.0	237.1	237.1
Longford	279.0	203.6	482.6
Louth	305.0	629.1	934.1
Mayo	0.0	74.9	74.9
Meath	146.7	95.5	242.2
Monaghan	223.3	400.2	623.5
Offaly	410.4	120.7	531.1
Roscommon	155.0	158.7	313.7
Sligo	177.5	150.3	327.8
South Dublin	95.4	0.0	95.4
Tipperary	624.3	201.1	825.4
Waterford	124.8	523.1	647.9
Westmeath	0.0	801.7	801.7
Wexford	216.3	882.9	1,099.2
Wicklow	474.0	357.1	831.1
Total	**8,599.5**	**10,376.3**	**18,975.8**

[4] SEAI calculator used to calculate savings from G-Rated to B2 Rates mid-terrace oil-fuel heated house. B2 Home Energy Rating, BER Comparison | Home Energy Upgrades | SEAI

Green House Gas Emissions Savings

The SEAI data for 2023 was not available at time of publication. Therefore, the data contained in this report relates to the most recent data available, which is the 2022 data.

The SEAI reported that local authorities had reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 25.4% on aggregate, relative to the baseline average for all local authorities between 2016 and 2018. The emissions relate to thermal, transport and electricity emissions. If electricity is excluded, the sectoral savings are 6.7%. The total annual energy savings in 2022 was equivalent to the energy consumed by more than 10,000 houses annually, or fuel utilised to travel 440,000,000km in a new car[5].

Table 12 Greenhouse gas emissions savings 2022

2022	Change in non-electricity GHG emissions since GHG baseline	Change in total GHG emissions since GHG baseline[6]
	Thermal and Transport	Thermal, Transport and Electricity
Carlow	-5.2%	-27.8%
Cavan	6.2%	-29.0%
Clare	2.1%	-17.1%
Cork City	-21.7%	-14.7%
Cork County	16.7%	-29.7%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	-41.3%	-39.9%
Donegal	-3.3%	-21.2%
Dublin City	-16.7%	-38.3%
Fingal	-2.4%	-34.0%
Galway City	6.3%	-28.4%
Galway County	-18.0%	-26.2%
Kerry	-9.5%	-21.1%
Kildare	-16.6%	-21.5%
Kilkenny	30.4%	-17.0%
Laois	-3.5%	-28.2%
Leitrim	22.9%	-10.5%
Limerick	-3.6%	-34.2%
Longford	4.7%	-23.2%
Louth	-11.3%	-26.3%
Mayo	-5.9%	-17.7%
Meath	-9.3%	-21.3%
Monaghan	-11.5%	-40.7%
Offaly	-7.3%	-21.9%
Roscommon	-12.2%	-22.8%
Sligo	-12.1%	-20.3%
South Dublin	4.0%	-24.4%
Tipperary	-6.4%	-31.5%
Waterford	-10.8%	-20.4%
Westmeath	-8.2%	-25.1%
Wexford	25.3%	-23.4%
Wicklow	-4.0%	-16.6%
Local authorities (aggregate)	**-6.7%**	**-25.4%**

[5] Annual household energy consumption = 4,600kg; 1km new car travel = .0111kg

[6] Baseline = 2016-2018 average for all LAs

Adaptation

As a key sector under the National Adaptation Framework, each local authority developed its own climate adaptation strategy in 2019 to:

- Ensure a proper understanding of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change.
- Advance the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner.
- Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and are integrated into all operations and functions of the local authority.

Given this requirement, the progress of the implementation of the actions identified by each local authority are tracked.

The second area monitored under this theme relates to the level of planning taking place through Emergency Weather Response Teams and number of times plans needed to be activated in 2023.

Climate Adaptation Actions

The number of adaptation actions completed has risen from 320 in 2021 to 854 in 2023. The percentage of completed actions increased from 13% to 34% over the three years. The number and percentage of actions that are on-going has dropped from 1,741 (or 71%) in 2021 to 1,447 (or 58%) in 2023. Twenty-four actions have been postponed in 2024 and 9 new actions introduced.

Table 13 Status of Climate Action Adaptations

	2021	2022	2023
Completed	320	494	854
Ongoing	1,741	1,724	1,447
Postponed	23	12	24
Not Started	344	217	154
New	38	43	9
Total	**2,466**	**2,490**	**2,488**

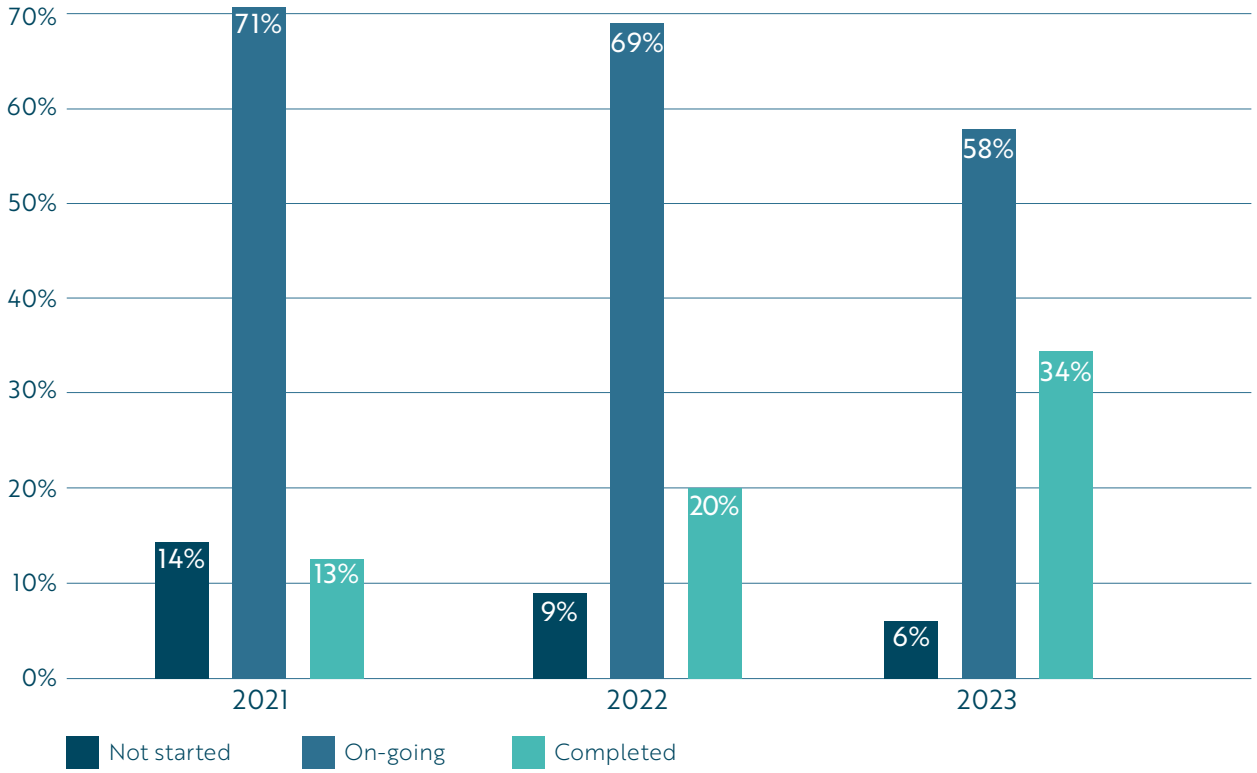

Figure 8 Rate of completion of climate adaptation actions

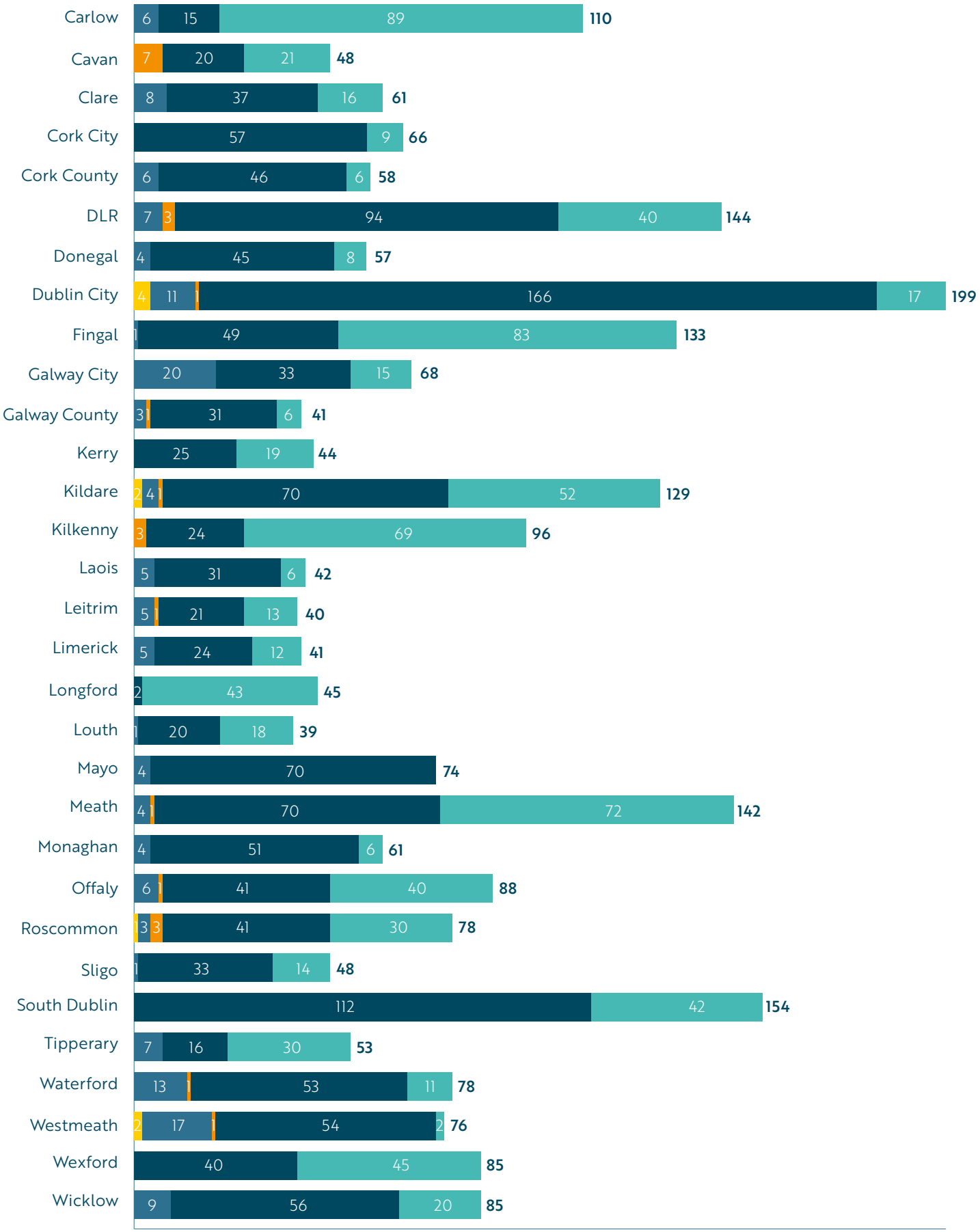

Figure 9 Status of climate adaption actions by local authority 2023

Severe Weather Emergency Events Team Meetings and Response Plans Activated

"...as climate events take effect through extreme weather, on the ground responses are required to deal with those extreme weather events as they arise, i.e., emergency response"

Clarke & O'Donoghue Hynes, 2020 p.12

Most local authorities have Severe Weather Emergency Response Teams in place. Some hold regular scheduled meetings while others meet in response to weather events announced by Met Éireann, which results in variations in the number of times teams meet.

Table 14 Severe weather emergency response team meetings and plan activations for each local authority 2022 and 2023

	Severe Weather Emergency Response Team Meetings		Severe Weather Emergency Response Plans Activated	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Carlow	5	2	-	-
Cavan	2	4	-	-
Clare	8	7	8	7
Cork City	10	19	10	3
Cork County	9	15	5	1
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	10	19	8	13
Donegal	5	-	-	-
Dublin City	2	7	2	11
Fingal	-	2	-	1
Galway City	5	10	1	3
Galway County	5	5	2	3
Kerry	53	84	46	72
Kildare	10	4	2	3
Kilkenny	15	6	15	6
Laois	5	8	-	3
Leitrim	3	3	3	3
Limerick	-	2	-	-
Longford	-	-	-	-
Louth	2	4	2	3
Mayo	8	9	7	4
Meath	4	-	4	-
Monaghan	4	4	3	1
Offaly	3	2	-	4
Roscommon	0	1	-	2
Sligo	6	4	1	4
South Dublin	5	5	-	5
Tipperary	1	4	1	4
Waterford	3	13	-	3
Westmeath	1	4	-	1
Wexford	6	18	6	8
Wicklow	9	7	-	-
Totals	**199**	**272**	**126**	**168**

There was an increase in the number of meetings that were held in 2023 when compared to 2022. The figure increased from 199 to 272 meetings. There was also an increase in the number of emergency severe weather response plans activated by local authorities, increasing from 126 in 2022 to 168 in 2023.

However, the primary reason for activating emergency response plans has changed somewhat. There was a significant reduction in the number of activations because of Coastal Wind dropping from 27 activations (21%) in 2022, to 4 (2%) of activations in 2023. However, this was offset by an increase in the number of Wind events resulting in an activation. They increased from 33 (26%) in 2022 to 58 (35%) in 2023.

Rain events, resulting in plan activations, also increased from 36 (29%) in 2022 to 53 (32%) in 2023, as did the number of Low Temperature events, increasing from 10 (8%) in 2022 to 20 (12%) in 2023 and Thunderstorms, which increased from 3 (2%) in 2022 to 17 (10%) in 2023.

Table 15 Number of emergency weather response plans activated

Weather Event	2022	2023
Wind	33	58
Rain	36	53
Low Temperature/Ice	10	20
Thunderstorms	3	17
Snow/Ice	15	14
Coastal Wind	27	4
High Temperature	0	2
Fog/Freezing Fog	2	0
Total	**126**	**168**

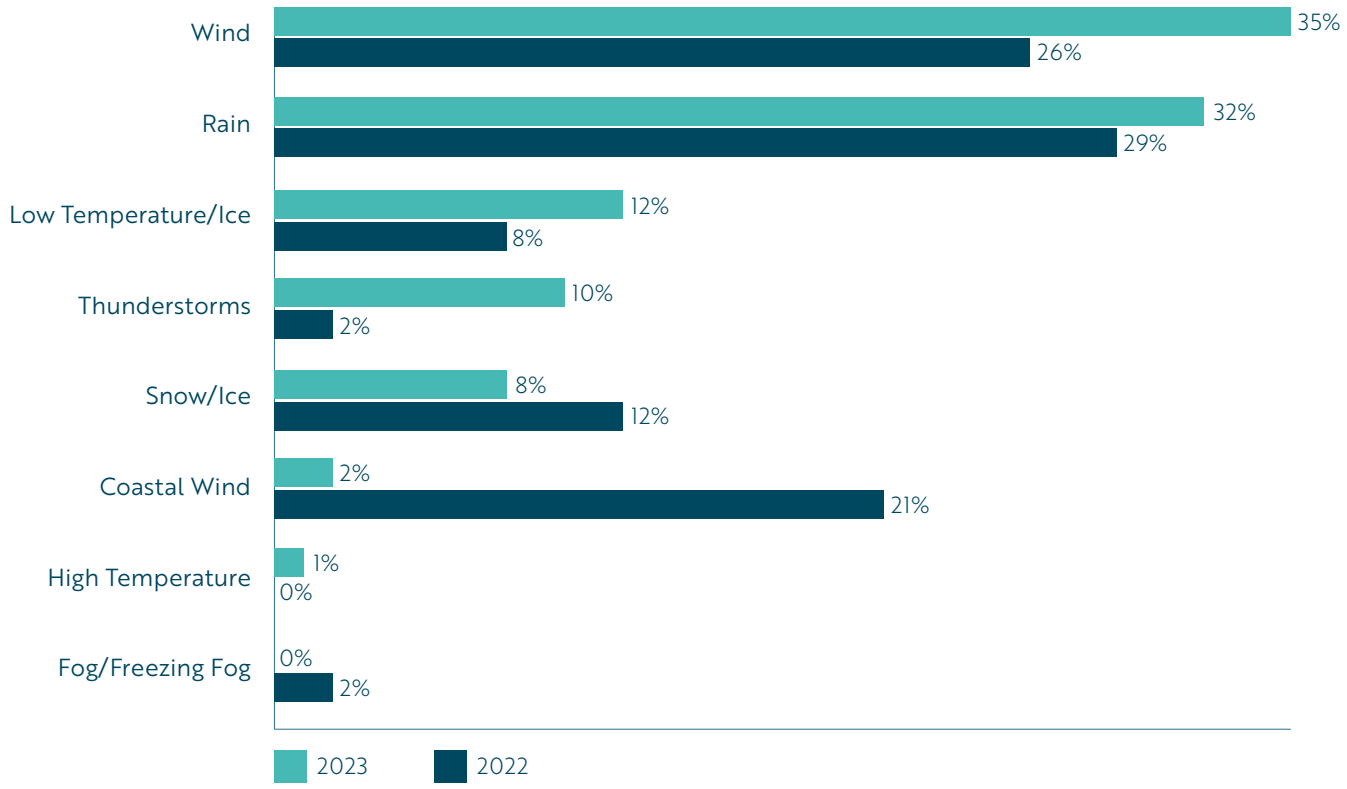

Figure 10 Primary weather event associated with activated Emergency Weather Response Plans

Internal Behavioural Change & Capacity Building

Addressing climate change through climate action is the responsibility of all stakeholders, including local authority staff and elected members. The 2019 Climate Action Charter[7] committed to "put in place, and resource, a long-term training strategy (technical and behavioural) for LA staff to provide appropriate capacity for the sector to deliver on climate action" (p. 4). The LASNTG[8] coordinate the delivery of the training to all local authority staff, as well as elected members. Data in relation to this training activity was selected as a key indicator under the theme of behavioural change and capacity building as was the number of SMEs accessing the Local Enterprise Offices' Green for Micro programme.

Climate Action Training

Data from the LASNTG reveals that there were 8,965 climate action training places accessed by local authority staff and councillors in 2023, up from 3,735[9] in 2022. Over the three years (2021-2023) a total of 25,977 climate action training places have been accessed. The highest level of activity was in the first year, 2021 when 13,277 places were accessed.

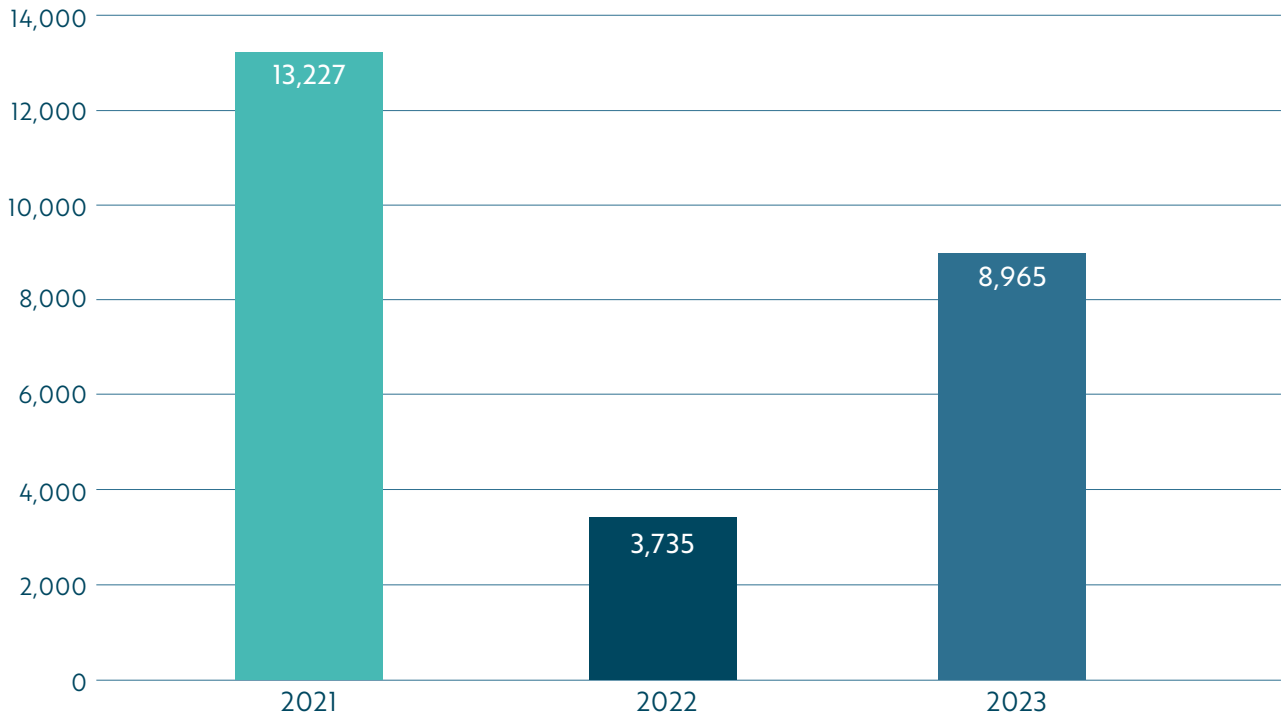

Figure 11 Number of climate action training places accessed by staff and elected members annually

[7] gov - Local Authority Climate Action Charter (www.gov.ie)

[8] Local Authority Climate Action Training | LASNTG

[9] A total of 3,509 training places were reported by local authorities in 2022. A subsequent review of training places by the LANSTG resulted in a revised figure of 3,735.

All local authorities had staff who accessed training places each year over the three-year period. The larger local authorities tended to access the largest number of training places.

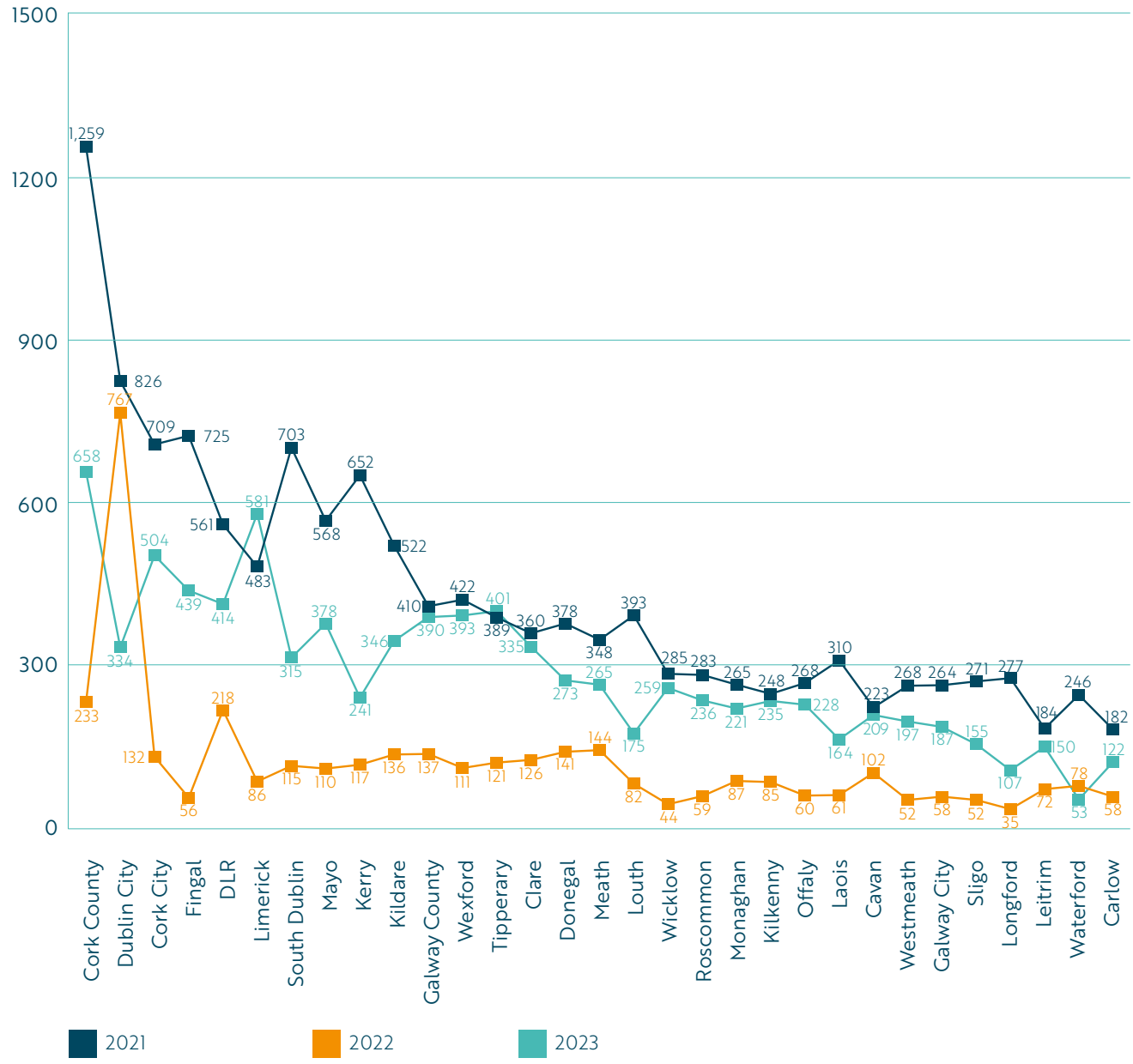

Figure 12 Number of climate action training places accessed by staff and elected member by local authority annually

Green for Micro Business Initiative

"Research shows that effective practices in local climate action are more likely to succeed where municipalities act as facilitators, enabling other actors within municipal boundaries to implement climate actions."

Clarke (2021) p.14

The Green for Micro programme was launched in March 2021 and is delivered by the local authority Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs). The objective is to "help prepare small business for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future"[10]. In the first year, 293 businesses were supported (Local Enterprise Office (2022), p.11)[11].

2022 was the first full year of the programme and the number of businesses being supported increased to 413 and increased again in 2023 to 554. In total, 1,260 businesses have been supported through the programme by local authority LEOs.

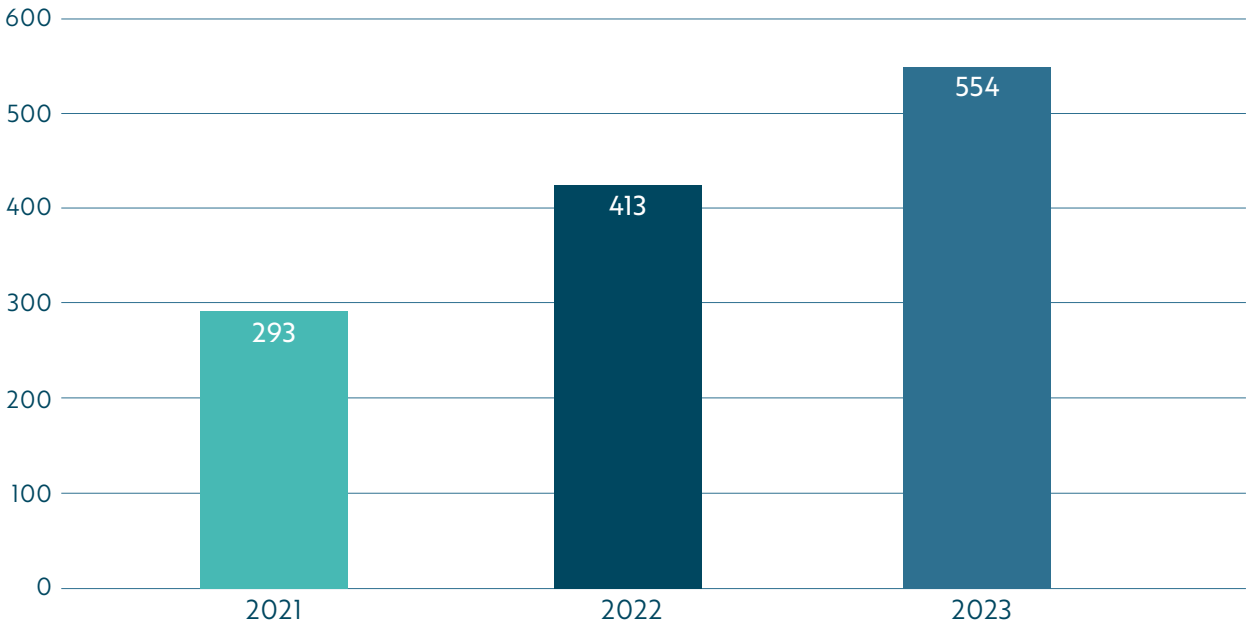

Figure 13 Number of businesses supported by the Green for Micro programme annually

[10] 2021-Feb-LEO-Green-For-Micro-Brochure-FINAL-pdf.pdf (localenterprise.ie)
[11] LEO-Impact-Report-2021-FINAL-WEB.pdf (localenterprise.ie)

A review of the data for 2022 and 2023 shows that all local authority LEOs have participants in the programme each year. Twenty-one local authorities had an increase in the number of businesses participating in the programme in 2023 compared with 2022. Two local authorities had the same number of businesses each year and eight had less participating in 2023 compared to 2022.

Table 16 Number of businesses participating in the LEO Green for Micro programme in each local authority annually

Local Authority	2022	2023
Carlow	14	42
Cavan	1	16
Clare	16	13
Cork City	18	19
Cork County	33	37
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	12	23
Donegal	9	21
Dublin City	7	33
Fingal	26	34
Galway City	8	19[12]
Galway County	10	
Kerry	18	18
Kildare	17	42
Kilkenny	11	13
Laois	31	15
Leitrim	5	7
Limerick	8	14
Longford	18	13
Louth	16	11
Mayo	6	13
Meath	9	16
Monaghan	18	15
Offaly	4	7
Roscommon	16	17
Sligo	1	10
South Dublin	22	21
Tipperary	6	12
Waterford	15	15
Westmeath	17	18
Wexford	12	15
Wicklow	9	5
Total Meetings	**413**	**554**

[12] Data for Galway City and County was combined in 2023.

Conclusion

The 2023 Climate Action KPI report captured selected data that illustrated the rate and range of a climate action activity that took place across local authorities during 2023 as well as comparing those results to previous years. It is the comparative element that enables the sector to monitor progress and identify areas where progress is being made and where possible challenges may be evident.

The first theme reviewed in the report was 'Mainstreaming'. A significant increase in the number of staff working directly as Climate Action staff was reported, which was a positive result. Simultaneously, there was a reduction in the number of Climate Action Teams that were operational at the end of 2023, but the number of local authority staff members participating in the Climate Action Teams increased. Similarly, the number of Climate Action sub-groups fell in 2023 compared to 2022 but the number of meetings held by these groups increased, indicating a ramping up of activity.

Under the theme 'Mitigation' a marked increase in the number of Active Travel projects being managed and completed by local authorities was noted. These projects will assist in saving energy and reducing carbon as alternative travel solutions are made available to the public. The social housing retrofit programme facilitated the retrofitting of almost 2,500 social houses in 2023 which resulted in large energy savings and carbon emission reductions. The majority of these houses were upgraded to a B2 or above BER rating with most having heat pumps installed. The data from SEAI for 2023 detailing the overall energy savings from local authority resource management, e.g., buildings and local authority vehicles fleets, was not available but in 2022, cumulative savings to 2022 were evident.

Local authorities made significant progress in advancing 'Adaptation' actions. The percentage of completed climate adaptation actions increased year on year between 2021 and 2023. However, the need to respond to severe weather events also increased. Consequently, the number of Severe Weather Emergency Response Team meetings rose in 2023 as did the number of times the Severe Weather Emergency Response Plans needed to be activated. Wind was the primary reason for activations in 2023 followed by rain.

Finally, the data related to 'Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building' was presented. The data revealed that almost 26,000 local authority climate action training places were accessed by staff and elected members between 2021 and 2023. Under this theme, the number of businesses availing of the LEOs' Green for Micro programme increased annually between 2021 and 2023 with almost 1,300 businesses participating in the programme over the three years.

Overall, the local authorities have performed well in 2023 and over the past three years, based on a review of the climate action KPIs contained in this report. The main area of challenge appears to be maintaining operational Climate Action Teams. Issues relating to staff recruitment and general workforce planning are contributing to this issue, which need to be addressed going forward.

Finally, the social housing retrofit indicator was expanded in 2023 to include valuable additional data that provides a broader view of the scope and scale or the project. Going forward, a similar approach could be taken to the Active Travel projects or the Adaptation Actions in order to provide richer insights into these important areas.

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2023 Local Government Climate Action Key Performance Indicators Report

CARO

LGMA
Local Government
Management Agency

CCMA
Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach
County and City Management Association