

# CRR-P-54

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Climate Action Roadmap.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Issue Date</b>
1	Brian Higginson	Management Group	Brian Higginson	Feb 2025

## INTRODUCTION.

The Government produced the first iteration of the Climate Action Plan in 2019.

In November 2021, the Government launched the Climate Action Plan, (CAP 21) which sets out defined targets for the reduction of carbon emissions. These targets were enshrined in primary legislation by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, which commits Ireland to move to a climate resilient and climate neutral economy by 2050.

The CAP 21 has been updated several times with the most recent being CAP 24. Public Sector bodies must complete a Climate Action Roadmaps for their own organisation. The Climate Action Roadmap is a document which communicates how each public body aims to meet or is achieving its 2030 carbon and energy efficiency targets.

The CRR, has used the template for small public body within the [SEAI guidance](#) as the basis for its roadmap.

To ensure consistency of reporting requirements with energy use and energy efficiency, it has been decided to base the definition of Public Body on that used in S.I. No. 426/2014 - European Union (Energy Efficiency) Regulations 2014. Therefore, all Public Bodies which includes the CRR who report under the existing SEAI Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) system which is already in place are to follow the Mandate

## Updates and Reporting

The Climate Action Mandate is subject to amendment based on annual updates to the Climate Action Plan by Government.

The Climate Action Roadmap will be updated annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan.

SEAI's Public Sector M&R system tracks progress towards the energy efficiency and energy related carbon targets, as well as progress against SI281/2021 Clean Vehicles Directive procurement targets. CRR is subject to this monitoring and reporting. The CRR continues to show a 77% reduction its energy performance indicator compared to its EE baseline. The fossil GHG emissions continue to be above the 2030 target. As this is linked to the gas fired heating in the building options for a serious reduction are limited. While the total GHG emissions is down 33% it is still above the 2030 target.

The CRR climate and sustainability champion will issue reports to SEAI as required.

## Organisational Context.

The CRR was established on 1st January 2006 under the provisions of the Railway Safety Act (RSA) 2005.

The CRR is a small independent State body comprising 17 staff. It has an organisational structure, comprising one Commissioner, three Principal Inspectors, two senior inspectors, nine inspectors and two administrative staff. It is structured to facilitate the delivery of its mandates under legislation.

The responsibilities that the CRR has under legislation relate to three specific areas, heavy rail, light rail, heritage railways, industrial railways and cableways. Heavy rail refers to the Iarnród Éireann Infrastructure Manager network and the Railway Undertakings that operate on it. Heavy rail is regulated both through the 2005 Act and EU legislation. Light rail refers to the LUAS rail system in Dublin and is regulated through the 2005 Act, and cableways are regulated through EU legislation.

The CRR functions include, conformity assessment of railway organisation safety management systems, the authorisation to place in service of infrastructure and rolling stock, licencing of railway undertakings, licensing of train drivers and market regulation. These functions are carried out through audit, inspection, senior management meetings, post occurrence activity and engagement with the Department of Transport, the European Commission and the European Railway Agency in relation to the regulatory framework. Additional competent authority functions were given to the CRR in 2024 under the Critical Entities Directive.

The full detail of our legislative function can be seen on our website [www.crr.ie](http://www.crr.ie)

## Progress to date.

We have made progress in aspects of our environmental performance with a downward trend in consumption of energy and resources against a background of increased staff numbers, and activities. We strive to continually improve our environmental performance, and in doing so prevent pollution and encourage environmental awareness.

As one tenant in a multioccupancy building we aim to influence and encourage change by the landlord to reduce energy use and increase energy efficiency. The building is currently being renovated by the landlord and the CRR will engage with the landlord to maximise the potential for increasing energy efficiency of its offices.

In the 2023 SEAI Public Sector Annual Report, the most recent on record at the time of writing, the CRR Energy Performance Indicator is showing a 77% positive change in its energy performance indicator, and on this basis has reached its 2030 target. In relation to greenhouse gasses the reduction of fossil CO2 emissions continues to be a challenge as we are a tenant in a building where the heating system is gas based. In relation to our total CO2 emissions, we have achieved a 33% reduction over our baseline against the target of 51% required by 2030.

## **OUR PEOPLE – LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE.**

### **Statement demonstrating senior management commitment.**

The CRR is committed to advancing railway safety, through effective regulation, and by fostering and encouraging the continuous improvement in safety management by railway organisations. It advocates the participation of all stakeholders in the further development of Ireland's rail sector so that it is a safe and efficient mode of transport that benefits our society

This can be achieved through our commitment to our stated values of integrity, respect, independence and excellence.

This Roadmap has been developed to support the actions set out for all Public Sector Bodies from now until 2030, through infrastructure, service, and resource improvements, as well as behavioural change measures for which we have responsibility. Our Roadmap provides our commitment to strive to tackle the climate change crisis and commit to a 51% reduction in our carbon emissions by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050.

The CRR is committed to:

- Driving continuous progress towards achieving the 51% carbon reduction target through action, initiatives, and innovation.
- Embedding green thinking and sustainability within the CRR.
- Inform and educate staff to becoming resource-efficient and environmentally aware.

### **Governance structure.**

The Commissioner has overall responsibility for the implementation of this roadmap and is supported in this task by the Senior Management Group, Principal Inspector Anthony Byrne, Principal Inspector Emmett Davis and Head of Corporate Governance and Regulation Caitriona Keenahan.

### **Nominated climate and sustainability champion.**

Our Climate and Sustainability Champion is Emmett Davis.

Our Energy Performance Officer is – Caitriona Keenahan.

## Green Team.

Our Green Team members are –

Caitriona Keenahan.  
Emmett Davis,

Michael Neale,  
Mark Nugent.

Terms of reference for the Green Team.

Work together to:

- Reduce the organisation's environmental footprint.
- Ensure a comfortable working environment.
- Establish, measure and report goals (annually and longer term).
- Serve as a forum to address specific environmental issues.
- Coordinate activities at least twice each year that implement green practices, educate and provide a sense of community.

## OUR PEOPLE – ENGAGING OUR STAFF.

We realise the importance of keeping our staff informed and having them directly involved in our climate action roadmap. To support this climate action is now a quarterly standing item on our monthly staff meetings.

All staff have been made aware of the key actions that we as a state body have under the Governments Climate Action mandate.

Staff are encouraged to become involved and contribute to our actions and initiatives.

### Staff Training plans.

An annual staff workshop will be held to engage on Climate Issues.

Climate action and sustainability training will be made available for staff.

Climate Action Leadership Training Courses will be made available to the Management Group.

## OUR TARGETS.

The CRR has selected 2009 as its preferred baseline. This baseline is valid as sufficient data for every year from the start of this baseline period is available.

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### Actions/projects required to meet targets.

Targets are currently being met; however, we will continue to take actions to reduce energy consumption. In this regard the adaption of our work processes to blended working will continue to contribute to reductions in thermal and electricity energy consumption.

Engagement with the landlord in relation to the building renovation and upgrade will take place to seek to improve energy efficiency.

In addition, the use of virtual meeting options will continue to reduce transport energy consumption.

Actions proposed by the Green Team will be supported and prioritised for action where possible.

## OUR WAY OF WORKING.

### Energy and environmental management systems.

As a small public body, we focus on the current SEAI guidance to direct our energy and environmental management system.

In 2021 an energy audit on energy consumption and the opportunities for improved energy performance has been carried out in compliance with the requirements of SI426/2014 and SI599/2019. The report indicated several measures that can be taken to substantially reduce energy consumption. These are primarily within the landlord's control. Engagement with the landlord in relation to the building renovation and upgrade will take place to seek to improve energy efficiency.

### Digitisation of processes.

The CRR will plan to digitise the majority of its administrative and regulatory functions.

## **Green Procurement.**

We use the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) for all of the major contracts that we procure, and environmental sustainability is now an award criterion on requests for tender.

We procure equipment that are classified as Triple E or equivalent.

## **Resources Used.**

We have placed a strong focus on reducing paper use over the past number of years. This has been supported by a higher reliance of sharing scanned documents, particularly in the context of blended working.

There is also an increased focus on reducing colour printing with the printer set at monochrome scale by default.

Based on paper purchases there has been a reduction of approximately 70% of paper use between 2017 and 2023. This reduction was maintained in 2024, and we will continue to measure and monitor our paper consumption. Future paper purchases will be of recycled paper.

The CRR also facilitates the use of e-invoicing by contractors.

Very few single use items are used by the CRR, and we will continue to eliminate and not procure them.

There is a separate internal paper and waste recycling stream. All confidential shredding also goes to recycling.

Internal radiators have all been fitted with individual thermostats for improved local control.

## **OUR BUILDINGS AND VEHICLES.**

We have a single office which is part of a shared leased office building and we are the sole public body tenant.

### **Building.**

CRR occupy at the ground floor at Temple House, 57 Temple Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin with a floor area of 523m<sup>2</sup>. The building was constructed during the late 80s and is a 4 storey over basement (mainly car park) brick faced building with extensive double glazing from the late 80's and limited insulation in the walls or floors. The building is in reasonably good repair.

Gas is by far the biggest energy consumer and used for heating our offices. Where any office move is being considered then the heating system installed will not require fossil fuels. The main electricity consumer is lighting followed by IT – servers, laptops, screens, printers – followed by other plug loads – catering etc.

## Vehicles.

The CRR does not have company vehicles.

Parking is available on site for staff. The introduction of blended working for staff where 40% of time is office based has seen a significant reduction in car use for work commute. This will in time also lead to a reduction in both office space and parking.

The CRR promoting alternatives to car use.

Use of active and public transport to travel to work is encouraged by supporting initiatives such as taxsaver tickets and the cycle to work scheme.

Shower facilities are available on site.