

Chairperson's Report of the Blended Meeting of Limerick City & County Council Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee held on Wednesday 20th May 2025 at 2.30pm.

Item 1 – Adopt minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 13th March 2025.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2025 were proposed by Cllr. N. Stokes and seconded by Cllr. E. Ryan.

Item 2 – Annual Update on Limerick Climate Action Plan -the localisation of National Policy on Climate Action in LCCC. Mr. Kieran Reeves, Climate Action Co-ordinator, Environment and Climate Action.

Mr. Reeves gave a presentation on the progress of the Climate Action Plan in 2024. The targets of this plan are to reach a 50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030, to achieve a 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, to make Limerick a climate resilient county and to actively engage and inform our communities on climate action. The Council are currently on target to meet 2030 obligations. Updates were provided on the six themes of the plan (there are 98 actions across the six themes).

Following the presentation, a discussion took place around aspects such as the Council's carbon footprint, the Community Climate Action Fund and public lighting.

Item 3 – Mid West Regional Energy Unit, - Mr. Conor McDonagh, Senior Executive Engineer, Mid-West Region Energy Unit.

Mr. McDonagh gave a presentation on the SEAI initiated National Building Retrofit Pathfinder Programme. This programme will allow local authorities to access 50% matched funding from SEAI for the retrofit of their buildings. Limerick, Kerry and Clare Councils have joined to setup the Midwest Energy Unit to access this funding with Clare as the lead authority. In addition, Limerick City & County Council is to be afforded 100% grant funding for a Feasibility Study to be carried out on the potential for District Heating within the city and suburbs.

Other projects currently being implemented to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions include the introduction of HydroTreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a diesel substitute for our fleet and the implementation of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP).

The discussion following this presentation focussed on estimated costings to retrofit Merchant's Quay, the PLEEP project and the district heating feasibility study.

Item 4 – Results of Clean Air Together - Mr. Cathal Brodie, Senior Executive Scientist, Environment and Climate Action.

Mr Brodie gave a presentation on the results of the Clean Air Together project, which was an EPA project completed in partnership with Limerick City and County Council. During October 2024, over 400 people in Limerick's Metropolitan area measured Nitrogen Dioxide levels near their homes. The results of the survey were extremely positive with 98% of areas coming in below the EU limit. A results evening was held in February 2025 to explore the data collected and impact on health by air pollution from traffic. Results were also shared for a project that took place in Adare where a number of the monitoring tubes were placed on the main N21 running through the town, local roads onto the N20, the riverbank walk and the town park. There results were also positive.

Feedback from the Members in relation to this project was very positive with a tribute paid to Mr Simon Jennings, Executive Scientist, Environment and Climate Action, for his hard work on the project in Adare.

The dates of the final two meetings for 2025 and proposed dates for 2026 were agreed before the meeting ended.

No Recommendations

Cllr Joe Leddin

Chairperson of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee

21/05/2025