

**Energy and Carbon  
Management Policy  
For  
Cavan County  
Council**



Comhairle Contae an  
Chabhain  
Cavan  
County Council

**Paddy** Connaughton, DoS - Environment Section

Date: July 2021

## ***Cavan County Council Energy and Decarbonisation Policy***

Cavan County Council shall comply with all applicable legal and other requirements related to energy and carbon management.

Cavan County Council shall improve energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of council assets and services as a continuous improvement process.

Cavan County Council shall assure the availability of information and resources to meet our objectives and targets for 2030 (50% energy efficiency improvement and a 50% absolute CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction target).

Cavan County Council shall incorporate energy efficiency and decarbonisation as a key component for new equipment, major renovation, and new design.

Cavan County Council shall promote energy saving awareness to our staff and council stakeholders.

*Paddy Connaughton*

*Cavan County*

*Council July 2021*

## Policy Strategy

### Background

The **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021** will support Ireland's transition to Net Zero and achieve a climate neutral economy by no later than 2050. It will establish a legally binding framework with clear targets and commitments set in law, and ensure the necessary structures and processes are embedded on a statutory basis to ensure we achieve our national, EU and international climate goals and obligations in the near and long term.

The Bill includes the following key elements:

- Places on a statutory basis a 'national climate objective', which commits to pursue and achieve no later than 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally-sustainable and climate-neutral economy
- Embeds the process of carbon budgeting into law, Government are required to adopt a series of economy-wide five-year carbon budgets, including sectoral targets for each relevant sector, on a rolling 15-year basis, starting in 2021
- Actions for each sector will be detailed in the Climate Action Plan, updated annually
- A National Long Term Climate Action Strategy will be prepared every five years

The Public Sector's 2030 energy and carbon targets now include:

- 50% energy efficiency improvement
- A new 50% absolute emissions reduction target
- Public sector bodies to commit to and uphold a Climate Action Mandate on behaviours and actions to support climate reform
- A new Public Sector Decarbonisation Strategy for 2030
- All public buildings to achieve a B BER rating

### Goals and Objectives

Cavan County Council recognises the effectiveness of implementing an energy managementsystem to achieve the reductions required. An effective system also demonstrates continualimprovements in energy performance over time. As part of this system an "Energy Action Plan" has been prepared to achieve the following goals:

- Goal 1;** 50% improvement in energy performance (baseline 2000-2005 average) reduction in energy demand by 2030
- Goal 2;** 50% reduction in absolute carbon dioxide emissions (baseline 2016-2018 average) by 2030
- Goal 3;** Educational and awareness initiatives among all council stakeholders and a proactive approach to new technologies.

The Energy Action Plan details specific objectives which include; Energy efficiencies which will result in energy and carbon savings, effective energy procurement, reduced consumption which will result in financial savings and improving staff awareness of energy consumption and decarbonisation activities.

### Responsibilities and Duties:

Cavan County Council will establish an Energy Team that is coordinated by the

Energy Performance Officer. The Energy Manager reports to the Energy Performance Officer. The Energy Performance Officer will:

- Lead the development of their organisation's Energy Management Plan as an integral part of their organisation's Business Planning and Performance Management processes
- Drive the implementation of the actions and projects agreed under the Energy Management Plan
- Assign clear responsibility for implementation of the Energy Management Plan and ensure staff have the necessary training and support to carry out these tasks
- Ensure the setting of annual energy saving targets for their organisation
- Ensure the timeliness and quality of their organisation's annual data reports to the SEAI Public Sector Energy Performance Monitoring & Reporting System
- Ensure timely provision of their organisation's report for the Annual Memorandum to Government on the implementation of this Strategy
- Include these tasks as part of annual goal setting under Performance Management and Development System for ensuring that the energy policy is implemented.

### **Resources**

The Energy Team will consist of representatives from different sections within the council. The team meet on a regular basis to discuss and review the Energy Action Plan and the Energy Engagement Strategy. Any actions due for implementation are examined to ensure that both financial and human resources are available to deliver them.

### **Reporting, Communications and review**

The Energy Team will prepare quarterly reports to the Senior Management team which will include:

1. The progress of the Energy Action Plan and the Energy Engagement Strategy.
2. Any difficulties with implementing the Energy Action Plan and the Energy Engagement Strategy.
3. New initiatives including costs for implementation of the initiatives

The Energy Manager shall develop in conjunction with the Energy Team an Energy Management System detailing reporting practices, data processes, auditing and verification process. The development of this system will be dependent on the resources available.

<sup>1</sup> Public Sector Energy Efficiency Strategy, Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment January 2017, 4.2.1 Designation of Energy Performance Officers

