



Kilkenny Going Green E-MAGAZINE

Issue

1

WE'RE
TAKING
CLIMATE
ACTION



Kilkenny County Council
Climate Action Plan
2024 - 2029

 Kilkenny
Going Green

WHAT'S INSIDE

FUNDING.
CASE STUDIES.
REDUCE YOUR USE.
EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY WEEK.
WORLD CAR FREE DAY.
REDUCE YOUR USE.

Message from the Chief Executive Kilkenny County Council



Welcome to the first Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Newsletter. On this platform we will update you on key information that will inform you on climate action activities, funding and inspiring ideas that are happening throughout County Kilkenny.

Kilkenny's climate is changing and this poses significant challenges and risks to all those living and working in the county. Quality of life, economic prosperity, the environment and critical infrastructure are all subject to the impacts of climate change. The Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan is a road-map for how Kilkenny County Council will respond to the challenges, meet our climate obligations and deepen our commitment to climate action.

This newsletter will be part of an overall communicational strategy that will be used to keep our staff and you the wider public informed on our progress in implementing our agreed actions.

Sincerely

Lar Power
Chief Executive
Kilkenny County Council


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**WE'RE
TAKING
CLIMATE
ACTION**



WHATS INSIDE | issue 1



OUR PLAN

The Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 sets out the actions that will be taken by Kilkenny County Council to prepare our County and people living here for the impacts of climate change whilst also laying out measures to mitigate the effects of climate change. The Plan outlines the main climate risks facing County Kilkenny and the current levels of greenhouse gas emissions at Kilkenny County Council and the County.

The actions within this Climate Action Plan include those for which Kilkenny County Council is fully accountable across its own buildings, operations, services, and functions, as well as actions for which Kilkenny County Council will influence, co-ordinate, facilitate and advocate on for climate action in the County.

Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029

CLIMATE ACTION GRANTS

All change starts with a first small step, the changes in our behaviour, how we live, and the way we use resources, all play a big part in tackling the impacts of climate change. Reducing our carbon footprint and impact on our natural environment can impact significantly but there are now a number of supports available to assist you. Click on the links below and video here for more details on Climate Action grants.

KILKENNY CLIMATE ACTION COMMUNITY FUNDING

Click on the grants video here

2024 Grants Booklet

Kilkenny Going Green

European Sustainable Energy Week

From 11 to 13 June, the European Sustainable Energy Week brings together public authorities, private companies, NGOs and consumers to promote initiatives accelerating decarbonisation through green technologies and solutions towards a fair and just transition for people and competitive businesses.

EVENT Kilkenny Going Green

11-13 JUNE 2024
EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK

Net-zero energy solutions for a competitive Europe

Click here to register

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REDUCE YOUR USE

A SUMMARY OF OUR TARGETS

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN GHG TARGETS

OUR GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

LIGHTING
1,640 PUBLIC LIGHTS
50% REDUCTION IN KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LIGHTING ENERGY USE BY 2030

OUR 2030 TARGETS
51% REDUCTION IN KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL'S GREEN HOUSE GASES BY 2030

FLEET
206 COUNCIL VEHICLES
51% REDUCTION IN KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL'S FLEET EMISSIONS BY 2030

BUILDINGS
300 BUILDINGS & FACILITIES
50% REDUCTION IN KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL'S BUILDING ENERGY USE BY 2030

2024
Kilkenny Going Green

CASE STUDIES

As part of this newsletter we will showcase sample case studies on how projects are working towards addressing climate change in County Kilkenny. Over time this newsletter will share more advanced sample projects and will hopefully give you an inspiration and insight into what can be achieved.

ACTIVE TRAVEL
Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)

etrofit 5
Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)

Kilkenny Going Green
Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP SCHEME)

FLOODING IN IRELAND

Climate change not only means changes in the average climate with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate events, through climate change projections, like all projections of the future, are subject to uncertainty, the latest climate model projections for Ireland are in broad agreement with previous research, instead they show an increase in average annual rainfall of approximately 10mm or 5% in the period 2021-2050, compared to the 30-year period 1961-1990.

WE'RE TAKING CLIMATE ACTION

Kilkenny Going Green

IMAGES: THOMASTOWN KILKENNY STORM BAPT 20

REDUCE YOUR USE

OVERALL TARGET FOR BOTH BUILDINGS = 15% achieved

24% i.e. combined total reduction in emissions

Total Co2 Savings 9.5 tonnes

Financial Savings €5,000 per year

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WORLD CAR FREE DAY SEPTEMBER 22ND 2024

EVENT Kilkenny Going Green

What is World Car-free Day?
Taking place on the 22nd of September, World Car-free Day is an annual celebration of cities and public life, free from the noise, stress and pollution of cars. This is a chance to challenge the importance of cars in our lives, to reduce as well as the impact of cars on the environment.

Why do we celebrate World Car-free Day?
World Car-free Day is a day when we can all do our bit to help. It's a wonderful event, encourages everyone to give up their cars for a day and consider alternative ways of getting to work, the shops, the school and getting to school/work from city.

For more information click here

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION WEBSITE

Kilkenny Going Green

The Climate Action Department has developed a new Kilkenny County Council Climate Action web platform. On this platform we will update you on key information that will inform you on climate action activities, funding and inspiring ideas that are happening throughout County Kilkenny. On this platform we will also be showcasing climate action related videos as a resource that will share the climate action related topics that we hope you will find interesting. For more information please click here.

51% REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS

REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS

Thomastown 11%

Callan 26%

11% reduction in emissions based on 100% behavioural change with no investment costs

26% emissions reductions based on behavioural change of 9,000 euro in investment

OUR TARGETS



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A SUMMARY OF OUR TARGETS

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN GHG TARGETS OUR GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



LIGHTING

11,400 PUBLIC LIGHTS

50%

REDUCTION IN KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LIGHTING ENERGY USE BY 2030

OUR 2030 TARGETS

51%

REDUCTION IN KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL'S GREEN HOUSE GASES

2030

KCC TO MAINTAIN ISO 50001 ENERGY MANAGEMENT ACCREDITATION



FLEET

258 COUNCIL VEHICLES

51%

REDUCTION IN KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCILS FLEET EMISSIONS BY 2030



BUILDINGS

100 BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

50%

REDUCTION IN KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL'S BUILDING ENERGY USE BY 2030

2024

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OUR PLAN

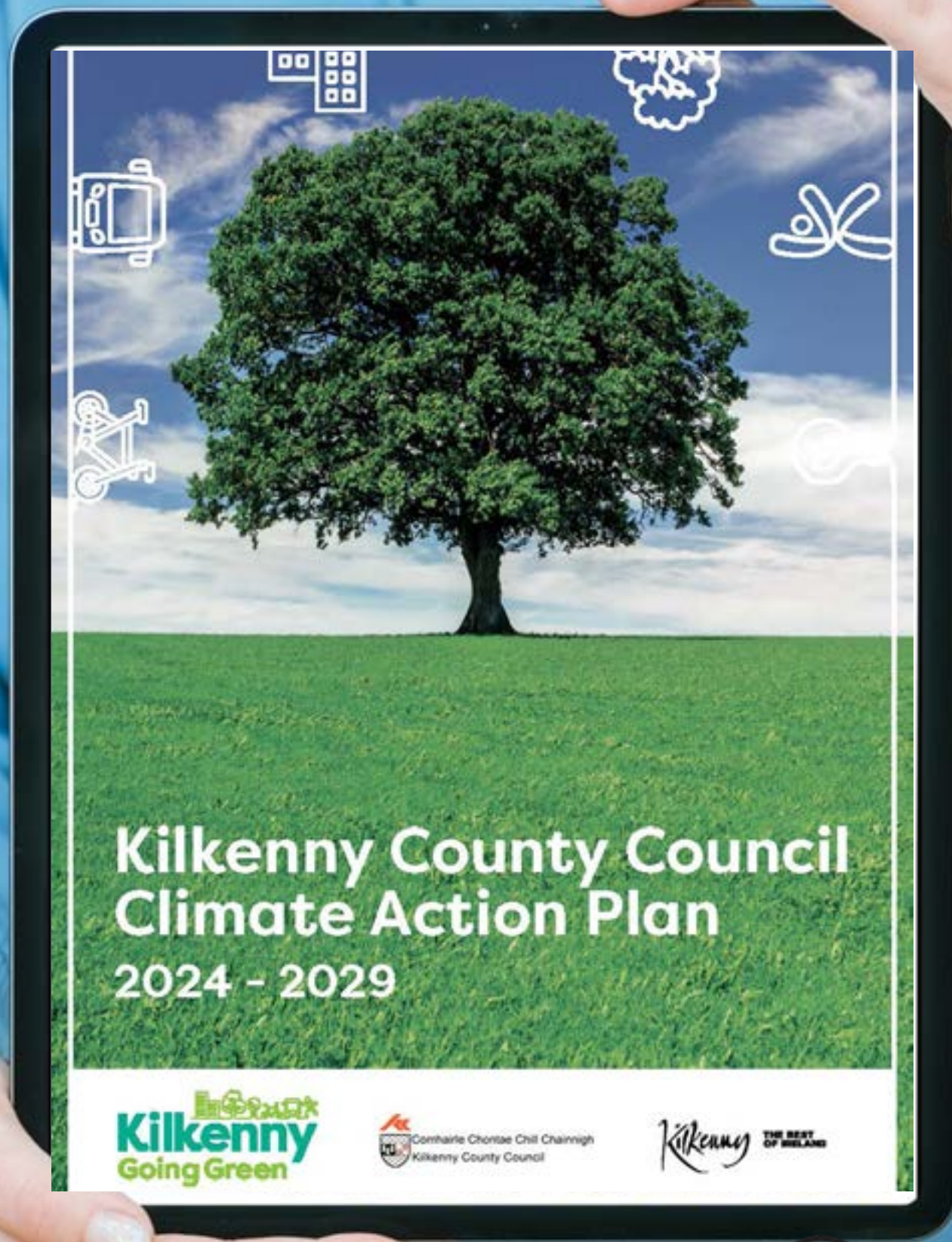


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OUR PLAN

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Our Vision

"Kilkenny County Council will be a climate resilient organisation that inspires and supports the county's transition to a biodiversity rich, sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050."

visit www.kilkennycoco.ie



OUR PLAN

We recognise that Kilkenny County Council has a significant role to play in tackling climate change. Our services, operations, policies and programmes have a direct impact on all those living and working in Kilkenny.

This puts the Council in a unique position to lead by example, in conjunction with influencing other key stakeholders to undertake effective climate action. Kilkenny County Council will transform how we do business, delivering our Climate Action Plan and achieve emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. We will also support other stakeholders, communities and businesses in the County to take action. We don't underestimate the challenge ahead, but are optimistic that by working together with the support of staff, elected representatives and stakeholders in the County that we can realise the ambition in this Plan.



Click on the video here to find out more

Click on the video here to find

COMMUNITY FUNDING



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CLIMATE ACTION GRANTS

All change starts with a few small steps, the changes in our behaviour, how we live, use energy and utilise resources, all play a big part in tackling the impacts of climate change. Reducing our carbon footprint and impact on our natural environment can require investment but there are now a number of supports available to assist you. Click on the links below and video here for more details on Climate Action grants.



Click on the 2023 grants video here
Please note that details on the 2024/25 grant will be posted on our website when announced by the Department



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CASE STUDIES



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CASE STUDIES

As part of this newsletter we will showcase sample case studies on how projects are working towards addressing climate change in County Kilkenny. Over time this newsletter will document additional sample projects and will hopefully give you inspiration and insight into what can be achieved.



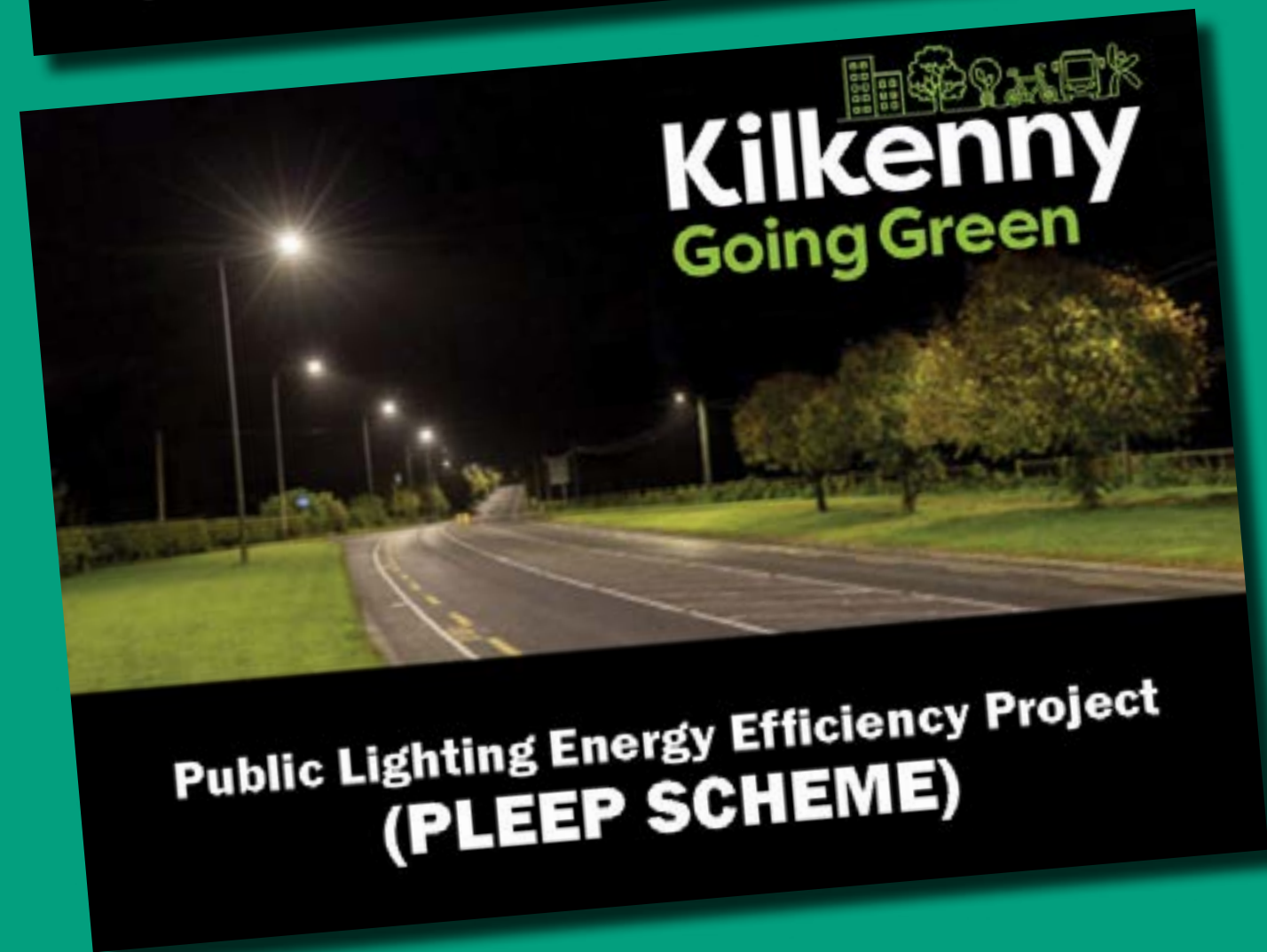
ACTIVE TRAVEL



Housing Retrofit Scheme



Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)



**Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project
(PLEEP SCHEME)**



CASE STUDY

The Travel and Transport section of Kilkenny County Council provides advice and information on mobility issues; develops policies and priorities for the enhancement of Kilkenny's sustainable travel and transport including active travel, public transport, traffic management and parking; This section also collates mobility data, and promotes and support sustainable mobility awareness & education throughout the county.

A key objective is to work with an interdepartmental team and a key stakeholder groups in the preparation and in the implementation of the city's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan. [Click here](#)



Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP).

Kilkenny County Council is the lead authority in the Eastern Region of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP). The PLEEP is a national project for the upgrading of Public Lighting infrastructure from incandescent light bulbs to energy efficient LED lanterns. Public Lighting is responsible for 34.8% of Kilkenny County Councils energy consumption.

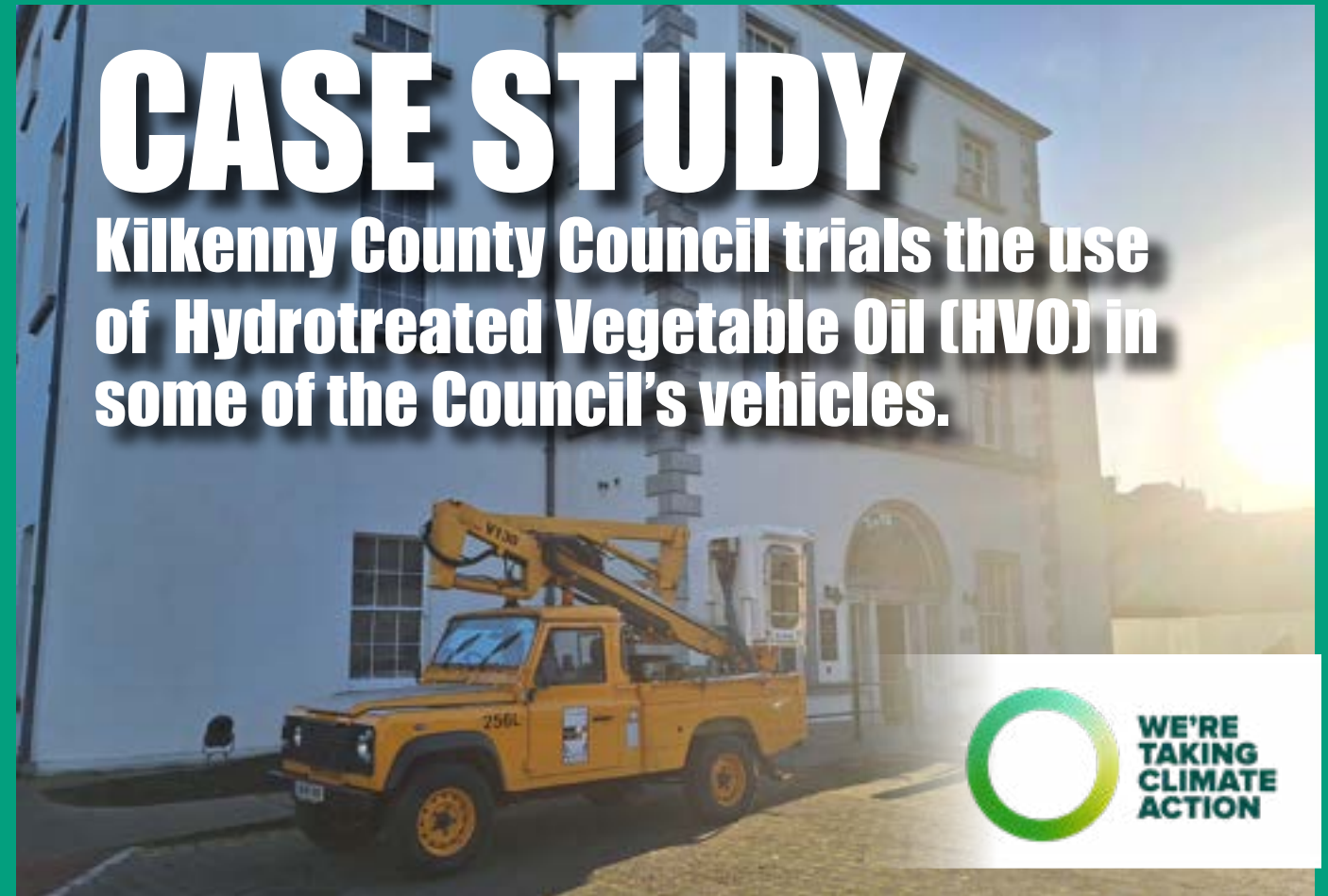
The target energy savings for the PLEEP is 70% with a minimum saving estimated at 50% of original consumption. An even higher saving could be made through the introduction of “dimming and trimming” this is where lights can be set to dim outside of peak hours and trim to refine where the light is emitted therefore protecting our natural environment and surrounding from light pollution. To date almost half of the 10,726 lanterns in Kilkenny have been upgraded to LED fittings. With an estimated payback period of 10 years and a life span of 25 years.





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Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)



CASE STUDY

Kilkenny County Council trials the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in some of the Council's vehicles.

Kilkenny County Council operates over 250 vehicles for roadworks, and other services such as the Fire Service, Civil Defense, Mobile Library and the Parks Department. Together they produce over 25% of the Council's greenhouse gas emissions.

Many of these vehicles are large machines, and current technology isn't suitable to replace them with electric alternatives. HVO is an interim solution until more sustainable technologies are found, with trials presently ongoing. In October 2023, Kilkenny County Council commenced a trial using HVO in a number of council vehicles and if the trial is successful, HVO could play a significant role in reducing the Council's greenhouse gas emissions. For more information please click on the link here.



CONVERTING DIESEL ENGINES

HVO

Click on the HVO video here



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CASE STUDY

THE WATERSHED

The Watershed Kilkenny is no stranger to using sustainable methods to heat and power their facilities. Two of the most recent retrofits included installing a new wood-chip boiler and a 150kwp Solar PV system.

WoodCo supplied the Watershed with a 500kW wood chip boiler as part of an ESCO agreement. This means that the Watershed had no capital costs but instead pays for the heat it uses at an agreed price as part of a 15-year ESCO agreement, with WoodCo owning and maintaining the boiler. The Renewable heat is benchmarked against current gas prices and is guaranteed to be cheaper than gas. The Watershed is currently paying €0.06/kwh compared to approximately €0.13 for gas. The woodchip is sourced locally and delivered every two weeks. The Watershed requires 500 tonnes of wood chip per annum and this results in savings of up to 300 tonnes of CO2 per annum compared to gas which they had previously used.

A 150kwp Solar PV system was installed at the Watershed in late 2022 and so far the array has produced over 103,000kwh. Assuming the final production figure for the year is around 117,000kwh, the Watershed is set to generate €44,500 worth of electricity based on their electricity bills showing them paying 38c/kwh. In addition to this a further 55 tonnes of CO2 emissions will not be emitted into the atmosphere.



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The Watershed

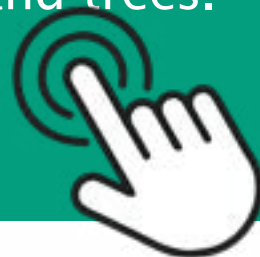


CASE STUDY

RETROFITTING PROGRAMME

Kilkenny County Council is implementing an energy efficiency retrofitting programme on existing local authority housing, in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. In addition, Kilkenny County Council is designing new local authority housing to be more energy efficient.

An example is Pairc Nua, Castlecomer Road, a stunning one and two bed social housing development which was nominated in the regeneration category of the Irish Council for Social Housing's Allianz Community Housing Awards. The houses were developed from a number of existing buildings including a disused former pub and guest-house, in addition to the constructing of new units. The development has sustainability at its core by utilizing existing buildings, designing to Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) A rating, incorporating renewable energy solutions such as solar PV panels and planting greenery and trees.



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Housing Retrofit Scheme

European Sustainable Energy Week

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11-13 JUNE 2024

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY WEEK

Net-zero energy solutions
for a competitive Europe

#EUSEW2024
ec.europa.eu/eusew



Click here to register



WORLD CAR FREE DAY SEPTEMBER 22ND 2024

What is World Car-free Day?

Taking place on the 22nd of September, World Car-free Day is an annual celebration of cities and public life, free from the noise, stress and pollution of cars. This is a fantastic chance to discuss the importance of exercise with your children as well as the impact of cars on the environment.

Why do we celebrate World Car-free Day?

Motor vehicles emit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which are major causes of global warming. World Car Free Day is celebrated to help the environment and bring awareness to what we can all do to help. This wonderful event encourages everyone to give up their cars for a day and consider alternative ways of travelling, for example walking and cycling to school/work more often.

*For more information
click here*



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FLOODING



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FLOODING



Climate change not only means changes in the average climate such as temperature but also changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate events. Though climate change projections, like all projections of the future, are subject to uncertainty, the latest climate modelling projections for Ireland are in broad agreement with previous research. Ireland has seen an increase in average annual national rainfall of approximately 60mm or 5% in the period 1981-2010, compared to the 30- year period 1961-1990.




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**IMAGES; THOMASTOWN KILKENNY
STORM BABET 2023**



**IMAGE; THOMASTOWN KILKENNY
STORM BABET 2023**

Projections indicate a substantial increase in the frequency of heavy precipitation events in Winter and Autumn (approx. 20%).

Flooding in Ireland can have a significant impact on property, people, communities, the environment and cultural heritage. It is likely that climate change will increase flood risk in Ireland due to rising sea levels, increased rainfall in winter, more heavy rain days and more intense storms.

Sea Level Rise

The rate of global sea level rise for 2006–2015 of 3.6 mm per year, is unprecedented over the last century, and about 2.5 times the rate for 1901–1990. Sea level is projected to continue to rise at this rate or greater. All major cities in Ireland are in coastal locations subject to tides, any significant rise in sea levels will have major economic, social and environmental impacts. Rising sea levels around Ireland would result in increased coastal erosion, flooding and damage to property and infrastructure.



INFORMATION

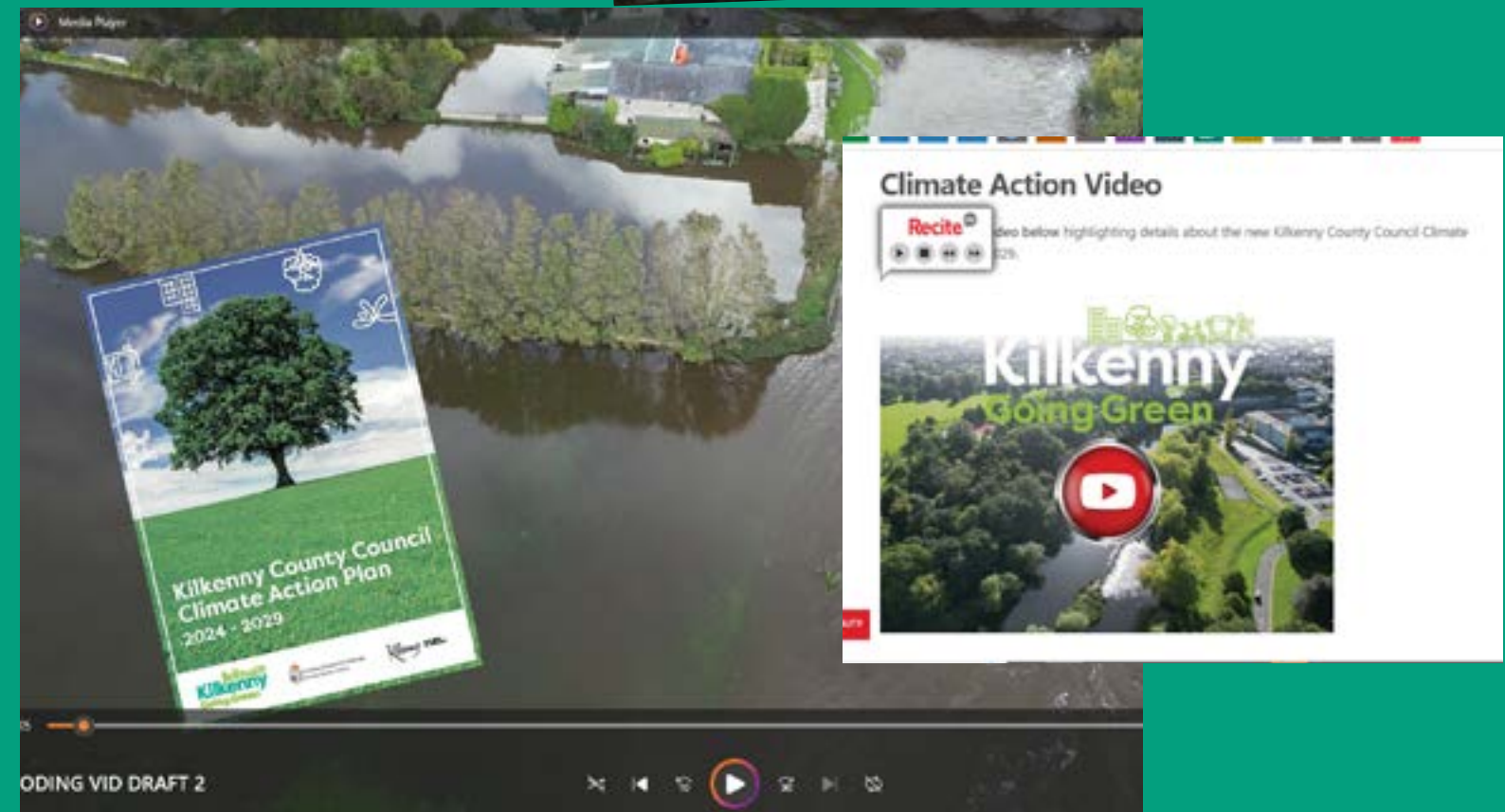
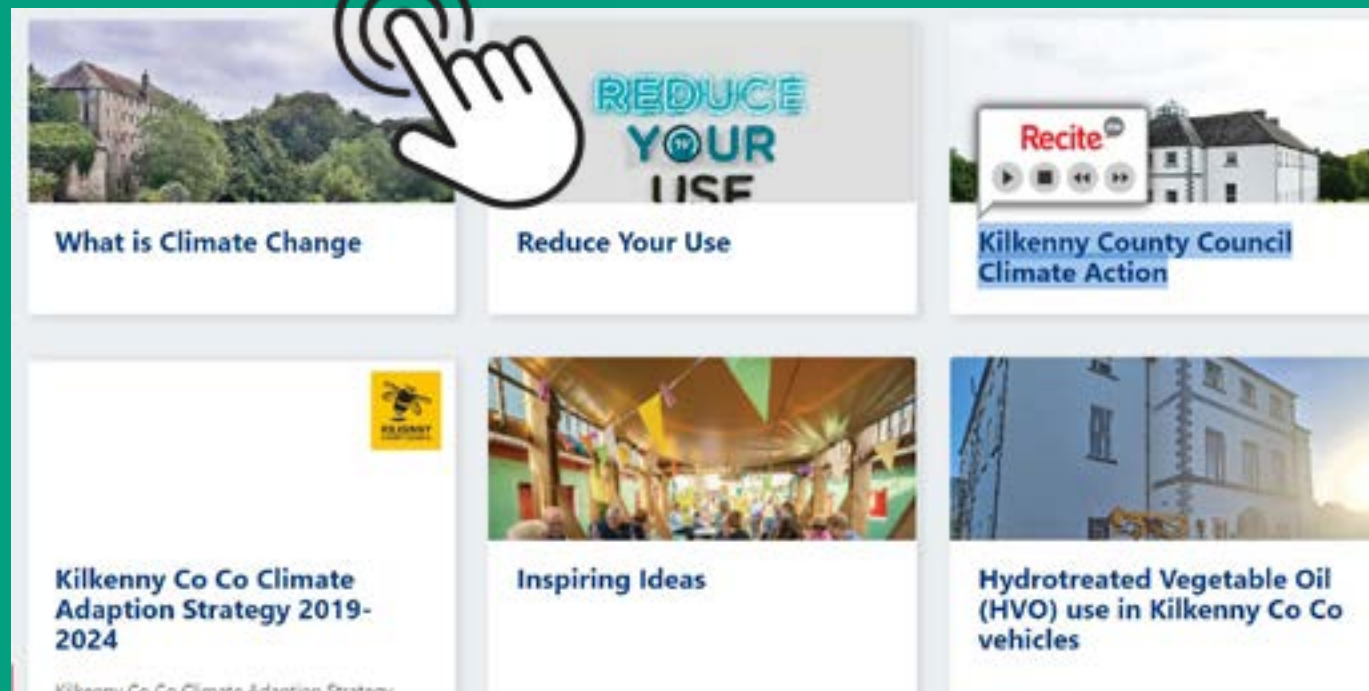

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KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION WEBSITE



The Climate Action Department has developed a new Kilkenny County Council Climate Action web platform. On this platform we will update you on key information that will inform you on climate action activities, funding and inspiring ideas that are happening throughout County Kilkenny. On this platform we will also be uploading climate action videos as a resource that will showcase climate action related topics that we hope you will find interesting.




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REDUCE
YOUR USE



REDUCE YOUR USE CAMPAIGN OCTOBER 2023 - MARCH 2024

Kilkenny County Council signed up for the 2023/24 Reduce Your Use campaign. The Reduce Your Use Campaign is a voluntary initiative for the public sector as part of a whole-of-government national campaign to reduce energy use through the winter months.

Running from November 2023 to March 2024, we asked all staff to be mindful of their energy use and we encouraged delivery service areas and offices to take simple measures to reduce energy use over the winter months.

CASE STUDY

Also as part of this campaign, Kilkenny County Council selected the Thomastown and Callan Area Offices as two pilot buildings where we implemented a number of measures focusing on behavioural change in the Thomastown building and both behavioural change and some minor investment in energy saving in the Callan Area Office.



OVERALL TARGET
15%
ENERGY SAVINGS



Click on the video here



**WE'RE
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REDUCE YOUR USE

By reducing our daily energy use, we can save money and limit our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

[Find out more](#)

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Reduce Your Use Campaign for the Callan and Thomastown Area Office was to reach a combined energy savings on buildings between November 2023 to March 2024 of 15%.

Given Kilkenny County Councils commitment to reducing emissions in the recently launched Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the ongoing situation in relation to energy prices and supply, there is now a concerted effort across Kilkenny County Council and the public sector to lead by example in lowering energy consumption and costs.

The Reduce Your Use energy efficiency initiative provides a structured programme of energy saving activities that Kilkenny County Council can use to help us reach our targets in the recently published Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

The Initiative is focused on taking action in the short term and on implementing measures that will set our organisations on a pathway towards achieving our 2030 energy efficiency targets.



THOMASTOWN AREA OFFICE



CALLAN AREA OFFICE

REDUCE YOUR USE

By reducing our daily energy use, we can save money and limit our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Find out more

CALAN AREA OFFICE

As part of this campaign, Kilkenny County Council have selected the Thomastown and Callan Area offices as two pilot buildings for the Reduce Your Use Campaign.

Callan Area Office Building

The Callan building was constructed in 1840 and extended in 2000. The original building consists of 520mm of solid stone walls with no insulation. There is also basic attic insulation while all windows are single-glazed timber frame, the doors are of timber construction and the floor is solid concrete.

The extension has double glazed PVC windows and doors. The extension walls are assumed to be partly filled 300mm cavity walls. The area office is equipped with a 70 kW Bongioanni T100/7 non-condensing combi boiler installed in 2000 with Kerosene as the fuel used. Based on its age, the operating efficiency may be as poor as 50%. The heating is provided in the building through radiators having TRVs.

The key measures taken in the Callan building were a combination of behavioural change with some minor investment that will improve energy efficiency. For example replacing LED lights, resetting the timer on the oil burner i.e. reducing the hours of use.



REDUCE YOUR USE

By reducing our daily energy use, we can save money and limit our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

[Find out more](#)



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THOMASTOWN AREA OFFICE

The Thomastown building is a more modern building that was constructed over thirty years ago. The building is of cavity wall construction with 130m² of usable floor area split over two floors.

The building comprises a large open plan office, reception area, meeting room, toilets and storage room on the ground floor, with three large offices, canteen and two bathrooms on the first floor. The build is occupied to the normal 9 - 5 operation with the standard holiday and public holidays.

Unlike the Callan building which has received some investment to address energy efficiency, the key focus in the Thomastown building was solely on staff behavioural change. In other words we wanted to see what we can achieve in reducing energy use by behavioural change alone. Examples of efforts included putting timers on heaters, turning off radiators in rooms that were not in use, turning off lights and appliances and putting a timer on lights surrounding the building.



REDUCE YOUR USE 19

By reducing our daily energy use, we can save money and limit our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

[Find out more](#)

Ailín na hÍdeanna
Government of Ireland



REDUCE
YOUR USE

ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE CALLAN & THOMASTOWN AREA OFFICES





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Actions taken

CALLAN

Area Office



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The Reduce Your Use measures incorporated in the Callan Area Office included a combination of behavioural change and an investment of 9,000 euros in energy saving improvements.

Communicational Campaign

A Reduce Your Use Awareness / Communicational Campaign was put in place in the Callan Area Office.

Oil Heating

The Callan buildings oil boiler heats the radiators throughout the area office. The boiler's timer was adjusted and the overall usage was reduced by 26%.

Radiators

Radiators in rooms not in use were turned off where feasible throughout the building.

Disconnection of heating pipes in the buildings attic

Heating pipes in the attic were disconnected from the main heating system by installing valves.

Installation of LED Lights

In November 2023 there were 33 (120 Watts) fittings in the Area Office in Callan this number was reduced to 23 fittings with efficient LED 50 Watt bulbs installed. An additional 12 bulbs were replaced with energy efficient bulbs, these were located in the stairwells, meeting room and at the main entrance of the building.

REDUCE YOUR USE

By reducing our daily energy use, we can save money and limit our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

[Find out more](#)

The Reduce Your Use measures incorporated in the Thomastown Area Office incorporated behavioural change only

Communicational Campaign

A Reduce Your Use Communicational/Awareness Campaign was put in place in the Thomastown Area Office.

Radiators

There are eight radiators in total in the building, four of these are new radiators incorporating built-in timers. The four radiators with timers were all reduced to 19C and the heating was turned off during Christmas and holiday periods.

OUTSIDE LIGHTS/TIMER

A timer was installed to manage the buildings outside lights. These lights used to be on during the night, the timer is now set for the lights to be on in the winter between 4.30 - 5.50pm.



Actions taken **THOMASTOWN** Area Office



REDUCE YOUR USE

By reducing our daily energy use, we can save money and limit our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

[Find out more](#)

CALCULATING

THE REDUCTION IN ENERGY USE

in the Thomastown & Callan Area Offices

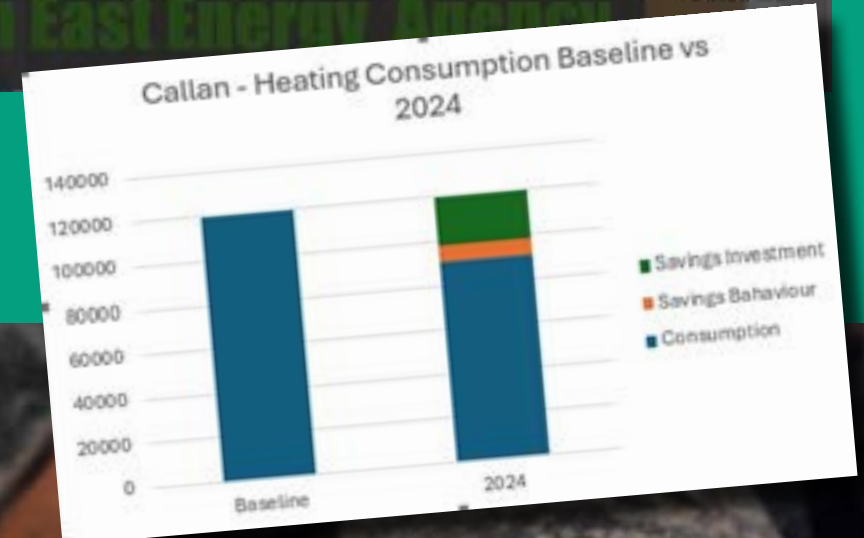
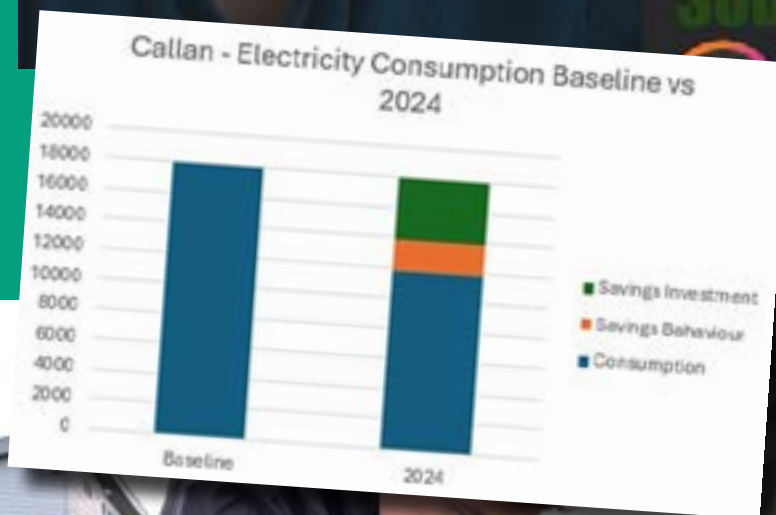


CALCULATING THE RESULTS



Johan Muller from the South East Energy Agency was tasked with independently calculating and reporting on the results from the Kilkenny County Councils Reduce Your Use Campaign in the Thomastown and Callan Area Offices. Johan used a number of methods when calculating the results in both buildings that included comparing baseline data readings over the last 3 years with energy consumption (kWh), savings in behaviour and savings in investment over the five month duration of the Reduce Your Use Campaign (November 2023-March 2024).

Given the Callan Area Office operates an oil burner for heating the building, different methods were used to calculate readings. For example using the HDD method, dipping the oil tank at various intervals throughout the campaign and incorporating how adjustments like the isolation of the heating from the attic reduced consumption, the reduction of use in hours of the boiler, and the upgrading of lighting. The final results gave some very interesting statistics, specifically showcasing how a change in behaviour combined with some minor investment can give some very positive results.



REDUCE YOUR USE

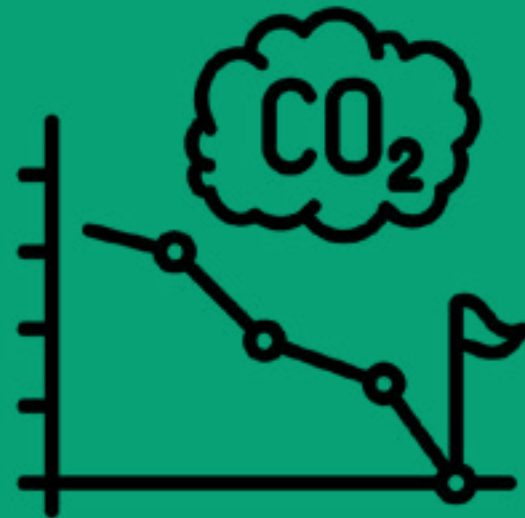
By reducing our daily energy use, we can save money and limit our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Find out more



THE RESULTS

Thomastown & Callan Area Offices



REDUCE
YOUR USE

OVERALL TARGET
FOR BOTH BUILDINGS = 15%

achieved

24%

*i.e. combined total reduction
in energy use*

*Total CO₂
Savings*

9.5 tonnes pa

*Financial
Savings*

€ 5,000 pa

REDUCE
YOUR USE

REDUCTION IN ENERGY

REDUCE
YOUR USE

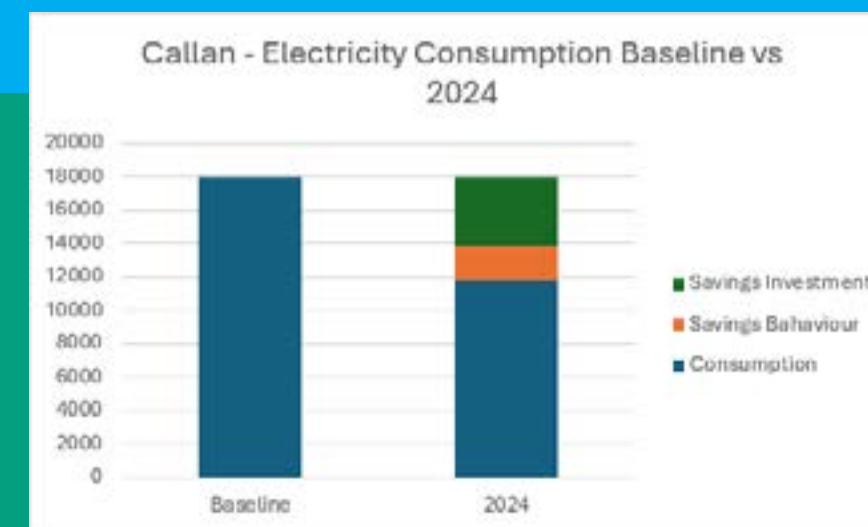
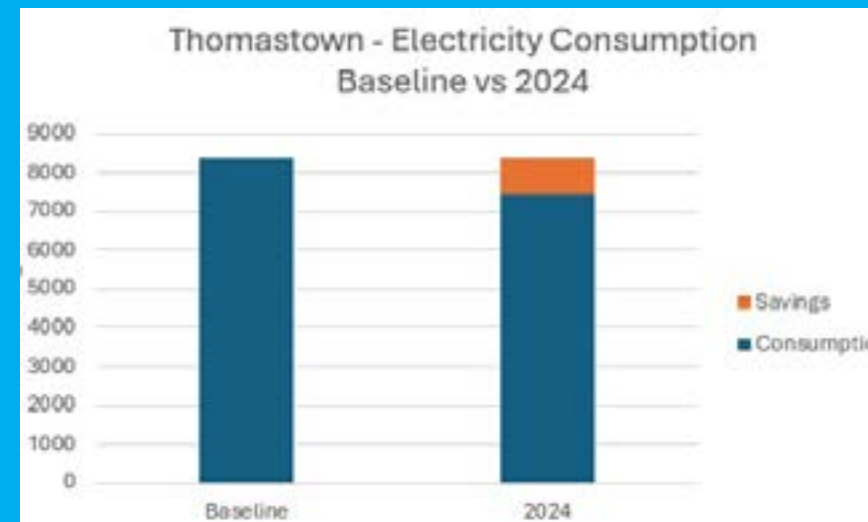


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Thomastown

11%

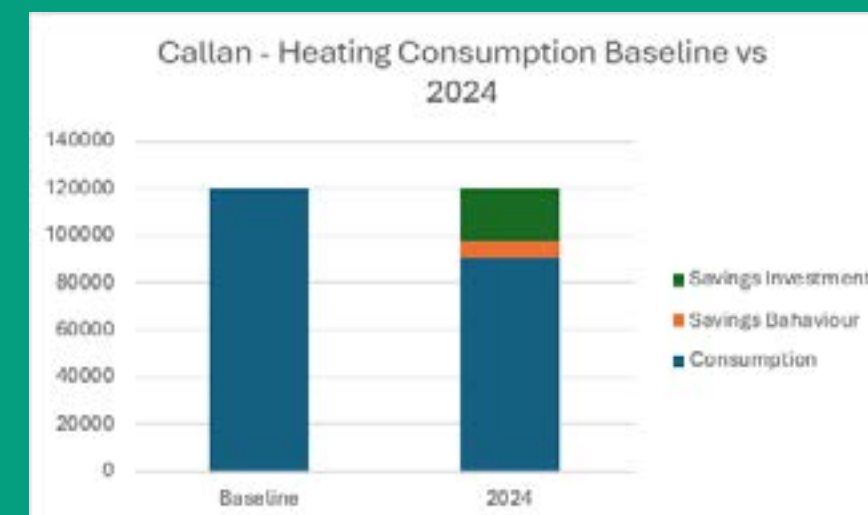
Energy reductions based on
100% behavioural change
with no investment made



Callan

26%

Energy reductions based on
behavioural change +
9,000 euro in investment



REDUCE
YOUR USE

REDUCTION IN ENERGY

REDUCE
YOUR USE

**Savings in
Consumption
Behaviour &
Investment**



Kilkenny Going Green

	Callan				Total	Thomastown		Total		
	Heating		Electricity			Baseline	2024	kWh	Cost savings	kgCO2 savings
	Baseline	2024	Baseline	2024						
Consumption (kWh)	119,707	90,551	18,000	11,778	137,707	8,370	7,478	154,447		
Savings Behaviour (kWh)		21,541		2,128	23,669		892	25,453	€3,009	6,539
Savings Investment (kWh)		7,615		4,094	11,709			11,709	€1,968	3,316
Savings Behaviour %	0%	18%	0%	12%	17%	0%	11%	16%		
Savings Investment %	0%	6%	0%	23%	9%	0%	0%	8%		
Total Savings %		24%		35%			11%	24%	€4,977	9,855



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WWW.KILKENNYCOCO.IE