Waterford City and County Council

Survival

Draft ~~Development~~ Plan

**2021-2030**

Submission by the Suirsideto Seaside Citizens for Survival

30th August 2021

July 2021 was the hottest month ever recorded on Earth.

We can’t pretend this is normal.

@ClimateReality

7 Key Steps

There are at least7 key steps that WCCC need to take:

1. Survival PlanPut a Survival Plan in place of the Development Plan.

As it happens the latest climate law will require all local authorities to adopt a climate plan that tackles emissions, adaptation to more frequent flooding, drought, and other severe weather. New Climate Law July 2021.

1. Make the Survival Plan an ActionPlan in response to the IPCC AR6 2021

A major United Nations report has concluded in stark terms that human activity is responsible for climate change, much of which is irreversible. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says climate change is "widespread, rapid and intensifying" | <https://t.co/uLhUuAuH3u><https://t.co/ZLsaHFSrjX>

“The IPCC report concludes for the first time that humans are unequivocally responsible for global warming,…”

* The Economist Aug 9th 2021

[@UN](https://twitter.com/UN) Secretary General [@antonioguterres](https://twitter.com/antonioguterres) said the report is a ‘code red for humanity.’ - @IPCC\_CH

A much-anticipated report released Monday (9th August 2021) by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that has inspired dire headlines and international hand-wringing over the starkest warnings yet about droughts, floods, fires, extreme heat, rising sea levels and melting ice says:

**“Climate change is real, it’s happening now, and it’s wreaking havoc across the world.”**

But climate scientists and authors of the report — the experts most intimately familiar with these grim findings — have a message for the world: Don’t give up. **There’s work to be done.”** -E&E News 13/8/21 eenews.net

It has been said that the best time to act on climate change was 10 years ago but the next best time is right now.

This sobering scientific report sets out in the clearest terms yet, the scale of the challenge we face in terms of tackling Climate Breakdown.

Climate Change is here now. Many of us thought our children and grandchildren would be the first to experience Climate Change but our climate is breaking down before our eyes. We have seen it ourselves this summer with dangerous and destructive weather at home and abroad.

Some of the changes outlined in the IPCC report are irreversible so time is running out. We need everyone on board to tackle this. We need politicians from all political parties and none and we need people in every single sector to come on board with urgency.

A truly sobering day for our planet and our future but there are opportunities for Ireland and opportunities for Waterford in addressing this.

Níneart go cur le chéile.

(Marc Ó Cathasaigh TD Green Party TD for Waterford tweet re IPCC AR6 2021).

The WCCC Survival Plan needs to be guided by the Summary for Policy Makers in the IPCC Report. Here are the headline statements from that Summary:

|  |
| --- |
| **Headline Statements**page1image4269702992 **from the Summary for Policymakers**  9 August 2021  **A. The Current State of the Climate**   1. **A.1**It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. 2. **A.2**The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years. 3. **A.3**Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). 4. **A.4**Improved knowledge of climate processes, paleoclimate evidence and the response of the climate system to increasing radiative forcing gives a best estimate of equilibrium climate sensitivity of 3°C, with a narrower range compared to AR5.   **B. Possible Climate Futures**   1. **B.1**Global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered. Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades. 2. **B.2**Many changes in the climate system become larger in direct relation to increasing global warming. They include increases in the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions, and proportion of intense tropical cyclones, as well as reductions in Arctic sea ice, snow cover and permafrost. 3. **B.3**Continued global warming is projected to further intensify the global water cycle, including its variability, global monsoon precipitation and the severity of wet and dry events. 4. **B.4**Under scenarios with increasing CO2 emissions, the ocean and land carbon sinks are projected to be less effective at slowing the accumulation of CO2 in the atmosphere. 5. **B.5**Many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible for centuries to millennia, especially changes in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level. |
| page2image4267240000 |
| **C. Climate Information for Risk Assessment and Regional Adaptation**   1. **C.1**Natural drivers and internal variability will modulate human-caused changes, especially at regional scales and in the near term, with little effect on centennial global warming. These modulations are important to consider in planning for the full range of possible changes. 2. **C.2**With further global warming, every region is projected to increasingly experience concurrent and multiple changes in climatic impact-drivers. Changes in several climatic impact-drivers would be more widespread at 2°C compared to 1.5°C global warming and even more widespread and/or pronounced for higher warming levels. 3. **C.3**Low-likelihood outcomes, such as ice sheet collapse, abrupt ocean circulation changes, some compound extreme events and warming substantially larger than the assessed *very likely* range of future warming cannot be ruled out and are part of risk assessment.   **D. Limiting Future Climate Change**   1. **D.1**From a physical science perspective, limiting human-induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO2 emissions, reaching at least net zero CO2 emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions. Strong, rapid and sustained reductions in CH4 emissions would also limit the warming effect resulting from declining aerosol pollution and would improve air quality. 2. **D.2**Scenarios with low or very low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (SSP1-1.9 and SSP1- 2.6) lead within years to discernible effects on greenhouse gas and aerosol concentrations, and air quality, relative to high and very high GHG emissions scenarios (SSP3-7.0 or SSP5-8.5). Under these contrasting scenarios, discernible differences in trends of global surface temperature would begin to emerge from natural variability within around 20 years, and over longer time periods for many other climatic impact-drivers (*high confidence*). |

“All 195 governments which form the [#IPCC](https://twitter.com/hashtag/IPCC?src=hashtag_click) have approved every single word in the Summary for Policymakers as an accurate description of the underlying scientific evidence. They all understand the evidence, the consequences experienced now & the substantial risks for the future.”

* Ed Hawkins Climate Scientist, University of Reading/NCAS | IPCC AR6 Lead Author @ed\_hawkins

1. What’s in PlaceUse what WCCC already has in place and build on it, like its Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Adaptation won’t be enough but this strategy is the bones on which WCCC can build an Action Plan for Survival and it is recent, adopted in 2019:

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

On 12th September 2019, Waterford City and County Council's "Climate Change Adaptation Strategy" was adopted by the elected members of Waterford City and County Council. The strategy will have a duration of 5 years and run until 2024 and be subject to a biannual review. The strategy was developed by the Environment Department of Waterford City and County Council. Support and guidance in the development of the strategy was provided by the “Department of Communications, Climate Action &Environment” and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Climate Action Regional Offices.  The strategy focuses on the implementation of adaptation measures, which ensures communities, and society as a whole, become resilient to the impacts and risks of climate change.

This adaptation strategy forms part of the **National Adaptation Framework (NAF)** which was published in response to the provisions of the **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015**. As the level of government closest to local communities and enterprise and as first responders in many emergencies, WCCC are uniquely placed to effect real positive change with respect to delivery of the national transition objective to a low carbon society and a climate resilience future.

This local authority (LA) adaptation strategy takes on the role as the primary instrument at a local level to:

 Ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change.

 Bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner.

 Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of the LA.

This adaptation strategy serves WCCC in its main capacities namely:

 As an organisation with an obligation towards customer service, a focus on effectiveness in business, improving efficiencies and maintaining staff welfare.

 In the delivery of services and functions across the administrative and geographical area of Waterford city and county.

 In accordance with the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 this adaptation strategy is required to be adopted by members of WCCC.

**Downloads**

[Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024](file:///C:\Users\alanoneill\Library\Containers\com.microsoft.Word\media\environment\WCCC%20Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20Strategy.PDF)

But don’t let the fact that you have a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in place fool you into thinking that you’ve done your bit for climate change!

1. MindshiftWCCC Councillors and staff need to shift their mindset into Survival Action Plan mode from here until 2030. For example consider these points:

* Truth is we are developed enough, we have enough of everything.
* Let’s identify what we have that is sustainable and let’s sustain it.
* It may come down to earn less and live or earn more and die.
* If there was a tsunami coming would you try to get off the beach or not?
* Are you brave enough to show you care or worried or scared?
* Dare you mention Greta Thurnberg?
* Is WCCC up to the necessary mindshift?

Change the goal from “more” to “prosper within limits”, - thenongrowthsociety.com

1. Read this or the intro and his 12 headings if you’re short on time:

<https://alexsteffen.substack.com/p/discontinuity-is-the-job?s=09>

**“Unfortunately, the need for planning is still snorting and kicking. You and I and everyone we know still need to try to make a living, care for our families, build some security and enjoy a good life, even in the midst of the collapse of continuity. Even with the loss of predictability, we still have to go to work in the morning. We still have to plan ahead as best we can.”**

But:

There are HUNDREDS of ways to make a small differences. That’s like putting a parachute on the back of the speeding train as we add more energy. Yes, there is a slight difference made, but no, it won’t really help us.

We must use **BOLD, BIG,** and **GLOBAL** measures now, not small little changes slowly. But keep doing them too.(QCP 1-10 Draft.pdf, page 8 of 38).

“… responding to the planetary crisis …..is an even bigger job now than “merely” staving off further planetary catastrophe.”.

“On top of that, we still tend to act as if old things and systems, slightly improved, will do the job. They won’t.”

“That’s because we’re in the midst of an all-encompassing discontinuity, and no one knows anything for sure about what’s coming. Predictability is extinct.”

“No one can offer us maps of the wilds ahead. “

“The planetary crisis is not an issue, but a change in era.”

The challenge for WCCC, the Department of the Environment, the Government and all of us is that :

*“Who* makes what decision matters, ….. We live, right now, with professional networks of expert decision-makers who are deeply committed……to making the same kinds of decisions they’ve been rewarded for making before.

They are the owners, investors, managers, bankers, engineers, lawyers, consultants, elected officials, bureaucrats, union bosses, advocacy leaders, philanthropists, journalists and academics who are expert at building and running the systems that surround us today. The decisions they’ve been making have brought humanity to the brink of ruin.

We desperately need better decision-makers—or at least decision-makers with better sets of incentives and interests.”

This is what WCCC Councillors, planners and engineers have the potential to be.

Now is the time not to grasp the nettle but to look after the nettle before it withers and dies, along with the butterfly that lays its eggs on it.

“**It would be great if we lived in a time whose problems could be solved slowly, thoughtfully and gently. We do not.”**

“The planetary crisis writhes with steepening problems—problems that not only get worse as we fail to solve them, but get worse at an increasing rate.”

Discontinuity is the Job, **How climate change and the planetary crisis are changing what works.**, Alex Steffen 9th August 2021

1. In addition

The IPCC AR6 was worked out from 10,000 scientific papers and 200 expert contributors so there is no shortage of supportive information as to why WCCC needs a Survival Plan and not a Development Plan. But here are some links in support of the IPPCC AR6 conclusion and of this submission:

With weather patterns going crazy right across the globe, 13,000 scientists are calling for immediate action on the climate crisis in the influential journal BioScience.  Out of 31 vital signs measuring the planet’s health, the journal says, 18 show record highs or lows.

|  |
| --- |
| [**Stark shift in Irish climate as country gets wetter and warmer, warns environmental watchdog**](https://theirishtimes.lt.emlnk1.com/Prod/link-tracker?redirectUrl=aHR0cHMlM0ElMkYlMkZ3d3cuaXJpc2h0aW1lcy5jb20lMkZuZXdzJTJGZW52aXJvbm1lbnQlMkZzdGFyay1zaGlmdC1pbi1pcmlzaC1jbGltYXRlLWFzLWNvdW50cnktZ2V0cy13ZXR0ZXItYW5kLXdhcm1lci13YXJucy1lbnZpcm9ubWVudGFsLXdhdGNoZG9nLTEuNDY0NDk5MCUzRmxvY2FsTGlua3NFbmFibGVkJTNEZmFsc2UlMjZ1dG1fc291cmNlJTNETmV3c2xldHRlciUyNnV0bV9tZWRpdW0lM0RlbWFpbCUyNnV0bV9jb250ZW50JTNEUlNTJTI1M0FJVEVNJTI1M0FUSVRMRSUyNnV0bV9jYW1wYWlnbiUzRG1vcm5pbmdfYnJpZWZpbmdfZGlnZXN0&a=89275494&account=theirishtimes%2Eactivehosted%2Ecom&email=ZCy5b2s8KWQqe%2BkPznLL8w%3D%3D&s=7faf87e7a316e74f089b20518cb60abf&i=14196A14016A15A662052) |
| [Fifteen of the top 20 warmest years on record in Ireland have occurred since 1990, report finds](https://theirishtimes.lt.emlnk1.com/Prod/link-tracker?redirectUrl=aHR0cHMlM0ElMkYlMkZ3d3cuaXJpc2h0aW1lcy5jb20lMkZuZXdzJTJGZW52aXJvbm1lbnQlMkZzdGFyay1zaGlmdC1pbi1pcmlzaC1jbGltYXRlLWFzLWNvdW50cnktZ2V0cy13ZXR0ZXItYW5kLXdhcm1lci13YXJucy1lbnZpcm9ubWVudGFsLXdhdGNoZG9nLTEuNDY0NDk5MCUzRmxvY2FsTGlua3NFbmFibGVkJTNEZmFsc2UlMjZ1dG1fc291cmNlJTNETmV3c2xldHRlciUyNnV0bV9tZWRpdW0lM0RlbWFpbCUyNnV0bV9jb250ZW50JTNEUlNTJTI1M0FJVEVNJTI1M0FUSVRMRSUyNnV0bV9jYW1wYWlnbiUzRG1vcm5pbmdfYnJpZWZpbmdfZGlnZXN0&a=89275494&account=theirishtimes%2Eactivehosted%2Ecom&email=ZCy5b2s8KWQqe%2BkPznLL8w%3D%3D&s=7faf87e7a316e74f089b20518cb60abf&i=14196A14016A15A662052) |

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/stark-shift-in-irish-climate-as-country-gets-wetter-and-warmer-watchdog-warns-1.4644990>

Sharing research:

<https://www.springernature.com/gp/researchers/sdg-programme?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_content=ads&utm_campaign=CMTL_1_RS_CMTL_SDG_TW_ad3&s=09>

“Something shifted this summer. [Climate change](https://inews.co.uk/news/environment/climate-change-what-can-do-help-fight-gloal-warming-un-report-ipcc-explained-1142098) went from a distant threat to a clear-and-present danger. Something which once seemed like it would affect our grandchildren was happening to us today.

[Flash floods in Germany, Belgium and the UK saw the effects of climate change wash into our homes](https://inews.co.uk/opinion/columnists/uk-flooding-extreme-weather-homes-change-withstand-climate-crisis-1131531) and local streets. The images of wildfires in Turkey and Greece showed a world on fire, a Dante-like portrayal of the warnings we’d received for years come vividly to life.

Little has changed in the science. What we’re experiencing is a change in psychology. Something abstract has become concrete.“ -Ian Dunt inews.co.uk

<https://inews.co.uk/opinion/post-truth-politics-brexit-covid-threaten-britains-climate-change-response-1146087?s=09>

“In November world leaders will gather in Glasgow to take stock of global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions building on the landmark Paris agreement in 2015. Back then leaders pledged to limit global average temperature rises to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, with an aspiration to keep the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees.

So what must we do and how can sciences help?”

- [**Government Office for Science**](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/government-office-for-science) and [**Sir Patrick Vallance**](https://www.gov.uk/government/people/patrick-vallance) 10 August 2021 www.gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-need-for-action-on-climate-change-is-urgent?s=09>

“In 1745, as the river Liffey, having broken its banks, clawed at the foundations of the house in which he sat, the young Edmund Burke experienced a strange, perverse thrill. The man who would go on to found modern conservatism drew inspiration from this experience in a later essay on the sublime, writing of the unmatched delight that terrible destruction could stir—provided that it is watched from a certain distance.

The most terrible thing about the spectacular scenes of destruction that have played out around the world over the past weeks is that **there is no safe place from which to observe them.**” – The Economist July 24th 2021 economist.com

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2021/07/24/a-3degc-world-has-no-safe-place?utm_campaign=a_climatechange_fy2122_q2_conversion-cb-dr_abo-allaudiences&utm_medium=social-paid&utm_source=twitter&utm_content=content_staticlinkad_np-3degcworld-n-jul_article&utm_term=followers&twclid=11425078742397988864&s=09>

“There isn’t enough space on planet earth for the number of trees we need to offset the carbon we’ve been producing. Carbon emissions still increased in 2020 despite the Covid lockdown across the globe.”

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/the-biggest-problem-with-carbon-offsetting-is-that-it-doesnt-really-work/?source=GA&subsource=GOFRNAOAGA024K&gclid=CjwKCAjwgb6IBhAREiwAgMYKRlDfNhjHQVZZ-G9jgnqlkoMU0uDzQqYvjSDb8HXP8CK1as-22smWHRoChHcQAvD_BwE>

“The science is clear. Climate change is widespread, rapid and intensifying, according to the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). However, no one needs scientists to tell us the climate is changing.” - Ciarán Cuffeindependent.ie August 10th 2021

<https://m.independent.ie/opinion/comment/the-time-to-act-against-climate-change-is-right-now-40734636.html>

“Dogger Bank on course to be the world’s largest offshore windfarm in a region built on coal

* [UK’s green economy four times larger than manufacturing sector, says report](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/10/uks-green-economy-four-times-larger-than-manufacturing-sector-says-report)
* [Abandoned pits of former mining town fuel green job creation](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/10/abandoned-pits-former-mining-town-seaham-county-durham-fuel-green-revolution)”

-Jillian Ambrose 10 August 2021 thegaurdian.com

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/10/green-revolution-brings-fresh-hope-to-north-east-england?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other>

“The relative resilience of Ireland’s economy was buoyed by its continuing success in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), which proved highly resilient during 2020.

It helped, of course, that Ireland is strong in key sectors that survived and even thrived during the pandemic, especially ICT, medtech and pharmaceuticals.

Today, 257,000 people are directly employed by foreign direct investment (FDI) in Ireland, a 35 per cent increase over five years. In the first quarter of 2021, IDA Ireland clients, the government agency in charge of attracting FDI, accounted directly for 11.5 per cent of national employment, up from 10.7 per cent in 2019.

“To be adding jobs at this level looks like a remarkable outcome,” said IDA Ireland’s CEO Martin Shanahan in January 2021, before adding that “we cannot rest on our laurels and take investment for granted.”

Nonetheless, it augurs well for growth: Ireland’s economy is projected to increase by 4.6 per cent in 2021 and 5.0 per cent in 2022, according to the European Commission’s Spring Economic Forecast.” -ida.ft.com

<https://ida.ft.com/article/the-secrets-of-attraction-how-ireland-lures-multinationals?utm_source=TW&utm_medium=business&utm_content=paid&twclid=11424090224653750275&s=09>

Toyota Developing Hydrogen combustion Engine Technologies Through Motorsports

Toyota City, Japan, April 22, 2021―Toyota Motor Corporation (Toyota) announced today that, toward the achievement of a carbon-neutral mobility society, it is developing a hydrogen engine. It has installed the engine on a racing vehicle based on Toyota's Corolla Sport,

hydrogen engines generate power through the combustion of hydrogen using fuel supply and injection systems that have been modified from those used with gasoline engines. Except for the combustion of minute amounts of engine oil during driving, which is also the case with gasoline engines, hydrogen engines emit zero CO2 when in use.

Combustion in hydrogen engines occurs at a faster rate than in gasoline engines, resulting in a characteristic of good responsiveness. While having excellent environmental performance, hydrogen engines also have the potential to relay the fun of driving, including through sounds and vibrations.

Toyota has long engaged in the innovation of engine technology. Also, it is applying in production vehicles the technologies that it has continued to refine through its participation in motorsports, with the GR Yaris launched last September being one example. And when it comes to safety, Toyota intends to apply the technologies and know-how that it has accumulated through the development of fuel cell vehicles and the commercialization of the Mirai.

Plans are for the hydrogen-engine-powered race vehicle announced today to be fueled during races using hydrogen produced\* at the Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field in Namie Town, Fukushima Prefecture. While aiming to expand hydrogen infrastructure by promoting hydrogen use, Toyota intends to continue advancing efforts for economic recovery and revitalization of the Tohoku region together with all parties concerned.

Toward achieving carbon neutrality, Toyota has been strengthening its efforts, such as by aiming to promote the use of hydrogen through the popularization of FCEVs and numerous other fuel-cell-powered products. By further refining its hydrogen-engine technologies through motorsports, Toyota intends to aim for the realization of an even better hydrogen-based society.

<https://global.toyota/en/newsroom/corporate/35209996.html>

“When it comes to how we are responding to climate change, it has also been a busy few weeks. The European Union recently published the much-anticipated ‘Fit for 55’ package, which although sounds like a fitness plan, is in fact the most transformative plan the EU has ever introduced and is intended to be our roadmap towards a climate safe future. Here at home, the long-awaited Climate Bill has finally been signed into law and sets [Ireland](https://www.irishtimes.com/news) on a path to cutting our carbon emissions by 51 per cent by 2030 compared with 2018 levels, and to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

While many would argue that we should be going much further with our climate ambitions, do we yet grasp what these current commitments will mean for us? Do we yet understand that this transition, if it is to be successful, is going to be steep and radical? Do we yet understand that no matter who we are, nearly every aspect of our lives is going to be impacted? Do we yet understand that it is going to take all of us to make it happen?”

# Where are the climate allies?Opinion: Do we yet understand it requires all of us to respond together on climate action?Fri, Jul 30, 2021, Ali Sheridan

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/science/where-are-the-climate-allies-1.4634258>

“The topics on the list move beyond the purely pragmatic to include self-reflection, relationships and the interconnected nature of life and death.” – willoweol.com

<https://willoweol.com/product/reality-of-our-mortality-planning-checklist/?fbclid=IwAR1VwHiyFtEuZh5VAXkhmGpc5sGvVBP5znSF0XbmsITfoPx7OdGREmMBlII>

“The pace of climate change, and the insufficiency of humanity’s current response, have effectively already made the choice for us: mankind will have to engage in some kind of “geoengineering” – an umbrella term for various methods of intentional, planetary-scale climate intervention – whether we like it or not.”

- [**Opinion**](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/commentisfree)**What if it’s too late to save our planet without geoengineering?**

[*Moira Donegan*](https://www.theguardian.com/profile/moira-donegan) *amp.theguardian.com*

<https://amp.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/aug/26/planet-earth-climate-crisis-geoengineering?__twitter_impression=true&s=09>

### [Climate & Environment](https://www.businesspost.ie/climate-environment" \o "Climate & Environment)

# Ireland produces most plastic waste per person in EU

New statistics also show that this country has the fourth-lowest recycling rate of plastics in the European Union – Daniel MurrayPolitical Correspondent[@danieltmurray](https://twitter.com/danieltmurray) businesspost.ie

<https://www.businesspost.ie/climate-environment/ireland-produces-most-plastic-waste-per-person-in-eu-e6b7c1f4>

NOAA [Climate.gov](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2FClimate.gov%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR14bgwT5Fy5EqAfbnMf4QWUE_WHuN2nKtHtjNUQbCGQVWAre2m8Ir7eVKc&h=AT1oT362HlQN2H4d_yfYSxi21aI13cxztDtLjVVs5JjTgmh2ua7GMRLkxKbUh2KUBd8SHk46kgfTmQmt9bQOwEGVHnW94B6blwLuWhPOrmwcdt-5_1DFhnAkQAFD23CE2GEFbegltQ) provides science and information for a climate-smart nation. Visit [www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov/?fbclid=IwAR0nJO4wCMNkUNkhlDpWpQvwwXJr6zKETMn6O-7EPSiih-aSJxDm_Pj9xtU) and follow us on Twitter (@NOAAClimate) and YouTube ([http://www.youtube.com/NOAAClimate](https://www.youtube.com/NOAAClimate?fbclid=IwAR04Lw2yfvGA3n24ucnHA7xUBbosugh3sCNRE9IC8HtJ6qvOO-NT90nnFso)).

<https://www.facebook.com/NOAAClimateGov/>

“Watch "Hydrogen Boilers, Heat Pumps & The Future of Heating" on YouTube:

Why hydrogen boilers? But for the heating and hot water industry, removing carbon is much more difficult, largely because of the existing infrastructure, where the majority of UK homes use natural gas for heating Yet, with a third of UK greenhouse gases coming from our homes, it is quite clear that the UK will not meet its climate change targets without a change in home heating technology and fuel. Replacing natural gas boilers with hydrogen gas may be the simplest solution to the nation’s heating problems. The only by-product of burning hydrogen gas is water, meaning that it is a carbon-free fuel source and could be a key method to help decarbonise heating and hot water in UK homes.”

<https://youtu.be/4uNKPDREa-Q>

Other experts and sources worth connecting to online:

Trond Larrson Conservation International

@JadeArcheobot

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti “Green New Deal 2019”. California Global Warming Solutions 2006, cutting greenhouse emissions, brought forward 0CO2 emissions to 2035.

FT The Big Red Climate Change 13.8.21 Coastal Erosion.

UK’s Hydrogen Energy Push.

@irishenviro

Onefuture.ie

Coalition 2030 and Environmental Pillar

Irishtimes.com/eyeonnature/michaelviney/Saturday14thaugust2021

1. Restrictions

If you think Covid restrictions are challenging they are only a preparation for the climate change restrictions that are going to have to be imposed on us all if we are going to survive past 2030 and until 2050.

So here’s a start at the

Survival Plan:

Waterford CCC Draft Survival Plan

2021-2030

“We have a profound choice as to which path we travel.”

-Dr. Adam Levy @ClimateAdam Climate-scientist

Suggestions about Step 1 and 2 re set out here below.

How we create the balance between survival, our needs & wants, the environment & our biodiverse companions on this planet has got to be addressed immediately & every suggestion scientifically audited before inclusion, adoption or implementation if we're going to survive. 9 years!

Ground Zero:

0.0 Waterford City and County Council Statement on Climate Change

Waterford City and County Council's "Climate Change Adaptation Strategy"will now become the priority document to lead Waterford City and County’s Development Plan for the next 9 years.

It will be called the WCCC Survival Plan 2030

Right now there are only two priorities:C&C: Covid and Climate.

Sort these and we may be OK.

2030 you say?

That's the agreed 9 year deadline to hold global temp increase to 1.5°C.

"Deadline" is apt.

If we don't hold the temperature we can forget about housing, budgets, politics, economics, the lot.

So, let’s start by examining what we’ve got:

Waterford City & County Council Vision Statement from the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019.

Waterford City & County Council recognises that climate change adaptation will be one of the biggest challenges for the local authority this century.

Waterford City & County Council will endeavour to implement best practices and incorporate solutions that will meet climate change adaptation requirements and service the needs of the communities.

This is a fairly weak vision statement and will need to be strengthened as will the two bullet pointsfrom the introduction:

Climate Change requires a policy response in both:

⮚Adaptation to ensure communities, and society as a whole, become resilient to the impacts and risks of climate change.

⮚Mitigation to considerably reduce greenhouse gas emissions. (This item will be covered in other policy documents and not this “Adaptation Strategy”).

The strengthened version:

Climate Change requires an active response in:

⮚Adaptation to ensure communities, and society as a whole, survive the impacts and risks of climate change.

⮚Mitigation to considerably reduce greenhouse gas emissionsby 2030. (This item will be covered in WCCC’s “Survival Plan”).

⮚Achieving the IPCC Climate Goals by 2030.

⮚Reducing carbon emissions by 2030 enough to hold global temperature increase at 1.5 degrees centigrade.

⮚Being the model for all of the Local Authorities in Ireland and for the “Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment”and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Climate Action Regional Offices.

⮚Having this Survival Plan Focus for Local Authorities adopted as Government and National Policy by 2022.

In its new format the first phase of the strategy will have a duration of 4 years and run until 2026 and be subject to annual review and scientific auditing of progress. The second phase of the strategy will have a duration of 4 years and run until 2030 and be subject to annual review and scientific auditing of progress.

The strategy will be reviewed and updated by the Environment Department of Waterford City and County Council. Support and guidance in the development of the strategy will be provided by theSchools of Science, Engineering and Architecture at WIT and UCC.

The strategy focuses on the implementation of adaptation measures, which ensures communities, and society as a whole, become resilient to AND SURVIVE the impacts and risks of climate changewhile achieving the goals of IPCC AR6.

**The WCCC views the climate crisis as the defining issue of our time.**

It is already here. Mega-droughts, wildfires, flooding and extreme heat are making growing parts of our planet uninhabitable. As parts of the world, including Waterford, emerge from the pandemic, carbon emissions are again on the rise, risking a rare opportunity to transition to a more sustainable future.

The WCCC has committed itself to ending the use of fossil fuel and its by-products. WCCC has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030. WCCCis consistently increasing its investment in environmental sustainability and promotion, recognising that an informed public is crucial to keeping the worst of the crisis at bay.

For Waterford and the world the choice is between Development or Survival.

Using Chapter 1 of the WCCC Draft Development Plan as a template here’s the path the WCCC Survival Plan needs to take:

Chapter 1:

Waterford and the Survival Plan

**Having put the** [**Draft Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022 - 2028**](https://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie/en/consultation/draft-waterford-city-and-county-development-plan-2022-2028)**on hold and rewriting it as a Survival Plan:**

"Development" needs to be dropped in titles of National, County, & City Plans.

Development is the last thing we need if we are going to survive climate change.

2030 National Survival Plan & 2030 Regional Survival Plan is what they need to be called from now on.

### 1.0    Introduction

This **Survival** Plan tells exactly where and how we want **Waterford to survive climate change.** It draws on our scientific knowledge, and uses our skills and expertise **to ensure sustainable social, environmental, and economic survival so that we and our children and grandchildren have a future**, with a focus on saving and maintaining our communities.

Due to the need to **prioritise survival over the next 9 years in the face of climate change** the usual Development Plan has been put on hold by the Waterford City and County Council Planning Authority, for the whole local authority area. The Development Plan is a statutory planning document, normally made in accordance with Section 9(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and was to cover a six-year period from 2022 - 2028.**Our survival has had to take precedence.**

The Survival Plan has been written in the context of **the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report 2021, the Department of the Environment policy**and the **necessity for national survival strategies, policy and guidance** to be written into the National Planning Framework, Project Ireland 2040 (NPF), and the Southern Regional Assembly’s Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (SRSES), **and the renaming of these as:**

* **the National SURVIVAL Framework, Project Ireland 2040 (NPF), and**
* **the Southern Regional Assembly’s Regional SURVIVAL Strategy (SRSS).**
* <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy/d7a12b-climate-action-and-environment/?s=09>

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The survival plan-making process has also been informed by a wide range of legislation which is detailed in 1.7 below, including a number of European Directives and their associated legislation, **including (but not limited to) these that are key to avoiding the devastating effects of climate change on our environment, bio-diversity, coastline and coastal settlements, and our water**:

* Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) (Appendix 19 Environmental Report)
* Stage 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Appendix 13)
* Habitats Directive Assessment (92/43/EEC) (Appendix 20 Natura Impact Report)
* EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)
* Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

**The Survival Plan is to be scientifically based and audited, and targets what we have to do to try to avoid the effects of climate change. It does this by focusing on issues which are nationally or regionally important,** or which can be best dealt with by Waterford City and County Council, and also by the Council working in partnership with the whole community at every level in the county and city and any other key stakeholders.

The Survival Plan is supported by an Action Programme which shows how we will **realise our objectives and goals to survive climate change** locally, regionally and nationally with the help of us all and our partners/stakeholders in the scientific and engineering community based on their requirements for progressing and monitoring the Survival Plan implementation.

* 1. Our Survival

**The Survival Plan is to have WCC focused on making its utmost efforts and regional contribution to holding the global temperature rise over the next nine years to 1.5 degrees centigrade or lower in line with the UN IPCC Report 2021 and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.**

Inspired by the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) 2021, by 2030 Waterford City and County will have contained the worst effects of climate change on the city and county and will be devolving to become appreciated for its leadership on climate change, held in high esteem by its people for putting their survival first, being seen as a resilient and sustainable place, anchored by Waterford Cityasthe Regional Capital for Containing Climate Change (WCCCCC), based on the scientific and engineering know-how of its University and Learning City, and being the monitoring centre for a sustainable economy for the region. It will be a safe place to live, model restraint, and remain sustainable in the long term.

We will be recognised as the Regional Capital and for:

* **Our enterprise and inventiveness in a scientifically assured knowledge economy and markets that don’t contribute to climate change or global increases in temperature–** with a particular focus on biopharmaceuticals that are **environmentally friendly**, technological innovation that reduces the impact of climate change, tourism via **EV or hydrogen** based transport only, **organic**food and drink, **hugely reduced fishing**, and **sustainable** industries

**“Three profound lessons can be drawn from the coronavirus pandemic** **for the ongoing climate crisis.**

First, the pandemic has thrown the spotlight on the capacity of the global population for behavioral change and adaptation in the face of severe exogenous shocks—as well as the limitations of that capacity. Second, the profound disruption caused by the pandemic underlines the need for constructive and timely international cooperation in confronting global challenges and their effects. And third, the crucial role of technology in driving forward solutions has become more than apparent during the pandemic. Leaders will need to build on these lessons to confront looming environmental challenges.”

(Paul A. Laudicina and Erik R. Peterson Kearney.com)

(Mark Carney Former Governor of the Bank of England on How International Funding is already investing in Green Technology).

* The development and growth of our educational capital through putting our University online by following the Open University model and auditing its synergies with the broader economy**so that they don’t contribute to the global rise in temperature or carbon emissions**; and,
* Our unique built, historic, cultural and natural environment, which will be protected and, where appropriate, and **in line with carbon footprint guidelines,** enhanced as a key asset in **underpinning survival and quality of life and place for people, and flora and fauna.**

1. Decision makers will have acted confidently and taken the courageous decisions necessary to **ensure the survival of all those living here** and to review, maintain and manage a humane, resilient and sustainableecology and economy**because with further global warming, every region is projected to increasingly experience concurrent and multiple changes in climatic impact-drivers. Changes in several climatic impact-drivers would be more widespread at 2°C compared to 1.5°C global warming and even more widespread and/or pronounced for higher warming levels.**(See: Headline Statement C2 from the Summary for Policymakers IPCC Report 9th August 2021)

.The Council will have taken a **proactive approach towards survival**that ensures and oversees appropriate and sustainable development, that comprehensively:

* Ensures the sustainable use of natural resources;
* Enables us to live within the area’s environmental capacity;
* Enables and enhances our survival of climate change; and,
* Creates a safe, secure, more ecologically aware, diverse and inclusive society.

**Although the Council will lead the way, many other stakeholders and organisations will be involved in delivering the Survival for our City and County. To make Survival a reality, and to contribute towards the NSF and SRS aims of INCREASINGOUR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL sustainable economic management and compact climate-conscious urban development, we have developed a series of aims.**

These are to:

* **Take on the urgent challenges of climate change.**
* Provide a strong framework for investment decisions **which will ensure that we survive climate change** by helping to audit, review and manage the regional economy in a sustainable manner, and promote and **facilitate the maintenance of some quality of life within a 1.5 degree Centigrade temperature increase** over the next 9 years in all parts of the City and County;
* Promote the need to use resources more efficiently and effectively whilst protecting, where ecologically and scientifically appropriate and in line with the requirements of surviving climate change, enhancing our assets; and,
* Take on the urgent challenges of climate change.

To support these aims, this Plan will need to:

* Make sure the area has enough **NZEB Rated homes** and job opportunities to support the level of services and facilities needed to survive climate change and to maintain some quality of life;
* Ensure an adequate supply of zoned and serviced land at appropriate locations **that has been scientifically audited for carbon footprint and sequestering**;
* Protect and**ensure the survival of**our valued assets and resources, including biodiversity, the historic and natural environment, and our cultural heritage;
* Help create **a low-carbon future** for sustainable mixed communities, and in the provision of associated infrastructure, which will meet the highest standards of **carbon intensity reduction**in placemaking and urban and rural design, and cater for the **survival** of the whole population;
* Encourage opportunities for greater digital connectivity across the City and County**subject to energy production audits and reviews that show the increase of energy production to at least 50% renewables by 2030 in line with the ESB’s Brighter Future Strategy and its climate action focus**, and

<http://esb.ie/tns/brighter-future/sustainability-in-esb>

* Extend, where appropriate and feasible**within the requirements necessary for survival**, and make the most efficient **and ecologically** sound use of the transport network, reducing the need for people to travel **including tourists**and making sure that walking, cycling and public transport **that isEV and Hydrogen based**are available, attractive and **absolute**choices.**This includes transport coming in and out of the County and City.**
* **Due to their huge carbon footprint alternatives to tarmac and concrete as road and pathway surfaces will be researched and sustainable zero carbon solutions implemented.**

We need to plan for:

* Increased heat.
* More rain.
* Rising sea levels.
* Applying scientific rigour.
* Carbon auditing.
* Reducing rising temperatures.
* Slashing emissions.
* Ending climate-changing human behaviour.
* Sustainable electricity and hydrogen production.
* Survival.

“We need to plan for more intense heat and rainfall, and worse. Sea level rise will continue. World will warm until 2050. Once we stop global mean temperature from rising the extreme events will start to stop too. There have been hundreds of scientific reports in the last 8 years from dedicated researchers globally that show clearly that it is human influence that is causing climate change. We must slash emissions, halving them by 2030 and having net zero CO2 emissions by 2050, while holding the global temperature rise as close to 1.5 degrees centigrade as we can.”

-Dr.Friederike Otto UN IPCC 2021 Lead-Author IPCC AR6 with 200 experts. Associate director at ECI The University of Oxford's interdisciplinary research institute looking into the processes, solutions and partnerships relating to global environmental change,[@ecioxford](https://twitter.com/ecioxford) , speaking on BBC Radio 4 11th August 2011.

* 1. Rewrite the Whole Thing!

The whole development plan needs to be rewritten as the WCCC Survival Plan.

The time and resources were not available to do that for this submission but here are some excerpts from the development plan edited for survival by 2030:

Excerpt from 1.2 The Development Plan in Context has been rewritten here for Survival to accommodate the huge change in focus required to get this right:

To put the Survival Plan in context, it is also worth noting that the required Survival Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2021 need to be based on the UN’s IPCC AR6 Report 21 and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to highlight the need for the Survival Plan to utilise international, national and regional agreements and frameworks such as the IPCC Report 2021 and the SDGs, to inform and structure land use policies at the city and county level. These in turn, provide a basis for day-to-day planning decisions. In this regard a good Survival Plan will:

• Create a clear strategic framework for the survival and sustainability of the area and its people over the duration of the plan, consistent with longer- term planning for zero emissions by 2050 and sustainable survival aims, including those set out in the IPCC Report 2021 and in the UN’s SDGs.

• Set out an over-arching vision for the survival of the area to which the plan relates.

• Give clear expression to the economic, social and cultural threats from climate change to the County and City in the context of the national survival plan.

Survival Strategy.

• Be grounded in public and political consensus around the plan’s strategic framework.

• Provide a clear framework for public and private sector investment in infrastructure and in development in the area that will achieve the aim to hold global temperature at 1.5 degrees centigrade by 2030 and zero emissions by 2050, having regard to both international national and regional agreements, plans and policies to achieve these goals.

• Protect and enhance the amenities of the area and the lives of all of the people living in the City and County be prioritising the required reduction in climate change.

• Offer clear guidance to developers in framing development proposals and to the planning authority in assessing such proposals that no development will be undertaken that will contribute negatively to climate change or greenhouse gas emissions or reduction in bio-diversity.

• Establish a policy framework within which more detailed climate action plans (such as for Local Area Plans (LAPs) or plans for architectural conservation areas (ACAs)) can be drawn up for specific parts of the planning authority’s area.

• Be capable of implementation and monitoring of a Survival Plan, a Survival Strategy and an Action Programme that will actually achieve the UN’s goals for 2030 within the time frame of 9 years.

Thus, and in accordance with the United Nations IPCC AR6 Report 2021, the Paris Accord, the requirements agreed to by the Irish Government and the responsibilities of the Department of Environment, the review of the existing Development Plan(s) and preparation of a new Survival Plan is required to be strategic in nature for the purposes of developing:

• The objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the survival of the people, environment and bio-diversity of Waterford through proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the Survival Plan;

• The core survival strategy; and,

• Shall take account of the statutory, humane and environmental obligations of any local authority in the area, and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being, of the Government or of any Minister of the Government.

The Survival Plan must therefore state a clear vision, provide clear investment and other priorities, and a framework to enable implementation of its Survival strategies, as well as clear and consistent SMARTS (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time, Survival) policies and a development management framework through which predictable decision-making can be assured, based on the central prediction by scientists internationally that unless survival is prioritised global temperatures will increase past 1.5 degrees Centigrade by 2030 and the effects will be catastrophic.

In the light of this being a “red code emergency” it requires an immediate mindshift on the part of WCCC Councillors and staff, on the part of all Local Authorities, of the DEHLG and of Government.

**“KiyohiroHoukin:**Small municipalities in Japan tend to be quite conservative and reluctant to act, but they are also key partners in creating change in a community. While there has always been pressure at universities to change with the times, for local innovations to work, small municipalities need to be willing to change as well;”.

President of Hokkaido University Japan, KiyohiroHoukintalking about a partnership with Hitachi run through the university’s Center of Innovation (COI).Hokkaido University, Hitachi, Nature Research Custom Media,, 2021.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d42473-021-00205-4?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=bcon-Hitachi_Soc5.0__FP_EHI&utm_content=EarlyHealthIntervention&twclid=11428387168221794307&s=09>

Let’s look at Context for example in 1.3:

1.3 Policy Context

The WCCC views the climate crisis as the defining issue of our time. It is already here. Mega-droughts, wildfires, flooding and extreme heat are making growing parts of our planet uninhabitable. As parts of the world emerge from the pandemic, carbon emissions are again on the rise, risking a rare opportunity to transition to a more sustainable future.

The WCCC has renounced fossil fuel usage, becoming the first Irish Local Authority to do so. We have committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030. And we are consistently increasing our investment in environmental enhancing actions, recognising that an informed public is crucial to keeping the worst of the crisis at bay.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/17/uk-homes-low-carbon-hydrogen-economy-jobs>

1.3.1 The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (SRSES)

This needs to be re-titled as The Regional Survival Strategy for the Southern Region (SRSS). The bullet points below have been edited in green to reflect this. It’s worth noting that in the context of climate change and global warming traditional “growth” areasare out of the question. In fact a reduction in growth will be required to achieve the IPCC goals.

The Regional Spatial and Economic SurvivalStrategy for the Southern Regional Assembly (SRSES) were made on the 31stJanuary 2020, and covers the period 2020 - 2026. The SRSES identifies employment and population targets for the region which are consistent with the NPF, along with policy objectives to deliver such growth in a sustainable manner in both urban and rural locations. Through its vision statement the SRSES seeks to:

• Nurture all our places to realise their full potential for survival;

• Protect, and enhance our environment by meeting the requirements of IPCC 2021, the Paris Accord and the UN’s SDGs;

• Survival is essential to maintain economic prosperity and some quality of life for all our citizens;

• Replace the concept ofgrowth with sustainability and only accommodate development in suitable locations where it contributes to the achievement of the goals of the IPCC Report 2021 and of the Paris Agreement; and

• Create the region’s new international reputation as one of Europe’s most creative, innovative, greenest and exemplar regions in terms of ending climate change by demonstrating how the IPCC goals for 2030 are going to be achieved.

The SRSES focused on building critical mass in Waterford City (as well as Limerick and Cork cities), but the new SRSS requires that onlysustainable employment can be supported and population decline will be encouraged,and thereby enhance the function of Waterford City as an model for full climate change reductionin the City region. SRSS also sets out a settlement typology that will follow the same model.

“The 1 thing that never seems to be discussed when talking about the #ClimateEmergency is 'Population.'

If numbers of humans on this planet keep increasing at the huge rate that they currently are, then it won't matter how energy efficient we are, the environment will be destroyed.”

(Dr. Mark D’Arcy Doctor of Molecular Biology on Twitter 25th August 2021 @markoftheD).

The area of the SRSES and its broad strategic concepts and the spatial expression of the strategy for achieving the vision as they relate to Waterford and County and City, as further detailed in Section 2 of Part 1 (Core Strategy) and Part 2 of Volume 1, will be shelved until 2030 at which time they will be reviewed in the context of whether survival has been successfully achieved, and the plan for achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Waterford City and Dungarvan are used here to demonstrate how they will need to be described in the WCCC Survival Plan as against how it is described in the Draft Development Plan.

1.3.2 Waterford City

The MASP recognises that Waterford is the largest urban centre in Ireland’s South-East, and the state’s fifth largest city. The vision for the Waterford MASP is to develop a Concentric City, north and south of the river (including areas in County Kilkenny), based on the guiding sustainable growth principles established in the Waterford Planning, Land-use and Transportation Study 2004 – 2020 (PLUTS) - i.e. building critical mass in a compact and balanced city, Integration of land-use and transportation, development of educational resources and a technical university and recognising the city’s people as the heart of the city’s potentialall of which will now be completely reappraised in light of the IPCC AR6. The Waterford MASP has identified a number of strategic goals. These are briefly summarised as:

1. Future expansion, growth and ambition for the City will be contained and readdressed on a sustainable place framework and principles;

* 1. Metropolitan areas will be connected through actions which seek to deliver efficient, integrated and sustainable survival;
  2. Waterford City will be managed so that its economy will be sustainable by carefully identifying and planning sustainable regional economic growth in specialisation and innovation in climate change reducing processesalong with relevant infrastructure to deliver and sustain survival;
  3. A commitment to trying to maintain some sort of quality environment and some quality of life, as demonstrated through the Healthy City, prioritising a transition to a zero-carbon future and enhanced environmental quality incorporating blue/green infrastructure, a metropolitan area that is creative in terms of its culture, arts and heritage and which fosters an managed tourist experiencethat is dependent on renewable energy;
  4. A socially inclusive, multi-cultural metropolitan area with equal opportunities for survival, learning, supported by actions to overcome climate change, social exclusion, foster lifelong learning, participation in decision making and targeting initiatives to prioritise regeneration of disadvantaged areasand of areas affected by climate change;
  5. The City will be a platform for implementing best practice, pilot initiatives and innovation, particularly with regard to climate action,collaboration, disruptive carbon-reducing technologies, regeneration, compact growth and regeneration projects and monitoring of implementationof the Survival Plan from 2021-2030 and then to 2050; and,
  6. Engage innovative approaches to deliver the strategic priorities with particular emphasis Survival, Reducing CO2 Emissions, Climate Action, Holding Global Temperature at 1.5 degrees Centigrade by 2030, and Net Zero CO2 by 2050 in relation to thedelivery of regeneration/compact growth, and sustainable employment, NZEB-rated residential development through processes such as active land management, agency type approaches, full integration of land use and transportation planning, and innovative approaches to the the national and regional Survival Strategies (the relevant Goal criteria of SRSurvivalSof the relevant Appendix of the SRSurvivalS have been included and considered in the Survival Strategies underpinning this Survival Plan).

Waterford City and Dungarvan are used here to demonstrate how they will need to be described in the WCCC Survival Plan as against how it is described in the Draft Development Plan. The commentary is in the form of notes inserted at various stages in this section.

1.3.3 Dungarvan Key Town

The SRSES notes that Dungarvan (including Abbeyside and Ballinroad), is a former county town and an important economic driver for West Waterford.

For the next 9 years only economic drivers that have been scientifically audited as contributing to the aim to maintain 1.5 degrees C by 2030 will be supported.

The town is resilient in terms of indigenous industry, FDI, retail, tourism, services and community facilities/ amenities. The SRSES notes in particular Dungarvan’s designation as a Gaeltacht Service Town, and its tourist function on the Waterford Greenway.

Tourism’s contribution to climate change will be scientifically reviewed in the context of the IPCC AR6 2021 and how transport other than that fueled by electricity or hydrogen can be used and over how many of the available 9 years will the phasing out of fossil fuels be done in order to achieve our 2030 goal.The Hydrogen powered Wrightbuses being provided to the NTA for Dublin will be provided for Waterford too.

The contribution of tourist accommodation to Waterford’s carbon footprint will be audited to establish the retrofitting required to get existing accommodation up to NZEB standard. The SEAI will be a partner/stakeholder in this process.

Through the implementation of Regional Policy Objective 24, the SRSES seeks to strengthen this function is terms of growing economic activity and population, and providing infrastructure to support this growth;

Carbon-producing economic development and population growth has to be off the agenda. The required economic activity will be on projects and infrastructure to support the reduction in climate change and the survival of Waterford and its people past 2030 and 2050.

in particular, enhanced placemaking and regeneration of the town centre, improvements to the N25 and N72,

Construction and roadworks produce large amounts of carbon. All proposed construction and road works will be scientifically audited to establish their carbon footprint and alternative materials sourced and used as necessary.

upgrades to water and waste water services, and improvements to sustainable transport modes through provision of a Local Transport Plan for the town.

The utilisation of waste water for composting, irrigation and fertilisation purposes will be adopted. Local transport will be hydrogen based in line with the systems being developed in Northern Ireland, Iceland and Japan. The UK has a system of reengineering diesel engines so that they can run on hydrogen and diesel which will be adopted to assist the phased transfer from diesel to hydrogen over the coming years. France has 173 hydrogen service stations already and Germany has over 250.

Wright Bus in Ballymena Co. Antrim are supplying both hydrogen-powered and electric buses to the National Transport Authority in Dublin, so there is a model for Waterford to follow.

The next section is critical to our Survival.

It has been spread out here so that the language used and the documents referred to can be more easily identified and understood:

1.4 Environmental Assessment and Climate Change

In accordance with the provisions of Section 10(1D) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the Development Plan policies and objectives are consistent, as far as practicable, with the conservation and protection of the environment.

Unfortunately “as far as practicable,” isn’t enough anymore, in fact in WCCC development plans it has always been way too indefinite allowing far too much leeway in relation to the conservation and protection of the environmentso that sometimes it hasn’t been conserved or protected.

The preparation of the Development Plan has been informed by :

Strategic Environmental Assessment (Environmental Report Appendix 19), and the Habitats Directive Assessment (Natura Impact Report Appendix 20).

These assessment instruments have been poorly used by WCCC.

Preparation of the Plan has also been informed by:

a Stage 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (Appendix 13), carried out in accordance with the

DOECLG/OPW Guidance ‘Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ (2009). The provisions of chapters (1, 2 & 3 of Volume 1, Volume 2 and land use zoning objectives) demonstrate HDA requirements being incorporated into the implementation of Development Plan policy, and any subsequent Plans or Frameworks.

“Informed by” is way too vague in these times of climate change.

More specifically:

Heritage Policy in Chapter 9 requires that plans and projects with the potential to have a significant impact, directly or through indirect or cumulative impact, on Natura 2000 sites (SAC, SPA and associated Article 10 habitats), are subject to:

With climate change causing life-threatening temperature increases all plans and projectshave the potential to have a significant impact, directly or through indirect or cumulative impact, onevery part of the county, its land, its air, its water, its flora and fauna and us. It is no longer only Natura 2000 sites (SAC, SPA and associated Article 10 habitats)that are vulnerable, though they remain particularly so, but every site in the whole county and every person in it too.

Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and associated legislation and guidelines informing decision making.

The Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) is not onerous enough. For example the smaller size limitations will have to be removed so that this will apply to all plans and projects on all sites.

In terms of compliance with the Water Framework Directive, implications and requirements such as those relating to protecting and enhancing water quality, and securing the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, are evidenced and outlined in Chapter 9. The environmental management policies and objectives are consistent with the District River Basin Management Plan and as such, are deemed compliant in meeting the water quality objectives under the Water Framework Directive.

“deemed compliant” is not a rigorous scientific process. A phone-call to the Environmental Protection Agency will inform WCCC as to what the actual water quality is in the City and County and it is poor along the coast and in our rivers and lakes, yes, we have lakes. The lakes of Co. Waterford must be the most ignored gems in the County. This has been to their advantage and disadvantage.

“implications and requirements” is way too passive. Action is what is required to ensure that we actually have safe clean water.

In addition to our obligations under Section 10(2)(n) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, which are reflected in the core and settlement strategies in particular, other climate change considerations and measures are included in Chapters 9 and the Development Management Standards in Volume 2, drawing on our:

This is the first time that climate change has been mentioned in this section 1.4 even though it is called Environmental Assessment and Climate Change !

The documents drawn on are:

Waterford Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019,

the National Climate Action Plan 2019, and

emerging Climate Action and Low Carbon legislation.

As demonstrated earlier in this submission, these documents should be at the top of the whole Development/Survival Plan and be the starting point for the Development/Survival Plan before anything else is considered.

Climate Adaptation is not going to be enough. Climate action is required.

The emerging Climate Action and Low Carbon legislationneeds to be spelled out in the Survival Plan so that WCCC Councillors, management, staff and citizens know exactly what is being undertaken and why and how much our futures depend on us changing or development and growth focus to one of maintenance, reduction, sustainability and survival.

Growth:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| "Three-quarters of people in the world’s wealthiest nations believe humanity is pushing the planet towards a dangerous tipping point and support a shift of priorities away from economic profit, according to a global survey." |  |
|  | |

<https://amp.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/16/three-quarters-g20-earth-close-to-tipping-point-global-survey-climate-crisis?__twitter_impression=true&s=09>

<https://t.co/Js53Z7CPGb>

In order to bolster our aim to survive the kind of growth that is required in WCCC between now and 2030 is in:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/category/environment/?s=09>

Environment:

* Trees and vegetation
* Wilderness.
* Bogs
* Biodiversity
* Wetlands
* Willows, rushes and weeds.
* Habitats.
* Water, air, and soil quality.
* Organically produced animals, crops and foodstuffs.
* Strategic Environmental Assessment
* Habitats Directive Assessment

Infrastructure:

* PV “Farms”
* Offshore wind turbines.
* Community Energy Projects.
* Increased recycling.
* Rainwater/stormwater capture.
* Nuclear fusion research via WIT and UCC.
* Seaweed production

<https://www.ft.com/content/1df819f9-b397-41c4-8fa6-e4a921f8554c?segmentID=8bc5138e-1972-d421-4526-6cf43d461524&s=09>

* Green Hydrogen production
* Refitting diesel engines for Hydrogen fuel in cars, trucks, boats, buses and trains.
* <https://www.irishtimes.com/business/transport-and-tourism/hydrogen-evangelist-sees-dawning-of-an-age-1.4420278>

Housing: as per Tramore’s Rory Hearne:

* House renovation.
* NZEB Standard

Business:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Depackaging * Working from home * Cardboard. |  |
|  | |

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/static/net-zero-government-policy-financial-incentives-advantages-for-business-deloitte/?ilc=gam&s=09>

Agriculture:

The mindshift required to achieve the goals set out in IPCC Report 2021 is one that means that:

* the naturally occurring vegetation we have been taught to remove has to be brought back.
* Protected wetlands that have been drained for agricultural purposes, and they have, need to be reinstated.
* Core samples need to be taken of the soil on the Monavullagh and Comeragh mountains to determine what were the original tree species growing there when Ireland was Hibernia and these need to be replanted so that the mountains can regain their original appearance and we can benefit from the carbon sequestering the trees will provide.
* In order to be able to fully implement Environmental AssessmentWCCC’s remit covering environment, land usage, conservation and protection, bio-diversity, water quality, air quality and climate change considerations and measures,needs to be extended by Government legislation in addition to WCCC’s obligations under the Planning and Development Act 2000to include agricultural land-use, and farming practice and behaviour in the County.
* A scientific audit of agriculture’s contribution to carbon emisions will be done and rectification measures implemented with Department of Agriculture, Teagasc, the IFA and the ICMO as partners.

These actions will be up against this :

## ‘Real insult’

The IFA said that compliance with existing regulations must be met before “additional blanket regulations are imposed on farmers whose incomes are already under threat with the proposed reduction in CAP payments”.

“Failure by department officials to ensure compliance has meant that all farmers are now being asked to adhere to over the top regulations,” Rushe said.

Meanwhile, dairy chair Stephen Arthur said that the cost of implementing proposals relating to additional slurry storage and soiled water storage “will be in the region of €30,000-€50,000 for an average dairy farmer”.

“The real insult here is that many of these measures will do little to improve water quality. The proposals are flawed,” Arthur claimed.

## ‘Outrageous’ nitrates proposals

IFA environment chair Paul O’Brien said that the department is “trying to shoe-horn in conditions that extend beyond the remit of the nitrates regulation itself”.

“By including measures such as the compulsory use of low-emission slurry spreading equipment, the government is trying to renege on its responsibility to support farmers in the low-carbon transition,” O’Brien said.

*“Measures that are included under the nitrates regulation are not eligible for grant aid.”-* Farmers ‘furious’ with ‘outrageous’ nitrates proposals IFA[*Kathleen O'Sullivan*](https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/author/kathleen-o-sullivan/)August 20, 2021 agriland.ie

<https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/farmers-furious-with-outrageous-nitrates-proposals-ifa/>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| **“LNG could cut the shipping industry’s CO2 emissions by 25%, but could its methane emissions undermine its climate advantages? Addressing this ‘methane slip’ is vital to LNG’s viability as a clean fuel solution.”- Wartsila.com** |  |
|  | |

<https://www.wartsila.com/insights/article/mind-the-methane-gap>

But some in agriculture are already making the necessary mindshift:

“Every single farm has measures that would tick the box for an eco-scheme — they just don’t realise it a lot of the time. I don’t think farmers get rewarded for the positive work they do, but there has been a shift in the mindset in recent years.

“A few years ago, tillage was seen as the ‘bad’ sector, but things have changed and now we are carbon-efficient and good for biodiversity and water quality. You know you are doing good work, but if you are being targeted, then you get cynical.

“You need to hear you are doing good for the environment and when you hear that, it’s natural to try focus more on it — a more carrot than stick approach would get more people involved.

“We need schemes that reward farmers well. If you want environmental results, you need to pay for it.

“But if we have to jump through too many hoops, and margins are razor tight, you will opt out of doing the scheme. Farmers want to look after the environment, but if you want results, you need a lot doing a little, more than a few doing a lot.”

Clive, who is on the CAP Consultative Committee, says more needs to be done to support the tillage sector as it will be hit badly through convergence.

“We have not been rewarded for the environmental work we have carried out over the past eight years. But the Department should use its flexibility to get more schemes under Pillar 2 for the tillage sector.

“We are probably sequestering more carbon that we are putting out, so it would be good to get that rewarded.”

-Farming Independent August 2021

There are other global versions of this list:

**The Qopolis Climate Plan**

**Part - 1 Change Financial Inequality**

**Part - 2 Change Fuels  
Part - 3 Change Food System  
Part - 4 Cool The Earth**

**Part - 5 Pull Greenhouse Gases OUT of the Air**

**Part - 6 Change Building Materials  
Part - 7 Change Human Health Care to Longevity**

**Part - 8 Advanced Cognition Integration**

**Part - 9 Redirect Population on Earth**

**Part - 10 Population Growth Plan**

Qopolis Business University qopolis.com

Without having to go through every section of WCCC’s Draft Development Plan to make this submission, with all the information now available following the issuing of the IPCC AR6 2021, some of it reproduced here, it is possible for WCCC’s Councillors and staff to clearly see why survival has to be the priority and what needs to be done to complete a Survival Plan that is scientifically, engineeringly, architecturally, planningly and environmentally sound.

There are challenges of course:

“These facts are undeniably terrifying and are so huge that it is hard for an individual to absorb the enormity of the situation, never mind feeling able to do anything about it. I have been reading and learning about climate change for almost two decades and with knowledge has come fear, anger, grief and a multitude of other emotions.”

* Jane Hackett August 15th 2021 thejournal.ie

<https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/climate-change-what-can-i-do-5522199-Aug2021/>

<https://amp.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/aug/11/no-getting-back-to-normal-climate-breakdown-ipcc-report?__twitter_impression=true&s=09>

Waterford Council (@WaterfordCounci) tweeted at 11:20 a.m. on Wed, Aug 11, 2021:

Did you know 71% of people in #Waterford commute to work/ education by Car?  
  
Our Draft City and County Development Plan supports a shift to #sustainabletravel modes, walking, cycling & public transport.

Section 1.6 gives the authors of this submission more hope but it still needs its commitment reinforced as you will see from the editing here. In places the WCCC draft reads like it is merely rewriting the UN’s Goals to suit the language of a regular Development Plan.

1.6 UN Agenda 2030: The Survival Plan and its Outcomes

Like the UN 2030 AgendaWCCC’s Survival Plan is a plan of action for the people of Waterford, the County and City and sustainable prosperity. WCCC’s Survival Plan is set out to follow the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that integrate the three indivisible dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental. Since 2015, Ireland is a signatory to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, and this is heavily reflected throughout the NPF and the SRSES, and their implementation will be the complete focus of WCCC between now and 2030.

Likewise with the European Green Deal which is a growth strategy that is going to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and sustainable economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It is about improving the well-being of people, making Europe climate neutral and protecting the natural habitat to ensure the survival of people, the planet and the economy.

The aims of the Green Deal are: for Europe to become climate-neutral by 2050; to protect human life, animals and plants by ending pollution; to help companies become world leaders in clean products and technologies; and to help ensure a just and inclusive transition …. from the threats of climate change to survival.

The following section set out 8 points which incorporate the overarching objectives of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, The National Survival Outcomes as set out in the National Planning Framework and the Regional Survival Outcomes of the Southern Regions Regional Spatial and Survival Strategy. They detail how the Survival Plan will contribute, as practicable, towards their achievement and each chapter is identified by way of the relevant icons employed below in this regard.

* 1. **To oversee and manage development that is compact, diverse, sustainable,  
     resilient and adaptive to climate change.**  
     The Survival Plan promotes the sustainable compact maintenance of our city, towns and villages. This type of development will add safety and adapt existingplaces in which people can live and work so that their survival is ensured. All our urban settlements contain many potential development areas, centrally located and frequently publicly owned, that are suitable and capable of re-use to provide a climate-appropriate mix of housing, jobs, amenities and services, but which need a streamlined and co-ordinated approach to their development, with investment in enabling infrastructure (nature based solutions) and supporting methodologies, to realise their potential. Activating these strategic areas and achieving effective density and consolidation, rather than more sprawl of urban development, is a top priority in facilitating our settlements to become more resilient and adaptive to climate change.

**b)  To support a strong, sustainable, diverse and maintainabale economyunderpinned by enterprise, innovation and skills that work to reduce the effects of climate change and access toquality education for allabout the challenges and requirements for surviving until 2050 and beyond**

The Survival Plan will facilitate and foster enterprise and innovation that is totally focused on reducing the effects of climate change thatwill attract investment and talentcapable of achieving this aim. It cannot be achieved by building the national and regional economic drivers for Waterford as listed in the SRSES since drivers only contribute to climate change, nor by supporting opportunities to diversify and strengthen the economy, to leverage the potential of places. Instead, delivering this outcome will require the coordination of growth only in industries and services that contribute to the reduction of the effects of climate change and place survival with investment in infrastructurethat is totally focused on reducing the effects of climate change, including digital connectivity in skills and talent to support economic survival and the success of climate change survival enterprises. Ill-defined growthfor its own sake can no longer be the target if we are going to survive.

The Survival plan will also support access for all, to a range of quality education facilities, withthe defining characteristic of total focus on reducing the effects of climate change in which being attractive, successful and competitive are completely out of place.Competition is what has the world burning up. This will be achieved by supporting the focus in science, engineering, planning, construction, architecture and other relevant courses to be on the growth of knowledge that will allow solutions to climate change to be developed and applied as quickly as possible, and upgrade of all academic institutionsas stakeholders and partners with WCCC for particularly the development of these climate change Survival solutions, including Waterford Institute Technology (WIT), the Technological University of the South East (TUSE), and promoting and fostering links with business/ enterprise and technological innovation. Climate Change Learning and Healthy City initiatives in Waterford are essential components of UNESCO Learning City status and the Survival plan will support the expansion of the Learning About Climate Change Survival initiative to other urban and rural centres of population through existing networks such as the Library Service, and support the preparation and implementation of a RegionSurvival Strategy.

* 1. **To support a sustainable and diverse rural economy and  
     community; to manage sustainable tourism that protects the  
     environment, creates jobs and promotes local culture and products that are sustainable and contribute to emissions reduction**

The Survivalplan will support the provision of services and infrastructure in rural settlements that are consistent with ending emissions and surviving climate change to



facilitate appropriaterural economic growth in a sustainable emission-reducing manner. This will be facilitated by the development of enterprise and local economic hubs which will allow for the creation of employment opportunities in rural areasthat are solely based on survival and climate management and emission reducing processes. Rigorous scientific vetting, appraisal, auditing and ongoing real-time review will be applied to all proposals for development in Waterford City and County. The plan will also audit all local assets, including human, natural and cultural, to improveclimate changepolicy and action coherence to raise the potential of rural areas to survive the 1.5 degree centigrade increase in global temperature and contribute to our local, regional and national survival, as well as completely restructuringour tourism and leisure amenities, infrastructure and facilities which support and optimise the attraction of Waterford City and Countyso that attraction is no longer the priority but is replaced by sustainability. All of our tourism and leisure amenitieswill be completely reviewed to ensure they can achieve this goal in time.

The plan supports and facilitates the delivery of the National Broadband Plan as a means of access to online courses, working from home, zoom meetings, connecting into the WCCC and its Survival Plan for weekly progress reports and for news on any developing and fully climate-audited opportunities for enterprise, employment, education, innovation and skills development for those projects that will contribute to the survival of those who live and work in rural areas. The energy required to use Broadband locally, regionally, nationally and internationally will be audited . WCCC will see to it that the energy used in availing of Broadband in Waterford County and City will be provided by renewable energy sources. The existing Eircom network which is already in place across Waterford City and County will be availed of wherever possible in order to reduce the amount of new work required to implement the National Broadband Plan in Waterford City and County. WCCC will bring Eircom on board as a partner in the planning and execution of this work.

d)  **To review, auditand sustainably control our international,national, regional, local, and neighbourhood connectivity whichwill enable Waterford to achieve its full survival**  
The Survivalplan controls public transport connectivity from the national to the local level by supporting suitable and sustainable accessibility to and between centres of mass and scale and better integration with their surrounding areas. The plan will also facilitate the delivery of public active transport infrastructure and services to meet the needs of neighbourhoods, towns, villages and rural areas in facilitating the “10 minute” city/town/community concept. The Council will also completely review from a climate change, survival and emissions reducing perspectivethe principles included in Design Manual for Urban Streets (2019) for all new developmentsbetween now and 2050.

And let’s include Waterford Port in the Survival Plan:

# Shipping firm Maersk spends £1bn on ‘carbon neutral’ container ships

**Eight new vessels able to run on methanol fuel could help save more than 1m tonnes of carbon emissions a year** -Jillian Ambrose 24th August 2021 the guardian.com

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/aug/24/worlds-biggest-shipping-firm-maersk-in-1bn-green-push?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other>

e)  **To provide infrastructure and services in an environmentally sustainable way, which is planned and infrastructure-led and ensures the sustainable management of water waste and other environmental resources and supports economic development, human well-being and biodiversity gain**

The plan encourages a nature based infrastructure led approach to development in all our settlements which will contribute to carbon reduction and achieve environmental enhancement and economic maintenance and stabilityexcept for the growthof products that will contribute to the reduction of emissions and the control of climate change. It will be necessary to collaborate with infrastructure delivery agencies to facilitate the timely delivery of climate-enabling infrastructure to prioritise lands that have been zoned in order to deliver survival in the context of the effect of any planned growth and proposed developmentas described in (f) below.

f)  **To adapt, safeguard and enhance our environment through sustainable development prioritising action on climate change across the region, driving the transition to a zero carbon and climate resilient society**

This has been a key consideration in the plan making process and the plan will support measures to build resistance to climate change throughout Waterford to address impact reduction, adaptive capacity, awareness raising, providing for nature-based solutionsand survival. We have introduced policies and proposals to both policies and proposals to tackle and cope with climate change. (What does this mean? It suggests a confusion about the WCCC approach to the issue of climate change!).

g)  **To protect, conserve and enhance our unique natural heritage,landscapes, seascapes, biodiversity, built and cultural heritageassets**

Can’t be done without some remit for the agricultural lands of the county.  
The plan incorporates an Ecosystems Services approach for the integrated  
management of land, water and living resources that will achieve conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Our policies promote (promotion is not enough anymore) heritage led regeneration to improve the quality of our historic towns and villages for residents and tourists. They also give an appropriate level of protection to internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of built, archaeological and natural heritage importance. The plan seeks to (seeking to is not enough anymore) connect areas of green and blue space and habitats such as parks, paths, and woodlands within and on the edge of our villages and towns. These areas can provide a range of social, ecological, and economic benefits. Developments must help (insistence is a better approach) to provide these important green links between development sites, the wider countryside, and our urban areas. The Development Plan will protect and promote green-blue networks where they have been created,and establish more of them.

The plan sets out actions to develop Waterford Cultural Quarter as a key enabler for climate control enterprises growth, innovation, regeneration, place-making and community development, health and well-being and support measures under Culture 2025, Creative Ireland Strategy 2017-22 and Action Plan for Rural Development.

Climate change is a challenge to Culture and a Culture Shock!

The plan advocates for investment in infrastructure and initiatives that will develop the role of arts, heritage, culture within our Region and communities and will assist delivery of climate actions under arts, heritage and cultural strategies, including funding streams outlined in Project Ireland 2040 Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage 2018-2027 and Heritage 2030.

See esb.ie/arts re essential conversations on energy transition through art.

h)  **To make places more sustainable, inclusive, diverse, accessible, and safe with the highest standards of design.**

The survival plan is that over the next 9 years until 2030 and the following 20 years until 2050 that whatever can be done will be done to achieve the survival of those living in any place in Waterford City and County. Whatever type of community they happen to be and that hopefully will be able enjoy somequality of life andwell-beingdespite the challenges of climate change and whatever restrictions WCCC may have to apply to ensure survival. Development willbe proportionate to the challenges raised by climate change while being as sympathetic as possible to the needs of the community. We need to achieve zero-emission excellence in engineering, science and design across all the developmentsthat will be necessary to counteract climate change in Waterford.

When possible the qualities of attractive, liveable, welldesigned, accessible and  
connected places with excellent quality public realm that are home to  
diverse and integrated communitieswill be maintained, but these cannot be the first priorities during a climate emergency.

**1.7 Informing the Survival Plan**

Reference to, or guidance taken from, any of the principal International, National, Regional and Local Policy Documents, Guidelines and Plans that informed the preparation of the Draft Waterford City and County Development Plan and the compliance statement is set out in Appendix 1 will now need to be reviewed in light of IPCC AR6 and immediate action taken to implement the requirements of IPCC AR6 and the EU Green Deal. Representations are to be made as a matter of urgency to Government and the DEHLG to rescind the requirements on WCCC to draft a City and County Development Plan and instead to immediately draft and adopt the Survival Plan 2022 to 2030/2050.

In the WCCC Survival Plan Chapter 9 of the Draft Development Plan becomes Chapter 1 and as such informs every other chapter. The introduction to Chapter 9 of the WCCC Draft Development Plan makes clear why:

#### 9.0 Introduction

A Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss Emergency was declared by the Government in May 2019 following publication of a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service on the state of the world’s biodiversity and ecosystem services. This report starkly detailed an unprecedented and dangerous decline in nature, accelerating rates of species extinction, an insufficient global response and the need for transformative change to restore and protect nature.

The State of the Environment Report (EPA 2020) presents trends and indicators of a declining environmental quality for Ireland. Ecological status for habitats and species and water quality are under threat from a range of development pressures and land management practices whilst climate change impacts are presenting increased intensity and frequency of storm events, increased periods of flooding and drought and rising sea level. A coastal county such as Waterford is at risk from climate change events ; climate adaptation measures and nature based solutions are required to be inherent to all future land use planning and development proposals.

Writing this as A Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss Emergency dilutes what this is which is a A Climate Change Emergency

The strategic objectives in Chapter 9 are:

#### Strategic Objectives

* Integrate climate change and adaptation considerations into land-use policy objectives and decision-making processes to enhance our resilience to the effects of Climate Change and reducing our carbon footprint.
* We will protect, manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, landscape and environment of Waterford City and County in recognition of its importance as a non-renewable resource, providing a  unique identity and character for the county and city as a natural resource asset.

Integration is not enough.

Adaptation is not enough.

If we only adapt to climate-change we are done for.

Land-use needs to be restricted.

Land-use policies and actions are useless against climate change without WCCC having a remit for agricultural land which is the majority of the land-use in the county.

“The deal reveals how vulnerable Ireland’s farming sector has become and the Green Party are today calling for a radical overhaul of our agri-food policies, where the environment must be to the fore to future-proof our family farms.”

[GreenParty.ie: EU-Mercosur deal is deeply damaging for the environment and for Irish agriculture: Greens](https://id.uplift.ie/clicks/link/2761/9ef5985f-26fb-45ab-b6f9-599b7bc0d250?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.greenparty.ie%2Feu-mercosur-deal-is-deeply-damaging-for-the-environment-and-for-irish-agriculture-greens%2F&member_guid=f7c7afadab6917a8378328a3e6c9eac62045b1bed024fed0bdebd3c6948481a4e87d449ca5f8ead71c82b42affde2f317de4628f8bffaea2695ec8416358d350&identity-signature=e7cdf166930f5883328f17385de31d20278464efe2ae9d90c72b3ad959b13a95)

WCCC must be granted a remit for control over agricultural land usage and treatment.

Resilience to the effects of climate change should be seen as the bare minimum for what WCCC and the people of Waterford City and County need to be putting into action over the next 9 and 29 years.

Reducing our carbon footprint means that we must achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2050.

California has brought this target date forward to 2035. WCCC and National Government need to be doing this too.

In order to protect, manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, landscape, flora, fauna, environment and people of Waterford City and County in recognition of all of their importance as a non-renewable resource, providing a unique identity and character for the county and city as a natural resource asset that is essential to the survival of Waterford City and County.

For this to happen WCCC needs control over all of the land usage in Waterford City and County including agricultural land, and needs, among other things, to:

* reinstate all of the areas previously designated as Protected Wetlands that WCCC never got full designation for,
* phase out artificial fertilisers, and chemical herbicides and pesticides,
* manage the spreading of slurry,
* allow SACs be applied to the smallest areas of interest,
* require water quality to be “quality water” including its lake-water,
* push all off-shore turbines out beyond any minimum limits set by the EU,

Eirgrid goal is 70% renewables by 2030 with offshore turbines in south and east.

* have EASs done for every proposed development, no matter how small,
* disallow the destruction of existing stone banks and ditches and land clearance to create lawns,
* promote rewilding of lawns and rebuilding of rural stone-banks and ditches where removed by development,
* scientifically audit every proposed development and enterprise for its contribution to carbon and methane emissions and refuse those that will not contribute to net zero CO2 by 2035,
* scientifically audit every existing enterprise in WCCC for its contribution to carbon and methane emissions, and set rates according to levels of reduction achieved,
* require carbon sinks to be developed for every enterprise and manufacturing process in the City and County,

“The most obvious way to do this would be to affix a [price to carbon](https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/carbon-tax), which would translate into financial benefit for socking it away.

In the end carbon storage is not cheap, Smith admits—but, he points out, neither is climate change.”

[**8 Ways to Sequester Carbon to Avoid Climate Catastrophe - EcoWatch**](https://www.ecowatch.com/carbon-sequestration-2646173228.html)

-ecowatch.com

* have all new buildings built to Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) standard from now on,
* work with the SEAI to upgrade all existing buildings to NZEB standard, including empty residential buildings,
* in line with Tramore’s Dr. Rory Hearne’s proposals identify and survey empty buildings in WCCC in order to judge their suitability for housing and reinstate and upgrade to NZEB standard those that are suitable to house those on the WCCC housing list,

#Housing Rebuilding Ireland target of 125,000 new homes (2016-21)

2/3 of target (83,730 new homes) was achieved

New dwelling completions:

2016: 9,866

2017: 14,346

2018: 17,908

2019: 21,075

2020: 20,535 (source: CSO NDA01)

<https://t.co/A7eHhQ340w>

* establish that carbon sinks are required for every enterprise, business, manufacturing process.

“The vertical garden, which doubles as a bench, is [Green City Solutions](https://greencitysolutions.de/en/)‘ CityTree. Using a vertical installation of moss, the bench can absorb as much pollution as 275 trees in 1 percent of the space.” -Forbes, Trevor Nance Senior Contributor Science May 20th 2018 forbes.com. (Note: as recently installed in Cork to much debate!).

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2018/03/20/this-city-bench-absorbs-more-air-pollution-than-a-grove-of-trees/amp/?__twitter_impression=true&s=09>

* make sure that CO2 for fizzy drinks is extracted from the air from now on.

**Direct Air Capture and Storage**

The carbon-sequestering containers from Arizona State University's Lackner, along with other projects such as [Climeworks' just-opened carbon-trapping facility in Switzerland](https://www.carbonbrief.org/swiss-company-hoping-capture-1-global-co2-emissions-2025), represent one of the more widely discussed greenhouse gas capture and storage technologies being proposed today. Known as direct air capture and storage, this approach uses chemicals or solids to capture the gas from thin air, then, as in the case of BECCS, stores it for the long haul underground or in long-lasting materials.

Already used in submarines beneath the surface of the ocean and in space vehicles far above it, direct air capture theoretically can remove CO2 from the air a thousand times more efficiently than plants, according to Lackner.

The technology, however, is embryonic. And because it requires plucking CO2 molecules from everything else in the air, it is a huge energy hog. On the flip side, this approach has the big advantage of being deployable anywhere on the planet.

-ecowatch.com

* over the next 9 years slowly introduce a change in car tax so that petrol and diesel cars are the most expensive to tax, EVs are in the middle, and hydrogen powered cars are taxed the least.

“Meanwhile, across the economy, companies are learning how to decarbonize. Ford is [already producing](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-06-03/ford-production-of-electric-mustang-exceeds-gas-powered-pony-car) more electric Mustang Mach-Es than gas-powered Mustangs; General Motors, Honda, Volvo, and Jaguar have promised to [stop selling gas cars altogether](https://twitter.com/rhodium_group/status/1387141375817261059) by 2040. Royal Dutch Shell was court-ordered last month to cut its emissions, and shareholders just [forced Exxon](https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/06/wall-streets-skirmish-with-big-oil-exxons-climate-fight/619070/) to replace [a quarter of its board](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/06/02/activist-firm-engine-no-1-claims-third-exxon-board-seat-.html) with climate-concerned activist investors. Most important of all, the costs of solar and batteries have declined in the United States by a factor of 10 over the past decade, and the cost of wind has fallen 70 percent. Ten years ago, virtually no analyst thought they would fall so low. The International Energy Agency made headlines this year when it called solar “the cheapest electricity in history,” but the entire apparatus of renewable energy has seen cost declines.”

# -How the U.S. Made Progress on Climate Change Without Ever Passing a BillA “green vortex” is saving America’s climatefuture.  By [Robinson Meyer](https://www.theatlantic.com/author/robinson-meyer/) theatlantic.com

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/06/climate-change-green-vortex-america/619228/?s=09>

“Transport is responsible for 40% of CO2 emissions in Ireland. 57% of all trips made in Ireland are under 8km, 75% of all those trips are made by car. 50% of all trips under 2km are also made by car. Making active travel the easiest option for these short journeys would be transformative.”

<https://amp.rte.ie/amp/1239763/?__twitter_impression=true&s=09>

* Apply fleece resurfacing to walkways.-Leitrim Development Company

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/ancient-fleece-paving-method-used-to-protect-soft-peatland-route-1.4659414?mode=amp&__twitter_impression=true&s=09>

You get the idea.

Each section of the WCCC Draft Development Plan needs to be revised and changed in order to make it into the **WCCC Survival Plan**as does the information from the documents the Draft Development Plan is based on in so far as those documents are out of date in relation to climate change. There is no point in relying on past documents unless they are based on the IPCC AR6 projections for 2030 and 2050. The IPPCC AR6 is based on 10,000 scientifically peer-reviewed up to date papers so it can be relied upon. Step 6 in this submission includes some more of the latest thinking on climate change. The WCCC expert staff are well aware of this thinking but now need to be given the licence by our Councillors and by national Government to bring the whole process of producing a development plan up to date too so that Survival is the priority right now and for the next 30 years.

2030 and 2050 are all that matter now.

Luckily the process has already started:

* The citizens of Waterford City and County are playing their part by recycling, buying bags for life, fitting PV and solar panels, using electric cars, growing their own food, rewilding parts their gardens, planting wildflowers for pollinators, composting, cutting back on herbicide and pesticide,upgrading their insulation, and so on.

[https://waterford-news.ie/2021/08/24/catherine-drea-doing-our-bit-for-mother-earth/](file:///C:\Users\alanoneill\Library\Containers\com.microsoft.Word\Data\Desktop\https:\waterford-news.ie\2021\08\24\catherine-drea-doing-our-bit-for-mother-earth)

[**Using Captured CO2 in Everyday Products Could Help Fight Climate Change, But Will Consumers Want Them?**](https://www.ecowatch.com/carbon-capture-solutions-products-2653038621.html) -ecowatch.com

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/bayer-loses-third-appeals-case-over-glyphosate-weedkiller-2021-08-10/?taid=61127bdce3628400019e26e6&utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A%20Trending%20Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter&s=09>

* WCCC is doing/promoting all of these things too, and has many key documents, strategies and action plans in place.
* Enterprises like refuse collection companies have been running recycling services for years and are continually refining and redefining their services.
* The scientific, engineering, planning, architectural, educational and digital communities and institutions are on board to some degree.
* The enterprises and businesses in the Industrial Estates, Business Parks, Campuses, and elsewhere in Waterford City and County, must be brought on board too.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/business/economy/arid-40368875.html?type=amp&__twitter_impression=true&s=09>

* The Government has brought in climate change legislation which is something, even when we know there is more to do:

<https://www.noteworthy.ie/endangered-species/news/?s=09>

* The EU has the Green Deal.
* The UN’s IPCC AR6 has been issued.

So there is enough in place for WCCC to produce its Survival Plan as its key document and action plan and implement it not as a reference document of whatever decisions have to be made over the next 9 years but as the actual go to Survival Action Plan every day on what WCCC needs to be doing every day between now and 2030 to make sure we survive to see net zero achieved in 2050.

Submission to Waterford City and County Council by Suirside to Seaside Citizens for Survival (SSCS) on 30th August 2021 in relation to the WCCC Draft Development Plan 2022-2028.

Contact person:

[Redacted contact details]