

# Restore Revive Thrive Our Environment

Climate Change and Sustainable  
Development Action Plan  
2021-2024



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí



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**Front cover image:**  
Ballintempo Forest, Fermanagh

**This page:**  
Sunset at Gortin Glens Forest Park

# Executive Summary

This document sets out Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Development Action Plan from 2021 - 2024. It describes why we need to act now, how we are going to achieve the outcomes of our Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy and our rigorous approach for the first three years.



Energy efficient buildings and local zero carbon energy generation will reduce carbon dioxide emissions, fuel poverty and improve air quality

Zero carbon businesses create opportunities for green, inclusive growth

Trees provide shade, absorb carbon dioxide and help cool the public realm

More walking and cycling, and fewer diesel and petrol vehicles on the roads, helps to reduce traffic noise, improve air quality and reduce carbon dioxide emissions

Green spaces support biodiversity. They also improve health and well being by providing tranquil places to relax in, and places to play, exercise, and socialise in

Reuse, recycling and producing energy from waste will help reduce pressure on resources and save money  
Sustainable drainage helps reduce flooding and improves water quality

Peatland restoration and protection helps store carbon and reduce flooding

Rainwater harvesting and water efficient appliances will help reduce water demand

# The Headlines

## Our vision:

The Fermanagh and Omagh District is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and competitive.

### The Council commits to achieving:

- Net zero by 2040 in the Council's operations
- Net zero by 2042 in the District
- Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure

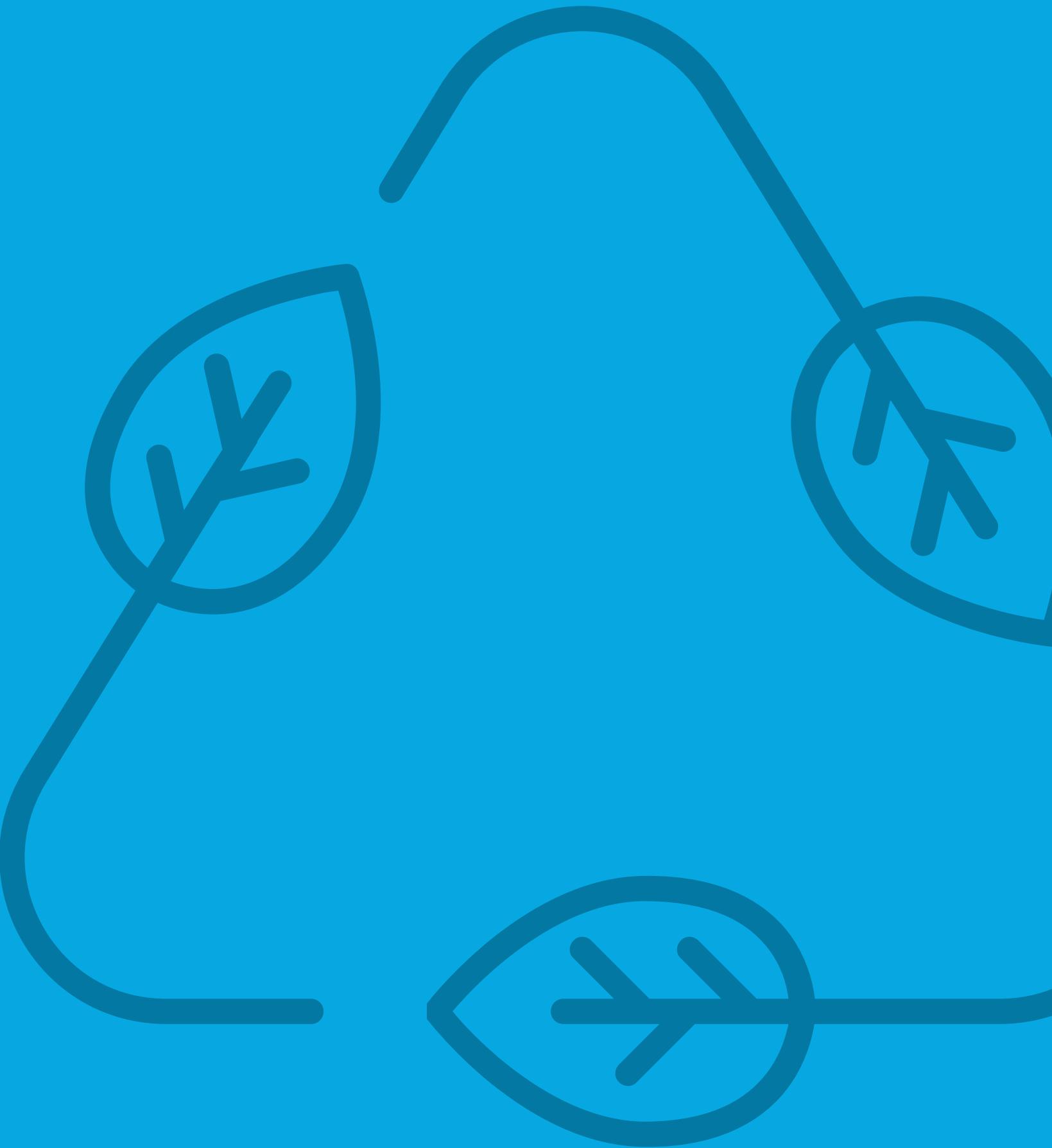
Net zero is the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.

### Across the District we will:

- Work with all stakeholder groups to accelerate the transition to net zero
- Work with our partners to make the District more resilient to extreme weather and flooding

### At the Council we will do this through major investment in:

- Improving energy efficiency in Council buildings
- Encouraging net zero through our supply chain
- Enhancing carbon removal in our open spaces
- Protecting our shared natural resources
- Integrating climate considerations into all our decisions



# Who we are

The Fermanagh and Omagh District spans approximately 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is home to 117,400 people. The District is primarily rural and shares a bio-geographical border with the Republic of Ireland, with border counties including Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim and Sligo.

Our reach extends well beyond the Council's services, across private, public and community sectors to jointly deliver better outcomes for everyone.

We have a duty to promote the wellbeing of the area, working with our partners to improve the quality of life for all our citizens. As climate change represents a significant threat to our society, economy and natural heritage, we recognise we have a vital role to play in leading efforts to tackle it.

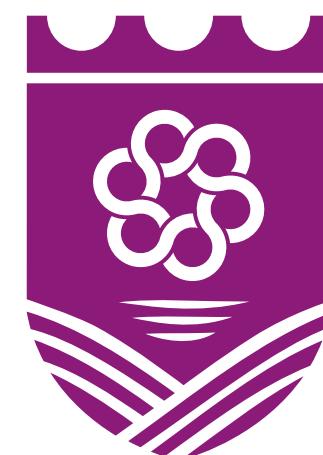
**Our reach extends well beyond the Council's services, across the private, public and community sectors to jointly deliver better outcomes for everyone.**



# What we can do

In the context of climate action, there must be clear and decisive leadership. Although we cannot act alone, we believe it is right that the Council takes responsibility and co-ordinates efforts to support the achievement of net zero, build climate resilience and grow a sustainable economy to achieve a truly sustainable District.

We will do this by means of the following actions, committed to in our Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy 2020 – 2030, against which we drive our performance.



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
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Peatland restoration to restore  
precious blanket bog habitat at  
Cuilcagh Mountain, Fermanagh  
Credit Simon Gray/Ulster Wildlife

**1**

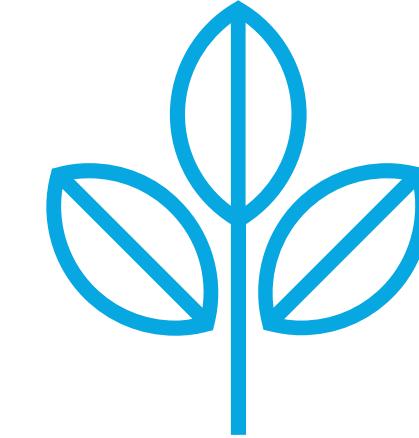
### Support the achievement of sustainable communities by...

- Supporting homes and communities to become energy efficient, environmentally sustainable, and minimising fuel poverty.
- Ensuring Council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate.
- Making sure local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible.

**2**

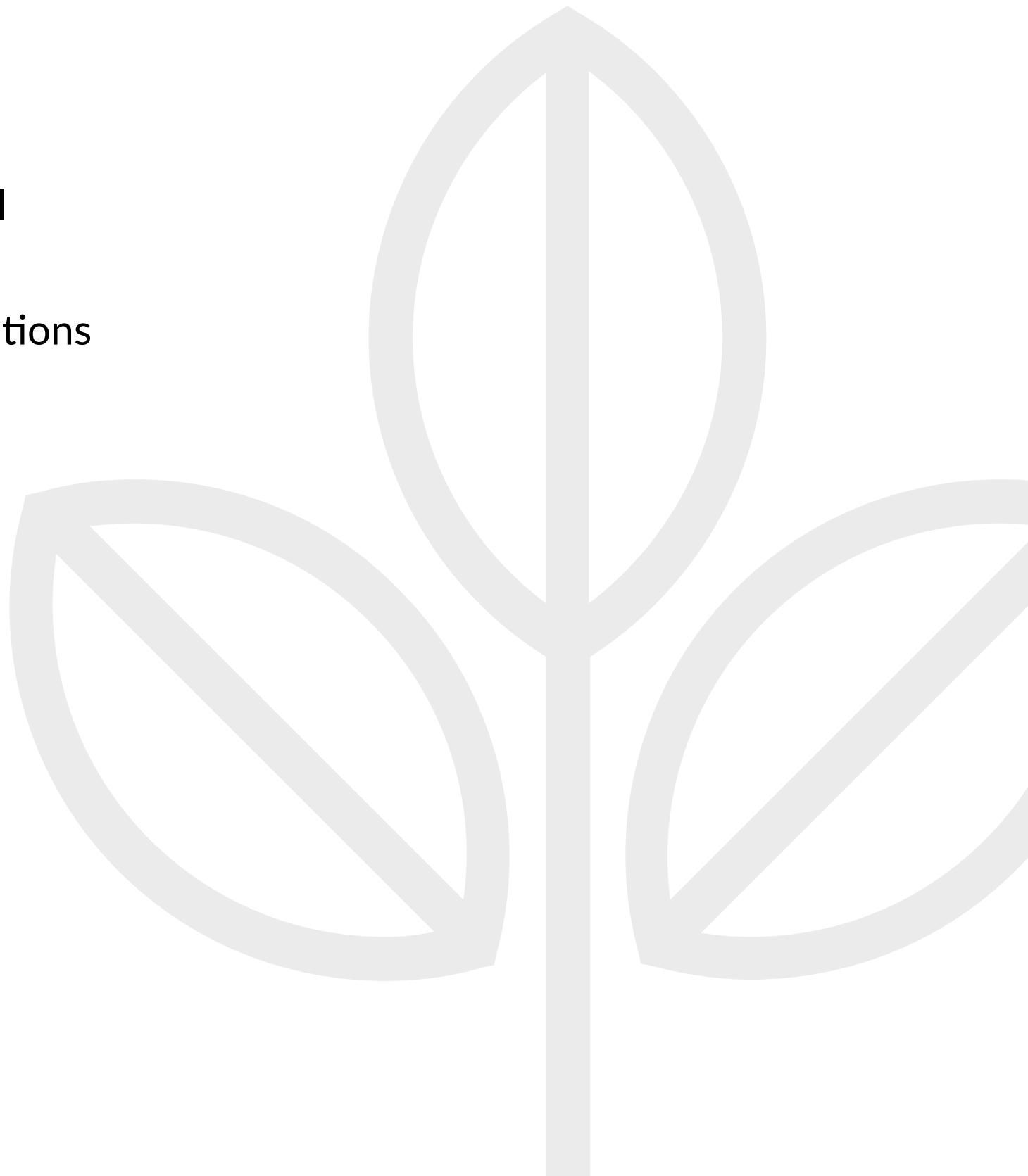
### Become a sustainable Council by...

- Managing and reducing our carbon emissions.
- Becoming environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources.
- Embedding climate change considerations in service delivery and partnership working.
- Minimising climate impact from development and encouraging the low carbon economy through the planning system.
- Increasing the proportion of reuse and recycling and a reduction in waste to landfill.
- Reducing car use for Council business and promoting sustainable travel.
- Working in partnership to improve air quality.

**3**

### Promote a sustainable environment by...

- Improving energy efficiency in Council buildings
- Encouraging net zero through our supply chain
- Enhancing carbon removal in our open spaces
- Protecting our shared natural resources
- Integrating climate considerations into all our decisions



# Why us? Why now?

The Council's core purpose is to promote the long-term interests of the District, thereby supporting our citizens, the economy and the environment. We have long been champions of sustainability. We were the first local government body to introduce 100% electric vehicles into our fleet in 2013.

The Climate Change Resilience Group was established in 2019 and the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Cross Directorate Group was established in 2020. Since then, we have published a 10-year Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy which we hope will guide us to a more sustainable future and end our contribution to climate change.

Scientific evidence tells us that the climate is already changing. We need to act now if we are to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, thereby avoiding the more extreme effects of climate change. This means we must commit to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions as a Council and supporting a District-wide transition to net zero. And we must ensure that the Council, and its assets, are resilient to more extreme weather events. Acting now is the right and responsible thing to do. It is also key to securing and supporting our local economy and protecting our rural communities. It will also strengthen the appeal of our District and public spaces within it as attractive places to work, live, study and visit, both now and in the future.

We do not need to compromise the economy to fix the environment. We believe a circular, zero carbon economy can facilitate prosperity and create jobs. In order to remain viable, we need to be both climate responsible and climate resilient.

**Cllr Errol Thompson**

Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

*"The time for debate and discussion is over, we now need commitment and action from all sectors, and this begins with the Council."*



# Why us? Why now?

Integrating climate risks and opportunities into corporate decision-making is becoming more routine. In developing this Plan and in future iterations, we will focus on achieving best practice driven by an evidence-based approach.

We will strive to include as broad a range of emission sources and physical risks as possible. Our Climate Action Plan aims to ensure that the Council makes a positive contribution by striving to be ambitious and leading by example. We will help tackle climate change, address the risks it poses, and seize the opportunities presented by leading the transition to a net zero economy locally.

This is one of the defining cross-Council Plans. It supports delivery of our Corporate Plan, 2020-24, and Community Plan ‘Fermanagh and Omagh 2030’. But we cannot do this alone. This Plan sets out how we will work in partnership with our stakeholders to develop the solutions needed to tackle climate change. We must build back better following the pandemic, making sure no one is left behind. We invite you to work with us as we adapt so that our society can flourish for decades to come.

**Alison McCullagh**  
Chief Executive, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council



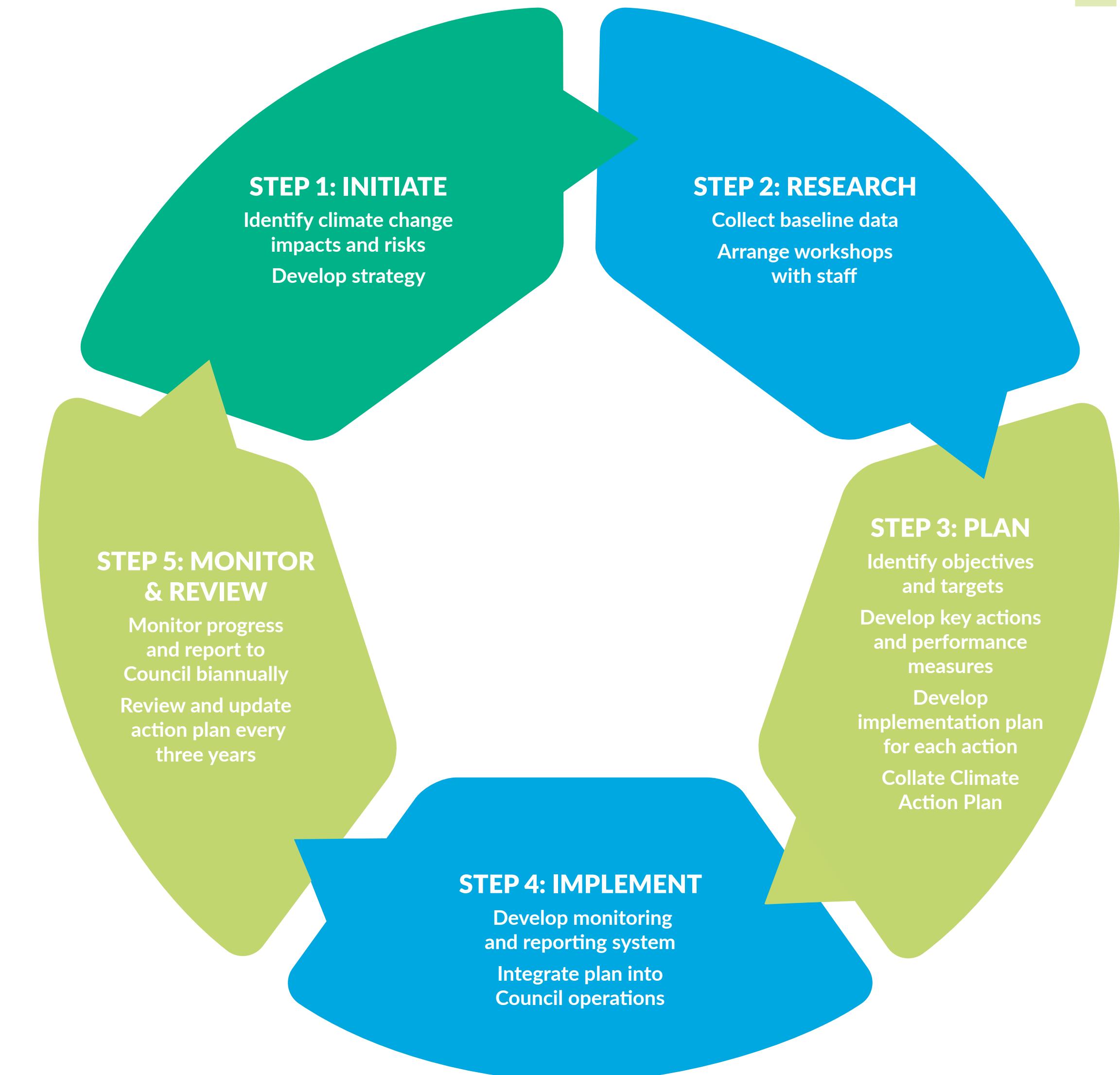
*“We commit to achieving net zero and to ensuring that the Council and its assets are resilient to more extreme weather events.”*

# Our approach

We cannot fulfil our ambitions alone and we will work in collaboration with others to deliver positive climate action. We will work with partners in the Statutory, Community, Business and Voluntary Sectors to achieve our aims. However, this also means we must first demonstrate robust climate action ourselves.

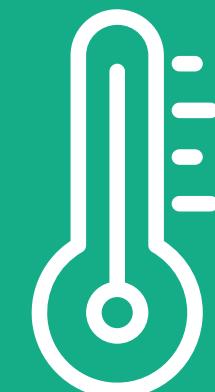
## Our process

The methodology used to develop this plan was based on the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Five Milestone Approach. It is a 'plan, do, check, act' process designed specifically for the development of local authority Climate Change Action Plans.



# Turning risks into opportunities

Whatever action we and others take, we still need to prepare for warmer wetter winters, hotter drier summers, stronger winds, more frequent extreme weather events and rising sea levels. As we do this, we will go beyond mitigation of risk and seize opportunities to deliver social, economic, and environmental outcomes that mean that everyone benefits from the action we take.



We need to prepare for hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, stronger winds, more frequent extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

## RISKS

Risks to health, wellbeing and productivity from floods and high temperatures.

Risk of shortages in the public water supply.

Flooding of communities, businesses and infrastructure.

Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity.

Threats to food production and trade.

Emerging pests and diseases, invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.

## OPPORTUNITIES

A resilient business environment in the face of climate impacts.

More and better spaces for people and nature, including urban biodiversity.

Benefits to health, wellbeing and productivity from climate action.

Job creation.

Reduced risk to the insurance sector and the assets they protect.

Competitive advantage over other economies which will face more extreme challenges.

Fewer people living in fuel poverty.

Reduction in unnecessary use of resources (water, food) and generation of waste and use of natural capital.

## Complementing others' efforts

This Plan has been developed to support the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015), The Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015) and our obligations under the UK Climate Change Act (amended 2019). This has enshrined in law both a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and measures for climate adaptation (improved resilience). It is complementary to NI-wide efforts to reduce emissions and improve the resilience of our communities and urban spaces. Crucially, this includes the Green Growth Strategy and the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2019). It also covers the landscape of policies set out by government and advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The UK Climate Change Act (amended 2019) has enshrined in law a UK-wide target of net zero emissions by 2050 and measures for climate adaptation.

## Factoring climate action into everything we do

We must transition to a net zero carbon economy quickly, but in the right way – making sure it is a just transition ensuring the benefits of a green economy transition are shared widely, while also supporting those who stand to lose economically, improving the environment whilst creating jobs and prosperity for the area.

To make sure we are doing all we can to reach our goals, we commit to the following principles that will guide our approach to climate action:

**Working with our stakeholders and partners** and listening to their ideas, experiences, and views.

**Ensuring that vulnerable groups** who are most likely to be impacted by climate change are prioritised in our decision-making.

**Identifying measurable targets** to track performance against our goals.

**Keeping our actions and targets in line with changing legislation** and recommendations.



Aerial photograph of the new Erne Campus, built to Passive House Premium standard, at South West College in Enniskillen.

# Our Baseline

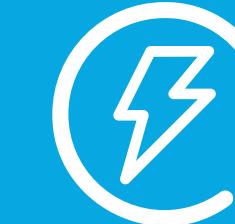
Supporting the achievement of net zero

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## Our evidence base

As a Council, we have begun to build an evidence base upon which we have designed our action plan. We have set long-term targets that are compatible with the Paris Agreement and we will seek to increase the evidence base available for decision making and target setting when this Plan is updated in three years. We have identified separate targets for the Council, the District, and in time we will develop targets for different types of emissions to ensure we deliver as much as possible, as soon as possible.

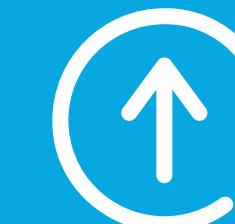
**We have identified separate targets for the Council and the District in line with the Paris Agreement**



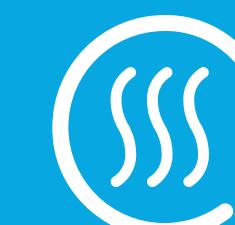
We bought 6 new electric vehicles in 2012 and have also installed 9 new electric vehicle charging points on the Council's Estate.



The number of trees planted on Council estate has increased significantly from 36 in 2017/18, to 1,600 in 2018/19 to 5,200 in 2019/20.



The % of Council buildings with Display Energy Certificate ratings 'C' or better has increased from 32% in 2015/16 to 65.5% in 2019/20.



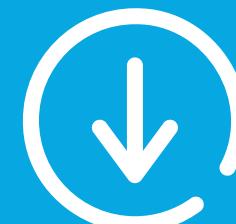
We have committed to renovating 3% of our building stock's heated floor area per year to improve energy efficiency standards.



We are aiming to achieve 100% increase in on-site renewable energy generation (kWh) by 2025 compared to the 2017/18 baseline.



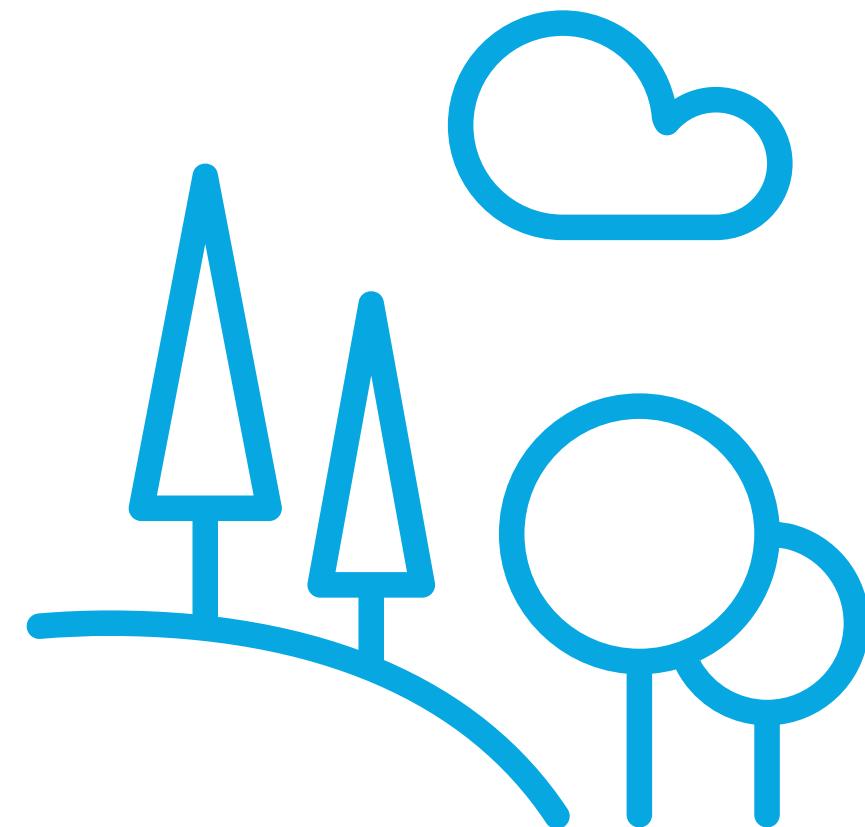
We have committed to ensuring that 100% of all new Council staff will be given training on energy-awareness as part of their induction.



Between October and December 2020, we generated the lowest waste arisings of all Councils in Northern Ireland at 14,844 tonnes and consistently generate the 2nd lowest amount of waste per population and per household.

## How we remove carbon from the atmosphere

We look after approximately 112 hectares of green spaces across the District. This roughly equates to approximately 140 football pitches. This natural capital not only provides valued space for people and nature but also currently removes 400 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, based on average benchmarks for carbon sequestration from municipal green space. This is equivalent to 13% of the Council's scope 1 and 2 emissions.

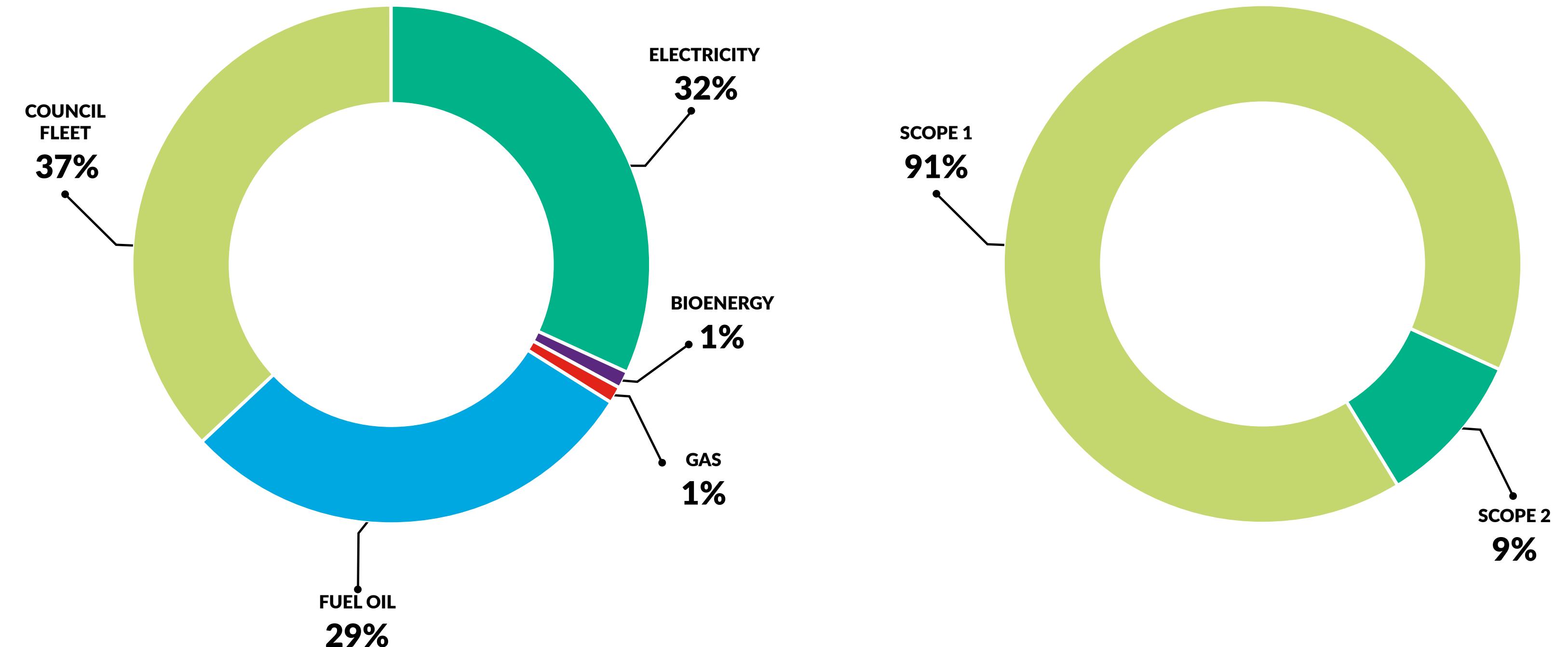


**112 hectares of green spaces across Fermanagh and Omagh are managed by the Council.**

## Council emissions (scope 1, 2 emissions) 2019/20

### 4,175 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

We need to reduce or remove at least 4,175 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> to support the Council's overarching goal of net zero. Scope 3 emissions – which cover everything the Council buys, sells, invests in, leases to others, and disposes of as well as commuting and business travel - will be added to this baseline when the data becomes available.



## District emissions (CO<sub>2</sub> only)

**1,614 Kt CO<sub>2</sub>**

We need to reduce or remove at least 1,614 Kt CO<sub>2</sub> to support the overarching UK goal of net zero by 2050. Methane and other greenhouse gas emissions will be added to this baseline when the data becomes available.

**1,614 Kt  
of CO<sub>2</sub>**

Total carbon dioxide emissions in Fermanagh and Omagh (2019 figures)

**28.8%  
decrease**

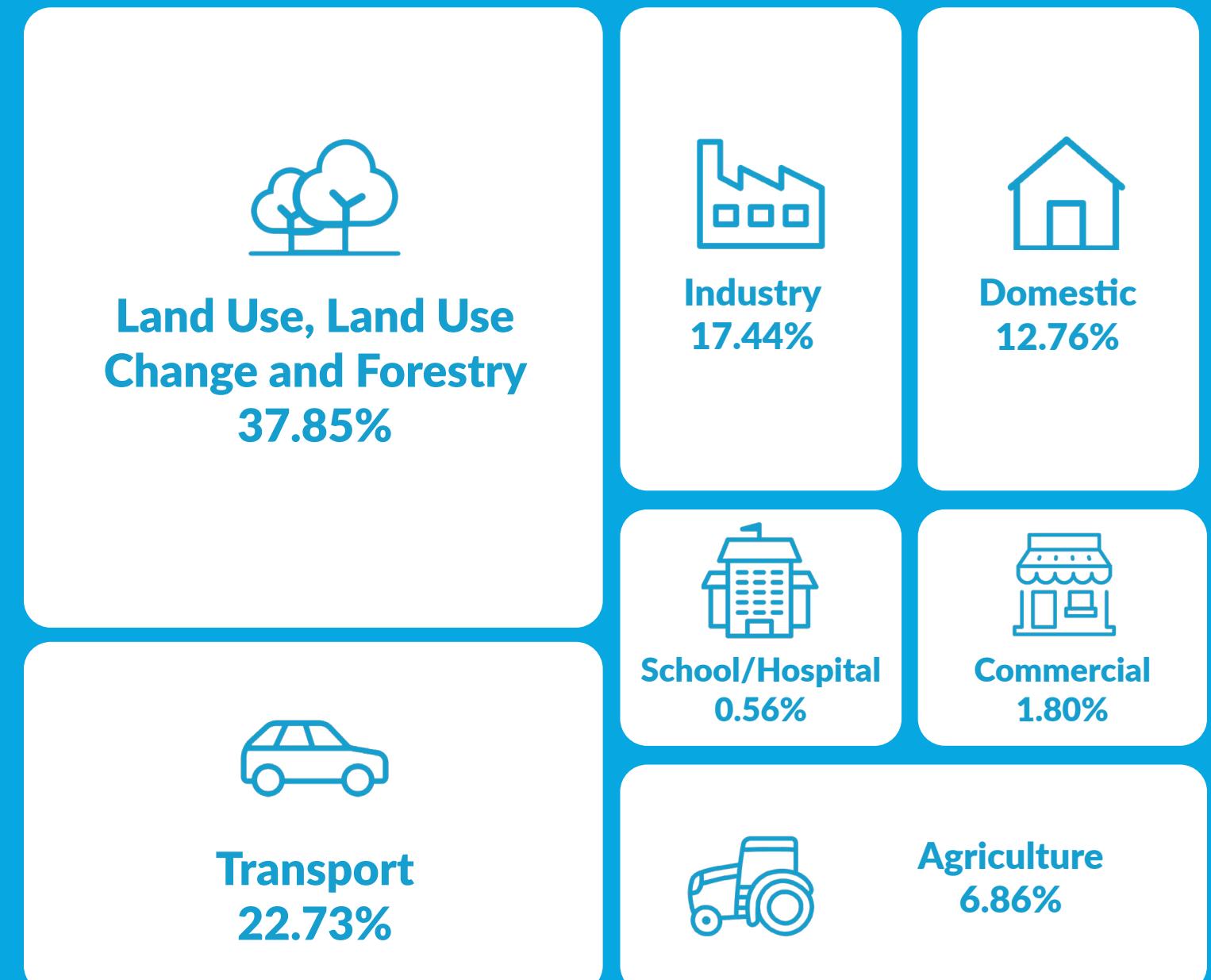
Fermanagh and Omagh CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have decreased by 28.8% in the period 2005 to 2019

**13.7t  
of CO<sub>2</sub>**

Per capita carbon dioxide emissions in Fermanagh and Omagh (2019 figures)

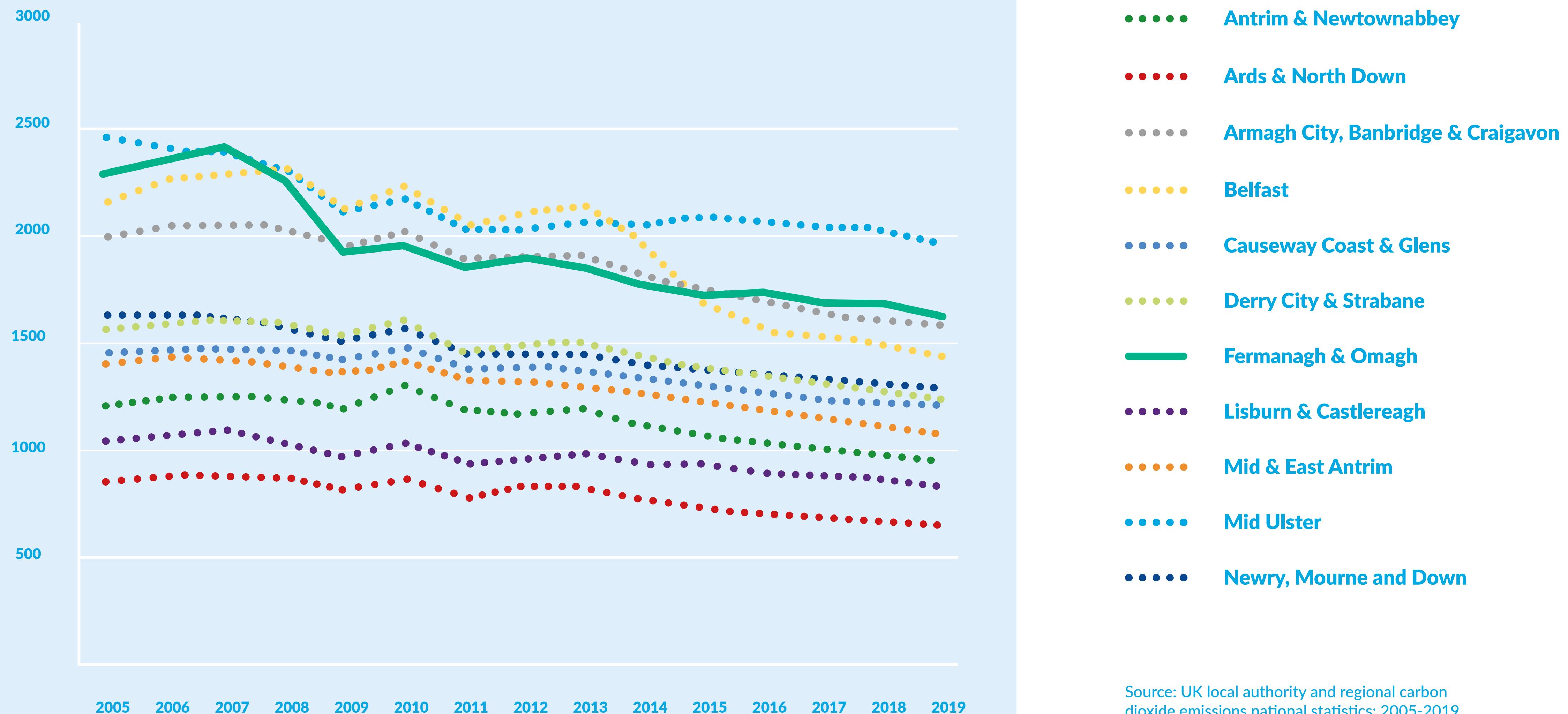
Note: Data shows carbon dioxide emissions only.  
The Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory is not currently available at local authority level.

**Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry was the largest emitting sector of Fermanagh and Omagh carbon dioxide emissions in 2019:**



Source: UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions: 2005-2019 (Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy)

## Total Local Authority territorial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates 2005 - 2019 (Kt CO<sub>2</sub>)

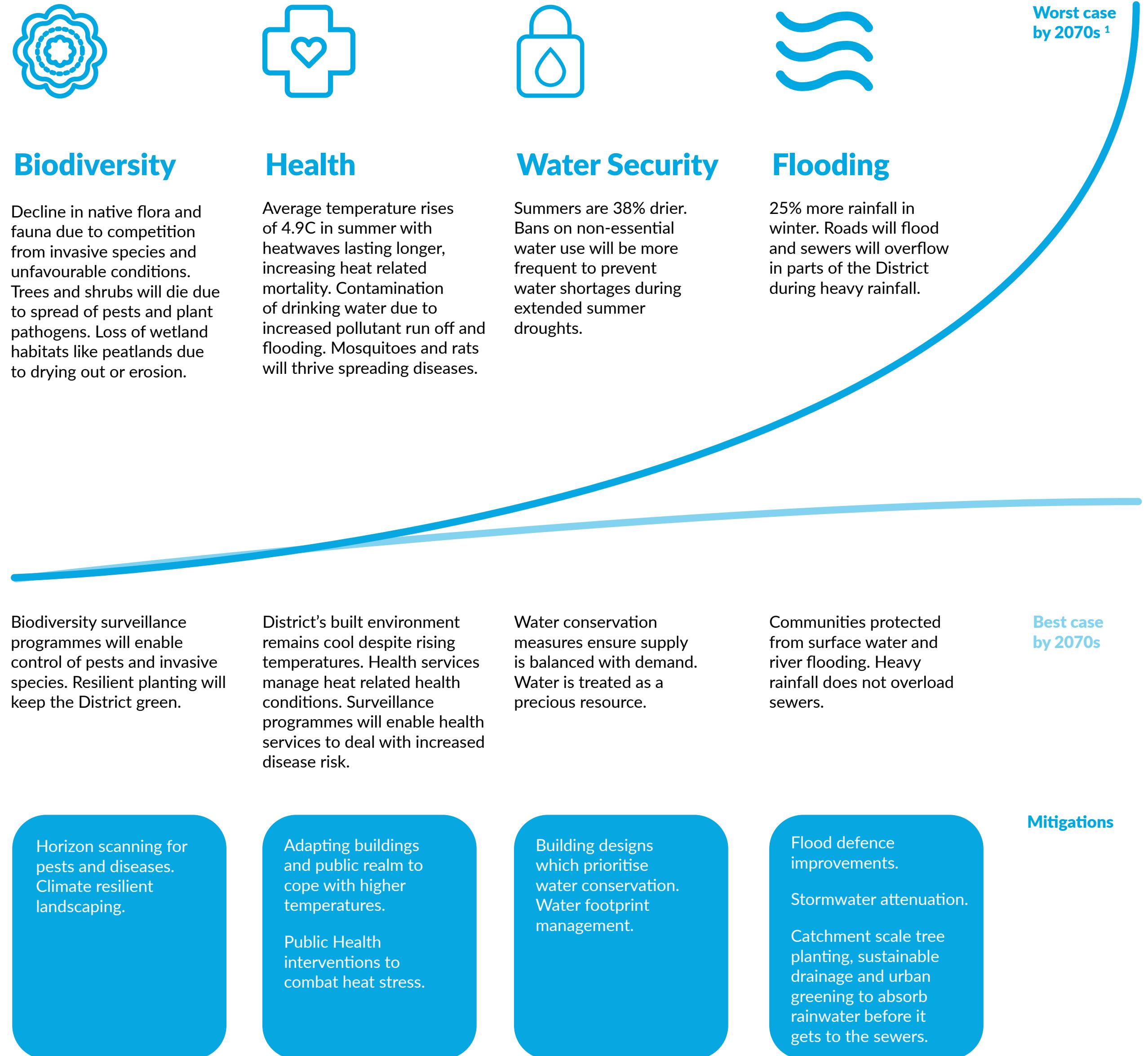


Source: UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2019  
(Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy)

## Adapting to climate change

Under the latest set of projected changes in climate for Northern Ireland (UK Climate Projections 2018) we are going to experience warmer wetter winters, hotter drier summers, more extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and intense storms.

The main risk in Fermanagh and Omagh is more frequent and intense episodes of flooding in winter, which will cause damage and disruption to businesses, communities, infrastructure, agriculture and the natural environment, health, water supply and daily life.



1. High emission scenario, RCP 6.0, UKCP 2018

Source: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp18-infographic-headline-findings-land.pdf>

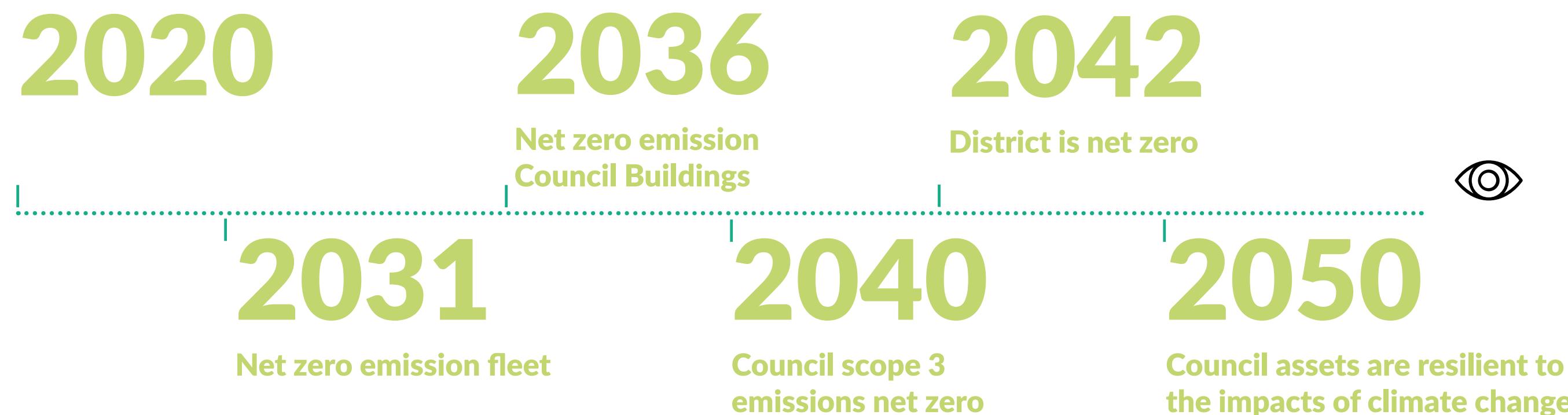
# Our climate vision, aims and targets

## Our vision:

The Fermanagh and Omagh District is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and competitive.

By 2042, Fermanagh and Omagh will have taken significant climate action and will have moved from a high to a net zero emissions society. We will have made this change fairly and have demonstrated a responsibility for each other and for the place in which we live. As a result of all our efforts, we will have a more resilient environment with greater biodiversity and a strong sustainable economy. More people are employed in green jobs and all generations benefit from improved wellbeing.

## Our targets



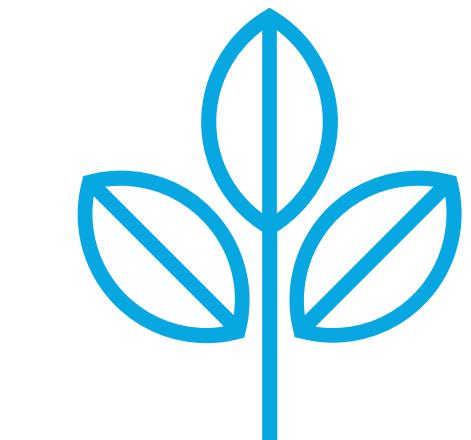
## Our strategic aims



**Sustainable  
Communities**



**Sustainable  
Council**



**Sustainable  
Environment**

Council takes ambitious action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Citizens and businesses become more environmentally responsible. Environmental resources are protected, enhanced, and respected.

# Actions

Our actions and goals build upon our Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (2020 - 2030) – “Restore, Revive, Thrive - Our Environment”. They also reflect ongoing work in supporting inclusiveness, prosperity and environmental sustainability through our Community Planning Partnership. These actions relate to the first three years of the strategy. The action plan will then be refreshed for the next phase of implementation to achieve our 2030 goals.

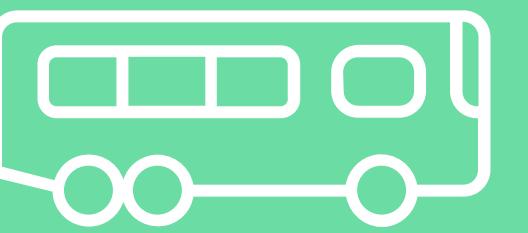
## The Six Key Action Areas of This Plan



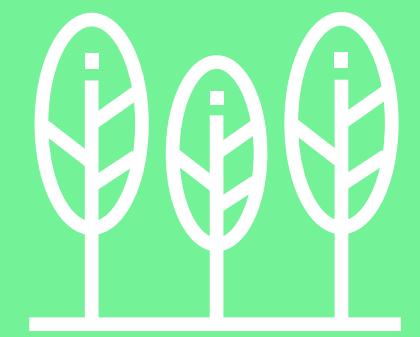
ENERGY &  
BUILDINGS



RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT



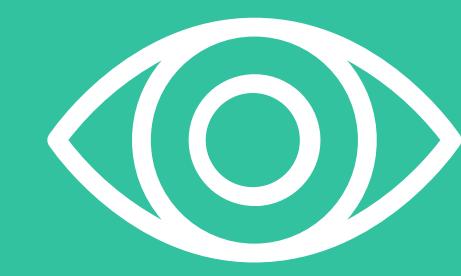
TRANSPORT



LAND  
USE



ECONOMY



GOVERNANCE

# Energy & Buildings

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Our goal is to reduce carbon emissions from buildings on our estate and ensure all homes are well insulated to eradicate fuel poverty as fast as possible. We will support the use of renewable energy and reduce the amount of new fossil fuel extraction within the sphere of our responsibility.

| No  | Action  | Lead                                | Performance measure   | Outcome(s)  |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| EB1 | Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings to help deliver carbon reduction targets, maximising the use of renewable energy sources where possible. | Head of Parks, Estates and Property | #%Reduction in Carbon Emissions<br>#/% of energy performance ratings for Council estate C or better   | Outcome 6.1: The Council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced.  |
| EB2 | Embed good practice energy management approaches into facility and building management decisions, targeting a reduction in carbon emissions.                | Head of Parks, Estates and Property | #%Reduction in Carbon Emissions   | Outcome 6.1: The Council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced.  |
| EB3 | Work in partnership to provide advice and support to local communities to help increase energy efficiency at home and minimise fuel poverty.                | Head of Regulatory Services         | # of drop-in advice centre participants.<br># of households referred to other schemes such as NISEP and Boiler Replacement<br># of energy assessments carried out<br># of affordable warmth grants referred to NIHE   | Outcome 5.1: Homes and communities are energy efficient, environmentally sustainable, and fuel poverty is minimised<br>Outcome 6.1: The Council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced.   |
| EB4 | Identify Council assets at risk from climate impacts and implement adaptation measures where necessary and practicable.                                     | Head of Parks, Estates and Property | #%Reduction in repair costs to assets at risk from Climate Change Impacts   | Outcome 6.1: The Council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced.  |
| EB5 | Embed sustainable, low-carbon and circular economy criteria into the design and delivery of new Council buildings and refurbishments.                       | Capital Programmes Lead             | #/%Reduction in Energy consumption in Council buildings.<br>#/%Reductions in carbon emissions from Council buildings.<br>#Contracts awarded which contain a Climate Change measure.<br>#Increased availability of supplier carbon emission data for analysis. | Outcome 5.1: Homes and communities are energy efficient, environmentally sustainable, and fuel poverty is minimised<br>Outcome 6.2: The Council is environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources.<br>Outcome 6.1: The Council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced. |



| No   | Action  | Lead                        | Performance measure  | Outcome(s)   |
|------|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| EB6  | Require the design of buildings to incorporate climate resilience and flood proofing measures in at risk locations.   | Head of Place Shaping       | # Reduction in development within flood risk locations<br><br># increase in use of sustainable drainage  | Outcome 6.4: The climate impact from development will be minimised and a low carbon economy will be encouraged through the planning system.<br><br>Outcome 7.5: When a new development is considered in areas with nature conservation value we will ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures |
| EB7  | Encourage a sustainable pattern of development supported by low carbon transport infrastructure.  | Head of Place Shaping       | #new or extended park and ride/park and share facilities to reduce need to travel by private car   | Outcome 6.4: The climate impact from development will be minimised and a low carbon economy will be encouraged through the planning system.  |
| EB8  | Reduce dependence on fossil fuels and encourage renewable sources of energy supply.   | Head of Place Shaping       | #amount (MWh) of energy produced from renewable sources.<br><br># number, height and location of new or repowered wind turbines approved/operational | Outcome 6.4: The climate impact from development will be minimised and a low carbon economy will be encouraged through the planning system.  |
| EB9  | Provide planning for affordable sustainable housing developments in accordance with the Local Development Plan Strategy.  | Head of Place Shaping       | # affordable houses approved/complete  | Outcome 6.4: The climate impact from development will be minimised and a low carbon economy will be encouraged through the planning system.  |
| EB10 | Enforce minimum building standards and campaign for higher building standards to ensure greater levels of energy efficiency, climate resilience and sustainability of building materials. | Head of Regulatory Services | #engagements with Department and Building Control NI   | Outcome 6.4: The climate impact from development will be minimised and a low carbon economy will be encouraged through the planning system.  |



# Resource Management

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Our goal is to become a zero-waste District, where all waste is minimised, recycled or repaired as part of a circular economy.

| No  | Action  | Lead                                       | Performance measure   | Outcome(s)   |
|-----|---|--|---|--|
| RM1 | Reduce consumption of single-use plastics in the District and on the Council estate.  | Head of Waste Management                   | #% reduction in use of single-use plastics  | Outcome 6.5: An increase in the proportion of reuse and recycling and a reduction in waste to landfill   |
| RM2 | Deliver the Green Your Festival initiative to reduce the environmental impact of Council events, removing single use plastic where possible.        | Head of Wellbeing and Cultural Services    | # of stall holders removing single use plastic<br># events signing up to Green Your Festival principles   | Outcome 6.5: An increase in the proportion of reuse and recycling and a reduction in waste to landfill   |
| RM3 | Promote and deliver activities that support the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle to help meet our waste, recycling and climate targets. | Head of Waste Management                   | #/% reduction of contamination levels collected by DEA routes (recycling)<br>#/% increase in food waste tonnages collected in Brown Bins and Separate foodwaste | Outcome 5.2: Council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate<br><br>Outcome 6.5: An increase in the proportion of reuse and recycling and a reduction in waste to landfill  |
| RM4 | Implement environmental and climate education activities, promotional campaigns and environmental improvement initiatives in the community.         | Climate Change and Innovation Lead Officer | # of people, schools and community groups etc involved in 'environmental activities'  | Outcome 5.3: Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible<br><br>Outcome 6.5: An increase in the proportion of reuse and recycling and a reduction in waste to landfill<br><br>Outcome 7.2: Fermanagh and Omagh's enhanced environment provides health and wellbeing benefits to local communities. |



| No  | Action  | Lead   | Performance measure   | Outcome(s)  |
|-----|---|--|---|---|
| RM5 | Support communities to access funding for environmentally sustainable projects or action on climate change. | Head of Community Services                           | # funding applications submitted for interventions/number successful  | Outcome 5.3: Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible  |
| RM6 | Encourage communities to engage in climate education and sustainable initiatives in the community           | Head of Community Services                           | # of volunteers taking part in events and training  | Outcome 5.2: Council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate<br><br>Outcome 7.4: Work with communities and businesses to increase resilience to future changes in climate. |
| RM7 | Ensure effective enforcement on Clean Neighbourhood matters through collaborative practices.                | Head of Regulatory Services                          | #/%nuisance vehicles reported, inspected, assessed as abandoned, removed and notices issued<br><br>#incidents of fly-tipping/dumping<br><br>#litter offence notices issued<br><br>#Dog Fouling notices issued<br><br>#Criminal Prosecutions progressing | Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected   |
| RM8 | Upskill our workforce on climate change and encourage a culture of resource efficiency in the workplace.    | Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development | #employees who have received Climate Change and Sustainable Development Training.   | Outcome 6.2: The Council is environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources.  |

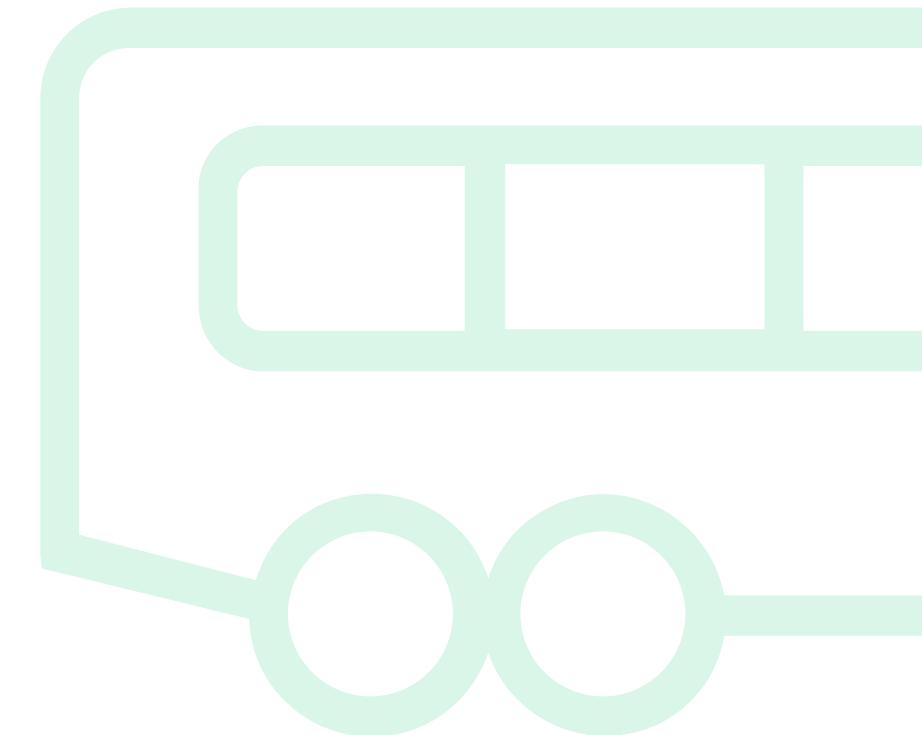


# Transport

24

Our goal is to reduce carbon emissions from our own fleet by phasing out petrol and diesel vehicles and switching to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles. We will also facilitate a modal shift to zero carbon forms of travel in the District, including walking and cycling, in order to improve air quality and meet our climate goals.

| No | Action   | Lead   | Performance measure  | Outcome(s)  |
|----|--|--|--|---|
| T1 | Implement measures to decarbonise the Council's fleet.   | Head of Waste Management                             | #%Reductions in carbon emissions from Council fleet.   | Outcome 6.1: The Council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced.  |
| T2 | Carry out a review of charge point requirements to support the roll out of EV charging infrastructure in the District. | Head of Waste Management                             | #% increase in EV Charging Points  | Outcome 5.2: Council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate   |
| T3 | Encourage agile working, virtual meetings and effective journey management to reduce business mileage.                 | Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development | #employees hybrid working<br>#days employees worked from home<br>#Reduction in mileage/travel claims   | Outcome 6.1: The Council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced.<br><br>Outcome 6.6: Reduction in car use for Council business purposes and the promotion of sustainable travel.  |
| T4 | Support active travel in the District, encouraging cycling, walking and running as an alternative to travel by car.    | Head of Wellbeing and Cultural Services              | #participation in the relevant Programmes<br># capital projects being delivered by FODC related to infrastructure and active travel improvements | Outcome 5.2: Council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate<br><br>Outcome 6.6: Reduction in car use for Council business purposes and the promotion of sustainable travel. |
| T5 | Monitor and review air quality against the objectives outlined in the Northern Ireland Air Quality Strategy.           | Head of Regulatory Services                          | %reduction in air pollutants<br>% reduction in enforcement actions   | Outcome 6.7: We will work in partnership to improve air quality<br><br>Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected.   |



# Land use

25

Our goal is to protect and restore nature to help absorb carbon pollution from the atmosphere and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. We will ensure everyone in the District has access to nature through nearby green spaces and promote the health benefits of this.

| No | Action  | Lead                                       | Performance measure   | Outcome(s)   |
|----|---|--|---|--|
| L1 | Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan to increase tree cover on Council-owned land, using appropriate species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. | Climate Change and Innovation Lead Officer | #trees planted on Council land<br>#trees planted on community and other public land through FODC support<br>#community planting events<br>#groups working in partnership to manage green space    | Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected.   |
| L2 | Develop a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to protect and increase biodiversity on Council land.   | Climate Change and Innovation Lead Officer | #biodiversity actions achieved annually<br># Increase in area of land/ no. of sites managed for biodiversity<br>#events held or attended<br>#%Increase in biodiversity reach through social media | Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected.<br><br>Outcome 7.5: When a new development is considered in areas with nature conservation value we will ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures. |
| L3 | Protect and restore, where possible, peatlands and degraded soils on the Council estate or in partnership, across the District.   | Climate Change and Innovation Lead Officer | #Area of peatland habitat included in a restoration plan  | Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected.   |



| No | Action   | Lead                                | Performance measure   | Outcome(s)   |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| L4 | Make the Council estate and public realm more climate change ready through enhancing green spaces, urban greening, and adaptable planting regimes. | Head of Parks, Estates and Property | # battery-operated handheld tools<br>#% increase in quantity of peat-based compost used v's peat free<br>#%Reduction use in pesticide<br>#Area of land managed as meadows<br># community projects supported e.g. Ulster in Bloom, tidy towns, live here love here, general site visits and sign posting | Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected.   |
| L5 | Legislate for the provision of public open spaces in all new residential developments in accordance with the Local Development Plan Strategy.      | Head of Place Shaping               | #% of site area of residential developments of 25 units or more is provided as public open space.   | Outcome 6.4: The climate impact from development will be minimised and a low carbon economy will be encouraged through the planning system<br><br>Outcome 7.5: When a new development is considered in areas with nature conservation value we will ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures. |
| L6 | Ensure proposals for Sustainable Drainage Systems are included in all development proposals, where practicable.                                    | Head of Place Shaping               | # of FODC planning permissions granted which include SuDs measures.   | Outcome 6.4: The climate impact from development will be minimised and a low carbon economy will be encouraged through the planning system   |
| L7 | Ensure our planning and land use policies protect the natural environment and ecosystems.  | Head of Place Shaping               | #Planning Decisions in relation to new development affecting local, national, European designated sites; areas of Protected Species and their habitats; Other Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage importance  | Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected  |
| L8 | Continue to provide opportunities for outdoor activities and access to nature and promote the health benefits of this.                             | Head of Parks, Estates and Property | # opportunities to engage with Geopark and Outdoor Recreation (events & activities)   | Outcome 7.2: Fermanagh and Omagh's enhanced environment provides health and wellbeing benefits to local communities.   |

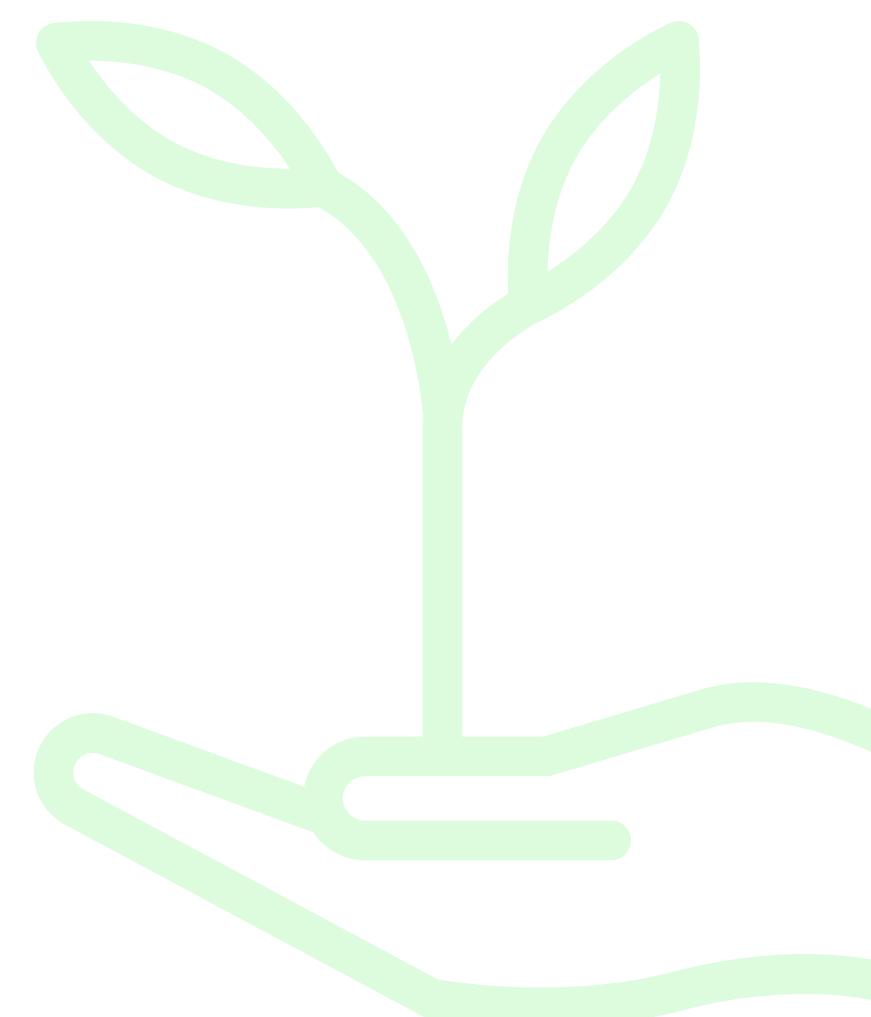


# Economy

27

Our goal is to support local businesses in the transition to net zero and create opportunities for green, inclusive growth.

| No | Action  | Lead  | Performance measure  | Outcome(s)  |
|----|---|---|--|---|
| E1 | Provide advice and support to the local business community, including farmers, to improve resource efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the changing climate. | Head of Economic Development and Investment | #communications issued to business community via Mailchimp/ Social Media platforms<br><br>#businesses supported (broken down by sector)<br><br># Attendance at best practice visit / virtual tour to highlight the benefits of the three pillars of sustainability | Outcome 5.2: Council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate<br><br>Outcome 5.3: Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible |
| E2 | Devise and implement policies, procedures and communications to promote sustainable tourism.  | Head of Economic Development and Investment | #Promotion Marketing Opportunities   | Outcome 5.3: Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible<br><br>Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected.  |
| E3 | Encourage people within the District to shop locally to limit emissions caused by transport.  | Head of Economic Development and Investment | #Town Centre footfall<br><br>#registered car keepers within the District<br><br>#bus routes / journey's in operation within the District, occupancy and frequency  | Outcome 5.3: Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible  |
| E4 | Work with partners to promote and support Fairtrade in the District.  | Head of Corporate and Strategic Services    | # promotional messages issued.<br><br>#/% of interactions with Communications including clicks, shares, likes and comments per post/issue.   | Outcome 7.6: We will support ethical food production practices  |



# Governance

28

Our goal is to embed a climate and sustainability lens into all our decision-making and increase our capacity to respond to the climate emergency.

| No | Action   | Lead                                     | Performance measure   | Outcome(s)   |
|----|--|--|---|--|
| G1 | Ensure that sustainable development and climate change are used as a guiding principle in Council plans, policies and strategies.  | Head of Corporate and Strategic Services | # or % of policies and plans that have identified Sustainable Development and Climate Change implications | Outcome 6.3: The public sector climate change duties are further embedded in service delivery and partnership working  |
| G2 | Ensure that climate change risks are appropriately addressed within our risk management and business continuity processes.   | Head of Corporate and Strategic Services | # reduction of risks flagging amber/red status  | Outcome 6.3: The public sector climate change duties are further embedded in service delivery and partnership working  |
| G3 | Work with multi-agency partners to increase capacity to respond to severe weather events and to increase community resilience.   | Head of Corporate and Strategic Services | #multi-agency response interventions delivered as a result of severe weather                              | Outcome 5.3: Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible<br><br>Outcome 7.3: Work with our partners to understand the current and future risks of flooding<br><br>Outcome 7.4: Work with communities and businesses to increase resilience to future changes in climate. |
| G4 | Join other local authorities, NGOs and partner agencies to campaign for ambitious legislation, policies, and funding commensurate with the climate and nature emergency. | Head of Corporate and Strategic Services | # consultation responses<br><br># letters of support of campaign  | Outcome 6.3: The public sector climate change duties are further embedded in service delivery and partnership working  |
| G5 | Develop procurement processes that improve environmental outcomes and ensure compliance with the Council's sustainable development duty.                                 | Head of Finance                          | #Procurement processes which reference environmental outcomes   | Outcome 6.2: The Council is environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources.   |
| G6 | Assist with the sourcing of funding for climate action.  | Head of Corporate and Strategic Services | # Successful Funding Bids   | Outcome 6.3: The public sector climate change duties are further embedded in service delivery and partnership working  |



# Enablers

We have identified key actions which we believe can best contribute to the achievement of the outcomes identified in our Strategy, using existing 'tools in the box'.

## Funding

Although the Council is not a direct funder, we can scan for funding opportunities for the District to help achieve our goals. We will also explore the possibility of raising funds, to support low-carbon investment in our estate and projects and services that may benefit rate payers.

## Influencing and Co-Design

We know that when we use our expertise and experience to co-design or be part of a larger initiative, we are likely to have significant influence. This might be in setting more ambitious outcomes in our Community Plan or holding a strong line on our mission on regional working groups or advisory panels.

## Research and Evidence

We have seen that where we work with other experts and practitioners in commissioning research and evidence, the ripple effects are much greater than if we do so alone. We do not always have to lead on these initiatives but are involved in their core design and development (see above).

## Intermediaries

We will support key organisations or intermediaries who support collaboration on climate and sustainability issues. These best practice forums help develop strategic partnerships, amplifying the collective voice around climate change.

## Convening

Through Community Planning, we convene and connect networks of organisations to meet regularly to foster dialogue, share learning, create joint opportunities and develop new, collective approaches. The Partnership brings together corporate, public and voluntary sectors to work better together to deliver collective change. We will use this to support delivery of our new Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan.

## Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Investing

We would like to use our role as an investor to support our sustainable development goals. Working with our investment manager, NILGOSC, we will ask for a transition of our pension portfolio towards ESG factors, and to avoid investing in new funds that are directly in conflict with our climate and sustainable development goals.

## Communication and Learning

We will build a reputation for sharing insights and challenges from our work and ensure that what we learn influences our strategic decisions. We will also work to ensure that what we ask from our partners and suppliers is proportionate and useful.

# Monitoring & Reporting

**We will keep on track by consistently checking on progress – ‘are we there yet? What do we need to change?’**

Through biannual performance reporting, we will be able to check progress against our climate and sustainability objectives and refine delivery where necessary to achieve our objectives. We will review and update the plan after three years and in that period, further develop our evidence base to support action planning and prioritisation of resources.



# Glossary

**Carbon removal** is the process by which a carbon sink, such as forestry, reduces the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

**Climate resilience** is the ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to hazardous events, trends or disturbances related to climate (Centre for Climate and Energy Solutions).

**Greenhouse gases** are the emissions responsible for global warming. These include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases amongst others.

**A Just Transition** means ensuring the benefits of a green economy transition are shared widely, while also supporting those who stand to lose economically – be they countries, regions, industries, communities, workers or consumers.

**KtCO<sub>2</sub>** means Kilotonnes of carbon dioxide and is a standard unit of measurement for carbon emissions.

**A low-carbon economy** is an economy that causes low levels of GHG emissions compared with today's carbon-intensive economy. 'Carbon' refers to carbon dioxide, the GHG which contributes the most to climate change. The low-carbon economy can be seen as a step in the process towards a zero-carbon economy. (Science Direct)

**Natural capital** refers to the stock of natural resources, which includes geology, soils, air, water and all living organisms.

**Net zero** is achieved when anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals over a specified period (definition by Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and CDP).

**Science-based / Paris-aligned** GHG emissions reduction targets are considered "science-based" if they are in line with what the latest climate science says is necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement (2015) - to limit global warming to well- below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

**Scopes 1, 2 and 3 for an organisation:** (based on Defra Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, revised edition)

**Scope 1** (direct) means emissions from activities owned or controlled by your organisation that release emissions into the atmosphere. They are direct emissions. Examples of scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles, emissions from chemical production in owned or controlled process equipment.

**Scope 2** (energy indirect) means emissions released into the atmosphere associated with your consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of your organisation's activities, but which occur at sources you do not own or control.

**Scope 3** (other indirect) means emissions that are a consequence of your actions, which occur at sources which you do not own or control and which are not classed as scope 2 emissions. Examples of scope 3 emissions are business travel by means not owned or controlled by your organisation, waste disposal which is not owned or controlled, or purchased materials.

**Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)** are vehicles that are reported to emit less than 75g of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the tailpipe for every kilometre travelled. In practice, the term typically refers to battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric and fuel cell electric vehicles.

**Zero waste / circular economy** means keeping resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recovering and regenerating products and materials at the end of each service life.



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council

Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí



**sustainable**NI