

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: Corporate.Services@fingal.ie

County Hall
Swords
Co Dublin

Thursday, 21st May 2026

**To Each Member of the
Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee**

Dear Member

A meeting of the Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee will be held Hybrid in **Conference Room 3A6, County Hall, Swords/MS Teams** at **4.30 pm** on **Thursday, 18th June, 2026** to consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

**Aoife Sheridan
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services**

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A G E N D A

- 1 Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Marine and Coastal Management SPC meeting held on Thursday the 19th of March 2026**
- 2 Climate Action Plan Update**
- 3 Bathing Waters**

**Comhairle Contae Fingall
Fingal County Council**

Minutes of Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee

Thursday, 19th March, 2026

PRESENT

Councillor A. Donnelly
Councillor P. Mulville
Councillor C. Johnston
Councillor D. Mulligan

Ms. Maire O'Brien
Mr. Charles Sargent

The Chairperson, Councillor A. Donnelly, presided.

Sunni Bean, Reporter, The Journal joined the meeting online.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

David Storey, Director of Services, Catherine O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, John Daly, Senior Engineer, Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks & Landscape Officer, Hans Visser, Senior Exec Parks and Landscape Officer, Grainne Carroll, Administrative Officer, Maria Hand, Senior Staff Officer

MCM/1/26 (Agenda Item No 1)

**Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Marine and Coastal
Management Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 16th of
December 2025**

Minutes of the Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2025 which had be circulated were considered.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Donnelly seconded by Charles Sargent and
AGREED.

MCM/2/26 (Agenda Item No 2)

Portmarnock Dunes 1999

A presentation was given to the members by Máire O'Brien highlighting coastal erosion and the long-term effect of improvement works at Portmarnock Dunes from 1999 to 2026.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

MCM/3/26 (Agenda Item No 3)

Presentation on funding for emergency works at Portrane and application to An Coimisiún Pleanála on the Burrow Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management Plan

A presentation was given to the members by Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks and Landscape Officer. This was followed by a discussion and questions from the members.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

The Meeting concluded at 17:15.

CHAIRPERSON

DATED

Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Progress Report 2025

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Fingal County Council

Climate Action Plan

2024
2029

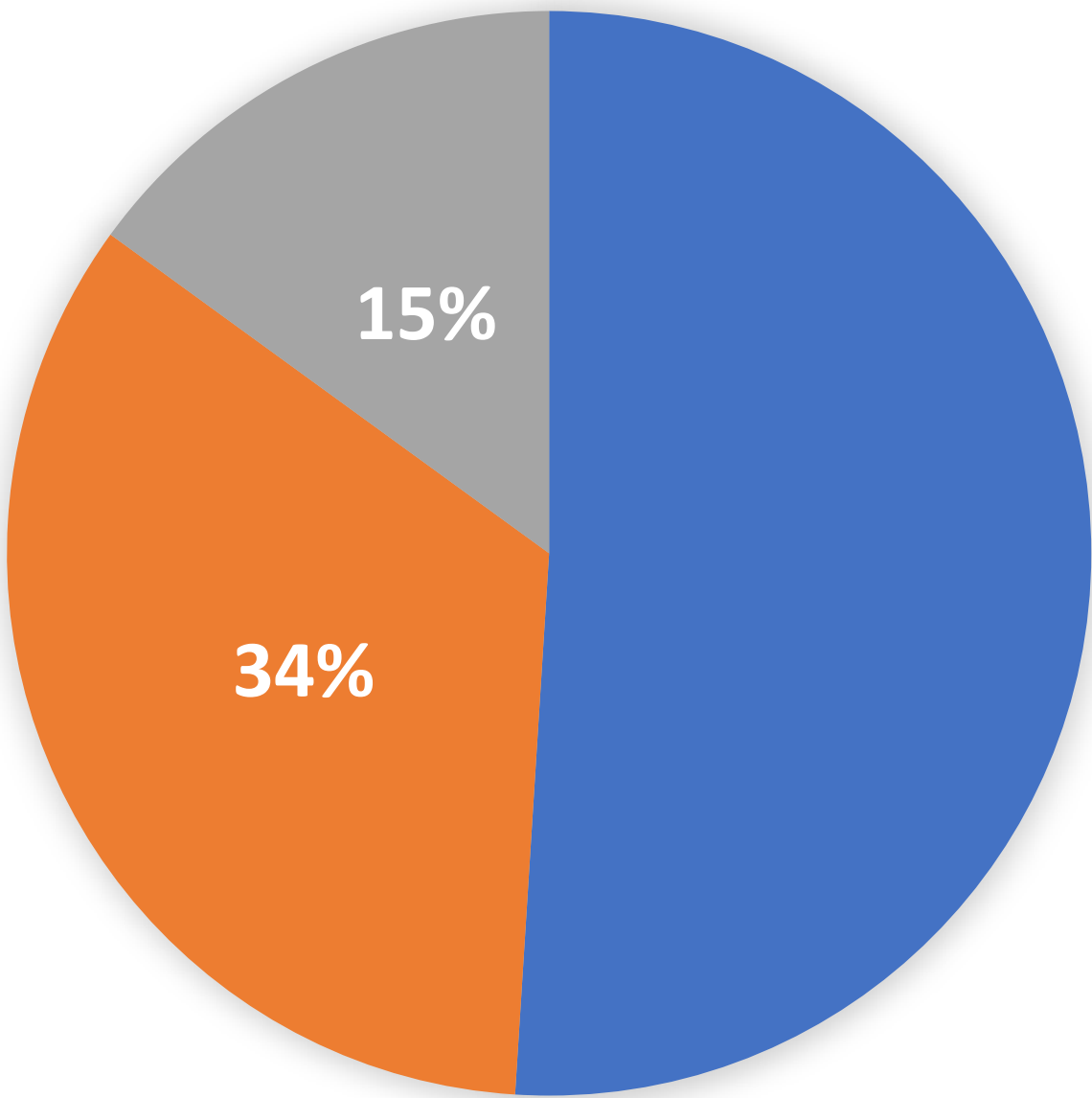
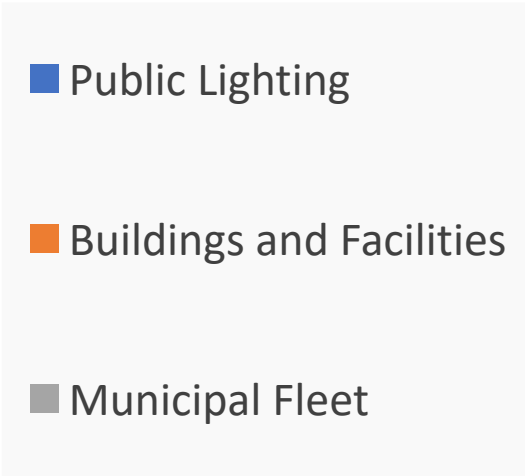


Agenda Item 2

Total emissions of Fingal County Council



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8,912tCO₂ e
(2021)

Key Targets & Action Areas



KEY TARGETS

50%

improvement in the Council's **energy efficiency** by 2030



Make Dublin a **climate resilient region** by reducing the impacts of future climate change related events

51%

reduction in the Council's **greenhouse gas emissions** by 2030



Actively engage and **inform our citizens** on climate change



ENERGY & BUILDINGS



TRANSPORT



FLOOD RESILIENCE



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



CIRCULAR ECONOMY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Action Status end 2025



Climate Action Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Information for Submission to CCMA ECCE Committee

Total Number of Actions

162

Of Which are Classified as Recurring

95

Total Number by Action Type

Adaptation	Mitigation	Combined
23	95	44

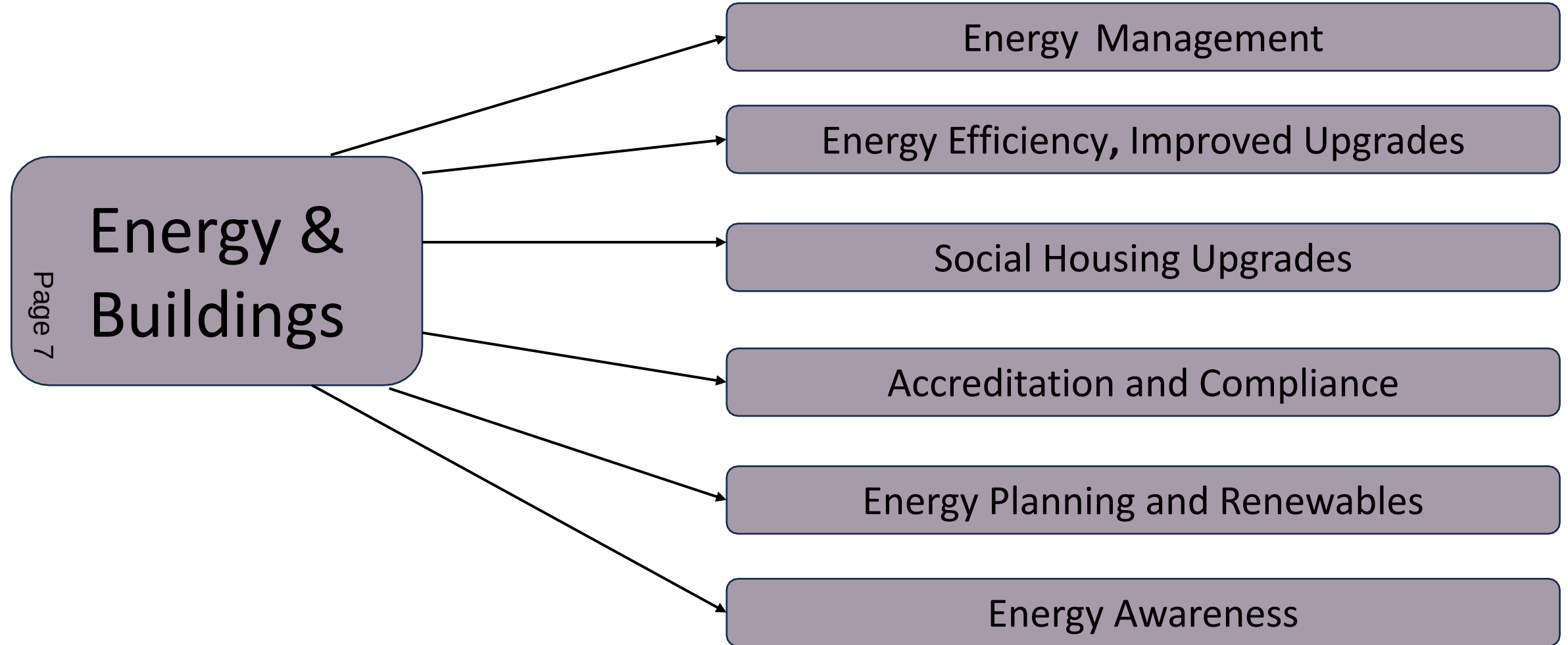
Implementation Status (as between 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025)

Not Started	In Progress	Completed
16	51	95

Completed Actions between 1st Jan 25 - 31st Dec 25 that are classified as Recurring

83

Note: Completion of the 'LA Action Data Sheet' will autopopulate the totals above which will then be used as your annual KPI submission to the CCMA Environment, Climate, & Circular Economy (ECCE) Committee. Please ensure you have filled out the 'LA Action Data Sheet' correctly before returning this KPI Reporting File.





Energy and Buildings



Energy efficiency improved by 2.27% in 2024 delivering an overall 57.7% improvement against the baseline



Energy-related emissions reduced by 3.5% delivering a total reduction of 48.4%, equivalent to 6,319 tonnes of CO₂



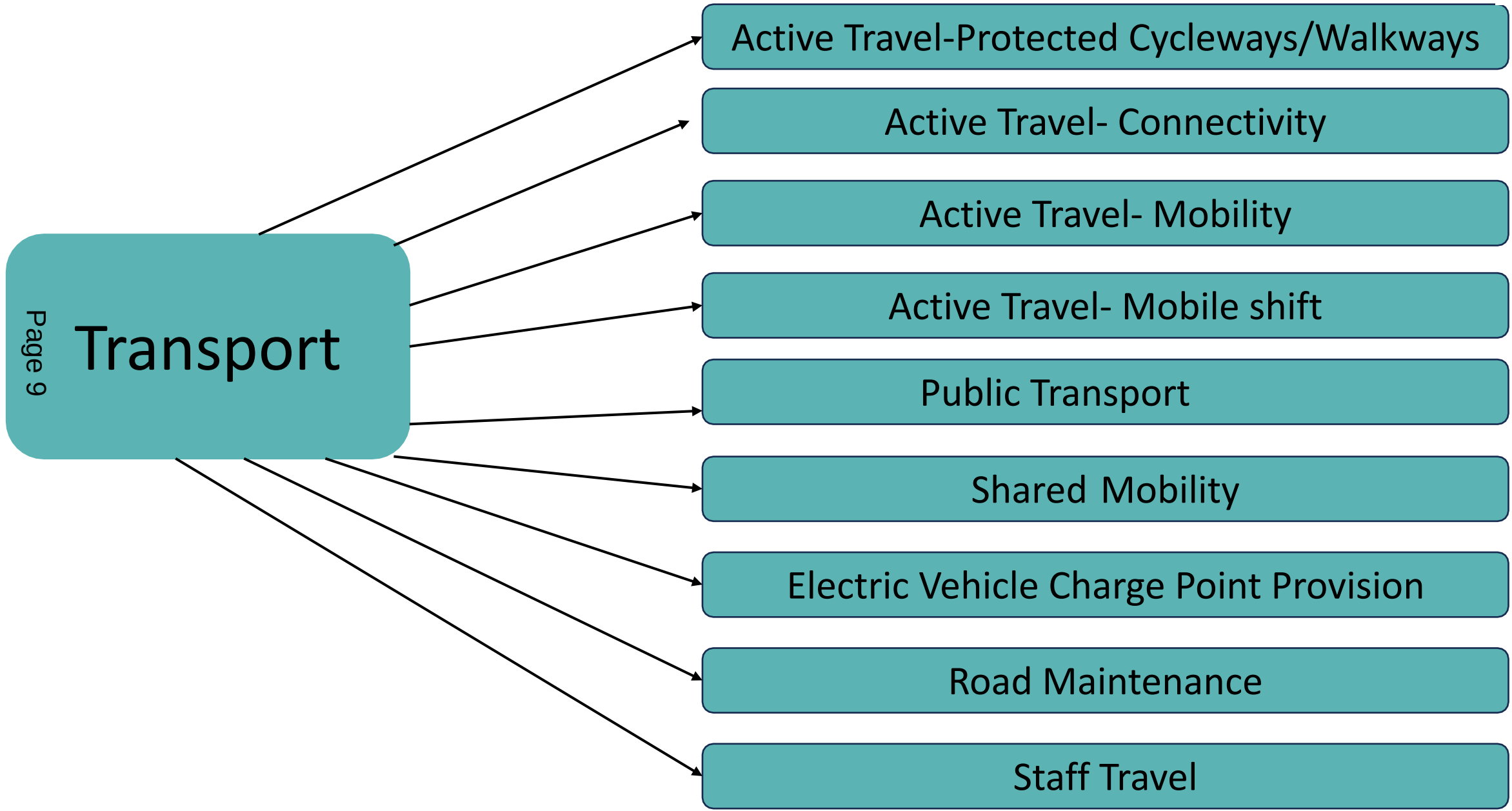
PV Panels installed in Baldoyle Library, County Hall Offices. Hartstown Community Centre (286 panels)



119 homes were retrofitted in 2025



ISO 50001 re-certification, affirming its commitment to continuous energy management improvement.





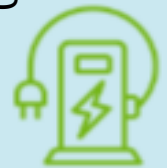
Transport and Mobility



- Parking for 92 bike parking spaces provided
- 1,976 spaces available across the 7 Fingal Electoral Areas.
- 38 schools, clubs, Community Centres approved for bike and scooter racks



- 14km of active travel infrastructure delivered;
- 9km of reallocated road space was provided in 2025



EV charging points have been provided at Baldoyle Racecourse Community Centre (3), Mill St. Carpark Balbriggan (6) and Kellystown Cemetery (2)

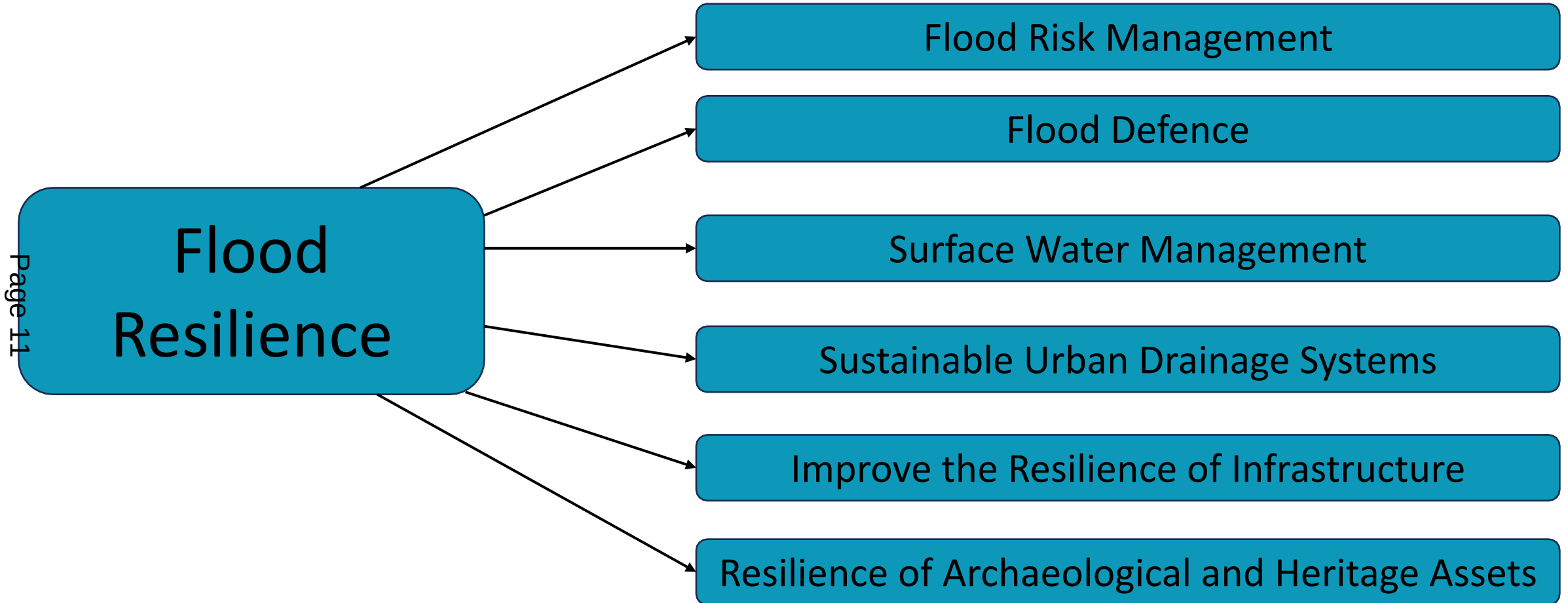


Eco driving courses provided, 65 staff attended



The Skerries Community Car, backed by volunteers completed 1,500+ trips in 2025

Flood Resilience





Flood Resilience



Publication of the Green & Blue Roof Guide



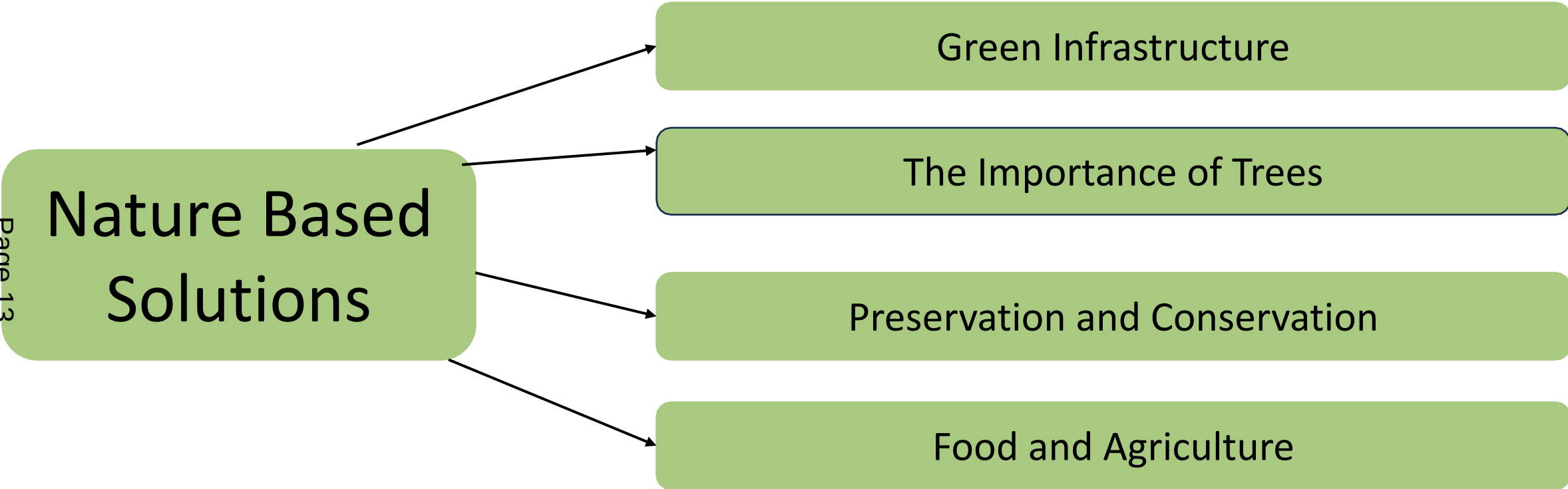
Green roofs were installed on Baldoyle Community Centre
Skerries Library and planned for Swords Cultural Quarter



Emergency plans, including Severe Weather, Flood, Oil
Spill, and Air Incident Plans, were updated. Fingal Coastal
Liaison Group meetings took place on Sept. 3rd & Dec. 18th



€70,000 supported heritage adaptation works at
Abbottstown Church and Howth Castle





Nature Based Solutions



140 hectares of pollinator-friendly meadows maintained.



Wildfire management at Howth Head advanced through firebreak construction and a grazing programme

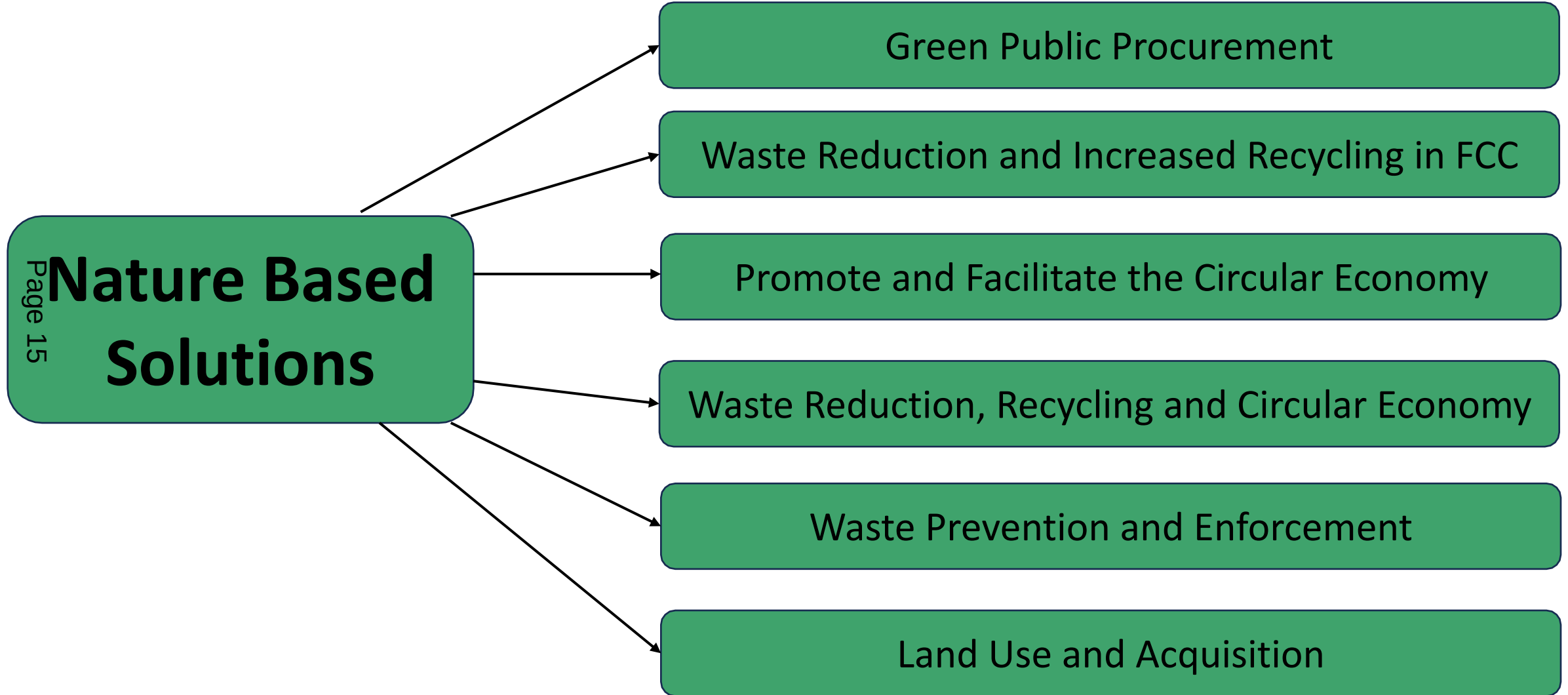


Woodland management plans completed for St Catherines Park and Newbridge Demesne.



Oyster restoration projects started in Malahide Marina

Circular Economy & Resource Management





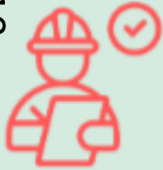
Circular Economy and Resource Management



- 98 musical instruments redistributed
- 132 bikes collected to be repaired and reused
- 2,704 litres of paint upcycled



Since 2024, 18 public water drinking stations installed



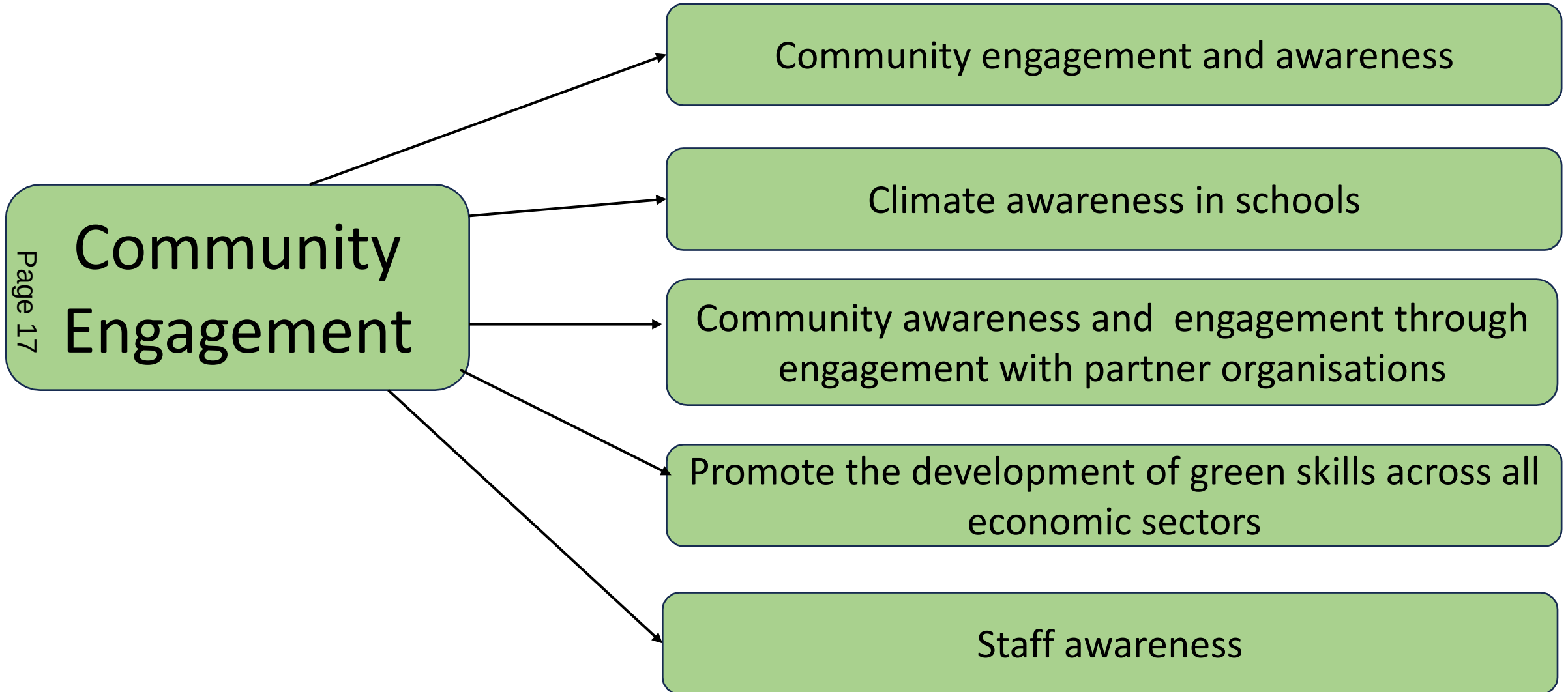
1,710 inspections and 3,685 bye-law checks completed under the Waste Prevention By Laws.



The Keen to Be Green programme expanded across all 31 community centres.

- Energy Theme commenced
- Water Awards presented to Community Centres in 2025.

Community Engagement





Community Engagement



Dublin Climate Action Week 2025 featured 20+ events hosted across Fingal.



The Community Climate Action Fund supported 25 projects (€1.13 million) across energy, travel, waste, food, and biodiversity themes.



136 schools participated in Green-Schools; 19 earned flags.



Home Energy Saving Kits were borrowed 1,338 times from libraries.

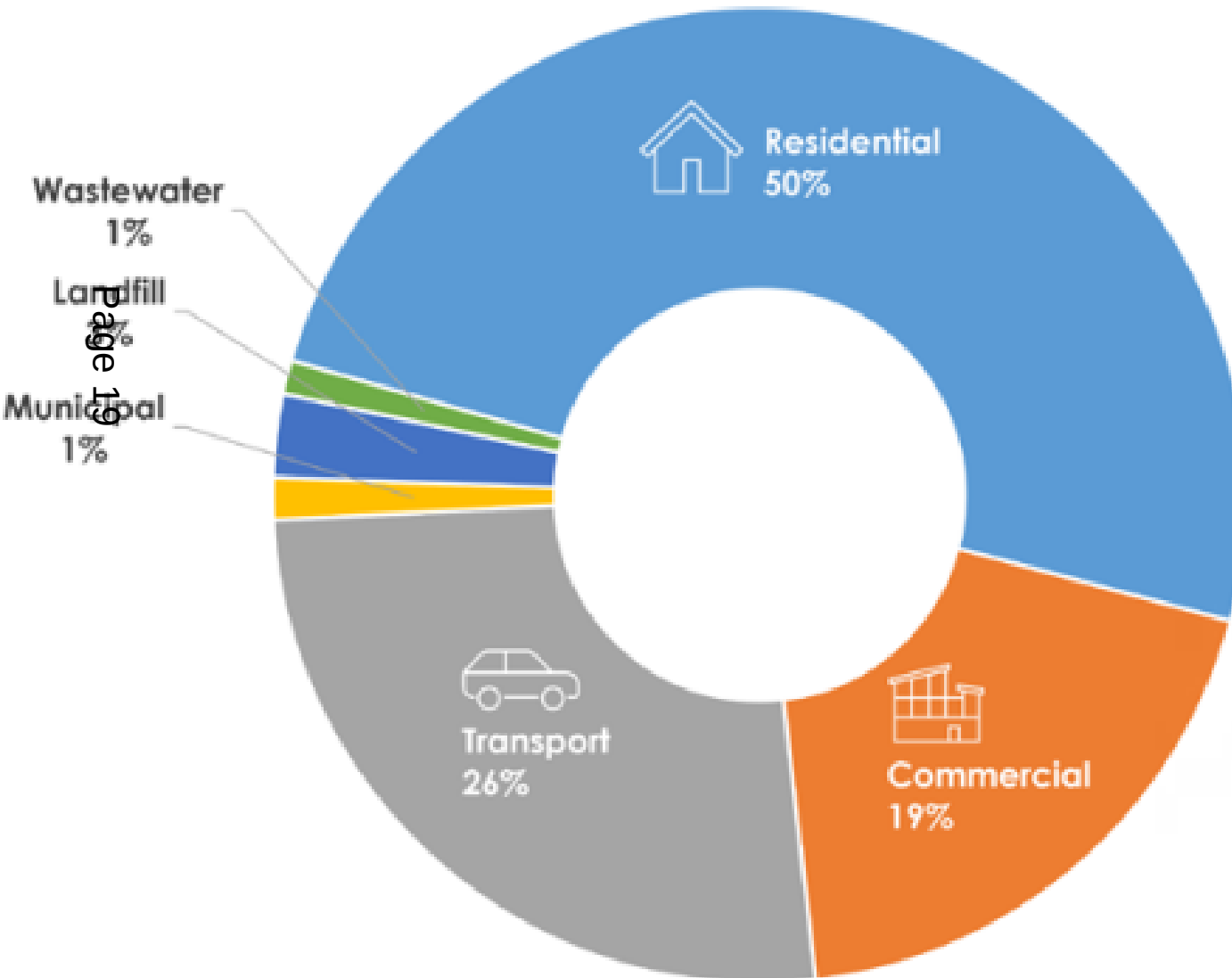


52 staff completed mandatory climate training in 2025;
72 completed specialist courses.

Balbriggan Decarbonisations Zone



Balbriggan DZ Emissions Profile



- Government's Climate Action Plan 2019
- Reduce GHG emissions from the area by 51% by 2030 (average 7% pa)
- Testbeds/ innovation/Pathfinding
- Register of opportunities
- Implementation Plan
- E2-CUTIES (Engaged Energy-Communities in Urban areas with Technology Integrated Energy Systems)

**Thank you for your
attention
Any questions?**



Climate Action Plan

**2024
2029**





Bathing Water Presentation

Marine & Coastal Management SPC

18th of June 2026

Front Strand Beach Balbriggan Designated Bathing Area



Bathing Water Regs - How it works

- **Regulatory Framework for managing bathing water in Ireland**
- **Local authorities are responsible for managing and monitoring identified bathing waters. For each bathing water season.**
- **Local authorities also report and investigate pollution events and carry out measures to reduce or remove any sources of pollution.**
- **EPA:** are the environmental regulator. EPA make sure that local authorities carry out their functions under the Bathing Water Regulations.
- **HSE:** The HSE gives advice to local authorities on public and environmental health issues related to bathing water.
- **The Public:** The public can make representations to their local authorities to identify new bathing waters. They can also help by keeping their local beaches clean.

Annual Requirements

- **Beach Profile for each beach**
- **Monitoring Calendar for all beaches**
- **Bathing Water Monitoring**
- **Assessing Bathing Water Quality as results come in.**
- **Bathing Water Classification**
- **Identifying causes of pollution**
- **Information to Public**
- **Action to prevent exposure to pollution**
- **Action to reduce risk of pollution**

Beach Profile

- **Beach Location**
- **Contributing Catchment**
- **Main Features**
- **Monitoring Points**
- **Water Quality Assessment**
- **Identified Pressures**

Bathing Water Pressures

Pressure No	Pressure Source
1	Surface Water Streams within the beach catchment
2	Agricultural run-off
3	Foul water network and Pumpstations
4	Animal Fouling
5	Bird Colony

Example of a Beach Profile and contributing catchment



Monitoring Calendar

BW Calendar 2026														
Wee k	Week Day	Beach	Date	Sample Collect Time	High Tide	Low Tide	Sun Rise	Early warning	Results due	Buddy	Holidays			
1	Monday	Group A Group B	25.05.2026	05:00	07:52 20:39	00:57 13:47	05:11	26.05.2026 - Tuesday	27.05.2026 - Wednesday	GM / EB JMcD / AG	JP	ML		
1	Monday	Weekend on call	01.06.2026	09am to 04pm						JP	AG			
2	Tuesday	Group A Group B	02.06.2026	09:30	01:15 13:49	07:17 19:23	05:02	03.06.2026 - Wednesday	04.06.2026 - Thursday	GM / JP JMcD / EB	AG			
2	Saturday and Sunday	Weekend on call	06.06.2026 07.06.2027	09am to 04pm							AG			
3	Monday	Balbriggan	08.06.2026	06:00	05:39 18:27	11:46	04:58	09.06.2026 - Tuesday	10.06.2026 - Wednesday	GM / JMcD				
3	Saturday and Sunday	Weekend on call	13.06.2026 14.06.2026	09am to 04pm							JP			

Bathing Water Quality Assessment-Weekly Results

Parameter	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor
Intestinal enterococci	≤ 100	101 - 200	201 - 250	>250
Escherichia coli	≤250	251 - 500	501 - 1000	>1000

Bathing Water Protocol- Actions Pending Weather or Results

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Local Authority	Bathing Water Code	Bathing Water Type	Start Date	End Date	Incident Or Warning Type	Bathing Restriction Type	Likely Source Of Pollution	Incident Description
Fingal County Council	IEEABWC020_0000_0600	Regulated Bathing Water	02/09/2025	07/09/2025	Short Term Pollution - Regulation 2(2) & 7(4)	Prior Warning bathing water quality may be affected	Contamination of Surface Waters (misconnections / urban run-off)	Risk of deterioration in water quality due to expected heavy rainfall
Fingal County Council	IEEABWC020_0000_0600	Regulated Bathing Water	03/08/2025	07/08/2025	Short Term Pollution - Regulation 2(2) & 7(4)	Prior Warning bathing water quality may be affected	Contamination of Surface Waters (misconnections / urban run-off)	Risk of deterioration in water quality due to expected heavy rainfall
Fingal County Council	IEEABWC020_0000_0600	Regulated Bathing Water	21/07/2025	28/07/2025	Management Measures in Certain Circumstances - Regulation 15	Bathing is temporarily prohibited	Urban Waste Water Agglomeration - EPA Licensed (any discharge/spill from known point of the urban waste water collection system including CSOs)	Risk of deterioration in water quality due to expected heavy rainfall
Fingal County Council	IEEABWC020_0000_0600	Regulated Bathing Water	03/06/2025	06/06/2025	Management Measures in Certain Circumstances - Regulation 15	Bathing is temporarily prohibited	Contamination from Animals/Birds	Water quality deteriorated due to suspected impacts from animals/birds and contamination of urban surface waters discharging into bathing water

Incident Management

- **Weather Analysis 7 days per week including out of hours during rainfall events**
- **Bathing Water Protocol 30 pages of procedures**
- **Results received**
- **Consultation with HSE**
- **Triggers Investigation/Response/Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Communications**
- **Notices on beach**
- **EPA Eden Incident Reporting**
- **Repeat Sampling until incident is over**
- **Close out on all of the above**
- **10 designated beaches in Fingal-Rainfall can create multiple incidents**

Bathing Water Classifications- Annually by EPA

Excellent	• The highest, cleanest class
Good	Generally good water quality
Sufficient	• The water quality meets the minimum standard
Poor	• The water quality has not met the minimum standard

Blue Flag Criterion

- **33 stringent criterion.**
- **Excellent Water Quality based on 4 year 95-% ile rolling assessment a prerequisite.**
- **Criterion broad and wide ranging eg beach accessibility, emergency response, facilities management, cleanliness, health and safety, restrictions on beach use, dog management, promotion of sustainable transport, beach habitats etc**



Blue Flag Criteria-Water Quality

- **Excellent Status which means excellent results based on a 95-ile over a 4 year rolling period**

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Effectively means all samples collected weekly for 4 years and every year after that must have less than 100 IE and 250 EC in every sample

- **Bathing water analogy water quality must be always guaranteed to be pristine**
- **Other EU Countries benefit massively from drier climate and UV disinfection by way of sunlight.**

Our Beaches

- **Fingal County Council has 88 km of coastline.**
- **10 designated bathing areas namely Balbriggan, Skerries, Loughshinny, Rush North, Rush South, Donabate, Portrane, Portmarnock, Burrow Beach, Claremont.**
- **Current Classifications:**
 - **5 Excellent Status/3 Good Status/2 Sufficient Status**
 - **Excellent**
Portmarnock, Donabate, Rush North, Burrow Beach, Skerries.
 - **Good**
Portrane, Rush South & Loughshinny
 - **Sufficient**
Claremont & Balbriggan

Fingal Blue Flag Beaches

- **2 Blue Flag Beach Awards 2026**
- **Velvet Strand Portmarnock**
- **Balcarrick Beach Donabate**



Future Potential Blue Flags

- **Excellent water quality achieved at 3 additional beaches in Fingal**
- **Rush North, Burrow Beach, Skerries.**
- **GAP analysis underway to determine if blue flag criterion are achievable.**



Coastal Green Flag Award 2026

- **Coastal Green Coast Award** recognises beaches of high environmental quality that are prized for their natural, unspoilt state.
- **In 2026 Donabate again achieves this status**



**Green
Coast
Award**



EPA Historical Classifications Fingal latest trends

Name of Beach	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Balbriggan, Front Strand	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	CHANGE	Sufficient		
Skerries, South Beach	Sufficient	Good	Good	Good	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good	Excellent		
Loughshinny Beach	Poor	Good	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Poor	Sufficient	Good		
Rush, North Beach	Sufficient	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent		
Rush, South Beach	Poor	Sufficient	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent		
Donabate, Balcarrick Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent		
Portrane, The Brook Beach	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Good		
Portmarnock, Velvet Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent		
Sutton, Burrow Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Good	Excellent		
Howth, Claremont Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient		
Malahide Beach											

Bathing Water Management Actions- In season and all year round

Weekly monitoring of contributing catchments

Monitoring of UE pump station outfalls

Monitoring of UE network "known pinch points"

DNA analysis of ECOLI

Stream surveys/investigations of bad results

Farm Surveys

Surface water outfall monitoring

Awareness campaigns dog fouling and beach littering leading to bird fouling

Consultation with Balbriggan Working Groups

Close monitoring of works near beaches

Section 4 licences

Consultation with EPA re EPA licensed facilities

Thank you



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