

# Fingal County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 Overview

Sustainable Skerries Committee Meeting  
4<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
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# Preliminary Sections

Foreword, Executive Summary, Overview of Fingal, Climate Action Plan Vision and Mission

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

### VISION:

A climate resilient County striving to become carbon neutral by 2050.

### MISSION:

To deliver ambitious, measurable, and effective climate actions, through inclusion and engagement, capacity building, leadership, and by example.

The targets of the Fingal County Council Draft Climate Action Plan are as follows:

- 50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030;
- 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030;
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events; and
- To actively engage and inform our communities on climate action.

# Section 1. - Introduction

- Explains what climate change is and the expected impacts for Ireland
- Sets out the legislative and climate policy context within which the Fingal plan sits
- Introduces the Fingal plan's key targets and action areas (mitigation and adaptation), the Council's role, the potential benefits and opportunities arising

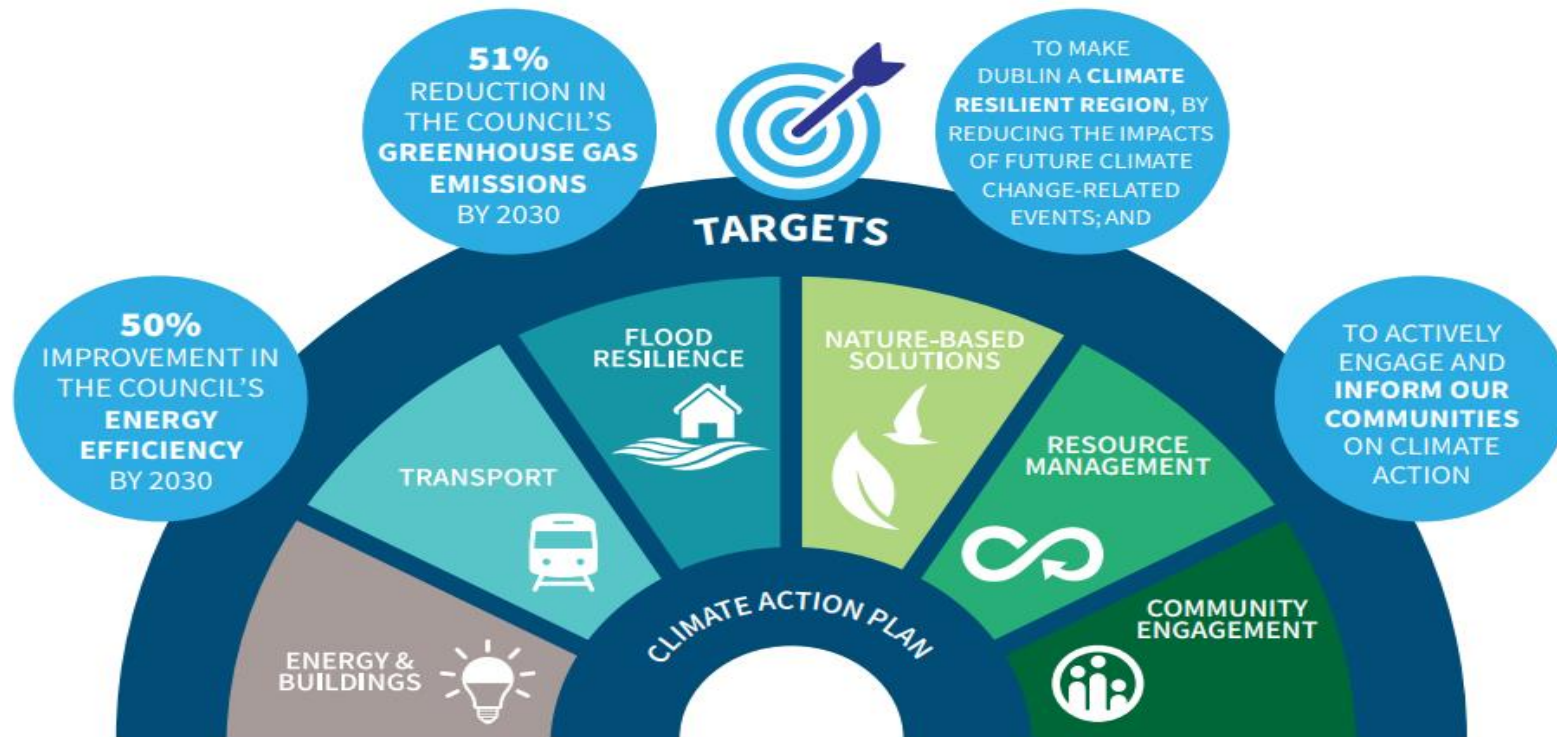


Figure 1.4: The Targets and Action Areas of this Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

## Section 2. Climate Action Plan Process

- Plan developed with the four Dublin Local Authorities, the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (Codema)
- Incorporates recommendations from a Strategic Environmental Assessment (separate report available on the website)
- Appropriate Assessment (implications of the plan for protected habitats) completed (separate report available on the website)
- Consultations with Climate Action, Environment and Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committees and Elected Members
- Public Consultation

# Section 3. Evidence Based Climate Action - Emissions

- 2018 Baseline Emissions Inventory
  - Fingal County Council is directly accountable for only 1.8% of emissions
  - Transport 45%
  - Commercial 31%
  - Residential 20% (1% social housing 19% private housing)
  - Other 4% (agriculture 1.4%, landfill 1.4%, municipal 0.8%, wastewater 0.6%)

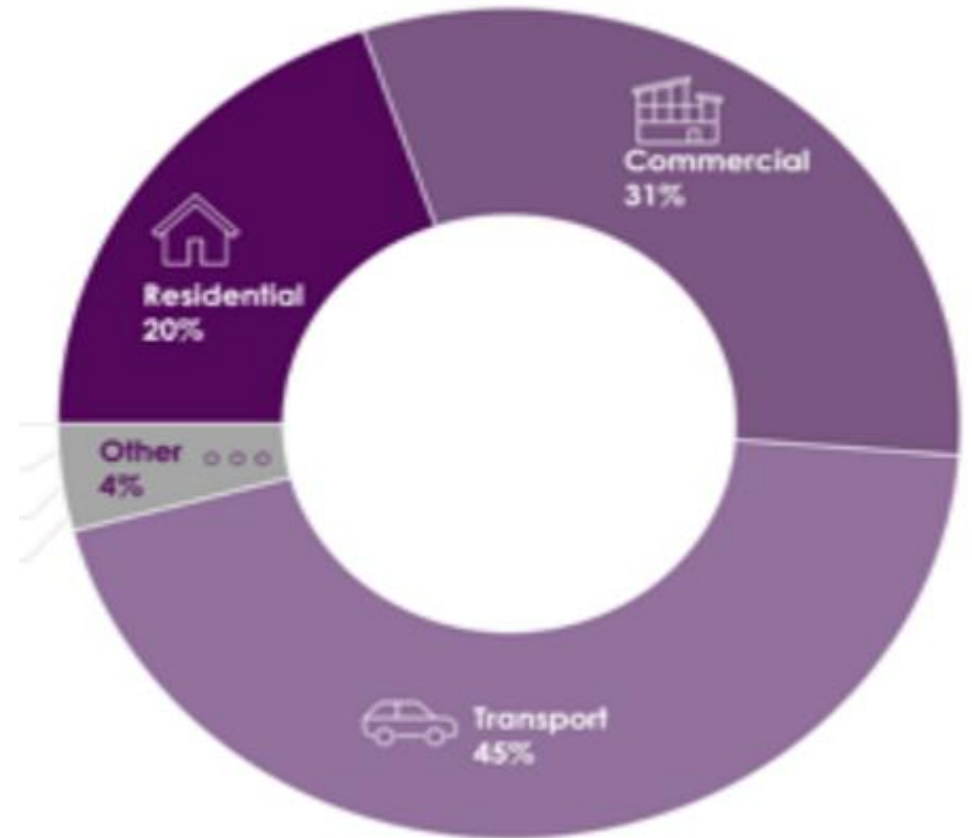


Figure 3.4: Total GHG Emissions for Fingal County Council per Sector 2018 (%)

# Section 3. Evidence Based Climate Action - Risk Assessment

- Climate Change Risk Assessment carried out by KPMG
- Projects increased risk of river, pluvial (surface water) and coastal flooding, more frequent and more impactful heatwaves and droughts
- Section 4 of the plan describes Fingal's Major Emergency Management Unit

## FUTURE CLIMATE RISK MATRIX

The risk matrix shown below (Figure 3.7) shows the future change in risk with the hollow marker showing the current risk and the solid marker the future risk. The dotted line shows the change between the current and future risk.

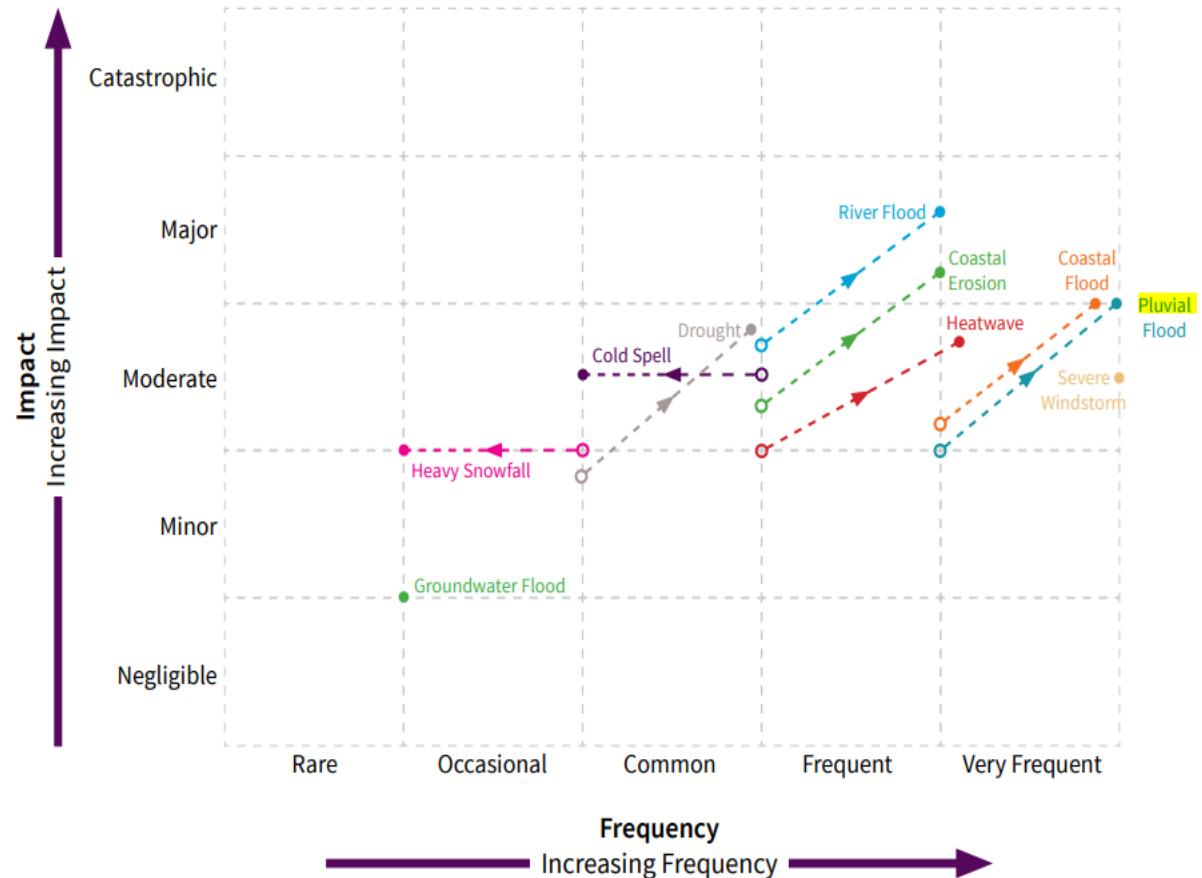


Figure 3.7: Risk matrix showing the future changes in risk for the identified hazards within Fingal



# Section 5. Our Climate Actions

## ENERGY & BUILDINGS



- 33 actions, 29 relating to improving the council's own buildings and social housing energy efficiency

Others:

- Pilot programme of retrofitting private and public housing together (Portmarnock)
- Monitor compliance with construction products regulations
- Town centre regeneration
- Blanchardstown District Heating (2029+)

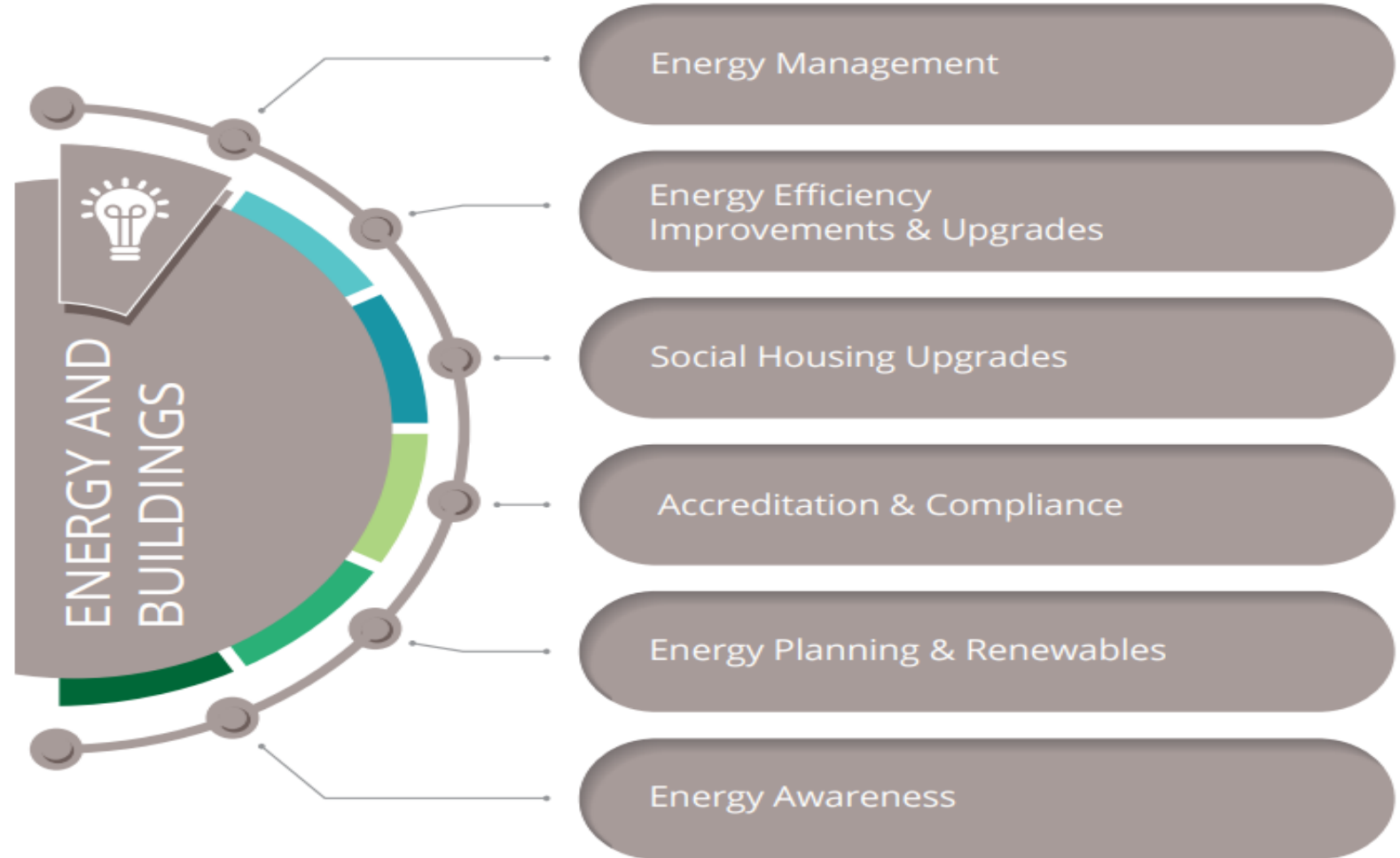
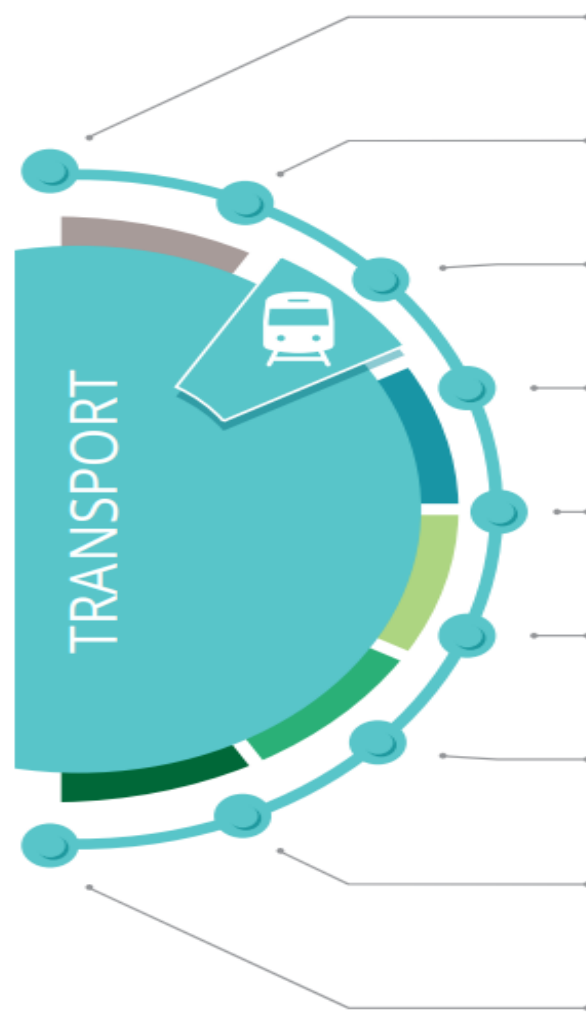


Figure 5.1: Fingal County Council's Key Action Areas for Energy and Buildings

# Section 5. Our Climate Actions

- 35 actions
- Based on the “Avoid/Shift/Improve” approach
- Linked to the Council’s Active Travel Strategy
- Most actions aim to influence change in behaviour e.g., more protected walkways and cycle lanes, active travel initiatives for schools, changes in infrastructure, supporting public transport developments, promoting bike sharing and car sharing etc.
- Encourages use of Electric Vehicles in the absence of active travel / public transport options



## TRANSPORT



Active Travel - Protected  
Cycleways / Walkways

Active Travel - Connectivity

Active Travel - Mobility

Active Travel - Modal Shift

Public Transport

Shared Mobility

Electric Vehicle Charge Point Provision

Roads Maintenance

Staff Travel

Figure 5.3: Fingal County Council's Key Action Areas to address Transport-related emissions.



# Section 5. Our Climate Actions

## FLOOD RESILIENCE



- 29 actions
- Many actions related to flood risk identification/assessment, data gathering and risk monitoring e.g., F8: “Develop a coastal monitoring programme to measure coastal erosion along the Fingal coast” (2026)
- Some actions related to specific flood defence schemes, e.g., F5 is: “Progress Flood Alleviation schemes in conjunction with the OPW - **including Mill Stream Skerries, Bissett Strand and The Green Malahide Village, Portmarnock Bridge**” (2029+)
- 7 actions aimed at more/improved sustainable urban drainage systems

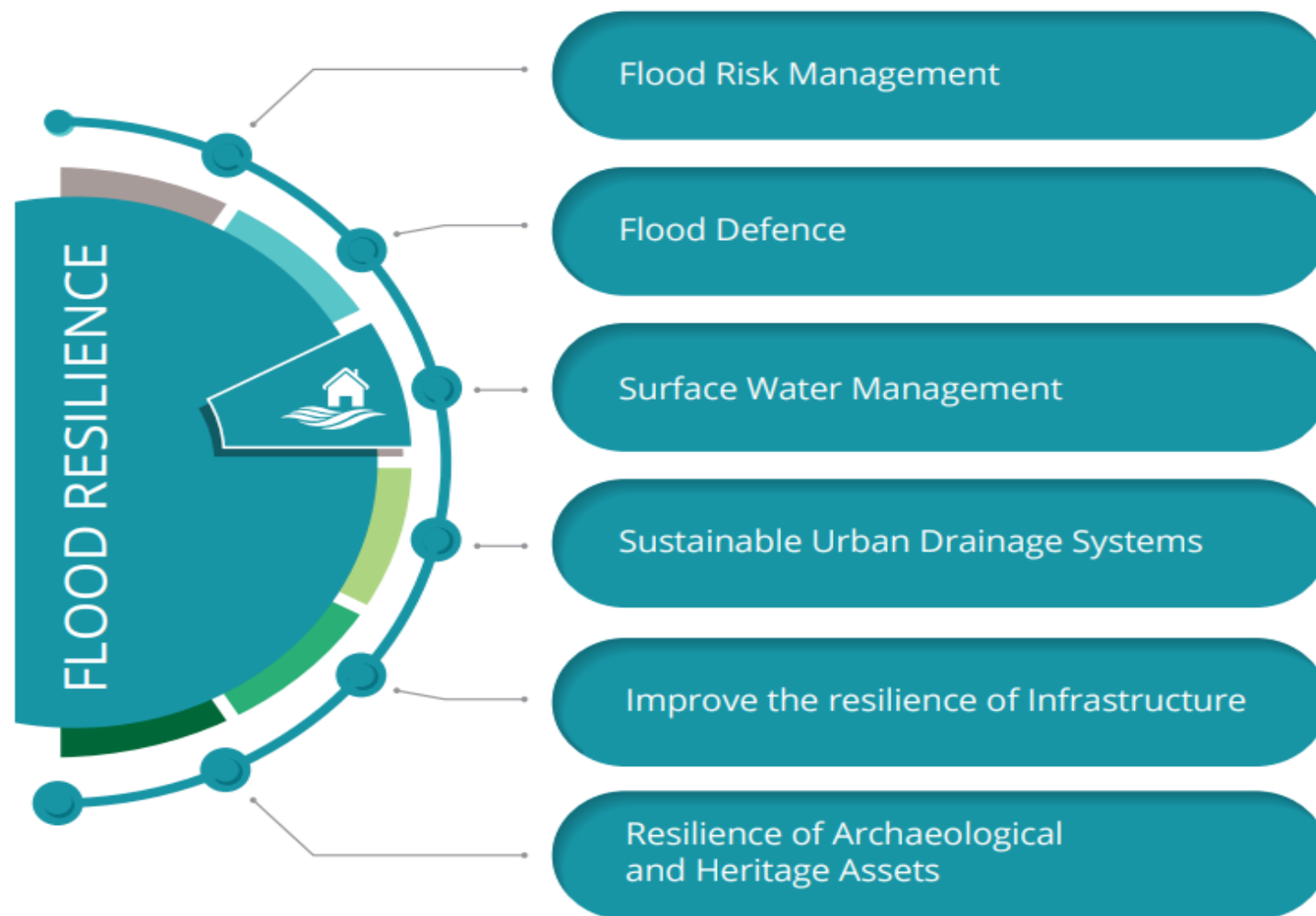


Figure 5.5: Fingal County Council's Key Action Areas to improve Flood Resilience

# Section 5. Our Climate Actions

## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



- 19 actions (varied)
- Linked to Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan
- Green infrastructure actions include the development of management plans for estuaries (N1), surveying large woodlands (N2), reviewing measures to improve biodiversity net gain on all projects (N3)
- Tree actions include commissioning a study on the economic and climate change benefits of Fingal's trees (N7), developing tree valuation methods (N8), annual tree planting (N9)
- Other actions related to marine and wetland restoration (N12/13/14), pollinator areas in public parks and open spaces (N15) and engaging with farmers (N18/19)

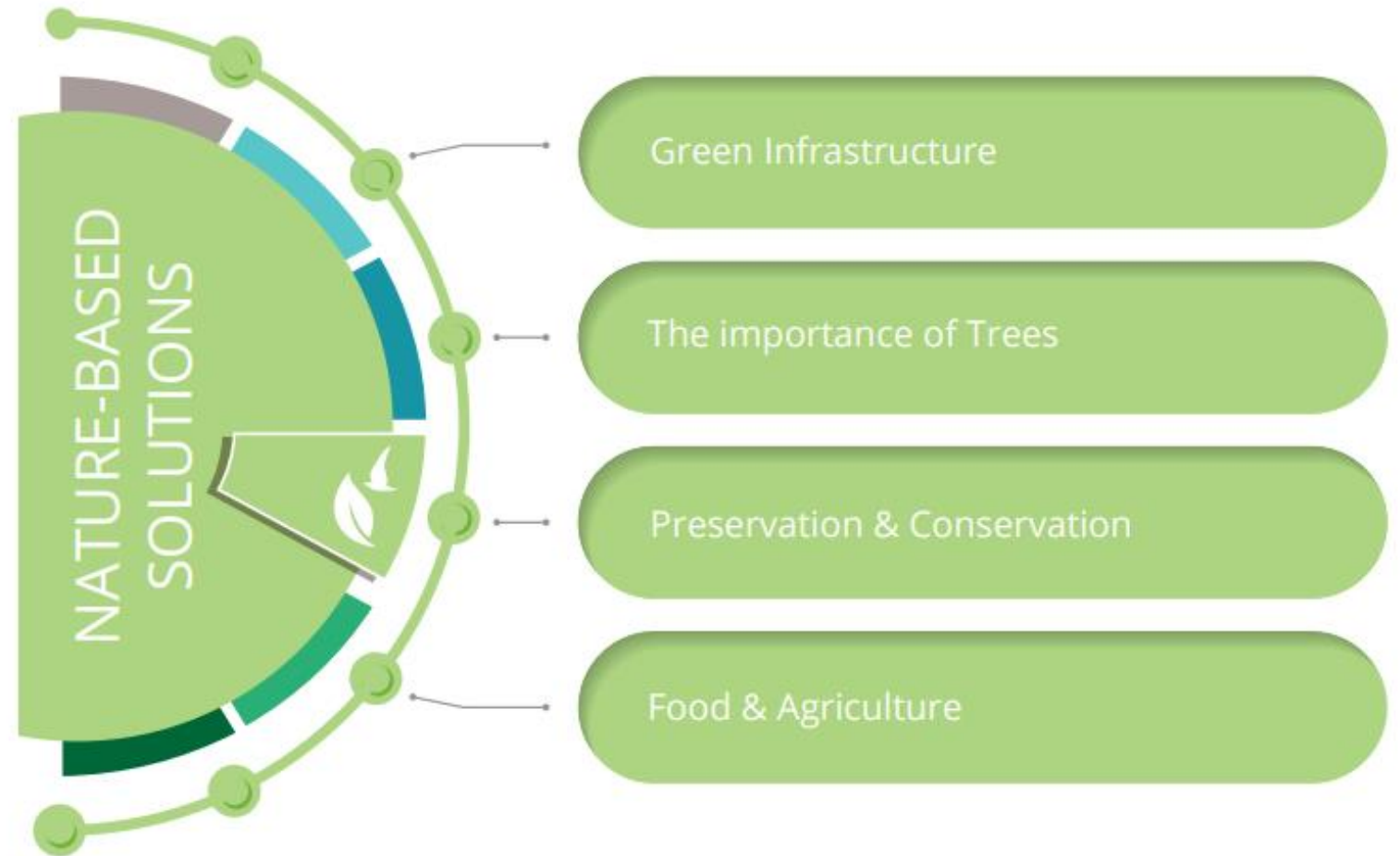


Figure 5.7: Fingal County Council's Key Action Areas to utilise Nature Based Solutions for Climate Action.

# Section 5. Our Climate Actions



- 22 actions
- Mixture of strategic planning/assessment e.g., R1 “Develop a Green Public Procurement (GPP) strategy”, supporting green initiatives e.g., R5 “31 Community centres to participate in FCC Keen to be Green initiative over 5 stages”, encouraging recycling e.g. R17 “Extending opening hours in Coolmine in line with Estuary Recycle Centre”, enforcing legislation e.g., R9 food waste management for apartment blocks, use of council or other suitable lands for green projects.



Figure 5.8: Fingal County Council's Key Action Areas in relation to Circular Economy and Resource Management

# Section 5. Our Climate Actions

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- 23 actions
- **New community climate action fund** (p.93), themes: community & energy projects, travel, food & waste, shopping & recycling, local climate & environmental action, contact: **CommClimateActionOfficer@fingal.ie**
- Multiple actions on events/awareness raising/education/funding

### Examples:

- C1: “Promote & Administer Community Climate Action grants for 2023 - 2026. Approve grants to communities to deliver climate action projects across the thematic areas as per Grant guidelines”
- C11: “Pilot Climate Action workshops with Tidy Town committees to promote awareness of climate action at a local level”
- C12: “Involve residents and community groups, e.g. Tidy Towns/community garden groups, in the establishment of newly planted trees in their area, e.g. watering”

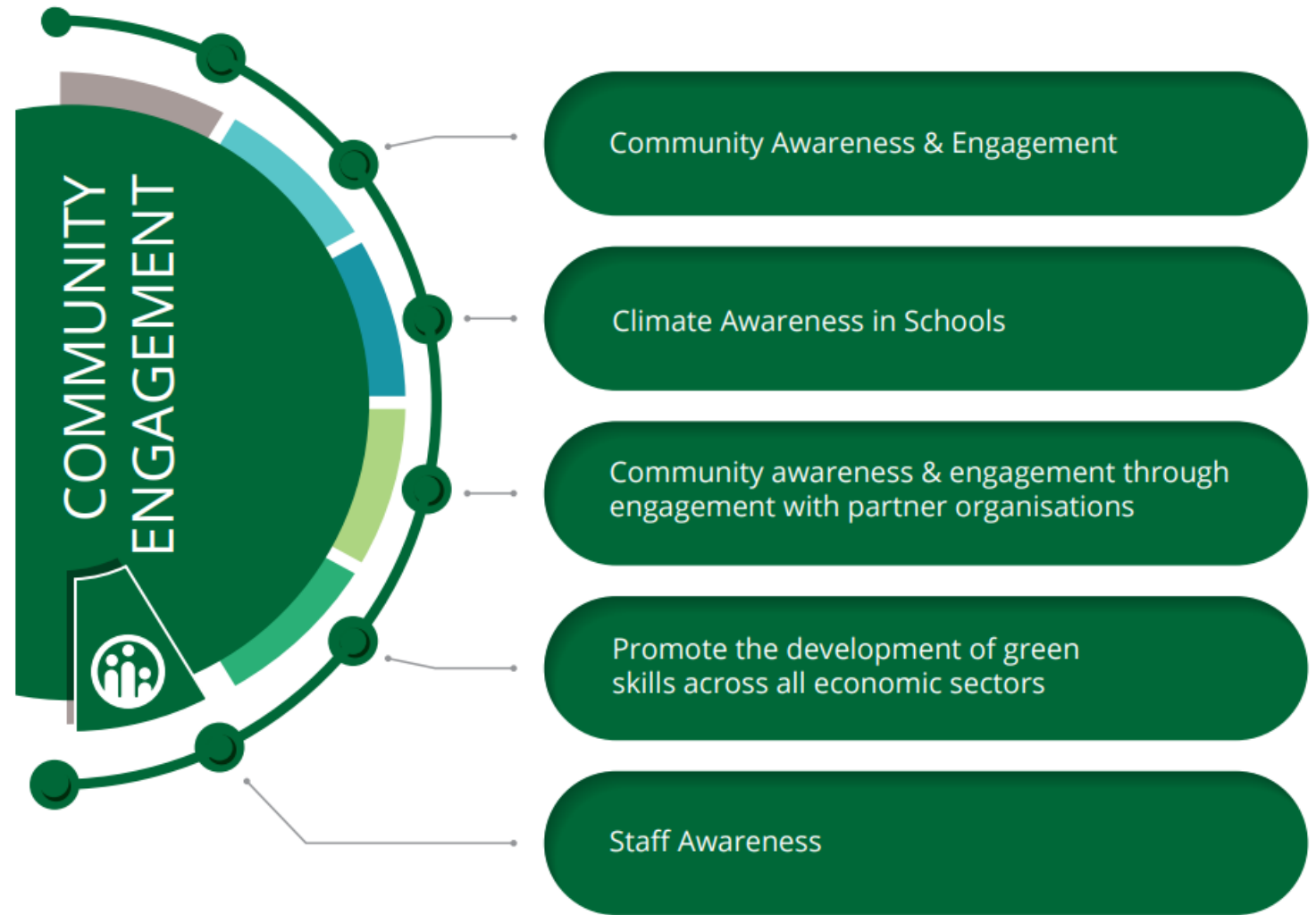


Figure 5.9: Fingal County Council's Key Objectives to engage with Communities on Climate Action

# Section 6. Decarbonising Zone

- Pilot area where local authority works with the community to reduce emissions, targeting 51% reduction by 2030
- Balbriggan chosen
- Emissions profiled and reduction pathways identified for residential, commercial and transport sectors
- “Register of opportunities” on p.116 – 119 of the plan, these are ideas, not agreed actions
- The next steps are to engage the community and prioritise actions into a “localised decarbonisation zone implementation plan”

# Section 7. Implementation and Reporting

- FCC expanding core climate action team
- Funding for specific projects to be pursued from various sources (e.g., National Climate Action Fund, European Funding)
- Progress to be tracked through key performance indicators
- Various reports required
- Environmental governance principles to be integrated into all actions (p.125 of plan), this includes “No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effect on the receiving environment shall be supported” (more in Appendix I)
- Actions are linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Appendix II)