



2025 Local Government **Climate Action** **Key Performance Indicators** Report Summary

September 2026

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LGMA Research

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This report presents an infographic summary of the 2025 Climate Action Key Performance Indicators. The full report, including data at the local authority level, can be accessed on localgov.ie

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Climate Action KPI Working Group membership in 2025:

- Marian Higgins, Kildare County Council – Project Chair
- Breda Maher, Eastern and Midlands CARO - Project Manager
- Patrick Greene, Galway City Council
- Dr. Bernie O'Donoghue Hynes, LGMA – Project Research Lead
- Fionnuala Ryan, South Dublin County Council
- Tina Ryan, Galway County Council
- John McNally, Offaly County Council
- Tara Kerins, LGMA

Support:

- Thomas Rooney, Eastern and Midlands CARO (Administration)
- Rob Keane, LGMA (Research)
- Dr. Sarah Parker, LGMA

Foreword

Local authorities have played a central role in advancing climate action across Ireland for many years. Since the introduction of the Climate Action Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in 2021, the sector has continued to strengthen how it measures, understands and delivers in this area. What began as a small set of indicators has now developed into a comprehensive framework of ten KPIs across three themes, capturing progress in Mainstreaming, Adaptation and Mitigation, and Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building.

The 2025 results show that the sector is continuing to mature in its climate action role. The core structures underpinning climate action within local authorities are now well established. Staffing levels have largely been maintained, with Climate Action Co-ordinators, Officers and Community Climate Action Officers in place across almost all local authorities. Climate Action Teams also remain embedded as an important mechanism for cross-departmental coordination, with increased use of sub-groups indicating a stronger focus on delivery and implementation at local level.

There is clear evidence of continued progress across adaptation and mitigation activities. Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAPs) are now firmly in the delivery phase, with more than 4,200 actions reported and a higher proportion of these moving through to completion. Social housing retrofit programmes continue to deliver cumulative gains in energy efficiency and carbon savings, while greenhouse gas emissions from local authority operations have continued to fall against baseline levels. Active Travel activity remains strong, with further growth in project pipelines, although delivery outputs varied across the year. Meanwhile, the response to severe weather events points to increased coordination and preparedness, alongside evolving approaches to how activity is recorded and managed.

The 2025 results also demonstrate a strengthening of capacity-building activity across the sector. The number of climate action training places provided to staff and elected members increased significantly following the lower levels recorded in 2024 while the new training programme was being developed. Initiatives such as Green for Business and the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) continue to expand their reach, supporting both small enterprises and communities to take practical action. In particular, the CCAP shows strong progress, with a substantial shift towards project completion in 2025 as initiatives move from planning into delivery.

While these results are positive, they also highlight that progress is not uniform across all indicators or across all local authorities. Variations in scale, delivery profiles and local context are evident, and, in some areas, further work is required to ensure consistency in measurement and outcomes. This is an important aspect of the KPI framework; as well as capturing achievements, it also provides a clear evidence base to identify areas for improvement and to support ongoing development across the sector.

Overall, the 2025 Climate Action KPI Report reflects both the breadth of activity being undertaken by local authorities and the increasing focus on implementation and outcomes. The KPIs, together with the LA CAPs, continue to provide a strong framework for accountability, learning and progress. The County and City Management Association (CCMA) Environment, Climate and Circular Economy Committee (ECCE) will continue to use these findings to support the sector in strengthening its approach, addressing challenges and delivering effective climate action at local and national level.

Frank Curran

Chair

CCMA Environment, Climate and Circular Economy Committee



Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta
Contae agus Cathrach
County and City
Management Association

2025

Climate action expertise was embedded across local government, with dedicated climate action staff in almost every local authority supporting delivery across the organisation and in communities nationwide



29 local authorities had both a Climate Action Co-ordinator and Climate Action Officer in place at year-end 2025

One local authority had a Climate Action Co-ordinator but no Climate Action Officer in place at year-end 2025

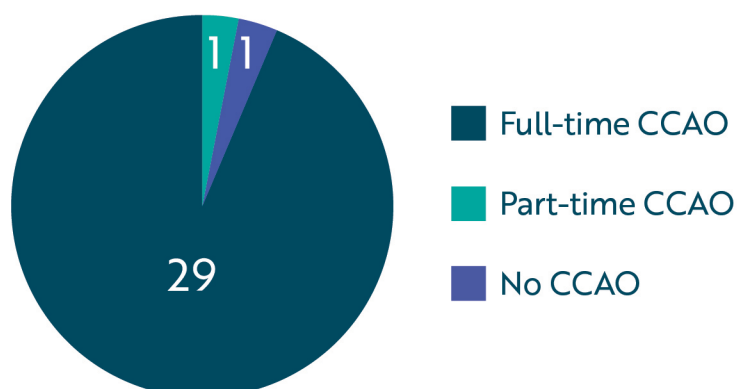
All staff were in place across all local authorities by early 2026



59.0

59.0 FTE dedicated climate action staff were in place at year-end 2025

30 local authorities had Community Climate Action Officers (CCAOs) in place at year-end 2025



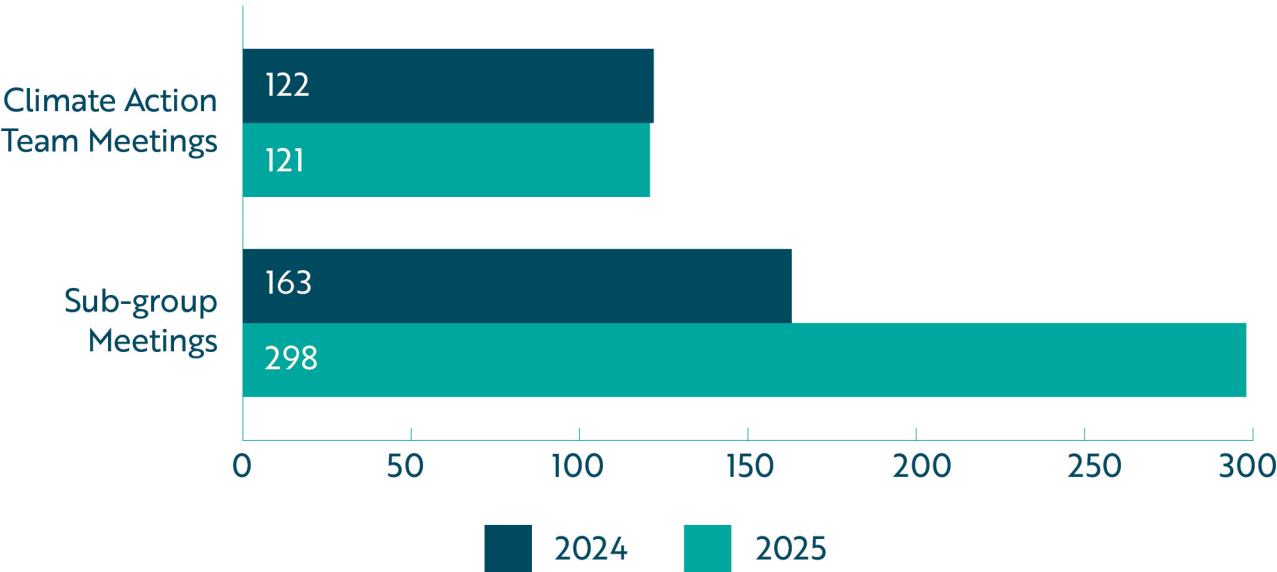
Key finding

Climate action staffing levels remained stable in 2025, demonstrating continued commitment to climate action across the local government sector

KPI 2 Climate Action Teams

2025

There were over 800 local authority staff working through Climate Action Teams (CAT) and sub-groups to support local climate action in 2025



Key finding



Climate Action Teams continued to meet regularly in 2025, while an increasing number of working groups played a growing role in turning plans into action



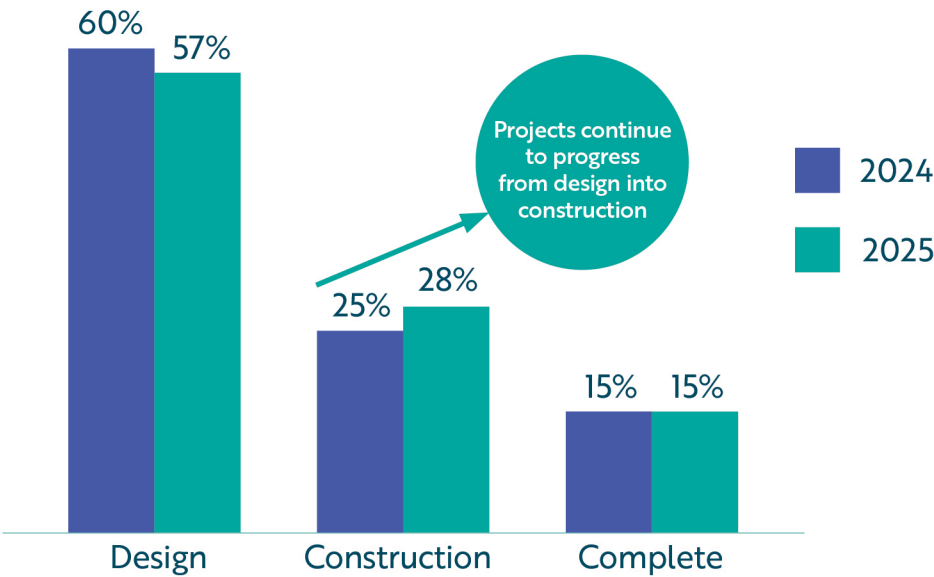
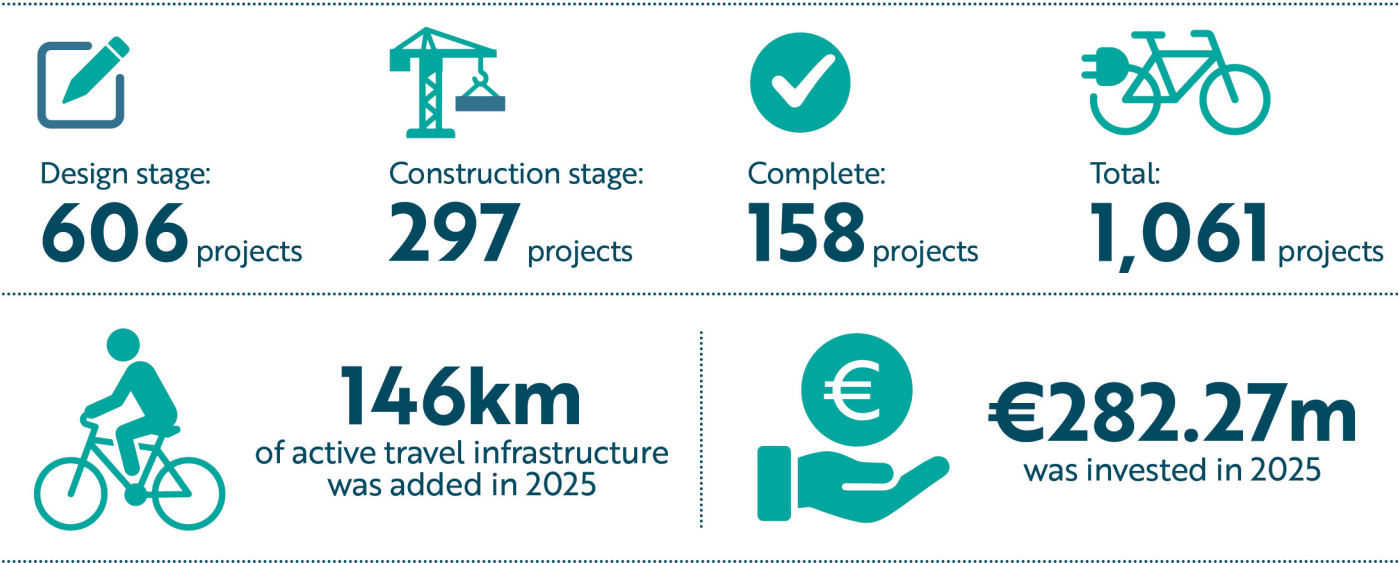
KPI 3 Active Travel Projects

2025

More than 1,000 Active Travel projects helped to create safer and better ways to walk, wheel and cycle in 2025

The total number of Active Travel projects rose from 1,012 in 2024 to 1,061 in 2025:

+49 projects





Key finding

Active Travel project activity continued to grow in 2025, with more projects progressing from planning into delivery



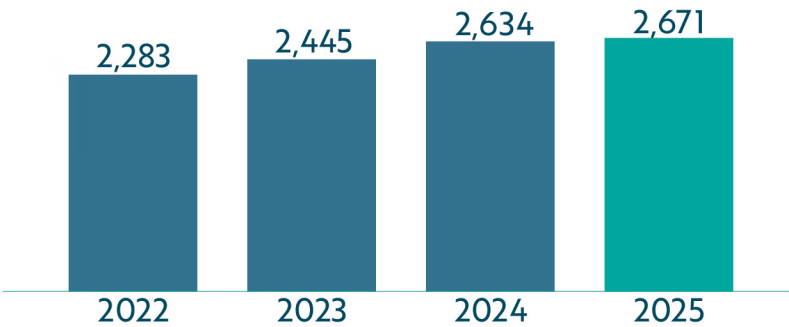
KPI 4 Social Housing Retrofits

2025

More than 10,000 social houses have been retrofitted since 2022, helping tenants live in warmer, more energy-efficient homes



2,671
social houses retrofitted by
local authorities in 2025



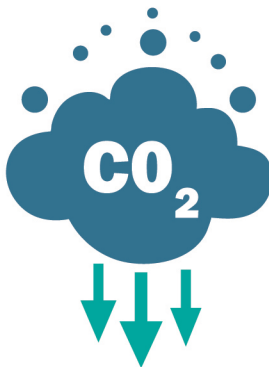
99%
were BER B2 or higher



92%
had heat pumps installed



37,704 MWh
annual energy savings



10,263
tonnes
CO₂ annual
carbon savings

Key finding



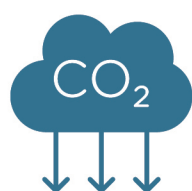
The cumulative annual energy savings achieved through local authority social housing retrofits between 2022 and 2025 are equivalent to the energy required to run approximately 8,200 households for a year



KPI 5 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2024*

Local authorities have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by over one-third compared with baseline levels



36.3%

reduction in local authority total greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., electricity + thermal + transport), compared with the 2016-2018 baseline



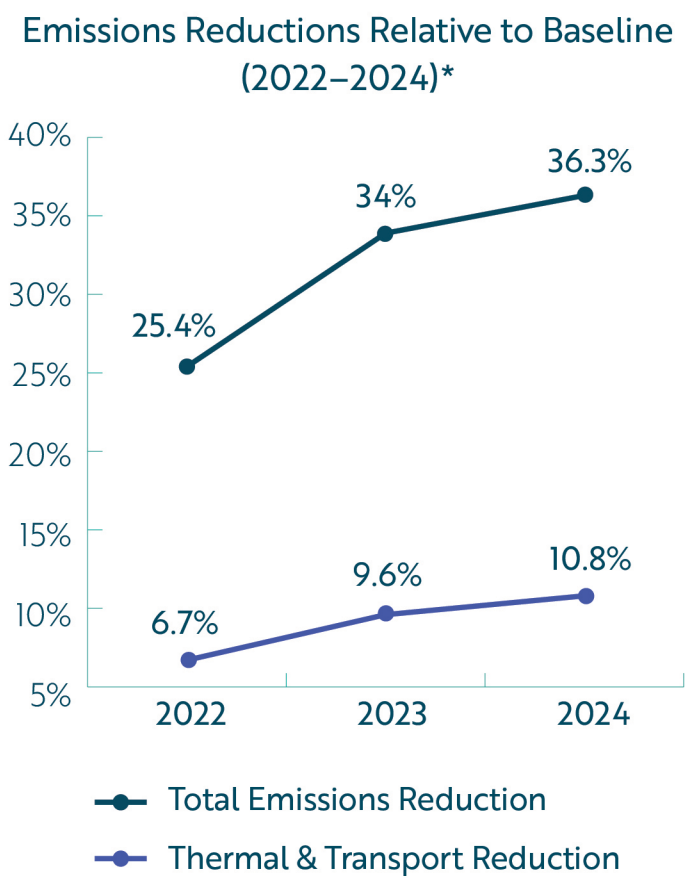
10.8%

reduction in emissions from heating + transport compared with baseline levels



31

local authorities reported lower total emissions than their baseline



*Reductions are shown as positive percentages so an upward trend means stronger emissions reduction performance. Based on comparison with base year 2016-2018 average.



Key finding

Greenhouse gas emissions from local authority operations continued to fall in 2024 due predominantly to reductions in electricity consumption

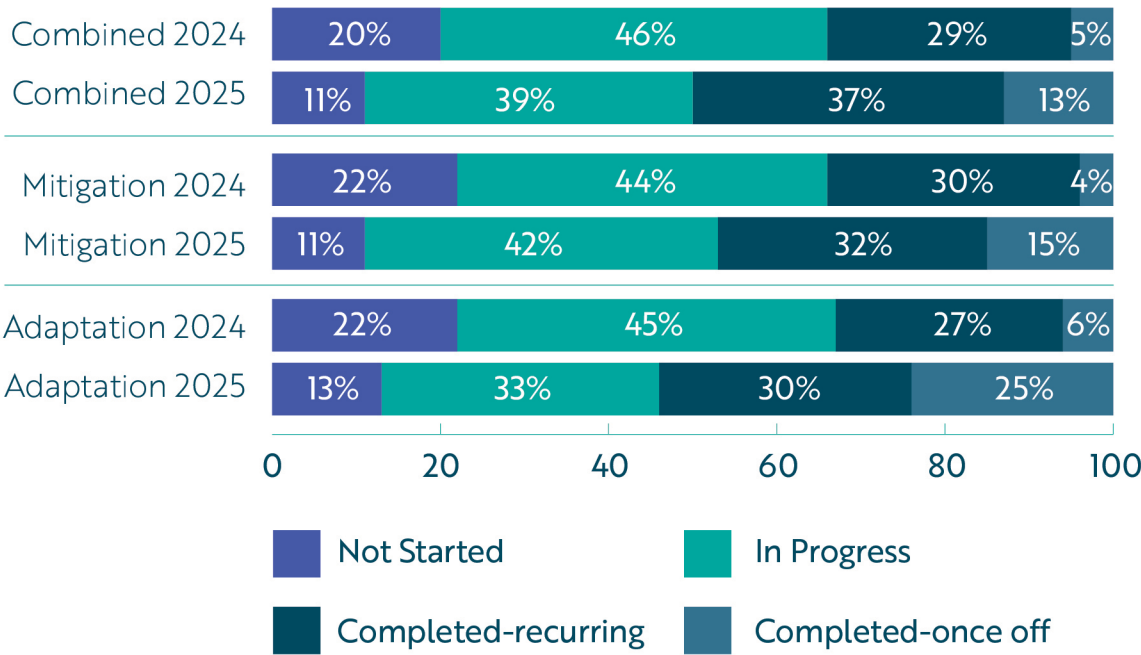


* 2025 SEAI Greenhouse Gas Emissions data was not available when this report was being published

KPI 6 Local Authority Climate Action Plans

2025

More than 4,200 climate actions were delivered through Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAPs) across Ireland in 2025



Progress accelerated in 2025, with more actions completed across all three categories

4,260

climate actions reported in 2025
(up from 3,951 in 2024)

2,141

combined actions, accounting for
50% of all actions reported in 2025

1,633

mitigation actions, accounting for
38% of all actions reported in 2025

486

adaptation actions, accounting for
12% of all actions in 2025

Key finding



Local authorities are moving beyond planning and into delivery, with more Climate Action Plan actions completed in 2025 and fewer actions yet to begin



KPI 7 Severe Weather Emergency Response

2025

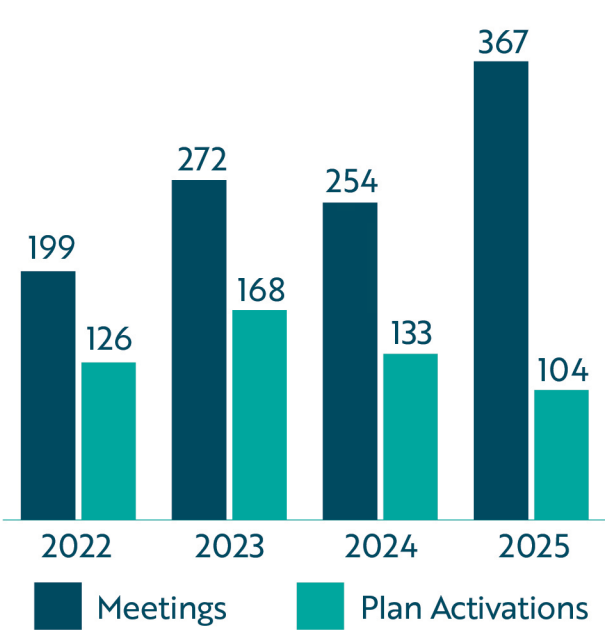
Local authorities increased severe weather preparedness in 2025, helping communities respond to storms, flooding and winter weather events

367

Severe Weather Emergency Response Team (SWERT) meetings were held in 2025 (up from 254 in 2024)

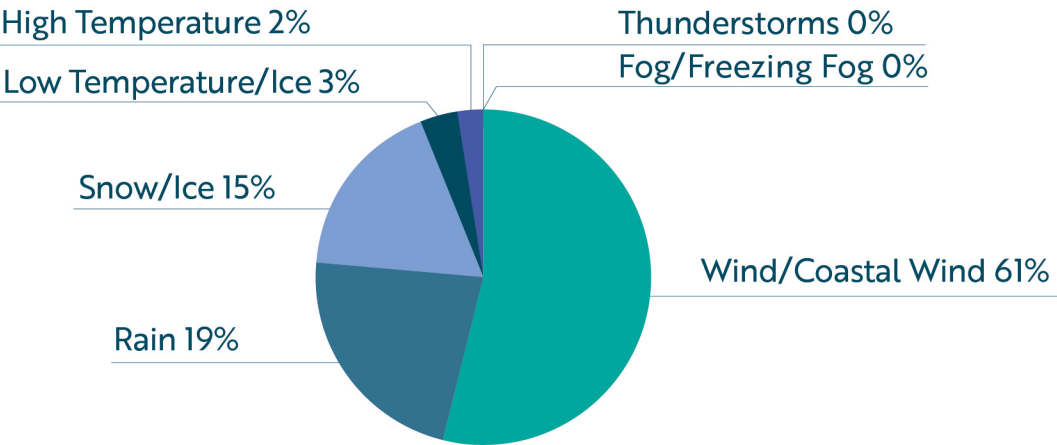
104

SWERT plans were activated in 2025 (down from 133 in 2024)



81

SWERT plan activations were wind-related (continues to be the most common trigger)



Key finding



Severe weather coordination activity reached its highest level to-date in 2025, while emergency plan activations declined, suggesting a shift towards preparedness and response



KPI 8 Climate Action Training for Local Government

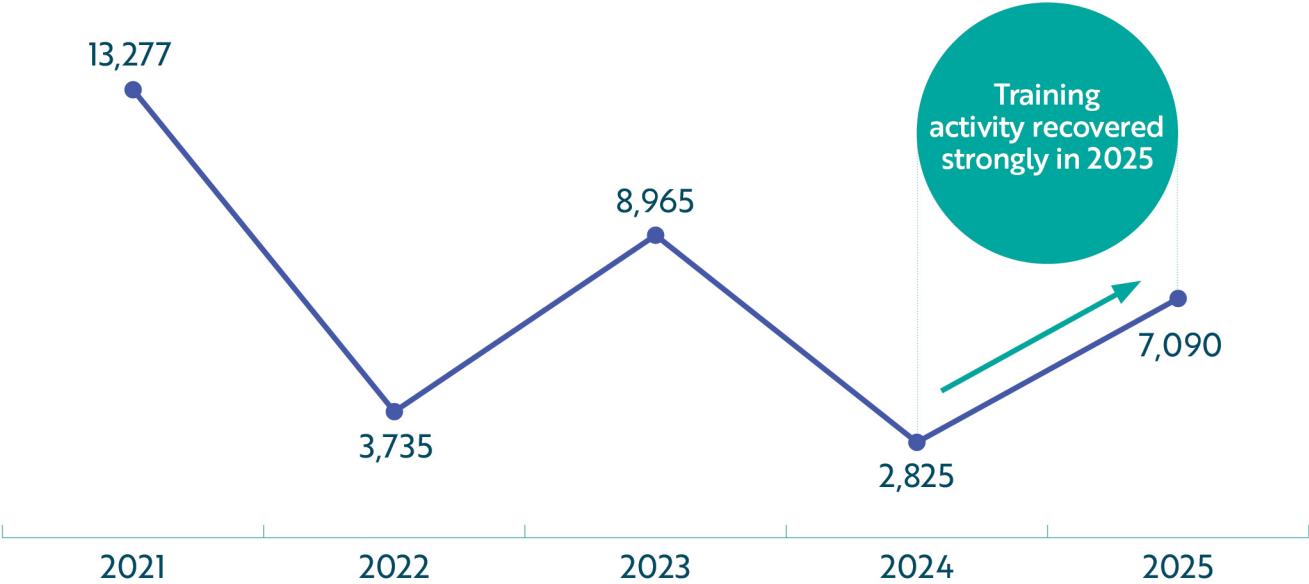
2025

Climate action training rebounded strongly in 2025, following the approval of the new sectoral training plan, building knowledge and capacity among local authority staff and elected members



7,090

climate action training places provided in 2025 (up from 2,825 in 2024), following the introduction of the new Climate Action Training Plan and Budget



151%

increase in training places compared with 2024



Key finding

Building climate action knowledge and skills remains a priority, with training activity increasing significantly across the local government sector in 2025

KPI 9

Green for Business Initiative

2025

More businesses than ever took practical climate action through the Green for Business programme via the local authority Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)



1,094

small-medium enterprises (SMEs) participated in Green for Business in 2025 (the highest annual figure recorded to date)



3,370

SMEs supported since the programme began in 2021

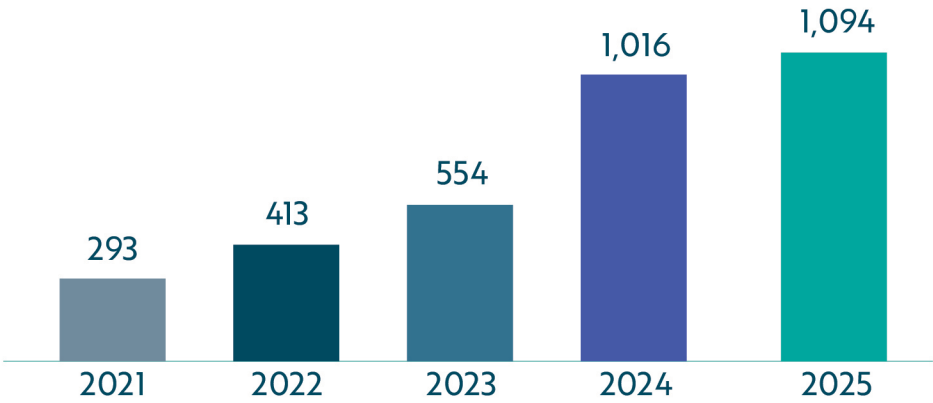


+78

businesses involved in 2025 compared with 2024



Number of participating SMEs



Key finding

Record participation in 2025 highlights the growing role businesses are playing in climate action and sustainability



KPI 10 Community Climate Action Programme

2025

Communities across Ireland continued to turn climate action ideas into local projects through the Community Climate Action Programme in 2025



706

community climate projects were funded by year-end 2025

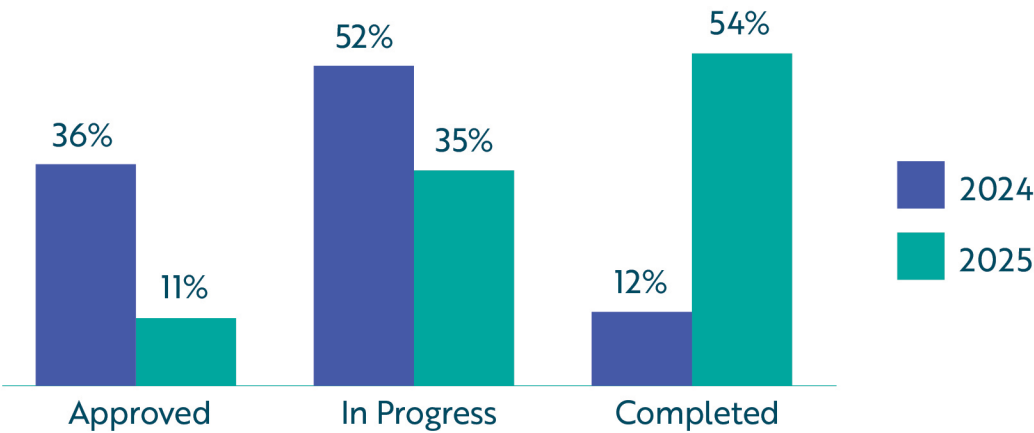


54%

of projects were completed, up from 12% in 2024



The share of projects not yet completed fell substantially during 2025



Key finding

Community climate projects moved significantly through the delivery pipeline in 2025, with more than half completed by year-end



Overall Summary

Theme	Indicator	2025 Summary of Results
Mainstreaming	1. Climate Action Staff	Numbers maintained by local authorities
	2. Climate Action Teams	Numbers largely maintained with a slight drop in membership and activity, alongside stronger sub-group engagement
Adaptation & Mitigation	3. Active Travel	Growth in project numbers and pipeline activity
	4. Social Housing Retrofit	Gradual continued progress, with cumulative increases in retrofits and energy savings
	5. Greenhouse Gas Reductions	Clear ongoing improvement, with emissions reductions deepening against the baseline (latest data reported with a one-year lag i.e. refers to 2024)
	6. LA CAP Actions	Positive implementation momentum, with more actions completed and fewer remaining not started
	7. Severe Weather Responses	Shift from response to preparedness, with increased coordination activity and fewer emergency activations overall
Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	8. Staff & Elected Member Training	High engagement, with a substantial increase following temporary pause while training plan approved in 2024
	9. Green for Business Initiative	Continued improvement, with an increase in businesses supported
	10. Community CA Programme	Clear forward movement, with a higher share of projects completed and fewer remaining in the pipeline

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