

CRR-P-41

Climate Action Roadmap.

Issue	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Issue Date
1	Brian Higgisson	Management Group	Brian Higgisson	17 Nov 2023

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 committed that all public sector bodies will complete a Climate Action Roadmap 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 may be amended in the future based on updates to the Climate Action Plan by Government.

In this event additional guidance will be issued by SEAI and EPA if necessary. The CRR will within 3 months from issue of such amended guidance update its own Roadmap to reflect the revised mandate requirements.

Irrespective of whether the Climate Action Mandate is updated in the CAP, the CRR will review this Roadmap annually. The annual review will include a summary of progress made against the plans set out in the previous year's roadmap, assess the progress against meeting the Mandate requirements, and a statement on what new actions may be required and when.

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.

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, two principal inspectors, a principal officer, eleven 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 primary areas, heavy rail, light rail, and cableway, but also includes industrial and heritage sectors.. 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.
- supervision of the application and effectiveness of railway organisations safety management systems, through audit, inspection, senior management meetings, safety performance review meetings, post occurrence activities, occurrence review meetings etc

The CRR engages with the Department of Transport, the European Commission and the European Railway Agency in relation to the regulatory framework.

The full detail of our legislative function can be seen on our website 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.

In 2022 our Energy Performance Indicator (EnPI) was 5,442 against a target of 11,833. Overall, our EnPI was 2.9% better than 2021, 77% better than the energy efficiency baseline and 54% better than the 2030 target.

In relation to our Total Primary Energy Requirement (TPER) 2022 based on thermal, electricity and transport we are 56.6% better than the 2009 baseline.

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, Elaine Quirke, Michael Neale, Emmett Davis & Mark Nugent.

The Terms of reference for the Green Team is to 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.

On a quarterly basis the Government initiative “Reduce your Use” is also a standing item on the staff meeting agenda.

Staff Training plans.

The CRR recognise the importance of educating our staff on climate and sustainability matters and will;

- Hold an annual staff workshop to engage on Climate Issues.
- Provide Climate action and sustainability training for staff.
- Ensure that Climate Action Leadership Training is provided to the Management Group in 2023.

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.

In 2022 our EnPI was 5,442 against a target of 11,833. Overall, our EnPI was 77% better than the 2009 energy efficiency baseline, 2.9% better than 2021 and 54% better than the 2030 target.

In relation to energy consumption (TPER) 2022 based on thermal, electricity and transport we are 56.6% better than the baseline. It is noted that there was an increase over 2021 of 3.2% which is associated with post Covid activity.

Energy Related CO₂ emissions were 16,471 kgCO₂, 181 kgCO₂ (1.1%) less than 2021.

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 during and post Covid will continue to contribute to reductions in thermal and electricity energy consumption.

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 was carried out in compliance with the requirements of SI426/2014 and SI599/2019. The report indicated several measures that could be taken to substantially reduce energy consumption further. However, most of the measures require investment by the building landlord and are outside the CRR's direct control.

Digitisation of processes.

Paper based processes are subject to continued review and the potential for digitisation to become the normal approach to processes.

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.

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

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 523m². The building was constructed during the late 1980's and is a 4 storey over basement (mainly car park) brick faced building with extensive double glazing and limited insulation in the walls or floors. The building is in reasonably good repair.

Gas is by far the biggest energy source consumed and is used for heating the building.

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 promotes alternatives to car use by its support of use of active and public transport to travel to work, encouraged by supporting initiatives such as TaxSaver tickets and the cycle to work scheme.

Shower facilities are also available on site for staff use.