



Bord Oideachais & Oiliúna
LUIMNIGH & AN CHLÁIR

LIMERICK & CLARE
Education & Training Board

Climate Action Roadmap

2025

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Appendices

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Strategy Statement 2022-2026

Document Control

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Executive Summary

The Government's Climate Action Plan (CAP25) envisages the public sector leading by example on climate action to reach the target of reducing Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030 and becoming climate neutral no later than 2050. A Public Sector Climate Action Mandate now applies to Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board which requires the ETB to put in place a Climate Action Roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 51% by 2030 and increase the improvement in energy efficiency from the 33% target in 2020 to 50% by 2030.

The Government's Climate Action Plan 2025 and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 is aligned with the European Green Deal, the Green Deal makes a commitment to achieve climate neutrality in the EU by 2050. In 2023, work was completed on the revision of the EU's climate, energy and transport-related legislation under the 'Fit for 55 Package' aligning EU laws with the 2030 and 2050 climate ambition. Ireland fully supported this enhanced ambition. Looking ahead and building on achievements to date, Europe aims to become a continent with clean, low-carbon, affordable energy and sustainable food and materials, making it resilient against future crises. Energy policy and directives such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) are being updated under the European Green Deal and will be transposed into Irish legislation and reflected in the Irish Government's annual updating of the Climate Action Plan.

This Roadmap forms an integral part of the ETB Estates Strategy in addressing our strategic objectives of achieving buildings that will be net zero by 2050. Set out below is the basis for the strategic vision and pathway to the ETB's delivery of energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reduction (GHG) targets:

- Our Targets
- Our People
- Our Way of Working
- Our Buildings and Vehicles

Through this roadmap, the ETB not only aims to reach our Climate Action Targets but also embraces the challenge of leading by example to make the ETB a leader in tackling climate change. In this context, the ETB sets out to support an environment where students, learners and staff recognise that their individual and collective actions can have a real and positive impact on our climate future. Real engagement in terms of energy efficiency at ETB locations will positively impact on energy decisions in the home and in communities for years to come. This reinforces the ETB's responsibility as a statutory education and training authority to lead by example in engaging our students, learners and staff in improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions.

As per guidance received from the ETB's parent Departments Department of Education and Youth (DEY) and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) in December 2024, ETBs are responsible for implementing the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate. While ETB schools fall under the School Sector Climate Action Mandate, the 2030 emissions reduction and energy efficiency targets are at the overall level of the school sector. The route to achieving these targets is reflected in the School Sector Technical Climate Action Roadmap as prepared by the Department of Education and Youth. As expressed in the guidance, 'It is therefore not necessary for an

ETB to include detail in its Climate Action Roadmap on how it will achieve a 51% emissions reduction target for its school estate.’ Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board will reflect in this roadmap how it will implement the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency in its FET estate and ETB leadership and administration functions while also demonstrating how the other aspects of the mandate such as our people, our way of working, our buildings and vehicles is to be implemented across the organisation as a whole (including schools).

This roadmap incorporates energy efficient measures to be implemented by the ETB while also giving consideration to measures to be carried out by the ETB’s parent departments. It is also highlighted that the demand-led future expansion of the ETB to 2030 to deliver a wider range of services to a greater number of students and learners will impact on the targets as they are set out in this document. The creation of green teams and innovation around reducing our use across the organisation is key in the implementation of this roadmap. While it may be hard to quantify the impact, these initiatives will have on meeting kgCO₂ targets, the benefits gained will ensure that the ETB is playing a vital role in energy awareness within the communities it serves.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board’s building stock includes Schools (Community National, Special and Post-Primary), Offices and College of Further Education and Training Campuses. The shorter daily and yearly operating times of the majority of the ETB’s buildings by comparison to standard office environments presents a challenge in reducing energy usage and also shortens payback periods on capital expenditure on energy upgrades. Addressing the gap to target for the ETB will be a very significant challenge and will require both capital and additional resources.

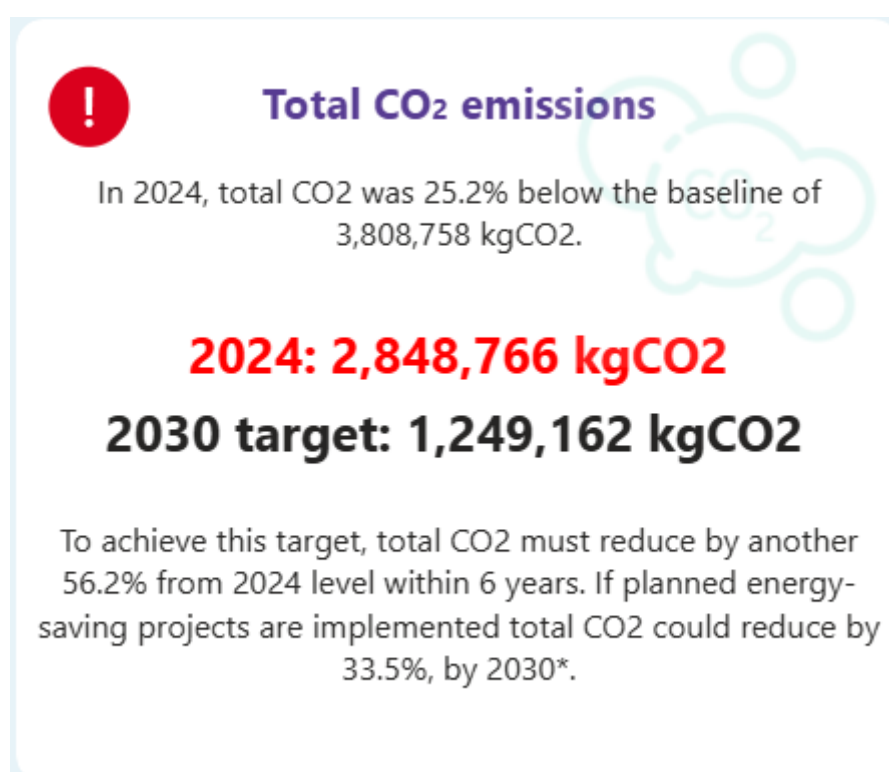
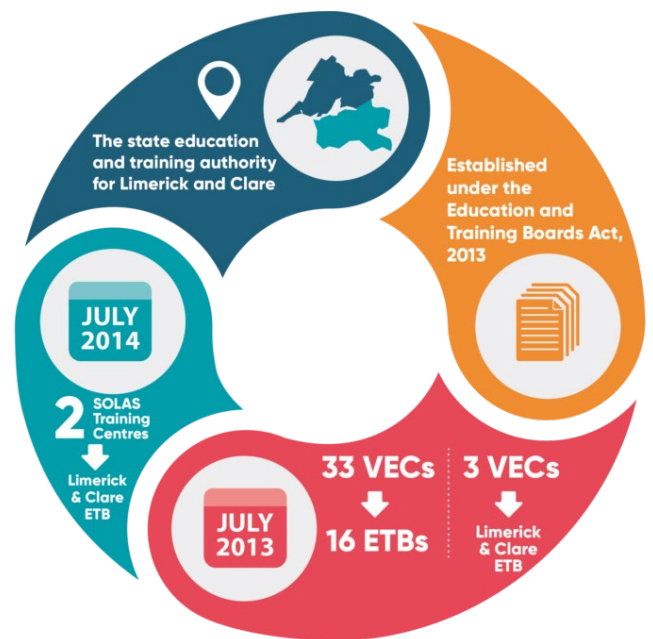


Figure 1 Progress to date

1. Introduction & Progress to Date

Organisational Context

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is the state education and training authority for the Limerick and Clare region in Ireland. It is one of 16 statutory regional education authorities established by the Education and Training Boards Act 2013. It was created following the amalgamation of three Vocational Education Committees, which provided post-primary, adult and community education in Limerick City, County Limerick, and County Clare since 1902. The authority was established on 1st July 2013 and assumed responsibility from SOLAS of two former Training Centres in Raheen, Limerick and Shannon, Co. Clare on 1st July 2014.



Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board delivers educational services to over 40,000 students and learners annually. The authority employs 2,600 staff. It has an average annual budget of €240m across all its divisions and its capital programme will see an investment in excess of €150m in the region over the next four years.

The authority has responsibility for: 17 post- primary schools, 1 community special school, 4 community national schools, 2 outdoor education and training centres, co-ordination of youth work services in the region, 28 College of Further Education and Training Campuses, 3 Music Generation programmes and works with community groups in approximately 300 locations throughout Limerick and Clare.

Working closely with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), our parent departments, DEY and DFHERIS, the ETB is committed to the necessary climate action to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030. The Climate, Capital & Estate Management Section coordinates the ETB's Energy Strategy and Management. This strategy includes the incorporation of Green criteria in all tender competitions, prioritising energy efficiency in capital projects, focusing on the increased use of

green and renewable technologies and optimising opportunities to decrease the use of fossil fuels in heating the ETBs building stock.

While cognisant of the obligation to meet the Public and School Sector Climate Action targets, the raising of awareness about the importance of energy conservation is a key component of the ETB's approach in this roadmap. A climate awareness campaign based around a 'Make a Switch' competition is an ETB initiative focused on maximising energy efficiency in all locations. This focus on energy efficiency and awareness will have positive benefits on the energy management behaviour of our students, learners and staff not only in their schools/ college of FET campuses and workplaces but also at home and within communities across Limerick and Clare.

In order to maximise the relevance and accuracy of this roadmap, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board completed SI426 energy audits on 32 buildings in the first half of 2023. These audits provide a baseline of data to understand the energy efficiency of our building stock, the thermal performance of the buildings, the operation of the buildings in energy terms and enables an assessment of what has changed since energy audits were previously undertaken in 2015/2016. The Register of Opportunities (ROO) derived from these Energy Audits establishes the critical path to achieving the required savings and forms the basis for the Energy Roadmap to 2030. It is envisaged that active Green Teams across all Schools, College of Further Education Campuses and Offices will proactively engage in implementing energy awareness and energy efficiency measures. The ETB's Climate Action and Sustainability Champion (C&SC) along with the Energy Performance Officer (EPO) will drive the energy agenda at a senior level to ensure the commitments made in this roadmap and all future editions are met. The impacts of Climate Change and the ETB's Energy Management Policy have been acknowledged as threats to the organisation and have been included in the quarterly review of the ETB's Risk Register with a medium to high-risk rating. Climate Action and Sustainability is now a standing item on the Senior Management Team Meeting Agenda.

Statement demonstrating Senior Management Commitment

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board has significant responsibilities as a Public Sector Body delivering Education and Training Services to almost 40,000 Students and Learners across the Region to inspire and model best practice in tackling climate change. Project Ireland 2040 – National Development Plan 2021-2030, the Climate Action Plan sets out what must be achieved and this will be at the core of all the ETB's work now and in to the future.

This is reflected in the ETB's Strategy Statement 2022 – 2026. Strategic Goal 4 sets out the organisation's commitment to delivering innovative solutions which '...respond to the changing social economic and environmental needs of the region.' Amongst the key strategic actions in the Strategy Statement is to promote corporate social responsibility and an environmentally sustainable ethos across the organisation. The Strategy Statement requires the development of initiatives in response to national policy requirements and climate action sits at the heart of all national policy priorities and actions.

Responsibility for implementing the strategy rests with the Senior Management Team consisting of the Chief Executive and the Directors of OSD, FET and Schools. A Director of OSD is the ETB's Climate and Sustainability Champion and Climate Action is now a standard item on every SMT Meeting Agenda. The focus across the organisation is on energy management and reduction of carbon emissions by means of a coherent strategy to gather the baseline data on which to set out the critical path for the ETB to meet its energy targets.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is proud to partner with SEAI on the Energy Decarbonisation Programme and we have recently renewed our partnership commitments.

While the SMT plays a critical leadership role, Energy Management is the responsibility of all across the ETB including students and learners, staff and incorporating management at all levels across the organisation. Critical to this is supporting sections of the organisation and individuals to champion the energy agenda and ensure energy efficiency is always at the top of the agenda.



Figure 2 Limerick and Clare ETB SEAI Partnership Certificate

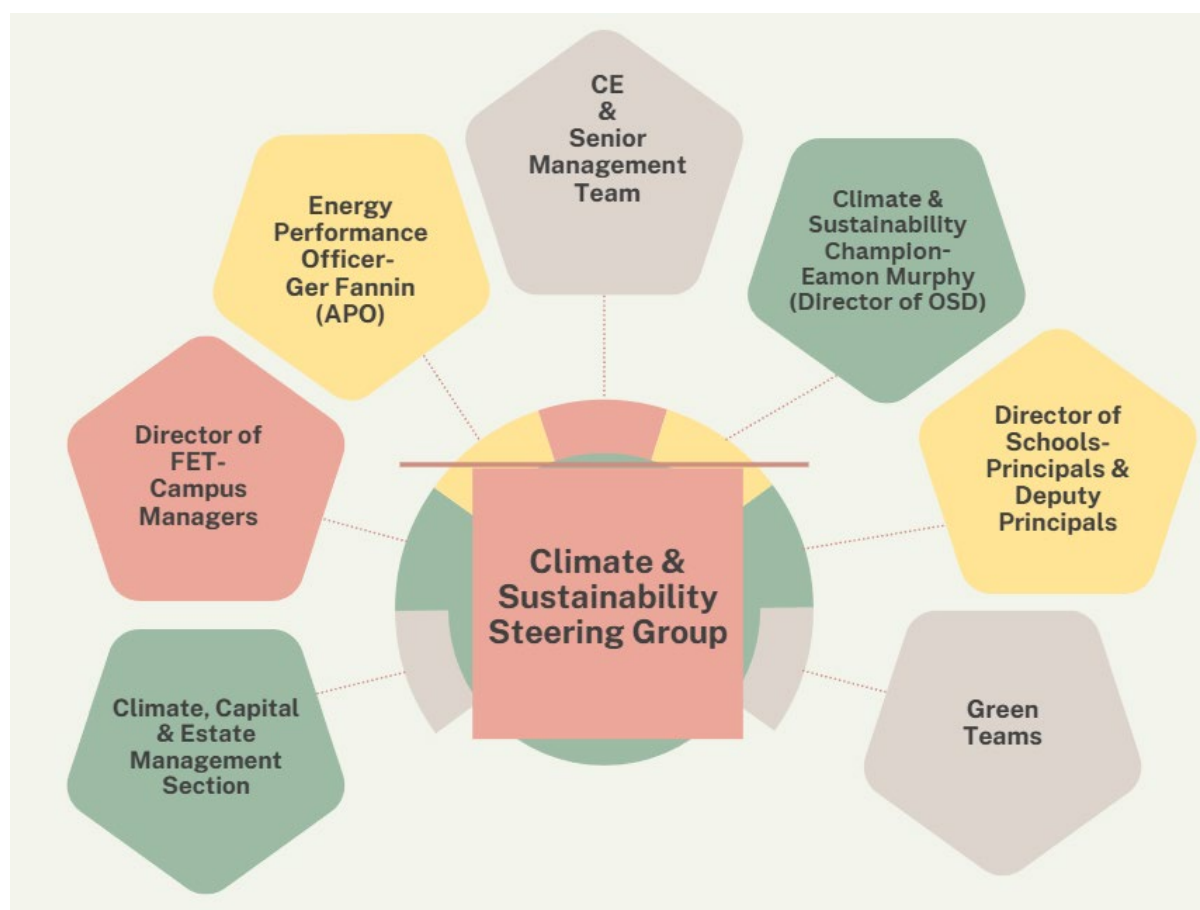


Figure 3 Climate Action & Sustainability Organisational Structure

Progress to date

The ETB's Roadmap builds on the organisational commitment to implementing an effective energy management and reduction programme which has involved ongoing efforts to decrease energy usage and enhance the efficiency of the ETB buildings. The various measures undertaken to date are summarised below:

EEEF Technical Assistance Fund

In 2014, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board secured European funding for Technical Assistance from the European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF). This funding was used by the ETB to carry out energy audits on all building stock, deliver training and an energy awareness campaign to all staff, students and learners and to develop a register of potential energy retrofit projects. This resulted in the establishment of Green Teams in every location across Limerick and Clare while an understanding of the energy performance of building stock was developed. A detailed capital expenditure budget was established which clearly sets out the level of investment needed across the organisation.

One of the outcomes of this project was demonstrating that investment in education buildings is unattractive to the market due to the long payback periods. Education buildings in the main have shorter opening hours and days throughout the year. For this reason, the ETB could not attract the necessary investment to implement the identified potential capital programme. However, the lessons learnt have proven invaluable in terms of the database of information accrued, the understanding of the scale of the challenges to be faced and establishing a list of potential future projects to be undertaken if and when funding becomes available.

Better Energy & Sustainable Energy Communities

From 2017-2019 the ETB availed of significant capital investment for energy saving upgrade projects under SEAI's BEC and SEC Programmes. This involved carrying out projects on twelve buildings covering lighting, fabric and heating upgrades. These projects were matched funded by the ETB.

National Pathfinder Programme for Schools

The National Pathfinder Programme for Schools is delivered by DEY and SEAI and is focused on the roll out of a deep energy retrofit programme to schools nationwide. Since 2017, the ETB has participated in the management and implementation of this programme at DEY's request. 62 schools have been retrofitted under this programme across the country to date with a further 14 schools included in the programme for 2024. Active participation at a strategic level in these Pathfinder Programme has greatly enhanced the ETB's understanding of the retrofitting requirements in a school building context.

FET Pathfinder Project

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is collaborating with SOLAS and DFHERIS in 2025 on a Pathfinder programme for the Further Education and Training (FET) Sector. With a commitment of funding, it is hoped that our chosen building in our College of Further Education portfolio can be the recipient of an extensive deep retrofit.

RePowerEU Project

As a result of energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine the European Commission aim to phase out Russian fossil fuel imports through the REPowerEU project. The Department of Education and Youth have been successful with their application for funding under the Repower EU Scheme. The DEY requested that Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board act as client and administration lead for the surveys on this €81 million project for the 40 participating schools. The ETB successfully managed the procurement, drawdown and payment of Asbestos, Air Permeability and Point Cloud surveys. The selected schools will avail of a deep retrofit that includes the installation of Heat pumps, MVHR and fabric upgrades with an objective of achieving BER rating of B or higher.

Green Teams/Reduce Your use

The ETB had previously set up Pilot Green Teams in 5 locations. There was also a Teams channel set up for communication between the Green teams. Utilising documents developed by SEAI and OPW, the ETB rolled out a 'Reduce Your Use' campaign to those locations during the winter months. Monthly themed resources invited staff, students and learners to shut down at holiday time, switch off lights and electronic devices and generally increase energy awareness. There was also communication issued to all staff regarding shutting down and switching off at regular intervals throughout the year and especially leading up to closures such as bank holidays. Following on from this, green teams in all locations are being established. A Green-Team co-ordinator has been nominated for all locations and they will lead the team to find energy savings with support from the Climate section.



Figure 4 Reduce Your Use Poster

Climate Action Steering Group

Positive climate action changes demand engagement from all aspects of an organisation and the ETB recognises this by creating a climate action steering group focused on reducing our GHG emission. The climate steering action group comprises of representatives of all sections from our organisation, including Heads of Section, School Principals and FET Campus Managers. Quarterly meetings are conducted to help influence and communicate awareness towards our climate action objectives. The steering group is supported by the newly created Climate, Capital & Estate Management section.

Senior Management Climate Leadership Training

As part of the ETB commitment to reducing our emissions seven staff members (CE, Directors and key organisational staff) have engaged with the institute of Public Administration Climate Action Leadership Programme. The ETB believe it will be at the forefront of Ireland's transition to a carbon-neutral and sustainable society and economy. This programme provided the ETB with a clear description and analysis of the climate action challenge and of the relevant laws, plans, and ideas in the coming years. With retirements and new career opportunities, staff being appointed to leadership roles in the ETB have had the course extended to them. This ensures that the ETB is maintaining its compliance with the Climate Action Mandate.

SEAI Accelerator

The ETB completed the SEAI Engaging People Programme in conjunction with the behavioural economics unit. The programme allowed our organisation to identify our current barriers, potential target audience and increasing our energy efficiency behaviour. The ETB now has a strategic action plan

which gives a commitment to our goals and objectives of launching our own energy savings plan, “Make a Switch”.

Make a Switch

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board’s launched its ‘Make a Switch’ competition between the ETB’s Schools in the 2024/2025 academic year. The focus of the competition was on Climate Action and specifically around the 3 Rs-Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The ETB is aware that the Climate Crisis is a big challenge for organisations and people all around the world but we can all do something to help even at our local level and especially within our schools. To demonstrate the ingenuity and innovation of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board students, we set a challenge for our cohort of school students. Student groups participate by entering a project as a class/year group. The campaign has been launched to look at sustainability measures where applicable but must improve something in the school building and not just the external environment. An outcome of the competition was hoped to be initiatives that can be replicated in other buildings in ETB buildings. April 2025 saw that culmination of the work completed on the projects where all the participating schools came together to showcase their initiative and judges were invited to pick the best projects. The winning schools touched on water conservation, vermiculture, closing the loop and reuse of materials for sensory play. Not only did the competition bring forward replicable projects, it also raised Climate action and Sustainability awareness amongst the students involved and the guests attending the event. In order to grow the initiative, the ETB have decided to not only roll out the competition to schools for a second year, but to also include the campuses by opening up a competition specifically for staff and learners in the FET sector.

DECO2 – De carbonisation Co2 Project

This European Union funded pilot project is based across 3 locations, Spain, Austria and Ireland. With our partners at TUS (Technology University Shannon), we have chosen the College of FET, O’Connell Ave Campus to install a functioning intensive green roof to be used for training, research & testing purposes. The campus will test bio-based materials, using Mycelium and breathable adhesives to sequester carbon, as well as green roof testing with different waste products and green vegetation. Balancing cost, mechanical properties, and sustainability will be crucial in ensuring the success of the decarbonised retrofit. Bio-based fully recyclable composites and products in the form of Sandwich Insulation Panels developed by TUS will speed up the retrofit modular processes in a circular and cost-effective way for scalability for the construction industry. Together with our partners we will establish practical retrofitting and circular guidelines for the construction industry and building owners to support the DeCO2 uptake of circularity exchange and use of materials. The Retrofit Guidelines will include approaches to auditing the condition and performance of the buildings, decarbonisation approaches and address considerations such as implementing bio-based materials and carbon sequestration methods as well as strategically integrating renewable services (ventilation, heat pump and PV) to ensure healthy buildings, circularity and ease of dismantling in the future.

Schools Solar PV

The ETB has been included in the second phase of the Department of Education Schools Photovoltaic Programme. Under this scheme the ETBs primary and post primary schools will benefit from 6kWp of roof mounted solar PV and monitoring system. To date PV panels have been installed in 7 Clare Schools and 7 Limerick Schools. The benefit of these installations will be apparent in our M&R results in the coming years.

Green Devolved Capital Allocation (Green DG)

The Green Devolved Capital Allocation fund enables the ETB to take targeted measures to close the gap-to-target and make progress in achieving our Climate Action objectives. The fund allocation helps support our College of FET campuses efforts to improve energy performance and reduce emissions in our buildings in line with 2030 targets as set out in the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate. This decarbonisation funding is ring fenced for the next 3 years and will allow the ETB plan for the delivery of extensive retrofits and fabric upgrades across our College of FET campuses. There are a number of projects proposed by the ETB for the first year of funding (€580,000) and they range from window and door upgrades, insulation upgrades, solar PV installations and heating upgrades. A plan to utilise this funding to carry out a larger project in an owned training campus and one of the ETBs highest users is also under review.

NZEB Training Facility

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board has a strong and growing focus on Green Skills and Near Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB). There is a significant ambition to continue to grow this provision in line with the national commitments set out in the Housing for All Strategy and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. Training currently consists of training in NZEB fundamentals, Retrofitting, External Wall Insulation, Air Tightness and Vapor Control, Thermal Insulation Installation and Ventilation. This will be further enhanced via upskilling courses in Solar and Heat Pump Technologies in 2025. The Green Innovation Campus will offer training to approximately 1,500 learners annually. It provides skills training for individuals who are unemployed and for individuals in employment wishing to upskill. Over 1000 learners attended these courses in 2024. The development of the new Construction Bay was completed at the campus in order to grow this provision in line with the national commitments set out in the Housing for All Strategy and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. The ETB has enrolled its caretakers in courses in NZEB fundamentals to further inform and educate staff around energy management.

Green Public Procurement

In line with our commitments towards green procurement the ETB has included environmental and social considerations in line with Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action plan 2024-2027. The ETB is committed to only purchasing goods and services that measure up to the best practices and standards for environmental and sustainable materials. Throughout our procurement process and when engaging with suppliers we are cognisant of our obligation to the circular economy principles of Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle. With that in mind our procurement aim is to promote green procurement policies within our organisation whilst communicating our ETB goals with our suppliers.

2. Our Targets

Limerick and Clare must implement the following under the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate:

- ⇒ *Update Climate Action Roadmaps annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan*
- ⇒ *Improve energy efficiency in the public sector by 50% by 2030*
- ⇒ *Reduce energy related GHG emissions by 51% in 2030*

Update Climate Action Roadmaps annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan

The ETB produced its first Climate Action Roadmap in 2023, a second iteration in 2024 and this document is the third iteration. The Climate Action Plan was published in April 2025 and this Roadmap was completed by the six-month deadline of 15th October 2025.

Improve energy efficiency by 50% by 2030

The following figures, produced by the SEAI's Monitoring & Reporting tool (M&R), demonstrate the performance to date of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board in respect of the key Climate Action Metrics:

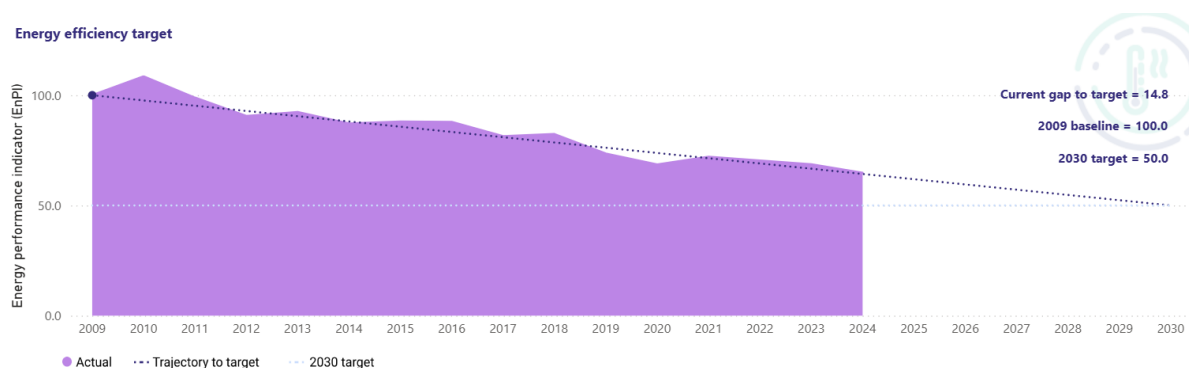


Figure 5 Energy Performance from 2009 Energy Efficiency Baseline to 2024

As outlined earlier in the Roadmap, the ETB was established in 2013 with the Education and Training Board Act amalgamating three former VECs, City of Limerick, County Limerick and County Clare. This meant the gathering of data and merging of information for the M&R tool on energy usage was a significant challenge. The inclusion of two Training Centres under the umbrella of the ETB in 2014, presented a further body of work to ensure all information was being captured accurately. With ongoing expansion to respond to the ever-increasing demand of the ETB's services in future years comes more challenges to ensure our gap to target decreases year on year.

In this context, the 2009 baseline shows that a significant improvement has been achieved in energy efficiency to the end of 2024. The glide path above shows the gap to the 2030 target for the ETB. Considering that the ETB was not established until 2013 and taking on board the expansion of the range and quantity of education and training services provided in the meantime, this is no small success. The ETB is now faced with the challenge of a 14.8% improvement by 2030 if the organisation is to meet its Climate Action Target, notwithstanding that the national programme to decarbonise the grid will bring default benefits to the ETB in terms of availing of renewable energy sources between now and 2030.

Reduce energy related GHG emissions by 51% in 2030

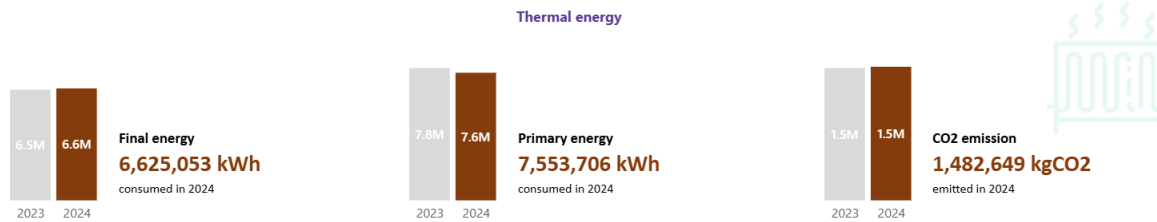


Figure 6 Thermal Consumption for 2023 & 2024

The graph above illustrates the ETB's 2023 and 2024 Thermal energy usage. While electricity accounts for 43% of the energy used by the ETB, thermal energy from fossil fuels accounts for 57% divided between gas, heating oils and transport fuel. It is clear that in order for the ETB to meet its climate action targets thermal usage from fossil fuels must be addressed. While there is almost no increase in thermal energy from 2023 to 2024, there is a substantial shift required away from fossil fuels if we are to meet our Climate Action Targets. It must also be noted that the ETB is growing year on year in all areas including the range of services provided and this presents a significant challenge when trying to meet Climate Action Targets.

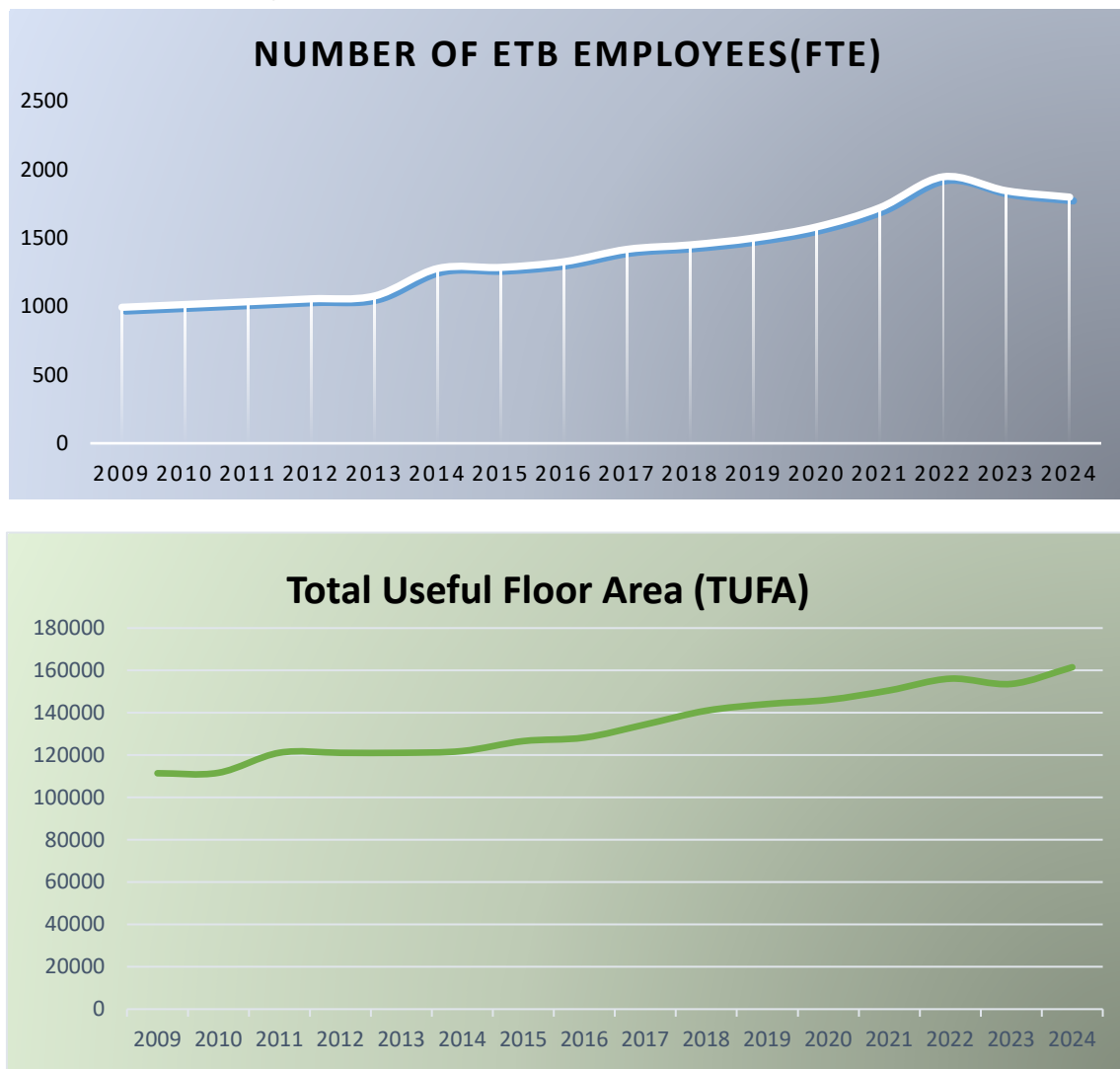


Figure 7 Growth in ETB 2009-2023

The SEAL’s Gap to Target tool (GTT) is the most effective way of showing the journey the ETB must go on to reach its Climate Action Targets. Using the data reported by the ETB on the Monitoring and Reporting system (M&R), the GTT shows the improvements in carbon emissions to date and also the progress required by 2030.

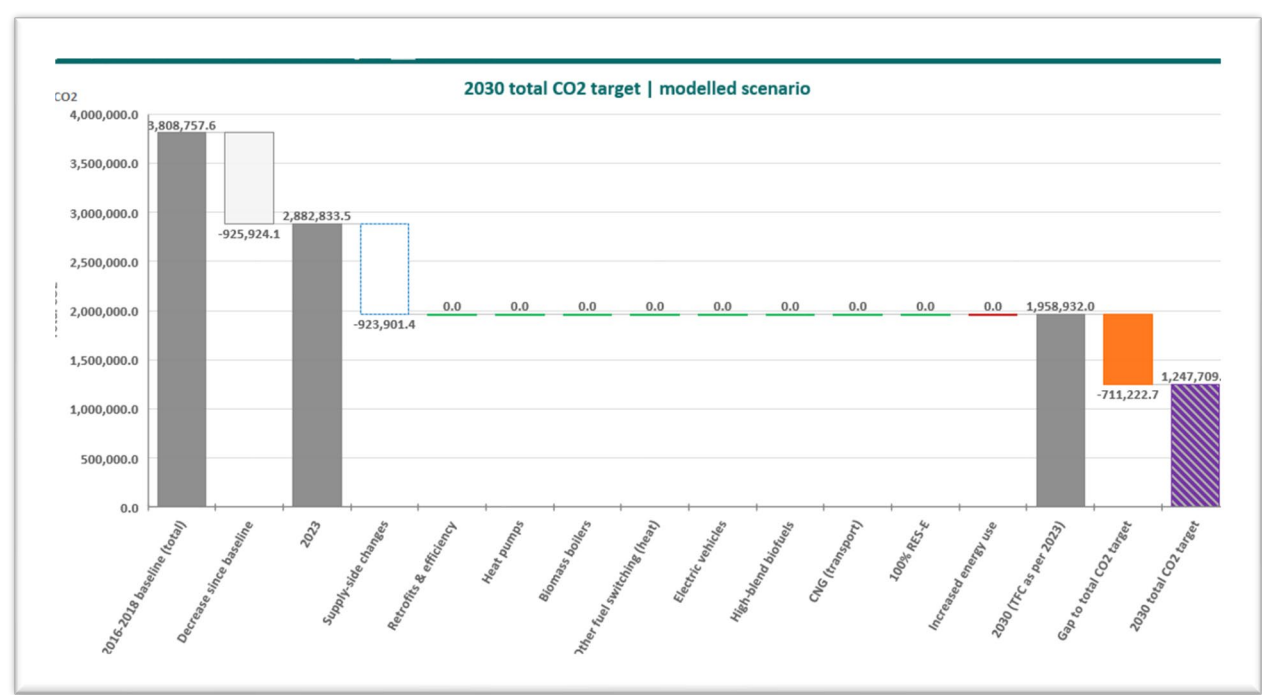


Figure 8 The ETB Total GHG Emissions 2016-2023 and gap to 2030

The graph above demonstrates the ETB’s baseline for total emissions (2016-2018) was 3,808,757.6 kgCO2. Progress to date (2023) shows a reduction in total emissions to 2,882,833.5 kgCO2. It is forecast that as the electricity grid is decarbonised emissions will reduce outside of any reductions achieved by the ETB by 923,901.4 kg CO2. The maximum total emissions that the ETB can produce by 2030 in order to meet Climate action targets is **1,247,709.3 kgCO2**. In order to reach this target for overall emissions the ETB must reduce its usage by **711,222.7 kgCO2** by 2030.

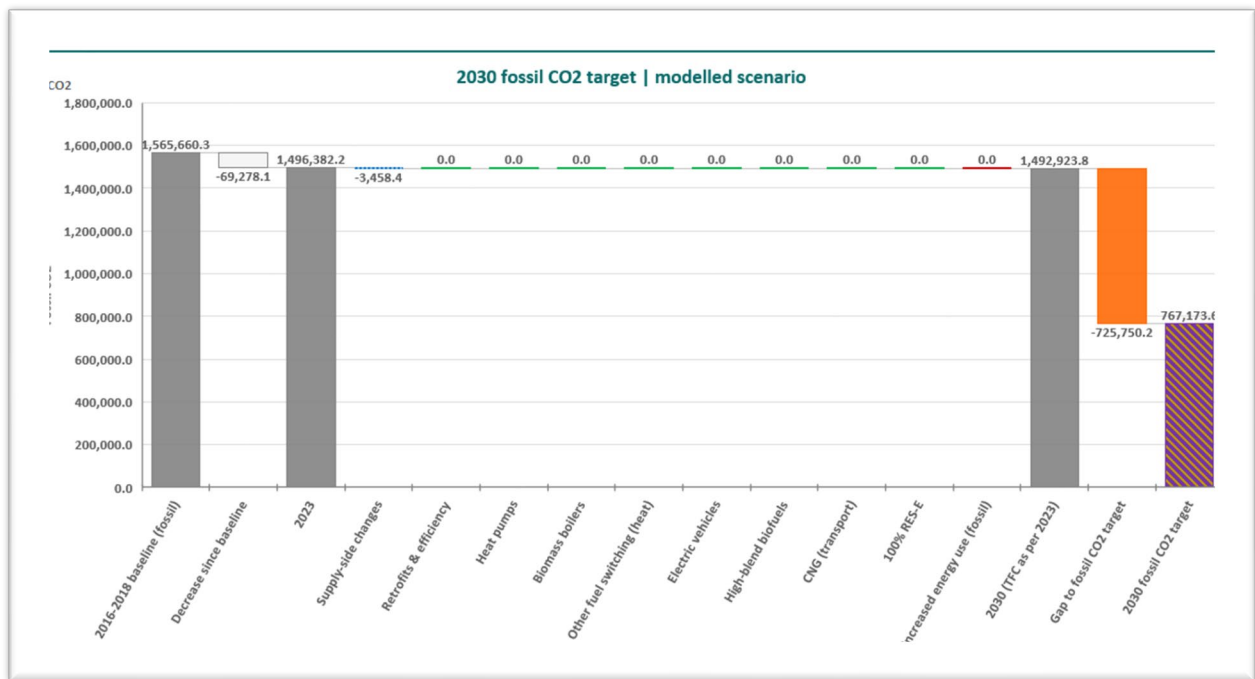


Figure 9 The ETB non-electricity GHG emissions 2016-2022 and gap to 2030

The graph above demonstrates the ETB's baseline for non-electricity GHG emissions (2016-2018) was 1,565,660.3 kgCO₂. Progress to date (2023) shows a decrease in non-electricity GHG emissions to 1,496,382.2 kgCO₂. The maximum non-electricity GHG emissions that the ETB can produce by 2030 in order to meet Climate action targets is **767,173.6 kgCO₂**. In order to reach this target for non-electricity GHG emissions the ETB must reduce its usage by **725,750.2 kgCO₂** by 2030.

One of the key challenges for the ETB is to select projects to address the gap to our kgCO₂ targets. As a starting point the ETB embarked on a procurement process in Q1 2023 for Energy Consultants to carry out Energy audits on thirty-two of the ETB Schools, FET Campuses and Offices. The audits were completed over summer 2023 and all reports completed by September 2023. From these SI 426 reports, the ETB has compiled a register of opportunities of energy efficiency projects. This register will inform what projects will advance the ETB to its targets. (Audits on leased buildings or on buildings already achieving an A3 energy rating were not undertaken.)

In order to meet the required GHG emissions and energy reduction by 2030, the ETB must embark on a programme of deep energy retrofitting across its building stock. Many of the identified measures are common to the majority of the locations so there are definite opportunities to maximise payback by amalgamating projects. In parallel, potential low/no cost solutions including, for example, the appointment of a Green Team in each location, installing time clocks on under sink water heaters and installing smart meters have been highlighted. At the other end of the scale, substantial capital investment will be needed to undertake fabric upgrades, decarbonisation of the thermal load, lighting upgrades, installation of renewable energy sources etc.

The Table below summarises the opportunities identified:

Location	Opportunities											
	Energy Champion	Check Meters- Smart-BMS Data loggers, water meters	Upgrade storage heaters to Farho ECO storage heating	Water heater under Wifi enable timers/smart control	Instal Kill switches for out of usage times	Upgrade internal lights to LED	Upgrade external lights to LED	Install Motion sensor to lighting	Full heating upgrade- oil boilers to LPG Gas, new pipework etc	Install storage heaters	Upgrade time control to heating BMS	Upgrade windows with triple glazed
Glenroe Community National School	✓	✓										✓
Castletroy College, Newtown												
Coláiste Mhuire	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Coláiste na Trócaire	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Desmond College	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
College of FET Ennistymon (Formerly Vocational School)												
Scariff Community College												
St Anne's Community College												
St John Bosco Community College												
St Joseph's Community College												
St Michael's Community College												
Thomond Community College												
College of FET, Abbeyfeale Campus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
College of FET, Cappamore Campus	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
College of FET, Croom Campus												
College of FET, Organic Campus/An tIonad Glas	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
College of FET, Ennis Campus												
Further Education and Training Centre, Hospital Campus	✓	✓				✓					✓	✓
College of Further Education and Training, Hospitality Campus												
Further Education and Training Centre, Kilmallock Road Campus												
Further Education and Training Centre, Kilmallock Town Campus	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓				
Further Education and Training Centre, Kilrush Campus												
Further Education and Training Centre, Scariff Campus												
Further Education and Training Centre, Shanagolden Campus	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓
Further Education and Training Centre Watch House Cross Campus	✓											
Outdoor Education and Training Centre, Burren												
Outdoor Education and Training Centre Killinane	✓	✓				✓			✓			✓
Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Head Office												
Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Ennis Office												
Music Generation Limerick City												

Figure 10 Register of Opportunities from Energy Audits 2023

The identification of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's energy saving opportunities has enabled the use of SEAI's Gap to Target Tool (GTT) to determine how the organisation will meet its Climate Action Targets. The GTT takes data from the M&R system and shows the energy savings made to date by the ETB and also the 'gap' that remains to reach our targets. Inputting different projects and the resultant kWh savings into the GTT sets out a pathway to follow to 2030 and highlights where the necessary savings can be made. By putting projects together in different scenarios, significant energy savings can be realised.

Analysis of the Energy Audits has shown that the top energy saving opportunities range from heating system upgrades to window and lighting upgrades. From 2024 to 2030, the reality is that all opportunities will have to be taken to meet the ETB's targets. This will require considerable capital investment that the ETB will not be able to meet out of its own resources. DEY and DFHERIS Climate Action Plans and Strategies will be critical to the ETB. Other projects not currently identified and carried out during the intervening period will also have an impact on the overall strategy.

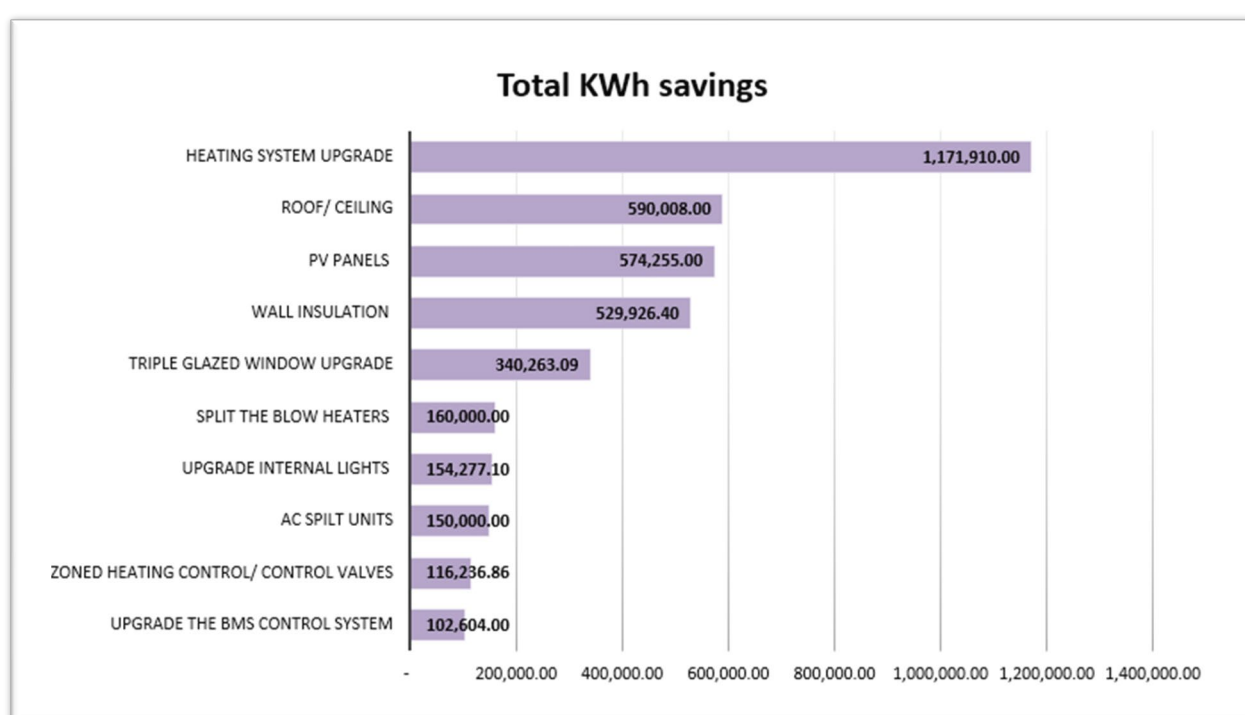


Figure 11 Top 10 Opportunities from SI426 audits

As previously stated, guidance received from the ETB's parent Departments (DEY & DFHERIS) in December 2024, indicated that since ETB schools fall under the School Sector Climate Action Mandate, the 2030 emissions reduction and energy efficiency targets are at the overall level of the school sector. The route to achieving these targets is reflected in the School Sector Technical Climate Action Roadmap as prepared by the Department of Education and Youth. 'It is therefore not necessary for an ETB to include detail in its Climate Action Roadmap on how it will achieve a 51% emissions reduction target for its school estate.' This roadmap will therefore focus on the opportunities in FET locations and are demonstrated in the graphs laid out below.

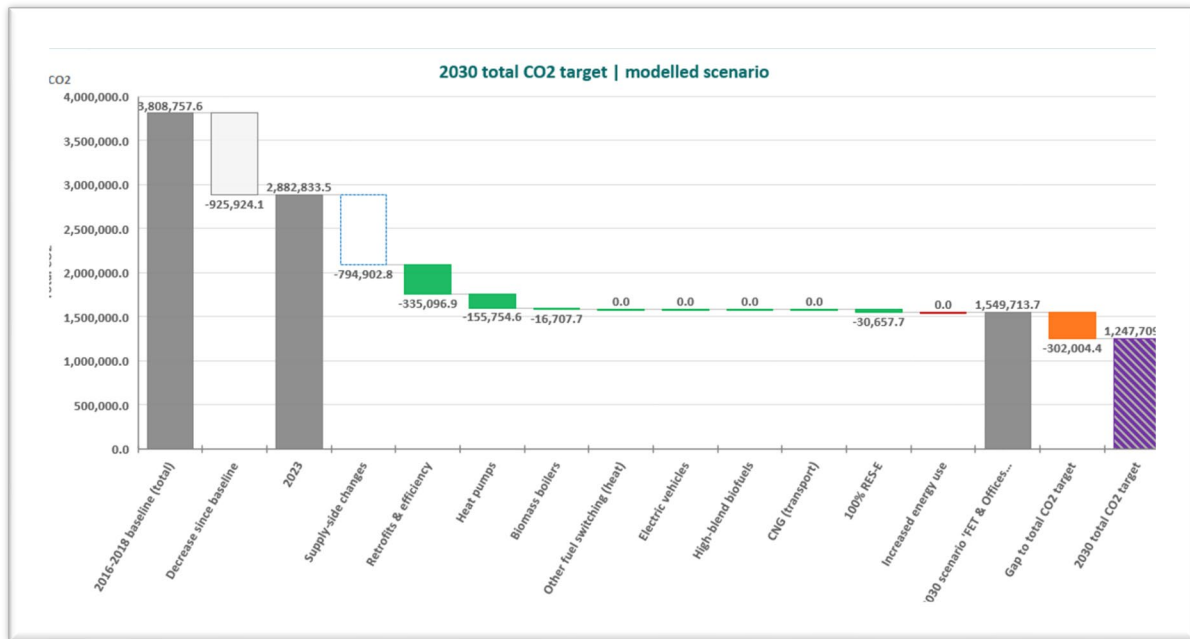


Figure 12 Modelled Totalled Emissions Target-FET Only

It can be seen from the graph above that once the register of opportunities for the FET locations are inputted into the Gap to Target Tool, the gap is starting to close. However, without implementing all the opportunities across the entire organisation, the gap to target will not be met. Once all opportunities are addressed, the graph below demonstrates how the gap to target is closed.

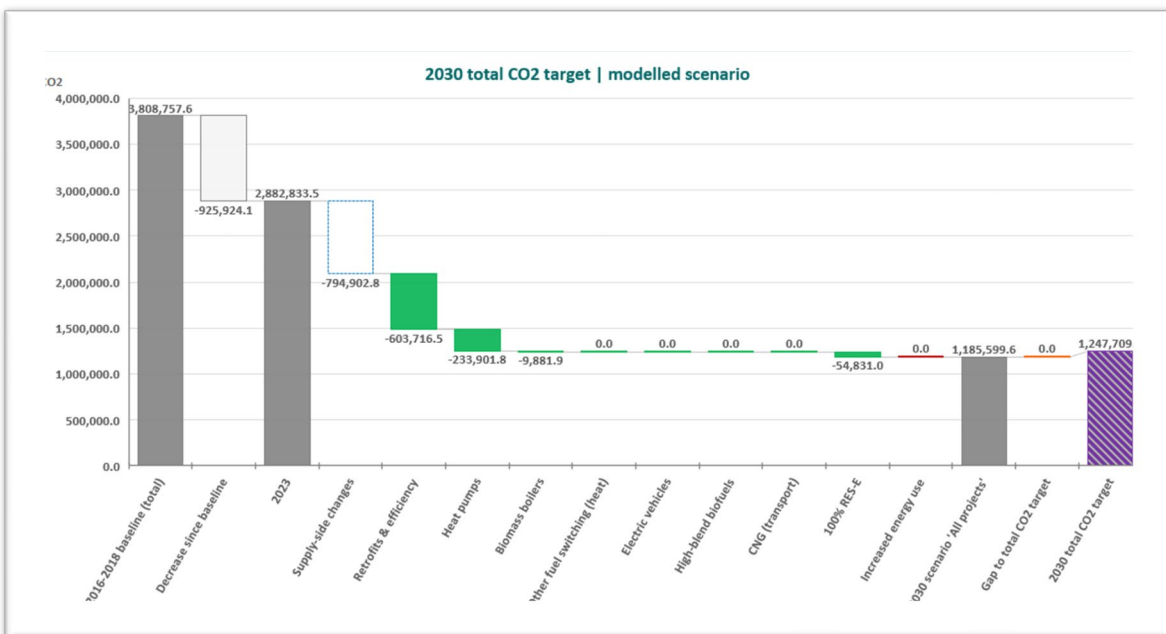


Figure 13 Modelled Totalled Emissions Target-Entire Organisation

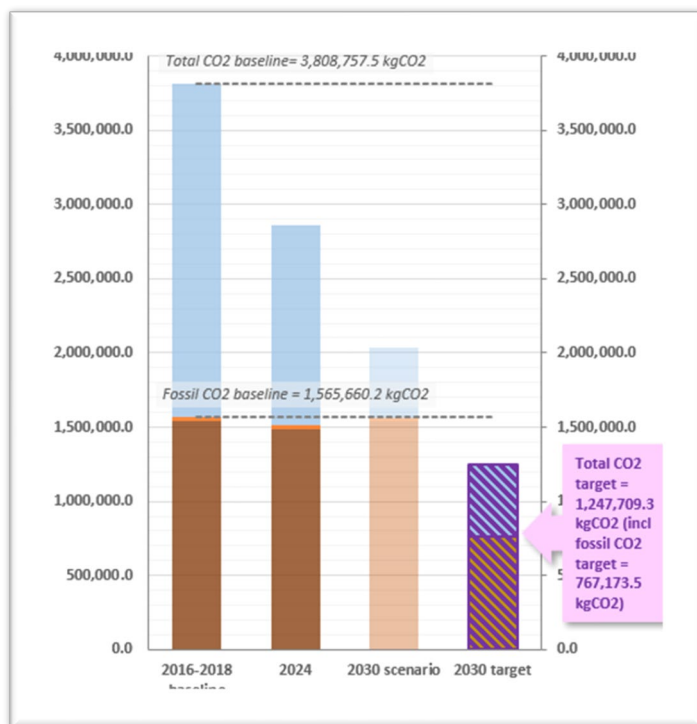


Figure 15 The ETB Gap to Target to 2030- Business as usual

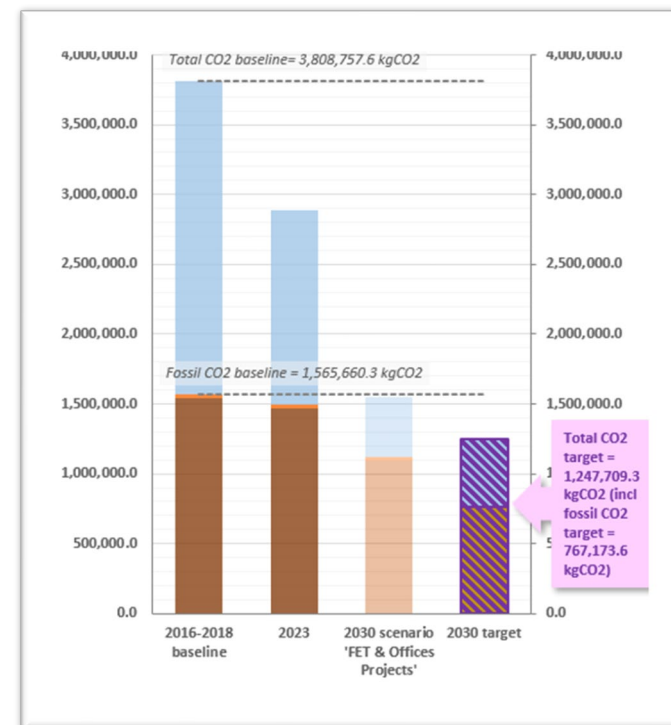


Figure 14 Limerick and Clare ETB Gap to Target to 2030- FET Only Model

The timeline for delivery of these projects is dependent on funding. Current and future sources of capital investment available to the ETB include inter alia Climate Action Summer Work Schemes, National PV Panels for Schools Programmes, National Biomass programmes, National Heat pump programmes, various SEAI Programmes, Emergency & Minor Works Schemes, Green Capital Devolved Grant and Pathfinder Programmes for Schools and FET Campuses. The route to be taken for the ETB to reach its climate destination is clear. The establishment of Green Teams in all locations is key to implementing no/low-cost initiatives. Large capital investment is required to decarbonise buildings. A broad timeframe for delivery of these projects is shown in the timeline below. In tandem, the ETB has commenced work on a comprehensive Estates Strategy and difficult decisions will have to be made in the coming years on the viability of some the ETB locations that may no longer be required and not fit for purpose.

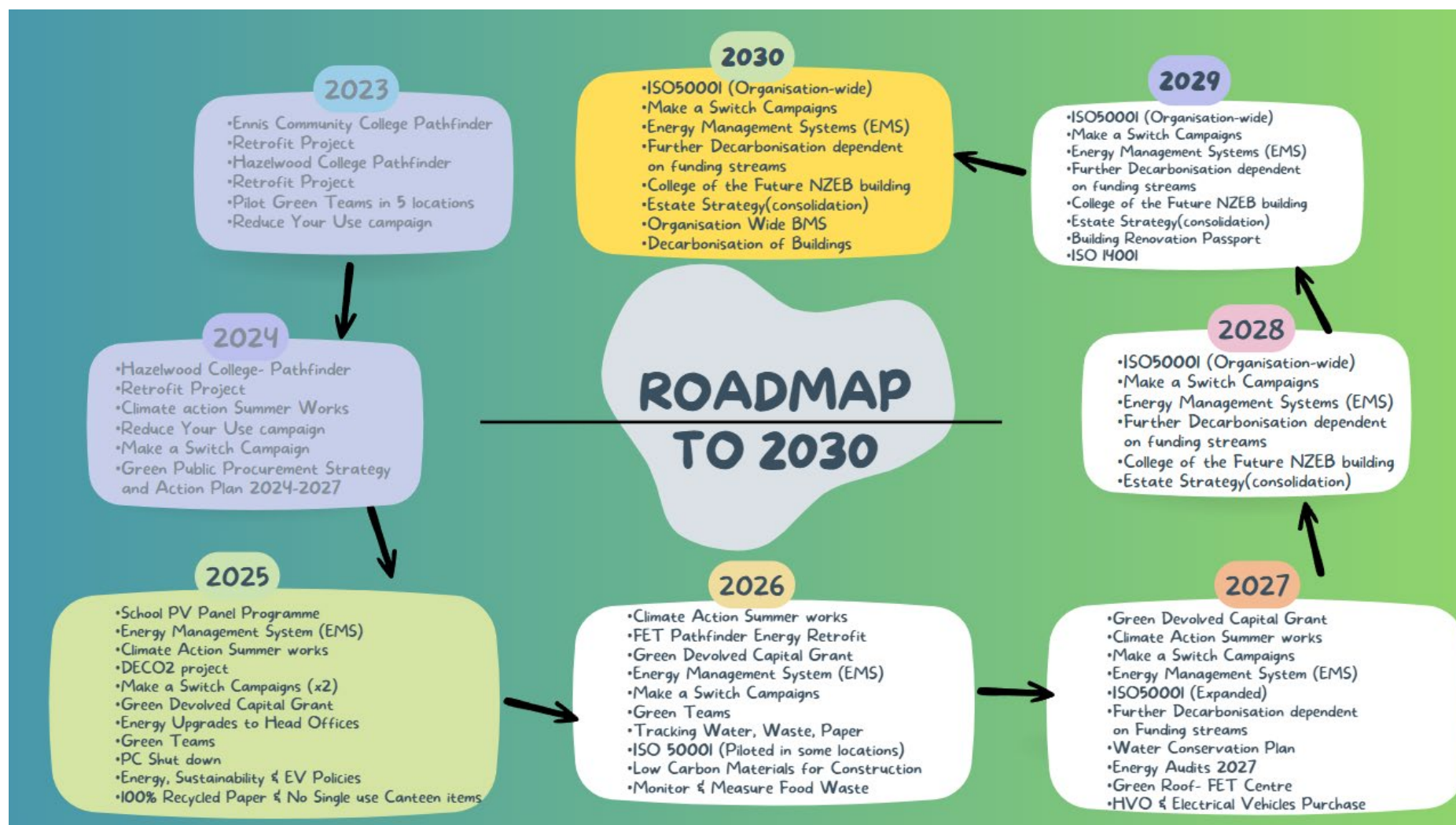


Figure 16 Actions to 2030

Challenges and Constraints in Meeting Targets

While it is clear what needs to be done, there are significant challenges to be met and constraints that may restrict Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board from meeting its climate action targets. Some of those challenges are outlined below.

Reporting on Travel

The ETB uses the M&R system to document all energy usage as a public body. The Climate, Capital & Estate Management section captures all energy usage across the ETB's building stock on an annual basis and this data is measured against the Total Useful Floor Area (TUFA) of our ETB. The collation of electricity and thermal usage, full time equivalent (FTE) of students, learners and staff and the TUFA of the ETB is a large task. One requirement of the M&R system is energy consumption in respect of travel and it is an area where the ETB needs further guidance and support. Data on staff travel is available on our financial system and this is submitted as part of our M&R returns. As an education body there are daily field trips, tours and trips to matches from all our schools and FET Campuses. Our learners regularly go to external classes and trips to support their courses. The M&R system requires travel to be inputted as litres of fuel. As the ETB contracts out bus hire to third party bus companies, with some minor exceptions, we are reliant on these companies to return the data required. Therefore, gathering the information required for student & learner travel on the M&R system, is very difficult as it is mainly outside of our control. There will have to be further guidance given to Public Bodies as to how to gather travel information and to identify what is to be included and what is to be excluded.

Timeline, Funding and Selection of National Projects

The timelines for when National projects such as PV panels for schools, Biomass upgrades, Heat Pump upgrades etc. are not defined. To plan for decarbonisation going forward is difficult as there are so many unknowns. The budgets and funding for grants for retrofits from DEY and DFHERIS are also not decided, so therefore it is hard to say as to what extent works can be carried out. Added to this, the selection of projects for the various funding streams is a major factor on meeting our targets. There is a finite level of resources available at national level and the ETB is competing with other PSBs for access to these scarce resources. The impacts of future Government budgets also affect planned projects and there may be cuts to funding for Public Sector buildings with needs such as housing taking precedence. Addition of Green Devolved Grant has helped plan for future retrofitting projects in our owned FET buildings but as to how the ETB is to deal with leased buildings, further guidance is required.

Resources

With Climate Action comes a significant workload and it is widely acknowledged that this arena of work is going to expand over the coming decade. Availability of sufficient staffing resources to undertake and manage the level of work needed will be critical to the success of this strategy.

On a macro level, there is a shortage of suitably qualified trained consultants and contractors to carry out Energy Efficiency projects. In an economy with full employment, there needs to be a focus on developing both skills and capacity in this sector. The ETB is already engaged in a key initiative with the development of an NZEB Centre of Excellence which delivers a range of training programmes which will both upskill and broaden the workforce needed to deliver energy projects. The FET Division via its College of FET Campus network is delivering green skills training across several modules e.g. Environmental Sustainability Awareness; Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace; Lean Practice for Sustainable Business; Resource Efficiency for a Sustainable Workplace; Circular Economy etc.

The ETB provides a broad range of education and training services to a diverse population across a large geographic area. Partnership is a key Priority Goal in the ETB's Strategy Statement 2022 -2026. The ETB commits to working in partnership with all Government Departments and Agencies, other Education Bodies as well as Industry and Community Stakeholders. This commitment is critical to Limerick and

Clare Education and Training Board delivering on its roadmap – it cannot be achieved in isolation and a coordinated approach to tackling climate change is absolutely critical. All PSBs will be seeking funding for the investment required and there is a limited amount of resources available.

Decarbonisation of buildings

While the plan for 2030 is to reduce GHG emissions by 51%, there is a longer-term target of being Carbon Neutral by 2050. It is now policy in the education sector to use renewable heating sources such as heat pumps in energy retrofits and new public buildings. Heat pumps cannot cater for 100% of a building's heating load and further research and innovation is required to completely eliminate the use of fossil fuels. This makes planning for zero carbon unpredictable and relies on future technology advancements which is outside of the ETB's control.

Transient Student/Learner Population

The ETB will be setting up Green Teams in each location and these teams will be trained on monitoring energy usage and will conduct energy campaigns in their buildings. An integral component will be the inclusion of students and learners on these teams. This creates its own challenge as students and learners who may be trained on energy saving topics will inevitably progress through the school and FET College and leave the organisation. That means that new training will need to take place annually. The transient nature of the education environment means training will have to be updated and repeated on a regular basis. This will take up resources and time for the ETB.

Leased Buildings

The ETB has a substantial number of leased buildings in its property portfolio. The reliance on leased buildings poses considerable challenges in regards to M&R returns, Gap to Target and energy efficiency upgrade standards of our buildings. The requirement to lease only A3 energy rated buildings will place significant demands on the ETB's ability to find suitable localised accommodation in the future.

3. Our People

Limerick and Clare must implement the following under the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate:

- ⇒ Establish and resource Green Teams
- ⇒ Nominate a member of the Management Board as the Climate and Sustainability Champion
- ⇒ Incorporate appropriate climate action and sustainability training
- ⇒ Organise staff workshops (at least annually) to engage on climate issues
- ⇒ Ensure all senior management complete a climate action leadership training course

Establish and resource Green Teams

The ETB had previously set up Pilot Green Teams in 5 locations. There was also a Teams channel set up for communication between the green teams. Utilising documents developed by SEAI and OPW, the ETB rolled out a 'Reduce Your Use' campaign to those locations during the winter months. Monthly themed resources invited staff, students and learners to shut down at holiday time, switch off lights and electronic devices and generally increase energy awareness. There was also communication issued to all staff regarding shutting down and switching off at regular intervals throughout the year and especially leading up to closures such as bank holidays. Following on from this, green teams in all locations are being established in the academic year 2025-2026. A Green-Team co-ordinator has been nominated for all locations and they will lead the team to find energy savings with support from the Climate section. Training and resources are being prepared to support those teams.

Nominate a member of the Management Board as the Climate and Sustainability Champion

As previously mentioned, the nominated Climate and Sustainability Champion (C&SC) for the ETB is a Director for Organisational Support and Development (OSD) overseeing the implementation of the ETB's Public Sector Climate Action Mandate Roadmap. The C&SC will report to Senior Management on progress being made. The ETB has gone above and beyond in their commitment by developing a governance structure around Climate Action and Sustainability. The Energy Performance Officer (EPO) is the Head of the Climate, Capital & Estate Management section. This section coordinates the Energy agenda across the organisation. The EPO will play a critical role in progressing the ETB towards its 2030 and 2050 Climate Action targets. In driving the ETB's energy strategy, the section provides resources and guidance to Green Teams, ensures Green Public Procurement is adhered to and manages capital investment in projects to address energy efficiency in building stock. Recognising the national focus towards climate and sustainability requirements the ETB have re-branded the previously named Capital and Procurement Section into Climate, Capital and Estates Management (CEEM) Section. The work of this section will be broad in tackling climate change and the transition of our organisation to a climate neutral economy. To demonstrate this commitment the ETB have recruited a Climate Action Officer to support the EPO in ensuring that the ETB is compliant or working towards our Climate Action Mandates. Some of the key functions of the Climate Action Officer include monitoring and driving implementation of Climate Action Plans and supporting staff and students on the environment, sustainability measures and Climate Change initiatives.

(Please see Figure 3 on Climate Action & Sustainability Organisational Structure on pg. 8 of this document.)

As set out in the ETB Strategy Statement, the ETB is focused on providing good governance and supporting frameworks. The Climate Action Steering group has the responsibility to implement actions from this roadmap, offer guidance and also influence any upcoming sustainable and climate action projects. The Climate Action Steering group comprises of representatives from a cross section of our organisation, including Directors, Heads of Section, School Principals and FET Campus Managers. The steering group is supported by the Climate, Capital & Estate Management section and meets quarterly.

Incorporate appropriate climate action and sustainability training

Green Teams will be given resources and support to roll out a Reduce Your Use campaign for College of FET Campus from October 2025 to October 2026 addressing energy conservation.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board will also encourage schools and FET Campuses to participate in SEAI's Energy in Education courses during the academic year 2025-2026 and in subsequent years.

Sustainable Development education through the school curriculum will be supported by the ETB and a sustainability policy statement for all schools will be drafted. Several FET staff have already undertaken micro-credentials in 'Environmental Sustainability'. The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Newsletter has been subscribed to and will be circulated to all Green teams.



Figure 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals

As part of induction courses for new staff members, the Climate Team are researching ways in which energy awareness can be a topic and practices and responsibilities will be outlined. It is envisaged that this may come into effect in 2025/2026.

The Climate Team are also utilising the Green Innovation centre by enrolling caretakers in NZEB fundamentals course to further enhance their understanding of how to run our schools and centres as efficiently as possible.

The Safe Routes to School Programme will be supported by the ETB for all schools.

In Q4 2025 an organisation wide shut down of all Windows- based devices on the ETB domain was introduced. This initiative was driven by the Climate Action and Sustainability Steering Group and announced by the CE of the ETB. This underlines the commitment by Senior Management to energy reduction. The key benefits of this initiative are energy savings, improved security, increased hardware longevity, better system performance and reduced risk of fire or electrical hazards.

Green Public Procurement (GPP) training will be scheduled for ETB staff and other procurement officers in 2025/2026 and training on the GPP Tool has already been availed of by the ETB staff.

Climate, Capital & Estate Management staff have engaged with School Principals, Deputy Principals, TY Co-ordinators and College of FET Campus Managers to raise awareness of the ETBs obligations to meet our Climate Action and Sustainability goals.

Organise staff workshops (at least annually) to engage on climate issues

Staff, students and learners will be given the opportunity to carry out their own energy saving initiatives and share their experiences with other locations. This is being supported through the Make a Switch Campaign in schools. In November 2024, the Climate, Capital & Estate Management section introduced a Reduce, Re-use, Recycle competition for Post Primary Schools called "Make a Switch". The aim of this

initiative is to encourage innovation while raising awareness in our schools about Climate Action and Sustainability. The competition ran until April 2025 where a winner was announced and the winning project was circulated around the organisation as exemplar initiative. The competition culminated in an exhibition day where staff were invited along to engage with the students and learn from their ingenuity and successes in saving energy. This event will now take place annually and the competition has been launched again for the 2025/2026 academic year with all schools being invited to participate. In parallel to this, a separate FET competition has also been launched. The plan is to grow this competition to include all ETB locations in this Climate Action and Sustainability campaign.

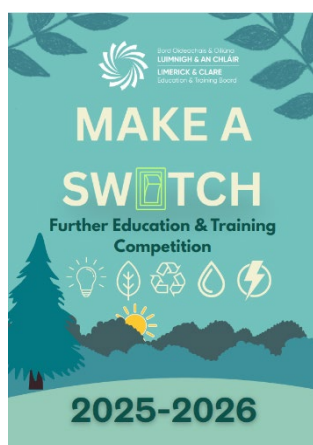


Figure 18 Make a Switch Campaigns 2025-2026



Planning is also underway for an ETB driven Climate Action Awareness Day. This will be an opportunity to share the work that is happening throughout the organisation regarding energy efficiency and focus minds on what everyone can do locally in their own locations. This could take the form of a zero-energy day or climate day. This Climate Action Awareness Day and workshops can be expanded to the schools and FET Colleges once the Green Teams are established and sufficient training has been provided. This is a goal for 2025/2026.

Ensure all senior management complete a climate action leadership training course

Some Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board staff have successfully completed SEAI's Energy Management Training and more new members of staff are enrolled in this course in 2025/2026. As per the Climate Action Mandate 2023, members of senior management (P.O. level or equivalent and above) and key staff have completed Climate Leadership Training with the IPA. With retirements and new career opportunities, staff being appointed to leadership roles in the ETB have had the course extended to them. This ensures that the ETB is maintaining its compliance with the Climate Action Mandate. A key member of staff who is acting as Climate Officer for the ETB has also completed the IPA Professional Certificate in Climate Action and Sustainability Reporting course in 2024. This was a tailored course addressing the modules advised by Minister Eamon Ryan in his letter of 29th June 2023.

4. safOur Way of Working

Limerick and Clare must implement the following under the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate:

- ⇒ Annual Report- Report on GHG emissions, implementation of the mandate, sustainability activities and compliance with Circular 1/2020
- ⇒ Report annually on the SEAI's Public Sector M&R system
- ⇒ Achieve ISO50001 or implement an energy management programme as per S.I. 426 of 2014
- ⇒ Implement Green Public Procurement in accordance with the Implementation Mandate
- ⇒ Construction-Specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material, adhere to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans and a minimum proportion of materials to comprise of recycled materials
- ⇒ Organic Food- A minimum of 10% by value (€) of food to be certified organic
- ⇒ Food Waste- Measure and monitor food waste, all new contracts to include measures to address food waste
- ⇒ ICT Equipment- A minimum of 80% of ICT products to be certified to EPEAT Gold Standard, TCO certified or be remanufactured
- ⇒ Paper- Eliminate paper-based processes as far as is practicable, measure and monitor consumption and 100% of paper must be recycled
- ⇒ Water- Provide drinking water refill points in all locations and measure and monitor usage
- ⇒ Single Use- Eliminate disposable cups, plates and cutlery and all single use items
- ⇒ Other Items- Supports initiatives such as the Deposit Return Scheme, segregate waste into 3 streams (general, recycling and organic) and monitor weights collected

Annual Report to include GHG emissions, implementation of mandate, sustainability activities and compliance with Circular 1/2020

In the Annual Report Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board published its GHG emissions and energy efficiency improvements from the baseline in 2016. Sustainable activities are also recorded. Regarding Circular 1/2020, this relates to Central Government offices and therefore not applicable to the ETB currently. The ETB does however report on all business travel in the M&R system.

Report annually on the SEAI's Public Sector M&R system

The Climate, Capital & Estate Management section coordinates and submits Monitoring and Reporting on energy usage annually for all ETB locations. The data required is collated from January of the relevant year for initial submission by Q2 and further data submitted in Q4. Reporting for 2024 involved the collation of data on Energy usage, Activity levels, Vehicles, Buildings and Energy Projects. It is expected that the reporting requirements will increase as we move towards 2030.

Achieve ISO50001 or implement an energy management programme as per S.I. 426 of 2014

The ETB engages with SEAI on a continuous basis to remain apprised of any developments with regard to energy management systems and requirements and the ETB recognises the clear link between reaching our targets and embracing best practice energy management tools and systems. Up until 2024 the ETB was categorised as a 'small' Public Sector Body and therefore not required to achieve formal environmental accreditation such as ISO 50001 (Energy Management Standard). In 2024 the ETB's energy expenditure slightly exceeded the €2 million threshold and therefore the ETB has commenced the process of working towards achieving ISO 50001 status. This will require significant resources for an organisation of its size. With the projected increase in activity between now and the end of the decade, processes and procedures will have to be streamlined in a suitable framework. The ETB is also engaging with an Energy Management system to assist with reducing energy, waste, water and carbon. The software involves using data and automation to help the ETB to store, organise, analyse, report and act on electricity, thermal and water usage. Schools, campuses and offices will be able to see in real time, their usage and make changes that should not only save energy but also the costs of that energy. We are trialling this technology on the ETBs College of FET campus buildings and offices with the aim of expanding it to all locations as funding allows.

Implement Green Public Procurement in accordance with the Implementation Mandate

Green Public Procurement is mandated for all purchasing competitions within the ETB. Staff have engaged with GPP training to date with further training to be delivered in 2026. Centralised Public Sector Contracts put in place by the OGP all have GPP components. GPP is also now embedded in DEY & SOLAS documents and templates that the ETB uses for the appointment of Consultants and Contractors. The Climate Team will work with the Procurement section on ensuring that the ETB is compliant in Green Public Procurement.

Construction-Specify low carbon construction methods and cement material, adhere to the best practice guidelines for Resource and Waste Management Plans and a proportion of materials to comprise of recycled materials

Low carbon construction methods will be incorporated wherever possible. Where the ETB is in full control of the procurement of works, goods and services, GPP and low carbon construction will be award criteria, shaping the 'greener' delivery of key investment. The Climate Team will continue to work with Building Officers, Consultants and Contractors on ensuring that best practice in construction and working sustainably is achieved.

Organic Food- A minimum of 10% by value (€) of food to be certified organic

This is a measure that will be reviewed by the ETB and there will be engagement with Canteen service providers to ensure that this requirement is measurable and achievable.

Food Waste- Measure and monitor food waste, all new contracts to include measures to address food waste

While there are a number of local initiatives across ETB locations focused on minimising food waste and composting material, the Climate Team will be measuring and monitoring food waste in a systematic way in 2026.

ICT Equipment- A minimum of 80% of ICT products to be certified to EPEAT Gold Standard, TCO certified or be remanufactured

This is a measure that will be reviewed by the ETB and there will be engagement with IT service providers to ensure that this requirement is measurable and achievable. The Climate Team will work with the IT section on ensuring that the ETB is compliant in the use and procurement of ICT equipment.

As previously stated, in Q4 2025 an organisation wide shut down of all Windows- based devices on the ETB domain was introduced.

Paper- Eliminate paper-based processes as far as is practicable, measure and monitor consumption and 100% of paper must be recycled

The digitisation of work processes is ongoing within the ETB. As we evolve and adopt new software such as a bespoke Contract Management system there is less need for paper-based records. While auditing of files limits the transition to a completely paperless office, the vast majority of records across the organisation are stored digitally with the consequent reduction in the use of printing and paper. The COVID Pandemic hastened the transition of the ETB to implement measures such as remote working, online learning and meetings, cloud-based storage with positive environmental benefits accruing. It reduces the need for travel and energy usage. This unexpected turn of events propelled the ETB into advancing digital and ICT processes, again resulting in energy savings across the organisation. Where it is necessary to use paper, it is ETB policy to use only recycled paper. This measure is also being monitored by the Climate Team of the ETB and staff are reminded to eliminate non-recycled paper from all work processes.

Water- Provide drinking water refill points in all locations and measure and monitor usage

Water refill points are installed and available in all ETB locations. The measuring and monitoring of water usage at refill points will be undertaken by the Climate Team in 2025/2026.

Single Use- Eliminate disposable cups, plates and cutlery and all single use items

As with the use of recycled paper, it is ETB policy to only used compostable and fully recyclable cups, plates and cutlery. This is monitored on an ongoing basis by the Climate Team and staff are reminded that single use items are to be eliminated.

Other Items- Supports initiatives such as the Deposit Return Scheme, segregate waste into 3 streams (general, recycling and organic and monitor weights collected

The Deposit Return Scheme and other producer responsibility initiatives are supported within the ETB. All locations use a 3-bin system and the Climate Team are engaging with waste providers around training for the use of bins and the provision of extra bins for schools. Waste management contracts are managed centrally and regular meetings are held with the key account manager. Waste audits are ongoing with quarterly reviews in order to reduce waste. We are also requesting training around waste and information resources. Information around resource use will also be incorporated into the message to Green Teams and also to new staff members in their induction to the organisation. The Climate Team are also supporting the recycling of batteries by disseminating information on recycling competitions to all locations.



Figure 19 Recycling Battery Poster

Minimising the use of scarce resources is integral to effecting real energy savings. Utilities Contracts including waste management, water, gas, electricity etc. are being closely monitored internally. There is an ever-increasing emphasis on monitoring of water and waste within the ETB. Central to this is the use of new and improving technology including BIM in building design, digital billing online, use of smart metering, accurate and real-time meter reading, BMS Systems etc. The procurement of time clocks for water heaters, smart meters for electricity, thermostat zoning are all initiatives that will assist in the monitoring of resource use. The ETB is continually working towards measuring and monitoring of utility use and waste.

5. Our Buildings and Vehicles

Limerick and Clare must implement the following under the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate:

- ⇒ Promote the use of bicycles and shared mobility options by creating and maintaining facilities that support such options (bicycle parking, shared mobility parking, and charging stations) with a view to achieving a Smarter Travel Mark
- ⇒ Phase out the use of parking in buildings that have access to a range of public transport services while maintaining accessible parking for those with mobility issues
- ⇒ Display an up-to-date Display Energy Certificate in every public building
- ⇒ The ETB will not install heating systems that use fossil fuels after 2023, in (1) new buildings, and (2) “major renovation” retrofit projects (exceptions apply)
- ⇒ All tenders for the public procurement of energy-related products to include a requirement for tenderers to specify recommendations and options for the end of life to include reuse, repair and recycling
- ⇒ All tenders for the public procurement of indoor cleaning services to include a requirement to ensure that all cleaning staff have knowledge to reduce environmental impact of the service
- ⇒ Buildings- Building Stock Plans updated every 2 years
- ⇒ Vehicles- Procure (purchase or lease) only zero-emissions vehicles from the end of 2022. In 2024 public sector bodies with a vehicle fleet should develop a plan for installation of charging infrastructure in relevant locations

Promote the use of bicycles and shared mobility options

While bicycle parking is provided as standard in all school building projects, an audit on bicycle parking was carried out in 2024 to identify gaps. Any locations without bicycle parking will be collated with a tender competition for provision of bicycle racks to follow. The Safe Routes to Schools Programme will be supported and delivered where applicable and some ETB schools are liaising with their local authority on this programme. One of the ETBs centres has been awarded a Smarter Travel Mark and this centre will be used as a case study for others to follow as far as is practicable.

Phase out the use of parking in buildings that have access to a range of public transport

This measure has proved difficult for the ETB due to the rural location of some the ETBs Offices, School and College of FET Campuses. The phasing out of parking at these sites is not viable at this time due to the lack of adequate public transport services.

Display Energy Certificates (DECs)

Up to date Display Energy Certificates are on display in all ETB locations currently.

The ETB will not install heating systems that use fossil fuels after 2023, in (1) new buildings, and (2) “major renovation” retrofit projects (exceptions apply)

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board where possible will install new modern energy efficient heat generation appliances such as heat pumps, MVHR and Biomass Boilers. However, due to the building type, mechanical suitability and costs of such systems the ETB cannot guarantee that fossil fuels systems have not been installed since 2023. The design processes for new schools delivered for in 2023 and 2024 commenced years ago when there was no restriction on the use of fossil fuels. It should

be noted that these new schools achieved an energy rating of A3. Going forward the ETB will not install heating systems that use fossil fuels unless they fall under an exemption as outlined in the Climate Action Plan.

All tenders for the public procurement of energy-related products to include a requirement for tenderers to specify recommendations and options for the end of life to include reuse, repair and recycling

This item will be included in Request for Tender documents where there is procurement of energy-related products and the Climate Team will work with the Procurement section in this regard.

All tenders for the public procurement of indoor cleaning services to include a requirement to ensure that all cleaning staff have knowledge to reduce environmental impact of the services

This item will be included in Request for Tender documents where there is procurement of indoor cleaning services and the Climate Team will work with the Procurement section in this regard.

Buildings- Building Stock Plans updated every 2 years and include in roadmap

The ETB has produced a Building Stock Plan and this plan is under review and updating currently. The ETB is also preparing an Estates Management Strategy which will be very much focused on the long-term sustainability of buildings across Limerick and Clare. This strategy will benefit from the database of information compiled on the existing building stock retained by the Climate, Capital and Estate Management Section. Once updated the Building Stock Plan will be added to the roadmap.

Vehicles- Procure (purchase or lease) only zero-emissions vehicles from the end of 2022 & install charging where there is a fleet

The ETB are focused on purchasing zero-emission vehicles in line with the capability requirements for our organisation. A Business Case template for the purchase of vehicles is mandatory and the purchase of any new vehicle requires CE approval. However, this remains to be a significant challenge for the organisation. Where there is a need within the organisation and the market cannot provide a zero-emission vehicle fit for purpose (towing capability, seating capacity) that fits within budget constraints, compliance is difficult to achieve. A strategy for the roll out of EV charging points in all ETB buildings is being put in place.

6. Our Performance

Benchmarking for Public Bodies indicates where Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board ranks in relation to firstly to other ETBs and then other Public Bodies with regards to reaching Climate Targets. It is clear from the graphs below, that while the ETB is moving in the right direction, there is a lot of work to be done. The efforts to 2030 will involve changes to how we work, the buildings we use, the management of those buildings, how we travel, how we procure and how we consume food, paper, water etc.

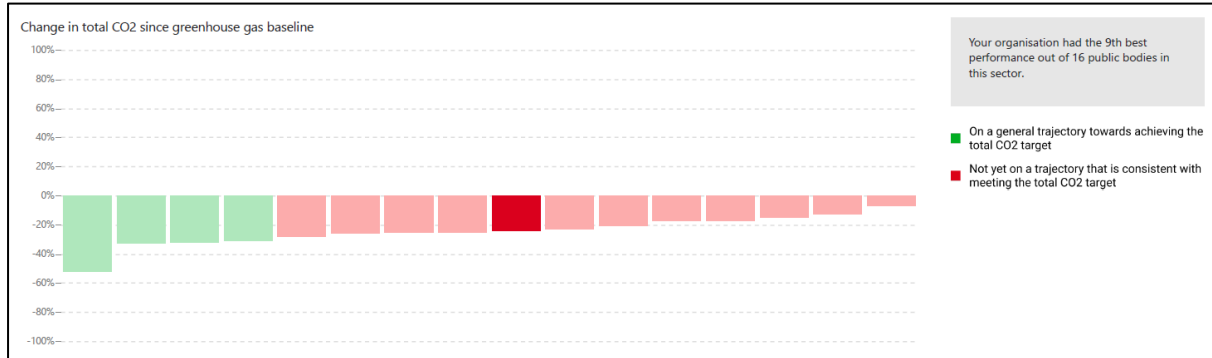


Figure 20 Benchmarking Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board against all ETBs in Total CO2 reductions

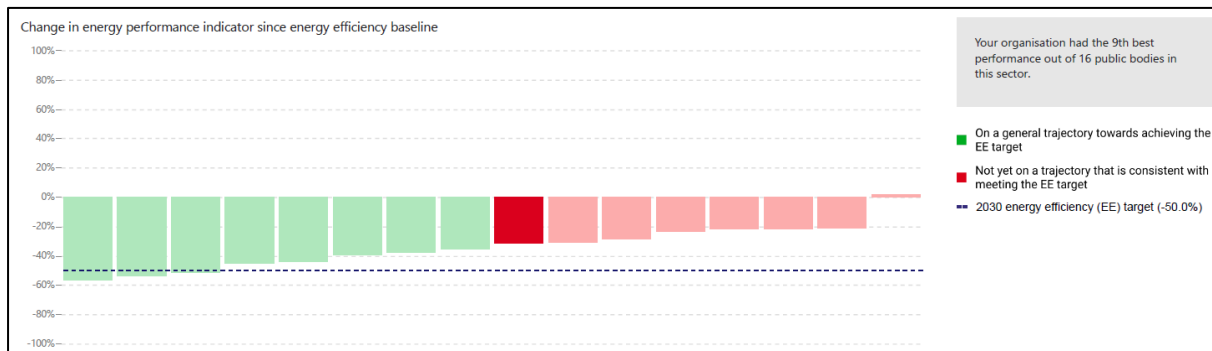


Figure 21 Benchmarking Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board against all ETBs in energy performance

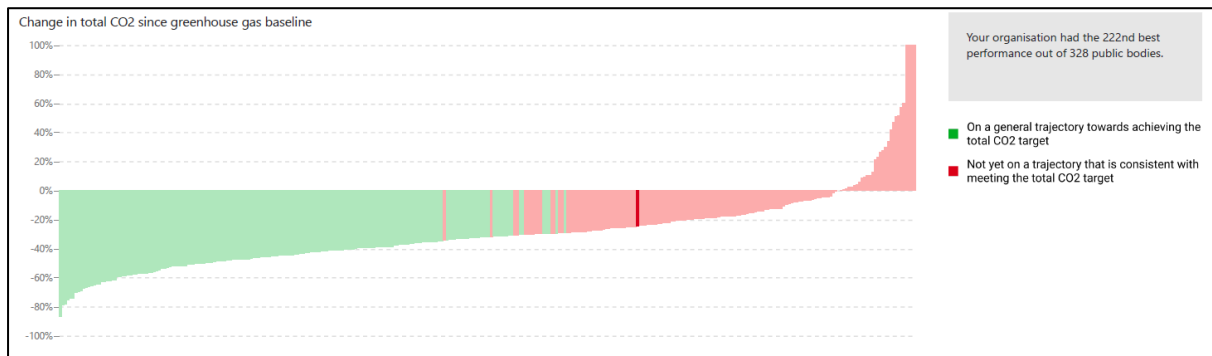


Figure 22 Benchmarking Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board against all Public Bodies in Total CO2 reductions

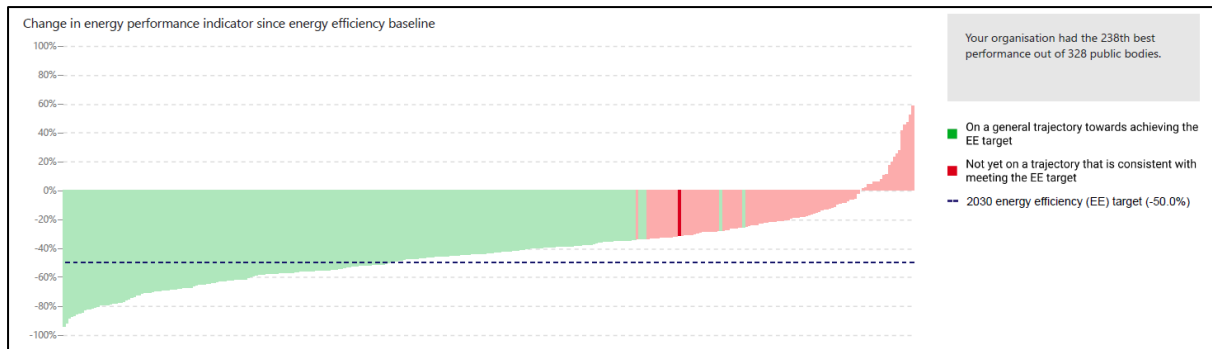


Figure 23 Benchmarking Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board against all Public Bodies in Energy Performance

7. Our wider climate action plans

There is a real commitment across Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board to meet our responsibilities in tackling climate change. Climate change has been described as a ‘wicked problem’ as, while the need to change is great, the human instinct to keep doing business as usual is strong. It is a local, regional and global problem. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board as a Statutory Education and Training Authority delivering services to almost 40,000 students and learners annually is in the position of being able to affect real changes in climate behaviour in our communities. With active Green Teams in all buildings the aim is to foster energy awareness and education around energy efficiency and the role we all play moving towards net zero for 2050.

Between now and 2030, the ETB has to achieve challenging targets in terms of decarbonisation and energy use. This roadmap sets down a path to attaining these targets. This strategy is based on an assessment of the real data charting the current performance of the ETB infrastructure and identifying the investment needed over the coming years. It is envisaged that energy research into new technologies to assist with meeting Climate Action Targets is advancing and while technological advancement may expedite achievement of targets, this roadmap identifies how the ETB can deliver what is required. Shifting goals regarding keeping the earth to 1.5° degrees means organisations have to be able to adapt. While a lot of these policies are outside of the ETB’s control, there is a lot that we as an organisation can do right now to educate and mitigate for future generations.