

Theme 9 Environmental Assessments

There are 7 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 are Galway City's most significant environmental assets? Its people, community led initiatives and residents are powerful in protecting the environment, they are the eyes on the ground, so can the plan support groups. An example is the locals on Dyke road who have identified an unauthorised coal processing unit. This while our city champions its smoky coal ban and while our city needs to meet our 70% renewables targets. People are a way of protecting environmental assets. **Action 3, create a register of groups with a proven track record in protection of environmental assets and reward these where the financial or benefit is used to create more sustainability locally.**
2. What are key strategic environmental issues to be considered in the Environmental Assessments of the Plan? Unauthorised coal processing unit needs to be closed. **Action 4, all coal use, sale and processing needs to be banned.** Protection of built and green heritage. **Action 5, Projects which lead to emissions reduction should be incentivised as they are environmental benefits. Focussing on benefits and not just issues is important in the new plan and incentivisation through provision of finance or human resources.**
3. How best can we accommodate the projected population increase and also conserve and manage environmental assets? **Action 6, we need an energy agency with dedicated staff to coordinate action** and **Action 7, fund a comprehensive assessment of sustainable and integrated building opportunities in the city so that household occupants are advantaged in terms of proximity to necessary resources, proximity to sustainable transport opportunities, proximity to green and blue experiences touching nature and biodiversity, and low ecological footprint housing opportunities.** We have limited time as we are now in a climate crisis. We need high ambition. Looking at flood risk alone is simply reactive and we need to be proactive supporting, progressing and enhancing projects that are sustainable and climate neutral (zero emissions) or emissions negative.