

## **Theme 6 Climate Action**

There are 12 actions listed below with their context.

**Action 1 - this part of the development plan needs to be tied to the SDGs** which are not mentioned in your questions despite being the international standard for sustainability. Every action needs to name the SDGs it impacts. **Action 2 - all actions need targets for which human resources and material resources are committed and time lines set.**

1. What aspects of Galway City are most vulnerable to Climate Risk? The climate change adaptation strategy answers this question from a local authority perspective, though the document went to consultation there was no obvious inclusion of community or other sector inputs and this missed a huge opportunity, citizen observation and citizen science is the key to effective co-created plans. **Action 3, build a directory of affected sites by going to public consultation. Action build a register of adaptation strategies using this list within the lifetime of this plan.**
2. How can development plan policy support individuals and communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote more sustainable living? The previous development plan trumped the smoky coal ban in Galway City yet we are the only city we know of that has a coal processing plant within city boundaries. Why do we continue to import coal at the docks and process it in the city. **Action 4, the development plan needs to ban all coal activity.** There is no such thing as 'clean' coal and coal - above all fuels - causes the most deaths and morbidities. Coal use across the world is dying because of its emissions and their harmful health impacts and we should be no different in Galway. The decline of Peabody Energy should be sign enough of coal's demise. SEAI are looking for councils to pair with communities and retrofit but previous ambition in Galway has been low compared to other counties. The Tipperary energy agency has forged ahead reducing fossil fuel use in its communities, increasing renewables, increasing retrofit and related jobs, and improving local air quality with health benefits to their residents. **Action 5 - a retrofit of Galway buildings using the BEC or SEC funds should be carried out each year of the development plan lifetime.**

**Action 6, Oil burners should also be banned in all new build and in all replacement or renovation work which needs planning permission.** Heat pumps are the way forward and case studies for their use and application have been produced in other counties. Buildings need to be insulated and air tightness tested so that heat pumps can provide smaller amounts of heat more economically. The Galway Energy Agency is mentioned in the last development plan 2017-2023 but the companies office show the Galway Energy Agency was dissolved in closing October 2014. Peter Keavney its manager at the

time of his decease was working just one day a week in the galway energy agency. This means it did not have dedicated staff yet it would appear that the heritage officer is a dedicated position in the council, add to this the parks unit in galway city council with perhaps 30 staff, why is energy the poor relation. It is ubiquitous and is required for everything we do. Why was the galway energy agency described as an important energy actor for the council in the last development plan when it was closed 3 years prior to that plan? Why was the council happy to propose this when it was no longer functioning and when it did function it did not have dedicated staff? Currently there is no dedicated energy auditor in the council with the necessary efficiency and renewables experience, knowledge and qualifications. The 70% renewable targets mean that government and local government have to up their game considerably. The galway energy cooperative currently work in this space in the city, they are building an energy master plan for the city and have attracted considerable funding from national and international funders. They have also attracted key staff from other energy agencies in Ireland such as the Tipperary energy agency. A collaboration between the galway energy cooperative and galway city council would be a good use of local resources and knowledge as they have staff and a considerable volunteer base.

**Action 7, before we develop efficiency and renewables projects we need dedicated sustainability practitioners working in the city council to define ways forward. Action 8, if the galway energy cooperative is not utilised then a fit for purpose energy agency needs to be set up, with a dedicated senior engineer, an administrator and 2 junior engineers.** These engineers above all need energy efficiency and renewable energy project experience and sustainable design experience for buildings and neighbourhoods. Necessary capacity currently exists in galway energy cooperative. The responsible unit needs to be housed in the council so that the work of the council can occupy it. It is not appropriate to tender work of this weight to others who do not reside in the council and work within its context and constraints. Significant work load exists and this needs professional and dedicated coordination using an energy agency or a collaboration with galway energy cooperative..

3. How can development plan policy make Galway City a “Climate Resilient City”, planning for the adaptation of critical Infrastructure, buildings, natural and cultural capital, water resources and our health and wellbeing? **Action 9, setup an energy agency or collaborate with the galway energy cooperative. Dedicated staff are essential to coordinate and plot this.**
4. Where in Galway City can green infrastructure and nature based solutions be used to adapt to and mitigate climate change? Trees provide cooling, shading, biodiversity, drainage and water filtering. While there are trees planted more are needed. With larger rainfall

events the Corrib represents a huge resource for hydroelectricity. Galway energy cooperative are currently leaders in storage of these renewables. This is an advantage going forward and can reduce curtailment of wind and solar going forward so that we can use all of our natural resources optimally. Key in the enhancement of nature based solution is the setup of an agency/cooperative with dedicated staff. Currently rethink consumption, a social enterprise in Galway city, are about to pilot sheep's wool use. This wool is a major natural asset which is currently wasted or burnt. **Action 10, incentivising and housing social enterprises is critical to nature based solution enhancement.**

5. How can the next development plan accommodate the transition to a low carbon circular economy? Leading from the last point social enterprises like rethink consumption and an Meitheal rothar should be housed in fit for purpose units in a centre of excellence - **Action 11, support, house and shine the light on circular economy activities and promote these lighthouse activities from the council and in the various council roles** - planning requirements could easily require the use of local sheep's wool insulation and reused or remanufactured paint made locally.
6. There are some benefits to climate change? **Action 12, there are no benefits, and our ambition, focus and resources should urgently be used to reverse it.** If your city is drowning in an ever rising tide its best to shout STOP and then to action STOP.