



Climate Action Roadmap 2025

Dynamic | Diverse | Innovative



lwetb

*Bord Oideachtais agus Oiliúna
an Longfoirt agus na hIarthair*
Longford and Westmeath
Education and Training Board

LWETB Climate Action Roadmap 2025

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| Business Owner: | Corporate Services | Approved By | LWETB Chief Executive |
| Document Title | Climate Action Roadmap | | <i>Siobhan Lynch</i> <small>Siobhan Lynch (Oct 20, 2025 14:44:42 GMT+1)</small> |
| Document No: | CS029/CAR/V3/25 | Date noted: | November 2025 |

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

Fáilte go Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí. Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) was established under the Education and Training Boards Act, 2013 and is the statutory body responsible for the provision of education, training and youth services in counties Longford and Westmeath. LWETB delivers educational services to over 4,197 students, 9,689 learners, apprentices, and beneficiaries. The authority employs circa 1,249 staff. It has an average annual budget of circa €100 million across all its divisions.

LWETB delivers a wide range of education and training services and has responsibility for:

- 8 Post-Primary schools,
- 1 Community National School,
- 3 Adult Guidance Centres,
- 14 Further Education and Training locations,
- Music Generation and Youth Services accommodating community groups in approximately 50 locations throughout Longford and Westmeath.
- An out-of-school provision.



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Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders,

The Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) was established under the *Education and Training Boards Act, 2013*, with responsibility for delivering education, training, and youth work services across Counties Longford and Westmeath. As outlined in our *Statement of Strategy 2022–2026*, our mission is to provide dynamic, diverse, and innovative services that are high-quality, vibrant, and professional.

I am pleased to present the updated LWETB Climate Action Roadmap, which sets out our strategic approach to achieving a 51% reduction in emissions by 2030. Through this roadmap, we aim to lead by example in fulfilling our public sector climate responsibilities and contributing to sectoral targets by embedding environmental awareness, green skills, and future-focused learning throughout our schools, campuses, administrative offices, services, and provision.

The roadmap outlines key targets to:

- Minimise environmental impact
- Promote sustainability across operations
- Reduce emissions and monitor waste
- Adapt to climate change
- Foster environmental awareness within and beyond our organisation

The actions we will take to achieve these targets will reflect LWETB's commitment to climate leadership and sustainable development.

According to SEAI's *Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) Key Indicators*, LWETB has already met its 2030 target of a 50% increase in energy efficiency since the 2009 baseline and is well on track to meet its fossil CO₂ and total CO₂ reduction goals.

However, as our building footprint expands and our community of learners and staff grows, we need everyone's support to remain ambitious and build on the progress we have already made in relation to energy efficiency. A continued focus on implementation of this roadmap is essential to sustaining momentum and meeting future LWETB and sectoral targets.

LWETB is committed to educating staff, learners, and the wider community on practical steps to support Ireland's climate objectives. This document highlights key focus areas that will help us to continuously improve how we use energy across all sites and maintain systems that enhance performance.

By adopting a systematic approach to energy management and implementing targeted action plans, LWETB will continue to improve the delivery of energy services across the organisation.

I encourage all staff to actively engage with the Climate Action Roadmap—by embracing sustainable practices, participating in energy-saving initiatives, and promoting environmental awareness in your daily work. Your continued leadership and commitment are vital to our success.

I would like to acknowledge the work of members of the LWETB Climate Action Steering Group, SEAI and Corporate Services at Head Office for their ongoing support.

A sincere thank you to all staff who have contributed to the managerial, technological, and behavioural changes that have helped us reach our climate targets to date and thank you for your continued support as we move forward with this new Climate Action Roadmap.

Siobhan Lynch

Siobhan Lynch (Oct 20, 2025 14:44:42 GMT+1)

Siobhan Lynch
Chief Executive
Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

1. Introduction

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) was established under the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 and is the local statutory, education and training authority for counties Longford and Westmeath. LWETB delivers a wide range of education and training services including:

- Post-Primary Schools and Colleges
- Community National School
- Post Leaving Certificate
- Further Education and Training Centres
- Further Education and Training Services
- Youth Services
- Music Generation
- An out-of-school provision

LWETB is governed by a Board comprising of 21 members. The Board also has an Audit and Risk Committee, a Finance Committee, advisory Youth Committee and Local Music Education Partnership all of which are composed of external members in addition to board members. The work of the Board is further supported by Boards of Management in each of LWETB's 8 post primary schools and the community national school. The general functions of an Education and Training Board are stipulated in the Education and Training Boards Act 2013.

LWETB head office is located in Mullingar. LWETB offices provide financial, human resource, corporate services, buildings, procurement, governance, planning and leadership support for all education provision delivered by LWETB. Information on the full range of education and training provision offered by LWETB is available on our website at: www.lwetb.ie.



Our Mission

Our mission is to provide dynamic, diverse, and innovative education and training services. This includes the need to provide knowledge of and mechanisms for the reduction of our use of fossil fuels, for power generation or packaging or water usage. Our remit is directly and indirectly aligned to sustainable energy and providing necessary supports and guidance with a broader focus on this issue for our whole education community, including staff, students, learners, and their families and the communities in our counties of Longford and Westmeath. As a public sector body, we are also required to reduce emissions relating to our own buildings and operations. We have a very small contribution in absolute terms; however, we recognise the importance for public sector bodies to demonstrate leadership.

LWETB Climate Action Roadmap 2025

The LWETB Climate Action Roadmap 2025, hereinafter referred to as the Roadmap, sets out our plan to achieve our decarbonisation and energy efficiency targets pursuant to the National Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) and the Department of Education and Youth's School Sector Climate Action Mandate. LWETB is committed to achieving its 2030 carbon emissions and energy efficiency targets. We will adhere to the requirements of the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2025 (the mandate) and School Sector Climate Action Mandate and demonstrate leadership within the public sector. The Mandate requires public sector bodies such as LWETB to demonstrate climate action leadership by implementing and reporting on the actions of the Mandate. The Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2025 was published in CAP25.

This Roadmap focuses on energy-related greenhouse gas emissions within our operations, in line with the target of a 51% absolute reduction by 2030. It also focuses on training our staff, learners and communities on the issues and steps available and implementable to reduce their emissions and help achieve our national targets.

This Roadmap aligns entirely with LWETB's vision: "To develop and deliver nationally and internationally recognised high quality, vibrant, professional education and training services" for the benefit of society. In the LWETB Strategic Plan, the first strategic outcome listed is: "Achievement of the carbon reduction targets we have set ourselves over the lifetime of this strategy."

The LWETB Climate Action Roadmap has been approved by the CEO and the Board of LWETB and will be reviewed and updated quarterly. The quarterly review will consider our own climate action progress, Gap-to-Target and any updates to the National Climate Action Plan and the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate. We will also update on progress on informing and training our staff, learners, and whole education community.

1.1 Summary of focus areas

1.1.1 Our people

LWETB staff are passionate about energy, the environment and sustainability. LWETB has established a Climate Action Steering Committee that is focused on delivering the managerial, technological, and behavioural improvements that will help us achieve our climate action targets. There is an Energy Committee in each of our schools and an energy champion appointed for FET.

1.1.2 Our targets

The Public Sector Climate Action Mandate sets emissions reduction and energy efficiency targets for LWETB:

- 51% reduction in energy related GHG emissions in 2030 (2016-2018 baseline)
- 50% increase in the improvement of energy efficiency by 2030 (2009 baseline) –LWETB has already achieved it's 2030 target for energy efficiency. Currently, LWETB's energy efficiency has improved by 50.5% compared with the 2009 baseline. However the challenge facing LWETB now is to continue to achieve and maintain this progress as our building footprint and our student and staff numbers increase. LWETB is also committed to support and contribute to the achievement of the overall sectoral targets.
- Update Climate Action Roadmaps annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan.

To note guidance 51% reduction of direct fossil fuel related CO₂e emissions (thermal and transport consumption); plus, projected supply side reductions in indirect fossil fuel related CO₂e emissions from electricity.

1.1.3 Our ways of working

Leadership and governance are fundamental factors to oversee our delivery. Structures are in place for the delivery of our identified actions. These actions include staff engagement, integration of actions into departmental business planning, goals, and objectives. We will promote best practices in the office, the remote office and in daily life, supported by appropriate training. We shall consider improvements made through blended working and review paper-based processes in our drive toward digitalisation.

We are subject to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. LWETB will continue to report our GHG emissions and energy consumption. Like all public sector bodies, our data will be returned into the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting System (M&R).

LWETB has installed Smart Meters in the majority of our locations across the two counties, to monitor all our energy usage (electricity, oil and gas) on a quarter hourly basis.

1.1.4 Our buildings and vehicles

The largest contributor to carbon emissions is the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in our buildings.

Our Head Office is in a rented building, and we are working with the management company to reduce our usage particularly at times when the building is not in use.

Our schools are of varying ages and structures, and we currently have active approved plans for the removal of all fossil fuels over the next five years. We also have various projects that are aimed at improving the fabric of our buildings that are at an advanced stage of progression. In 2024, two of LWETB's post primary schools went through deep energy retrofits under the Path Finder project. Both schools were wrapped with external insulation, modern energy efficient windows and doors were installed, and, in both schools, oil boilers were removed and replaced with heat pump systems.

Our training centre is one of the biggest energy users in the organisation and we have a Strategic Infrastructure Upgrade Fund (SIUF) under development that will provide the masterplan for future development of the site in line with the national targets for climate action as they develop. Many of our FET buildings are leased, and we are reviewing the possibility of developing facilities in Mullingar and Longford town to centralise these activities into appropriate modern and climate friendly environments.

We will ensure that our Display Energy Certificates (DEC) are displayed in each of our locations as soon as practicable.

1.1.5 Gap-to-Target

LWETB have responsibility for the ongoing Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) of public sector energy efficiency. This includes the data collection process into our Monitoring and Reporting System (M&R), annual reporting and supporting the public sector in this regard. In LWETB we are using our real time information from our smart meters to inform real time decision making and prevention. LWETB is using our data to model decarbonisation Gap-to-Target over the period to 2030. This will help us configure our GHG emissions target to 2030. It will also help us to model and report the impact of our planned projects and actions, revisit our Gap-to-Target quarterly and assess future emissions pathways.

2. Our people

The Climate Action Mandate requires that leadership and governance structures for climate action are set up, and that staff are engaged with climate action and have appropriate training.

During 2022, LWETB established and resourced a Climate Action Steering Committee. This committee reports to senior management ensuring sustainability actions are integrated at senior levels of the organisation. The LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee comprises of representation from across the organisation with roles including technical, engineers, Finance and Schools and Further Education Centre representatives.

Since its establishment in 2022, the LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee has outlined and prioritised a range of action points including a commitment to:

- Focus on energy decarbonisation, outlining the steps required to meet or exceed our 2030 targets
- Set up Climate Action Energy Committees in each of our schools
- Present a Sustainability Policy to the LWETB Board for noting
- Present an Energy Policy to the LWETB Board for noting
- Implementing the action of the Reduce Your Use (RYU) in Public Sector (public sector winter mandate)
- Commence strategic project identification and modelling the Gap-to-Target
- Preparing this Climate Action Roadmap for CE approval and presenting to LWETB Board.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Reduce your use | Green teams | Smart Meter data reporting |
| Sustainability Policy | Energy Policy | Strategic projects |
| Green Procurement | Climate Action Roadmap | |

LWETB ensure that all staff are knowledgeable and continuously aware of our actions. LWETB will ensure that learners are as knowledgeable as possible and are as informed of the positive impacts of our actions. Training will be provided and integrated with our climate action roadmap. Sustainability training, both technical and behavioural, will be integrated into learning and development strategies for staff with a defined focus on reducing LWETB emissions across all categories possible.

2.1 Leadership and Governance for Climate Action

The Governance Structure for Climate and Sustainability is embedded in our organisational structure. Responsibility to implement and report on the Mandate is assigned to the Climate and Sustainability Champion. The Climate and Sustainability Champion is Charlie Mitchell, Director of Organisation, Support and Development and a member of the Executive Leadership Team in LWETB and the Energy Performance Officer (EPO).

We recognise that responsibilities of LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee members and these will be supported in all appropriate resources available. All our locations will be supported by either energy committees or qualified staff to support them in making as much progress as possible at the earliest time. The membership of the Steering committee and the Energy Committees will be updated as required and at least reviewed on an annual basis.

LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee Membership

| Team member | Representation |
|-------------------------|---|
| Charlie Mitchell | Director of Organisation, Support and Development |
| Colin Rhatigan | Climate Action Energy Officer |
| Neill Hanley | FET Buildings and Capital Development Officer |
| Elaine McEvoy | Administrative Officer Corporate Services |
| TBC | Finance Representative |
| Ronan Murray | Athlone Training Centre Representative |
| Orna McCabe | Castlepollard Community College |
| TBC | Student Representative |
| Fechin Heery | Lanesboro Community College |
| TBC | SEAI Representative |

2.1.1 Additional reference documentation

Policies currently in place:

- LWETB Sustainability Policy found [here](#).
- LWETB Energy Policy found [here](#).

Additional information, training or supports:

- The Public Sector Climate Action Strategy 2023 - 2025
- SEAI training suitable for Green Teams:
 - SEAI Energy Academy - provides free online training on energy related issues
 - SEAI Energy Basics and Carbon Basics Training 2
 - SEAI Energy MAP training.
 - SEAI ISO50001 accelerator.

2.2 Engaging and training staff

LWETB Statement of Strategy refers to our “highly skilled and engaged staff community, who recognise and are committed to the critical work they perform and its importance for Longford and Westmeath; and who know that they are valued for and supported in this important work.” Given that our staff are knowledgeable and passionate about the work that we do, LWETB plans to demonstrate leadership and innovation in this field by creating a programme of training for LWETB staff.

Training modules will cover the LWETB Climate Action Committees (and Green Network’s) activities. Modules focused on topics relevant to staff and SEAI initiatives will be shared every two months.

As our workforce grows, we believe it is important that staff are familiar with all the activities carried out within LWETB. As with a smaller staff number in the past, and while working together in offices, we had a greater opportunity to share details of activities in each department in an informal way.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) shall be agreed, posted, and updated regularly in central areas in all LWETB locations. Staff initiatives shall be encouraged to promote awareness. We are considering rewards for recognition of effort and innovative ideas.

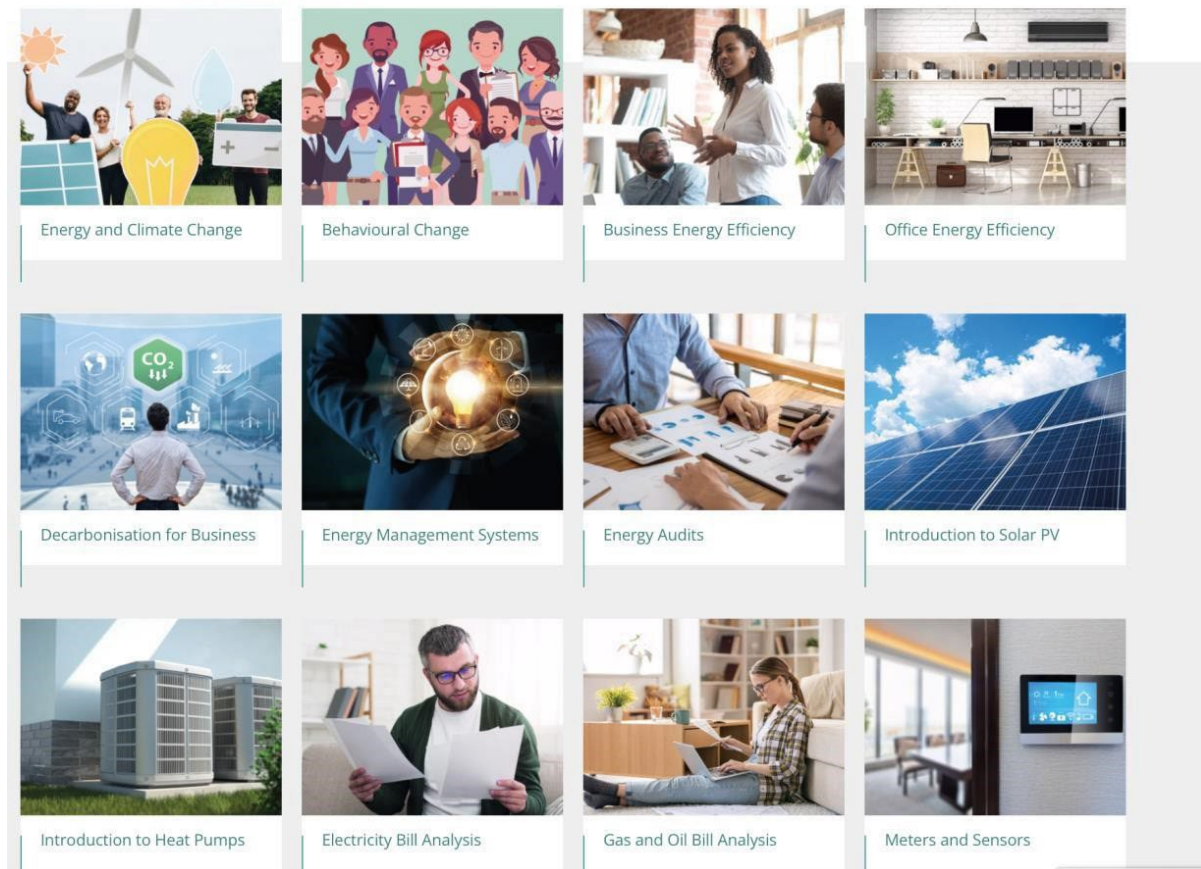
It is also important to note that LWETB has installed smart meters in the majority of our locations, to monitor energy usage (electricity, oil and gas) on a quarter hourly basis. The school principals and deputy principals and the Further Education and Training managers have access to the Smart Meter Dashboard and have been trained on how to use it. Also, the school principals and deputy principals and FET managers each receive an automated weekly report for their location every Monday morning. This report details the energy usage (electricity, oil and gas) for their location for the last week versus the week prior to that.

Staff will also be made aware of information, training and other SEAI supports that are elements of external programmes focusing on engagement and awareness.

These include:

- Reduce Your Use in the Public Sector – Energy Awareness Programme
- SEAI Engaging People at Work Accelerator
- SEAI Energy Basics and Carbon Basics
- SEAI Public Sector Partnership Programme

Modules Available



3. Our targets

The Climate Action Mandate sets key targets for emissions reduction and energy- efficiency for LWETB:

- 51% reduction in GHG emissions in 2030 (2018 baseline), targets set for both thermal and total emissions.
- 50% energy efficiency improvement by 2030 (2009 baseline) – LWETB has already achieved our 2030 target for energy efficiency. Currently, LWETB’s energy efficiency has improved by 50.5% compared with the 2009 baseline. However the challenge facing LWETB now is to continue to achieve and maintain this progress as our building footprint and our student and staff numbers increase. LWETB is also committed to support and contribute to the achievement of the overall sectoral targets.
- Update Climate Action Roadmaps annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan.

3.1 Achieving the carbon emissions reduction target (51% reduction by 2030)

Our greenhouse gas emissions target is based on energy-related carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, with the baseline average of 2016-2018 emissions. It requires energy emissions, for heating and transport, and overall energy-related emissions (including electricity) to be reduced by 51%. The LWETB Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) records for this period allow us to set the baseline.

The first project addressed by LWETB was the reliability and timeliness of our data sources and we introduced smart metering for electricity, oil and gas in the majority of our sites. All sites were reviewed for efficient use of energy and individual managers and actions by site were rolled out over the first nine months of 2022. The Reduce Your Use in the Public Sector initiative was a mandated winter energy savings initiative, driven by the Energy Security Emergency Group, with a goal of saving up to 15% energy consumption in buildings in quarter four of 2022. It required significant steps in lighting, heating controls and basic energy management.

A Register of Opportunities (ROO) was established and completed to achieve the 15% savings targeted. Projected energy savings are estimated based on available metering in place for heat/cooling and electricity in our buildings. The SEAI Monitoring and Reporting System, in combination with our own Smart Meter data, will be used to validate savings.

We are in the process of completing a comprehensive audit of our operations to determine additional opportunity and viability of energy efficiency, and further energy saving project initiatives. This assessment stage is the first key phase of our new Climate Action Roadmap to 2030.

Smart Meters - In 2021 LWETB began a project to install Electricity, Oil and Gas (Natural Gas & LPG) Smart Meters in the majority of LWETB locations. These Smart Meters are now installed, and we are constantly monitoring and examining our energy usage in all our locations and making changes where and when necessary. Already we can see huge benefits in the data supplied by the Smart Meters, and this is help us to reduce energy waste and ensure energy efficiency in all LWETB locations.

An energy audit to SI426 is required for every public body with individual buildings containing a total useful floor area of more than 500m², or an annual energy spend of more than €35,000. We have completed nine energy audits by the end of June 2023. More will be considered if appropriate.

In 2024, two of LWETB's post primary schools went through deep energy retrofits under the Path Finder project. Both schools were wrapped with external insulation, modern energy efficient windows and doors were installed, and, in both schools, oil boilers were removed and replaced with heat pump systems. We will see the carbon emissions reduction benefits of these projects in our 2025 M&R data.

LWETB is currently experiencing an increase of over ten percent in our school's student population and a thirty percent increase in our floor area approximately, due to planned extensions. Energy efficiency and related energy consumption reduction is crucial to any emissions reduction strategy. It will reduce or remove the need to use the current fossil fuel systems. By moving to heat pumps and other renewable technologies this will allow for expected increased capacity in operations without requiring more energy for lighting and heating. Ultimately, our approved capital investment projects allow for the removal where possible of fossil fuels while minimising the investment necessary.

LWETB will ensure continued staff awareness and engagement as these and other initiatives progress.

The most significant projects will combine an increase capacity in each of our schools with a removal or reduction of non-renewable heating and power sources. The biggest users of energy in our organisation are the Athlone Community College followed closely by the Further Education and Training Garrycastle Campus in Athlone, the remaining schools make up the majority of the rest, with the Further Education and Training Campus in Longford being the largest energy user of the remaining FET campuses.

Work is actively being progressed in each of these sites with a view to greatly improving the energy efficiency or relocating to more appropriate facilities. The Department mandate that one can only enter into leases for property that has an A3 rating or higher will greatly enhance our progression to achieving our climate targets.

In collaboration with other public sector tenants and the landlords, we intend to explore the viability of solar energy in all suitable LWETB locations. In 2025, 6KW Solar Panels were installed in six of our post primary schools.

LWETB has completed an initial comprehensive Gap-to-Target assessment to understand the combination of initiatives necessary to achieve our emissions target. We intend to use experts from our Public Sector Partnership Framework to assist in this activity alongside experts from SEAI, who are extremely capable and willing to support the initiatives.

Future building plans will need to consider long-term occupancy needs. Any building consideration will take into account energy and emissions in decision-making. Any new leases will be required to be minimum A3 rated.

The Roadmap will identify savings, the impact on energy, finance, resources, and public spending considerations.

3.2 Achieving the energy efficiency target (50% improvement by 2030)

Our work-from-home practices during the Covid-19 pandemic taught us the value of digitalisation as our default approach.

Within our network of buildings, we have a range of projects that include upgrades to the fabric of buildings, introduction of renewables where appropriate, removal of fossil fuels as a primary energy source and also relocation to alternative accommodations. With the outcome that all locations will be focused on with a longer-term focus between now and 2030.

It is important to note that LWETB has already achieved our 2030 target for energy efficiency. Currently, LWETB's energy efficiency has improved by 50.5% compared with the 2009 baseline. However, the challenge is now to keep our energy efficiency improvements above 50% as our building footprint and student and staff numbers increase in the coming years. LWETB is also committed to support and contribute to the achievement of the overall sectoral targets.

In addition to these initiatives and those detailed in Section 3.1. for emissions reductions, other ideas considered by the LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee include the following:

- Feasibility of performing projects focused on recommissioning or retro-commissioning of LWETB buildings.
- Blended working requirement of two days per week attendance at the office to be spread over 4 days – with offices closed on the selected fifth day and all services turned off – as per current Saturday/Sunday profile.
- Setting, managing, and achieving ambitious targets through continuous improvement projects as part of our smart metering project.
- Training of staff and learners on energy efficiency and carbon footprint to improve personal responsibility both within our environment and in the greater community.
- Monitoring our energy usage data using the data from our Smart Meters. Ensuring that there is minimal “out of hours” usage and using this data to try and make energy usage as efficient as possible.

3.3 Ensuring the public sector body’s consistency with Section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021

LWETB is compliant with Section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021 and provides reporting as required.

4. Our ways of working

We are subject to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. LWETB adhere to the principles and standards that must be followed by Irish public sector organisations to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective management. We will analyse and report annually on our impact and progress on GHG emissions and sustainability activities in our Annual Report. We will report on implementation of Green Public Procurement sustainability activities.

In addition to ensuring strong leadership and governance structures for oversight in implementation of the LWETRB Climate Action Roadmap, LWETB will underpin this through our smart metering management system.

Alongside our plans in relation to energy efficiency and carbon usage in buildings, the LWETB Climate Action Steering Committee and staff are committed to a waste action plan that increases recycling and minimises waste generation by focusing on minimising packaging, promoting eco-design and managing our segregation.

4.1 Energy and environmental management systems and accreditation

The Climate Action Mandate requires large public sector bodies to achieve formal certification in environmental and/or energy management systems. LWETB is not a large public sector body, however, we will maintain a smart metering energy management system. LWETB will further develop the availability of this information at a local level over the next year.

LWETB shall update its processes, records, and practices with an objective to agreeing our roadmap, setting out the achievement of our targets by late 2025:

- Our Energy Policy (2025) is being updated to reflect our Climate Action Team and associated projects.
- Compliance with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel.
- Our Energy monitoring Smart meters data determines how we manage energy in LWETB and is an important reference document for our practice, as well as for staff onboarding.
- Our Energy Review is completed monthly and forms a key aspect of reacting to data to inform impact, benefits, issues, and opportunities.
- Our Smart Metering System is proving invaluable and allows LWETB to interrogate energy usage data in real time.

- The Climate Action Steering Committee is assisting with communication and awareness among staff.
- Training plans are being drawn up to keep staff abreast of our activities.
- Document control processes are in place.
- Operational control and maintenance procedures are in place; however, they will need updating as the data is reviewed.
- Green Public Procurement processes are addressed in Section 4.2 below.
- Systems for Internal Audit, Management Review and Corrective Action Procedures to ongoing.

We will consider any additional measures as they arise and are deemed appropriate by the Climate Action Steering Committee. This is a requirement under the Mandate for large public sector bodies.

4.2 Green Public Procurement

LWETB is committed to environmental management principles in its activities, and it encourages the implementation of sustainability principles in its procurement practices. Tenderers and contractors are required to make all reasonable efforts to minimise adverse environmental impact in the methods of service delivery and in materials used.

Tenderers should demonstrate either current or planned Green Public Procurement practices that provide increased sustainable awareness and work practices. Examples of environmental considerations factored into delivery operations may include an outline environmental management plan, an outline waste management plan or evidence of commitment to staff training in waste minimisation. LWETB encourages tenderers to develop green initiatives and to provide relevant information in their tenders as to their carbon footprint, ISO14001 or other certification, or proof of working towards a greener environment.

While we apply green criteria where it is applicable in our tenders, for example IT product procurement, most tenders are for professional services and these need to be updated so that Green Public Procurement and relevant carbon footprint and energy efficiency data is readily available as part of the process.

Where possible, LWETB will apply green award criteria in tenders such as:

- Proposed contract management approach, relationship management approach and company's own credentials and approach on sustainability and climate action.
- Evidence of climate and sustainability credentials, accreditations, or affiliations. A high-level approach to minimising own climate impacts should be provided.
- Demonstration of current or planned Green Public Procurement and work practices that provide increased sustainable awareness, and how these will be employed in the delivery of works on this project.

4.3 Construction

Climate Action Plan 2023 sets out, in action EN/23/12 the need to specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2023. The Cement and Construction Sector Decarbonisation Working Group is working on providing technical guidelines aimed at reducing embodied carbon in public procurement of cement and concrete. Once finalised, these guidelines should be taken into consideration by public bodies for directly procured or supported construction projects.

LWETB will work towards procurers asking suppliers to document the carbon intensity of products procured and:

- 4.5.1 Specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable as per guidance issued by Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024.
- 4.5.2 Adhere to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024
- 4.5.3 A minimum proportion of construction materials procured by public bodies under new contract arrangements to comprise recycled materials, that is informed by a Circularity Roadmap for the Construction Sector and the 2nd Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy to be published in 2025

LWETB tenderers should demonstrate either current or planned Green Public Procurement practices that provide increased sustainable awareness and work practices.

4.4 Organic Food

Where possible LWETB will work towards:

A minimum of 10% by value (€) of food sought under new contract arrangements (including via contractors such as canteen service providers), is to be certified organic in each of the following categories of Cereals, fresh Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, Fish, Vegetables and Dairy products, where possible.

4.5 Food Waste

Under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, Ireland has committed to halving food waste by 2030. In November 2022, Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap 2023 – 2025 was published, which sets out actions to meet this ambitious goal. With approx. 750,000 tonnes of food waste generated each year in Ireland (and approx. 70% of that generated from non- household sources), the public sector can play a leadership role in focussing on food waste prevention and signalling to the market the importance of introducing green criteria when procuring food and catering services.

LWETB will work towards the measure and monitor of the food waste generated on premises to include:

- Currently introducing food waste bins across areas of LWETB as part of contract with current waste management company which will work toward the measure and monitor the food waste generated on premises.
- All new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste, with a specific focus on food waste prevention and food waste segregation.

4.6 ICT Equipment

Where possible LWETB will work towards achieving:

A minimum of 80% of ICT end user products (desktop computers, portable computers and mobile phones) procured by public sector bodies under new contract arrangements are certified to EPEAT Gold Standard (or equivalent), TCO Certified (or equivalent) or will have been remanufactured.

4.7 Paper

LWETB is reviewing our paper-based processes and evaluating the possibilities for digitalisation as the default approach. The move to working from home during the Covid-19 public health emergency meant that all processes required change for business continuity. During this time, our staff adjusted to working with online resources, cloud-based storage and sharing documents using links, rather than printing documentation. Many of our processes are completed and processed online using electronic signatures. Payments are made through online electronic transfers.

LWETB will continue to assess and monitor paper consumption through:

- Ongoing review of paper-based processes and evaluate the possibilities for digitisation so it becomes the default approach.
- Continuing to eliminate paper-based processes as far as is practicable
- Where paper must be procured, ensure that recycled paper is the default
- Measure and monitor paper consumption
- Measure and monitor printing consumption

4.7.1 Measure and monitor paper consumption.

LWETB is reviewing our paper-based processes and evaluating the possibilities for digitalisation as the default approach. The move to working from home during the Covid-19 public health emergency meant that all processes required change for business continuity. During this time, our staff adjusted to working with online resources, cloud-based storage and sharing documents using links, rather than printing documentation. Many of our processes are completed and processed online using electronic signatures. Payments are made through online electronic transfers.

On a monthly basis, LWETB run reports on the printing usage of all our sites from the previous month, using the Uniflow reporting software. These printing figures are then sent to senior management, and this printing data is continually monitored.

4.8 Water

Sustainable water management is central to building the resilience of societies and ecosystems and to reducing carbon emissions. With growing demand for water (50% increase in global water demand expected by 2030) this increases the need for energy-intensive water pumping, transportation and treatment.

LWTEB will continue its role in reducing water consumption by:

- Monitoring water consumption data through WPRN meters

4.9 Single Use

Recent EU legislation has focused on reducing the impact of certain single-use plastic products on the environment (often referred to as the Single Use Plastics Directive, Directive (EU) 2019/904). This has introduced various legislative requirements including a ban on certain items being placed on the market, labelling requirements to inform consumers of the presence of plastic and the introduction of extended producer responsibility initiatives. Since 3 July 2021, the following single-use plastic items have been banned from being placed on the market: cotton bud sticks, cutlery, plates, stirrers, chopsticks, straws, extended polystyrene single use food and beverage containers, all oxo-degradable plastic products.

LWETB aim to progressively eliminate all single-use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded and sponsored by the organisation. LWETB will aim to:

- To cease using disposable cups, plates and cutlery in any public sector canteen or closed facility
- Progressively eliminate all other single use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded or sponsored.

4.10 Other Materials

Where possible LWETB is working towards achieving:

Support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products including the Deposit Return Scheme.

Contract waste collection services that are segregated into a minimum of 3 streams – residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/biowaste and monitor weights collected.

5. Our Buildings and Vehicles

LWETB has planned and implemented strategies to ensure that all buildings leased, and all vehicles purchased meet the requirements set out in legislation, the Climate Action Plan and the Mandate.

In 2024, two of LWETB's post primary schools went through deep energy retrofits under the Path Finder project. Both schools were wrapped with external insulation, modern energy efficient windows and doors were installed, and, in both schools, oil boilers were removed and replaced with heat pump systems. We will see the carbon emissions reduction benefits of these projects in our 2025 M&R data.

LWETB are currently renovating 3 previously unused/derelict buildings – these buildings are almost complete and are planned to be occupied by the end of Q4 2025 or Q1 2026. All 3 buildings will have a high BER rating when completed and none of these 3 buildings will have any fossil fuels usage.

- So far in 2025, 6KW Solar Panels have been installed in six of our post primary schools.
- Our Head Office and the majority of our Further Education and Training Centres have been upgraded to LED lighting.
- LED lighting upgrades are also progressing in the majority of our schools.

Other building projects planned, include:

- Oil being completely removed from another of our schools and replaced with biomass heating. This project is currently at the design stage and is planned to be completed in 2026.
- A major school extension, which will see the entire school being brought up to an A3 BER standard.
- Other major building plans are also in the pipeline for the next few years.

5.1 Our Buildings

LWETB has over 20 locations including Schools, Further Education Centres, Administrative Offices and a Training Centre across Longford and Westmeath. We continually seek to ensure that all owned and leased buildings are operated as efficiently as possible and in the case of leased buildings will negotiate with the Landlord to this end. LWETB will improve performance where feasible. Areas of focus could include operational control procedures, housekeeping audits, Smart Metering, temperature control, timers, maintenance, and other controls, or by investing in more energy-efficient lighting with improved controls. LWETB will ensure there is a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) in each building.

For procurement of office space, LWETB will observe the requirement where possible for no fossil fuel heating after 2023 in any lease agreement (except for backup supply for up to 10% of the heating load) where possible. Additionally, we will exercise due diligence in ensuring that any building selected has the best available Building Energy Rating (BER) given the urgency of occupation, location, building configuration and price range.



5.2 Our vehicles

LWETB does not have a fleet of vehicles and currently owns only 2 company vehicles and as these are updated, we will move to the most energy efficient option available. EV chargers are already provided in designated LWETB parking spaces at our FET campuses in Athlone and Longford. As the current approved capital projects are progressed more EV charging points are planned to be provided at each of our schools and campuses.

LWETB will ensure procurement of vehicles meets the CAP23 Public Sector Mandate requirement for purchase of only zero-emission vehicles, as well as the minimum targets set out by SI381/2021 Clean Vehicles Directive.

5.3 Bicycles

All LWETB locations are bicycle friendly for staff and learners. There are safe and secure access- controlled bicycle parking facilities at ground level.

LWETB also provides a bike to work scheme, which is available to all staff.

5.4 Climate action initiatives

Considerations will be given to what steps LWETB can take in relation to reducing other indirect emissions (Scope 3 emissions, e.g. from business travel, commuting, blended working arrangements and purchased goods and services), identifying the impact of climate change on organisational operations and undertaking climate adaptation measures.

Additionally, we plan to encourage staff to suggest improvements and initiatives to raise awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation (as mentioned in Section 2.3 Staff Engagement above). Any initiatives/pledges/reporting schemes will be documented in the Roadmap updates.

6. LWETB Climate Action Roadmap

LWETB uses our Public Sector Programme, Gap-to-Target Tool (v3.10), to evaluate our energy performance over time, using data and methodologies from SEAI's Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System, which includes a feature to model the decarbonisation of your organisation's energy use over the period to 2030.

The latest version incorporates 2024/2025 data. This will allow for the modelling of initiatives in terms of carbon and energy reductions toward 2030 and 2050 targets.

6.1 Progress to date

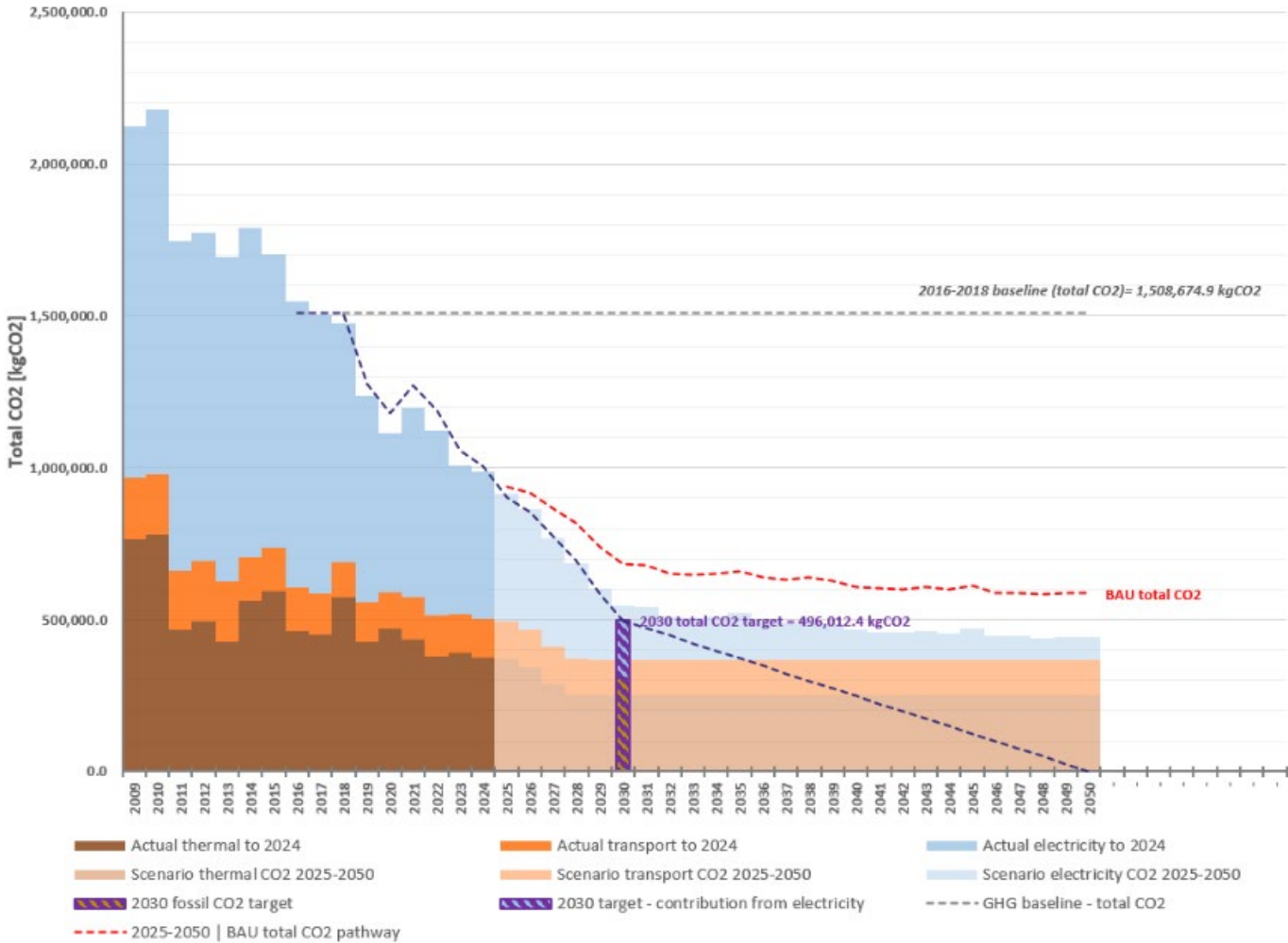
LWETB has established a Climate Action Steering Committee in 2022. Energy Committees at each of our schools have been established in 2023.

LWETB has been recording and reporting on our greenhouse gas emissions since 2009. Significant progress may be seen in the profile, and the 2016-2018 period sets out the baseline.

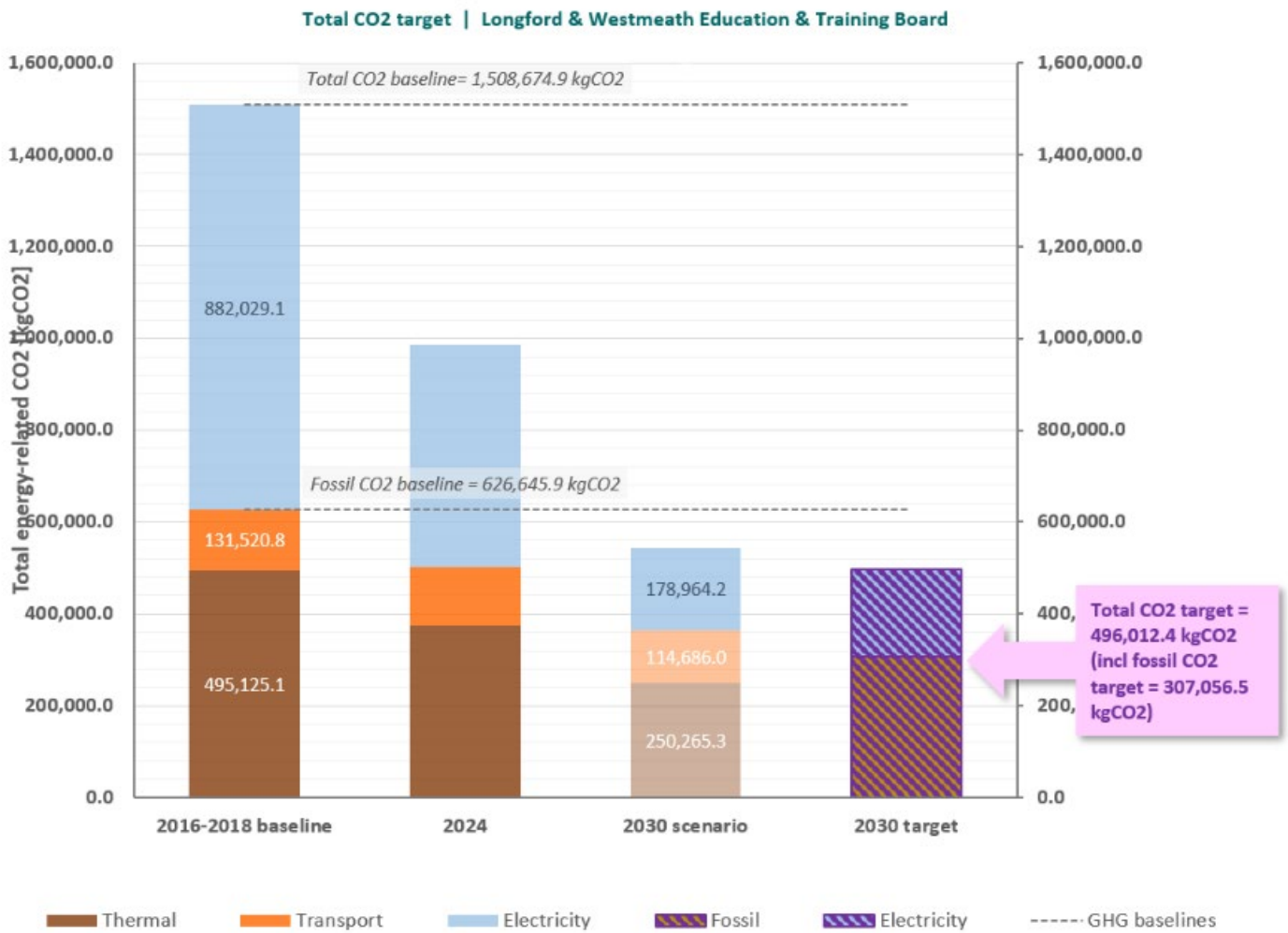
In 2021 LWETB began a project to install Electricity, Oil and Gas (Natural Gas & LPG) Smart Meters in the majority of LWETB locations. These Smart Meters are now installed and have been providing real time data for over two years in most sites. LWETB are constantly monitoring and examining our energy usage in all our locations and making changes where and when necessary. Already we can see huge benefits in the data supplied by the smart meters, and this will help us to reduce energy waste and ensure energy efficiency in all LWETB locations.

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) pathway and targets with 2024 Data

Total CO2 to 2050 | Longford & Westmeath Education & Training Board

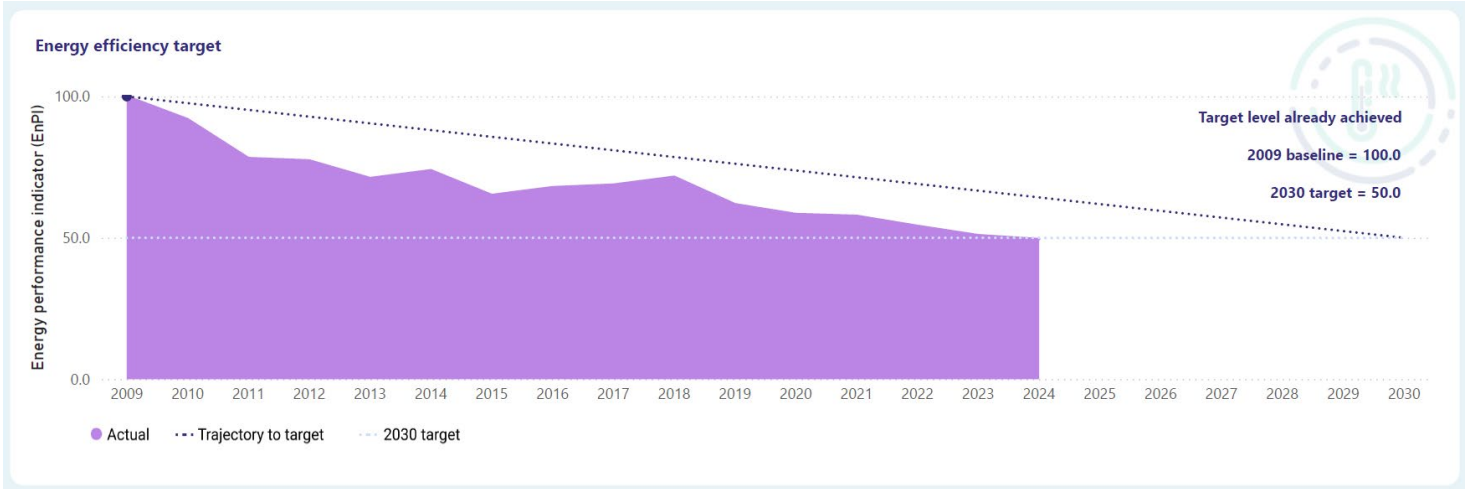


Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board's 2024 Total Emissions toward 2030 Target



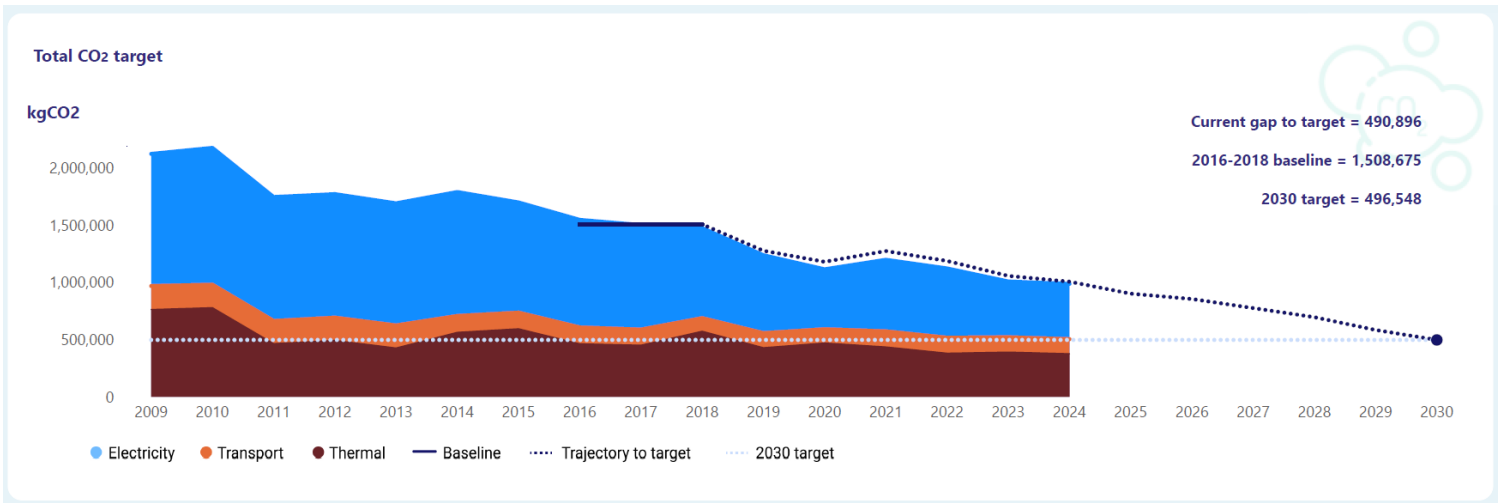
Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board's Energy Performance Indicators - 2024 M&R Data

LWETB has already achieved it's 2030 Energy Efficiency Target



Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board's Energy Performance Indicators - 2024 M&R Data

LWETB is currently on track to meet it's 2030 Total CO2 target



6.2 Closing the gap

There is significant action required before 2030, and a programme of action is being considered to close the gap. In summary, the current plans are outlined below:

- Focus on energy efficiency, engagement of people and continual improvement.
- Building upgrades, office strategy and space optimisation across all our schools and FET locations.
- Solar PV as an opportunity for NZEB.
- Scope 3 further considerations.

A significant number of projects have received approval and are at design stage with the Department of Education and the Department of Further and Higher Education Innovation and Science. These projects are the core of our plan. The remainder of the plan will be dynamic. As we validate the impact of these actions, we will refine the Roadmap plans and take additional or alternative steps necessary to achieve the required GHG reductions.

We have commenced modelling on the major project contributors and the completed energy audits will lead to more detailed modelling in the coming months.

6.3 LWETB Climate Action Roadmap planning

Our Statement of Strategy 2022-2025 places significant focus on delivering our Targets – Setting, Prioritising, Monitoring and Delivering Targets.

Early in this programme, we will educate our staff through targeted training sessions and regular updates. The Climate Action Steering Committee will also promote participation in promotional activities and encourage engagement with various actions. Our Gap-to-Target shall be properly modelled and reviewed regularly for performance and improvement.

1. Planning phase (Step 1)

- Conduct initial energy audit of all buildings
- Develop a decarbonisation strategy for building(s)
- Define emissions reduction targets for each building
- Identify possible building adjustments or moves to accommodate organisation growth
- Develop a capital budget plan and support for decarbonisation efforts

2. Energy efficiency improvements (Step 2)
 - Upgrade lighting systems, controls, and operational control measures
 - Develop HVAC improvements and operational control to increase efficiency
 - Incorporate building adjustments to facilitate the growth of LWETB activities
 - Feasibility and implementation of other ideas for energy performance improvement

3. Renewable energy installations (Years 3-4)
 - Transition to electrification of heat using heat pump heating system in appropriate locations.
 - Identify heat electrification opportunities in other buildings, if applicable.
 - Conduct feasibility studies for potential alternative renewable energy sources (solar, biofuel, biomass), as appropriate.
 - Installation of solar panels with battery storage, as applicable.

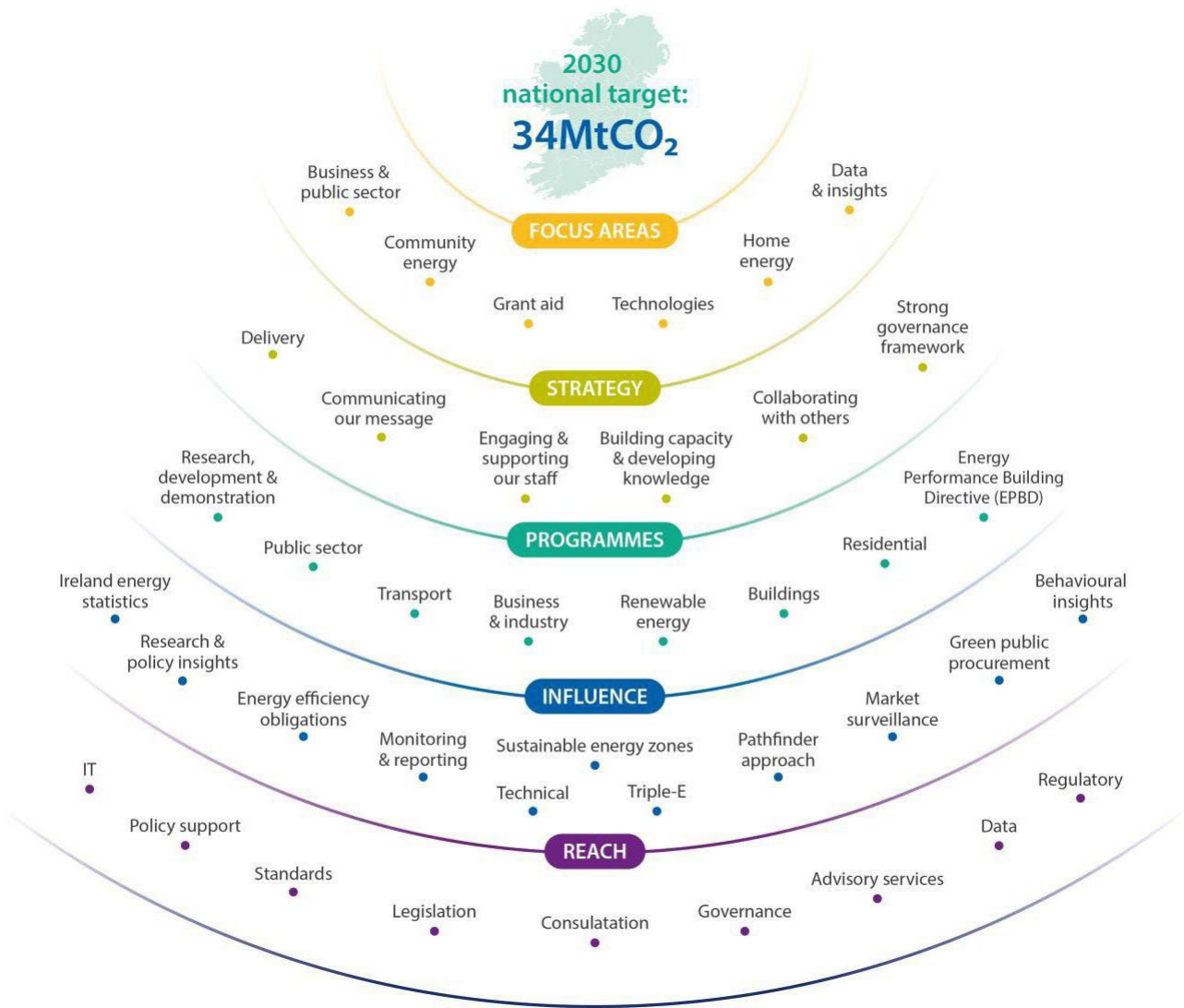
4. Monitoring and reporting (Years 1-8)
 - Monitor energy usage and emissions to track progress towards emissions reduction targets
 - Report impact to maintain momentum and build support for LWETB climate action efforts
 - Annual Management Review process
 - Evaluate and adjust the energy management plan as necessary based on monitoring and reporting results

5. Education and training (Years 1-8)
 - Conduct awareness campaigns to encourage behavioural changes
 - Develop and deliver training programmes to educate employees, building occupants and learners on energy efficiency and emissions reduction
 - Raise awareness about the LWETB and SEAI climate action efforts through communication and engagement with stakeholders
 - Encourage employee participation in energy conservation and emissions reduction initiatives.

Our design teams and advisors will explore technical designs that will facilitate reaching our targets, all the while collaborating, educating, and informing our public sector colleagues, our landlords, staff, learners, and whole education community. The shift from fossil fuelled thermal energy to clean electrical energy is pivotal to meeting our targets.

As our Roadmap progresses, we will continue to report, monitor, and explore future opportunities. These might include the addition of further renewables, in consultation with our landlord and head tenant.

6.4 National climate action support



7. Conclusion

The LWETB Climate Action Roadmap outlines the plan to reduce our organisation’s greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency up to 2030. It is our hope this will achieve and indeed exceed the 2030 targets and progress us significantly towards the 2050 targets. LWETB will add greater detail to the proposed steps, monitoring progress towards goals and implementing improvement steps where required. LWETB will also engage, educate, and involve staff in the initiative and collaborate with co-tenants in buildings to make sustainable enhancements. The management systems will be optimised to support the Climate Action Steering Committee.

Best practice guidance, information and figures sourced from SEAI Public Sector Climate Action Roadmap Guidance 2025 [here](#)

Glossary

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Climate and Sustainability Champion | Member of the management board with responsibility for implementing and reporting on the Climate Action Mandate |
| CO2 | Carbon dioxide |
| EMAS | Eco-management and Audit Scheme. |
| Energy MAP | SEAI bespoke energy management system training |
| Energy Performance Officer (EPO) | Member of senior management appointed to lead on energy management and performance |
| Gap to Target Tool | Spreadsheet model developed by SEAI for use by public bodies to evaluate their energy efficiency (EE) performance and energy related greenhouse gases |
| GHG | Greenhouse gases |
| Green Public Procurement (GPP) | Green Public Procurement is a process where public authorities seek to source goods, services or works with a reduced environmental impact. |
| GWh | Giga Watt hour |
| HVAC | Heating, ventilation and air conditioning |
| ISO14001:2015 | International standard, setting requirements for environmental management systems |
| ISO50001 | International standard, setting requirements for energy management systems |
| KW | Kilowatt |
| M&R SEAI's | Monitoring and Reporting system for public sector energy efficiency and carbon emissions |
| Register of Opportunities | List of energy efficiency opportunities developed as part of an energy management system |
| SMP | Sustainable Mobility Policy |
| Triple E register | List of energy efficient products. Products on this register all meet a minimum set of stringent energy efficiency criteria and typically, will be of a best-in-class efficiency standard. |



lwetb

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