



Courts Service Climate Action Roadmap 2025



September 2025



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

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Introduction

Ireland's Climate Action Plan sets out mandatory requirements for all Public Sector Bodies within the Climate Action Mandate. One requirement is the annual publication of a Climate Action Roadmap in line with each successive Climate Action Plan. This fourth iteration of the Courts Service Climate Action Roadmap, published in September 2025, refers to the Climate Action Plan 2025.

The Courts Service is a statutory independent state agency responsible for the administration and management of the courts in Ireland. It was established by the Courts Service Act 1998, and took over a large historic estate, primarily from the Local Authority and the Office of Public Works (OPW). The Courts Service energy use and carbon generation are solely due to the operation of our buildings and staff travel, we have no fleet.

There have been considerable adjustments to the Courts Service estate since 1998 and currently over one hundred buildings are in use nationwide. These buildings range from small, single courtroom venues to the Criminal Courts of Justice, which is the largest and busiest courthouse in Ireland. Some buildings are in daily use as offices and courthouses, while others are only used intermittently on court days. There is a wide range in building age, from the iconic Four Courts constructed in 1785, to our newest venue completed in 2018. The average age of our venues is over 160 years.

Most of our estate is owned by the Courts Service, with additional buildings owned by the relevant Local Authority, the OPW, privately leased or provided via Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements. Our estate includes 64 buildings with protected status, with many located within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA). The Courts Service places great value on these buildings, which are rich in judicial and architectural heritage. However, the complexity of the specific conservation requirements of heritage and protected buildings presents a challenge for upkeep, modernisation, and decarbonisation.

This Climate Action Roadmap includes considerable updates since the last iteration, based on increased understanding of what is possible from an operational, financial and technical perspective within our diverse estate. Our delivery approach is also in transition as we set up internal project delivery mechanisms, which is reflected in our latest results to targets. We have increased our focus on the extent and capability of our teams to meet future challenges with our estate, including climate action. We have identified a range of projects which we can realistically implement to reach our targets, subject to appropriate funding and resourcing, as presented within our project pipeline and Gap to Target. The Courts Service remains committed to our climate action obligations.

Glossary of Terms

ACA	Architectural Conservation areas
AIPP	All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
AP	Assistant Principal
BAU	Business-as-usual
BER	Building Energy Rating
BMS	Business Management Systems
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CCJ	Criminal Courts of Justice
CWMF	Capital Works Management Framework
DEC	Display Energy Certificate
DHW	Domestic Hot Water
DFC	Dublin Family Court
EO	Executive Officers
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPEAT	Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool
EU	European Union
EV	Electric vehicles
GPP	Green Public Procurement
GtT	Gap to Target
HEO	Higher Executive Officers
HVO	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil
IPA	Institute of Public Administration
kWh	kilo-Watt hours
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LIA	Leadership-in-Action
LGP	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
L&D	Learning and Development
M&R	Monitoring and Reporting portal
NDP	National Development Plan
NEPL	National Estates Portfolios Lead
OGP	Office of Government Procurement
OPW	Office of Public Works
PO	Principal Officer
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PV	Solar Photovoltaic
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SEU	Significant Energy User
SMT	Senior Management Team
TPER	Total Primary Energy Requirement
NTA	National Transport Authority

1 Our Targets and Project Pipeline

1.1 Our 2030 Targets

The 2030 energy efficiency and decarbonisation targets, as set out in the Climate Action Plans (CAP) 2025, are consistent with those of previous CAPs i.e.

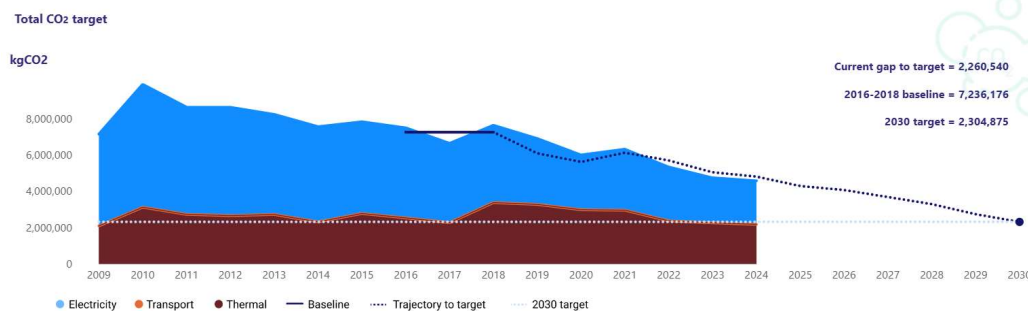
- Reduce our total carbon generation (from all fuel sources) by 51% by 2030, compared to a baseline of 2016-2018 average.
- Reduce our on-site fossil fuel carbon generation (e.g. from oil, gas, and LPG heating) by 51% by 2030, compared to a baseline of 2016-2018 average.
- Improve our energy efficiency by 50% by 2030 compared to a baseline of 2009.

While the energy efficiency target is relative to a changeable activity metric, the carbon targets are absolute. The Courts Service activity metric is adjusted floor area, which accounts for estate expansion.

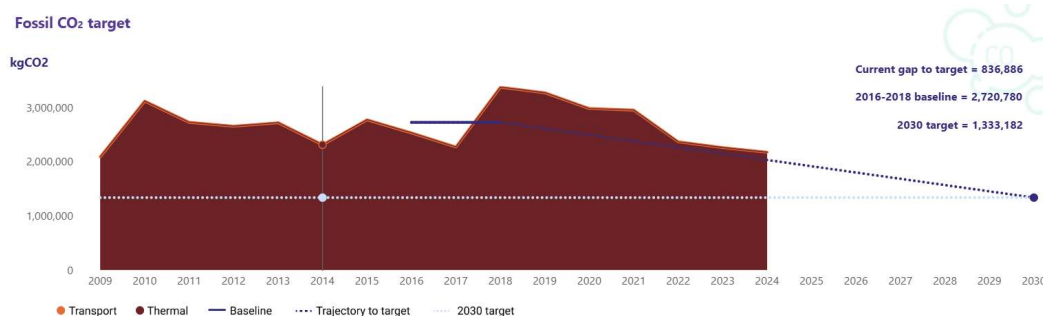
The Courts Service reports annually on our energy consumption using a Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) platform developed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). Reporting is done on a full year basis in retrospect – for example in 2025 we gathered and uploaded consumption information for 2024. The M&R platform normalises this in line with the weather for the previous year and calculates the carbon based on the national grid carbon intensity. Our results, as of September 1st, 2025, are provided in figures below.

* Note: Final results below differ slightly from provisional results reflected in both our Annual Report of June 2025 and our GtT, which is indicative of the dynamic nature of the M&R.

- Total carbon emissions= **4,565,145 kgCO₂***, a **36.9%* improvement** relative to baseline.



- Fossil carbon emissions (from on-site heating) = **2,170,069* kgCO₂**, a **20.2%* improvement** relative to baseline.



- Energy Efficiency improvement of **37.5%*** compared to 2009 baseline.

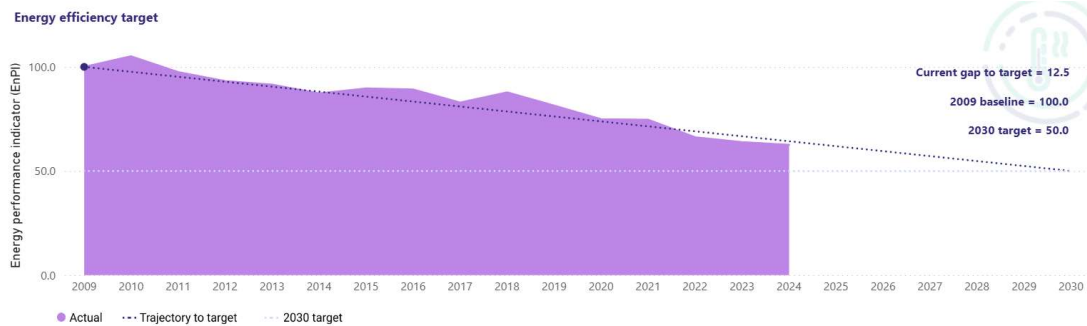


Figure 3: Extract from Courts Service 2024 M&R for Energy Efficiency Performance (01/09/2025)

1.2 Changes in Estate and Service

Past Changes

The energy consumption data for the Courts Service indicates several significant past changes in our estate configuration, namely the addition of the Criminal Courts of Justice (CCJ) in 2010 at 23,000m² and the addition of our seven regional PPPs in 2017/2018. Both additions are clearly visible on our M&R results in figures above and the Gap-to-Target (GtT) analysis below. The impact of these estate changes on our energy efficiency is not significant, as it is assessed relative to our activity metric (area), which increased significantly with each additional building.

However, the impact on our carbon targets is significant. This is due to the fact that the 2030 carbon targets reference a baseline of 2016 to 2018 average, but in 2016 and for part of 2017 the seven regional PPPs did not form part of our estate. A substantial increase in carbon generation is noted in 2018 when all seven PPP buildings were in use. This means the baseline of our absolute carbon targets are lower than they would have been if all our PPPs had been in operation during the target year averages, which makes them more challenging. The impact of this is visible for 2019 to 2021 (as well as the influence of covid) where our carbon generation is above the baseline. Our 2022 - 2024 data shows this upswing has been largely reversed, bringing us back in line with the glidepath.

Future Changes

The Courts Service is currently developing a dedicated Dublin Family Court building (DFC), due for completion in 2029. Full details on area, systems, energy, and carbon modelling are not yet available and have not been incorporated in the current Gap to Target modelling. Building design is based on electrification of heat to the greatest possible extent so adding this building to our M&R is likely to impact our energy efficiency target and total carbon targets, but not our fossil fuel carbon target.

Our operational needs are increasing, in line with the output of the Judicial Planning Working Group, legislative changes and the increasing population in Ireland. This is likely to result in additional/expanded venues and increased use of existing venues, which in turn will impact on our energy consumption and progress to target. Once known, the impact of any changes will be modelled as part of our Gap to Target.

1.3 Significant Energy Users

The Courts Service energy consumption and carbon generation is due to our buildings alone - no organisational vehicles are used. Although the Courts Service has a large estate with 103 venues, a substantial portion of the energy consumption in 2024 is due to a relatively small number of venues.

Our three largest buildings were responsible for circa 40% of our energy consumption in 2024:

- The Criminal Courts of Justice (CCJ), a PPP building (20% of delivered energy)
- The Four Courts, an OPW owned complex (14.5% of delivered energy)
- Phoenix House, our headquarters, and a leased venue (5.5% of delivered energy)

Twenty buildings are responsible for three quarters of our energy consumption which, in addition to the three listed above, include:

- Our seven Regional PPP Buildings
- Ten Courts Service operated buildings in regional towns and Dublin

Twenty-six of our non-PPP buildings are part of the **Optimising Power at Work** program run by the OPW.

The projects required to reach our 2030 targets are heavily focused on the Significant Energy Users (SEUs) identified above. However, opportunities for improvement are sought in all venues.

1.4 Project Pipeline

To identify the type, scale and timing of projects required to adhere to the glidepath and to reach our 2030 targets, it was essential to:

- quantify the impact of proposed projects on our energy consumption based on fuel type(s) and;
- model the impact of projects and their implementation timeline on the progress to targets across the estate using the SEAI GtT tool.

Before using the GtT tool, the individual energy efficiency and decarbonisation benefits of a range proposed projects are estimated in kilowatt hours (kWh) for each fuel type using the Courts Service detailed energy database, previous experience, and audit data. Projects focused on electricity reduction only are classified as energy efficiency projects, while those that reduce on-site fossil fuel use are highlighted as on-site decarbonisation projects – which also result in energy efficiencies except in the case of fuel switching.

Our project pipeline no longer includes the pathfinder full building refurbishment. To research the specific decarbonisation challenges in protected heritage venues, we partnered with SEAI and the OPW in 2021 to carry out a Pathfinder assessment on two venues. The goal was to identify the technical solutions, outline costs, and operational disruption to achieve Building Energy Rating (BER) B. Detailed contractor-led investigation throughout 2023 included opening-up works to identify fabric makeup, air pressurisation tests, heritage review, condition surveys and thermal modelling. The output report presented a combination of measures to achieve BER B, but due to costs and the operational disruption the project was deemed unviable. Therefore, full refurbishment is no longer part of our project pipeline and is replaced with more incremental measures to minimise operational disruption and better align with available funding.

The figure below outlines the planned and proposed projects which were modelled using the GtT tool.

Delivery	Action	Venue(s)	Category	Project Readiness Stage (1: Concept; 2: Priority; 3: Scoped; 4: Business case; 5: Designed; 6: Tender)	External Funding	Energy Efficiency Action	On-site Decarbonisation Action
2025 - 2030	Staff Engagement & Communications	Ongoing - All venues	Awareness	5	N	✓	
	Minor energy efficiency projects	Ongoing - All venues	General	2	N	✓	✓
2025	Boiler & DHW system replacement	CCJ	Heating	4	Y	✓	✓
	Chiller Replacement	CCJ	Cooling	6	Y	✓	
	Emergency Lighting Upgrade	CCJ	Lighting	6	Y	✓	
	CCJ Energy Efficiency Action Plan - Phase 2	CCJ	General	5	N	✓	✓
	Four Courts AUD Lighting upgrade.	AUD 4th Floor.	Lighting	6	N	✓	
	Four Courts Energy Efficiency Action Plan - Phase 1	Four Courts	General	5	N	✓	✓
	Install Photovoltaic panels and DHW upgrade pilot	Limerick Courthouse	Renewables	6	N	✓	✓
	Courtroom lighting upgrade	Letterkenny & Mullingar	Lighting	6	Y	✓	
	External lighting control upgrades	Limerick, Waterford & Mullingar	Lighting	6	Y	✓	
	Heating System & controls upgrade	Western Regional office Castlebar	Heating	1	N	✓	✓
	Smart controls pilot for electric heating	Clifden Courthouse	Controls	5	N	✓	
2026	Heating System & controls upgrade	Dun Laoghaire, Portlaoise, Sligo & Carlow	Heating	1	N	✓	✓
	AUD Ground & basement Lighting upgrade.	Four Courts	Lighting	2	N	✓	
	Gandon Phase 2 Lighting upgrade	Four Courts	Lighting	2	Y	✓	
	Four Courts Energy Efficiency Action Plan - Phase 2	Four Courts	General	5	N	✓	✓
	Lighting upgrades (LED & controls)	Cork, Kilkenny, Castlebar, Trim	Lighting	2	N	✓	
	BMS & Controls upgrade	Athy, Loughrea & Roscommon	Controls	1	N	✓	✓
	Electric heating system, lighting & controls upgrades	Ballina, Killarney, Middleton, Ballinasloe	Heating	1	N	✓	
	Install Photovoltaic panels and DHW upgrade	6 x PPP courthouses	Renewables	1	N	✓	✓
	Venue refurbishment - fabric and systems	Mallow District Court	Refurbishment	5	N	✓	✓
	Fuel switching - LPG to BioLPG	Letterkenny, Carrick-on-Shannon, Longford	Fuel switch	3	N		✓
2027	Heating System & controls upgrade	Athlone, Balbriggan, Gorey Courthouse	Heating	1	N	✓	✓
	Heating System & controls upgrade	Cavan Courthouse (in cooperation with LA)	Heating	1	N	✓	✓
	Four Courts Boiler Replacement	Four Courts (in cooperation with OPW)	Heating	1	Y	✓	✓
	Lighting upgrades (LED & controls) - Phase 1	CCJ	Lighting	1	Y	✓	
	Lighting upgrades (LED & controls)	Ennis, Tullamore, Nenagh, Longford, Dundalk, Limerick Merchant's quay	Lighting	2	N	✓	
	Install Photovoltaic panels and DHW upgrade	CCJ, AUD, Phoenix House, Ennis & Tullamore	Renewables	2	N	✓	✓
	Electric heating system, lighting & controls upgrades	Swords, Macroom, Clonakilty, Dungarvan, Gort	Heating	2	N	✓	
2028 - 2029	Lighting upgrades (LED & controls) - Phase 2	CCJ	Lighting	1	Y	✓	
	Lighting upgrades (LED & controls)	8 venues per annum	Lighting	1	N	✓	
	Heating System & controls upgrade	6 venues per annum	Heating	1	N	✓	✓
	Install Photovoltaic panels and DHW upgrade	4 venues per annum	Renewables	1	N	✓	✓
	Advanced controls upgrades & metering	6 venues per annum	Controls	1	N	✓	✓

Figure 4: Project pipeline modelled in GtT for Roadmap 2025

These projects originate from both climate action (energy assessments, SI426 audits etc), reactive and planned maintenance requirements, operational changes/building upgrades, and derisking reliance on single item plant. The projects range from well advanced and funded projects at tender stage, to early concept projects, with delivery timelines up to 2029. The end of decade project venues will be decided based on consumption closer to the time.

Two projects completed in late 2024 are modelled within the GtT as the full year impact will not be realised until 2025. These are the heating upgrades in Phoenix House (one of SEUs) and in Listowel Courthouse. Project readiness is presented according to the following SEAI stages: 1: Concept; 2: Priority; 3: Scoped; 4: Business case; 5: Designed; 6: Tender, with near term projects at more advanced stages. Any external funding potential is highlighted. This includes potential co-funding from the OPW for measures in parts of the Four Courts and from our PPP partners (for contractual lifecycle cost replacement, change in law and benefits sharing).

There is considerable overlap between energy efficiency and decarbonisation, with many projects delivering both, for example controls optimisation reduces both electricity and heating fuels. However, projects that reduce electricity only (such as lighting upgrades) are classified as energy efficiency projects only and will not contribute to our decarbonisation goals. Specific decarbonisation focused projects are therefore required, and these are focused on plant upgrade, displacement of some of the boiler load with PV or heat pumps and fuel switching from hydrocarbon fuels to BioLPG, Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) and biomass.

1.5 Gap to Target Tool

The SEAI GtT tool uses all current and historic data on energy use and carbon generation from the M&R database to provide each Public Body with a customised and full-estate model. This allows us to accurately model the impact of projects on both energy efficiency and decarbonisation target and identify if gaps exist.

This iteration of our Climate Action Roadmap includes a newly updated GtT populated with 2024 data. It provides a useful overview of the status of our energy consumption and source of our carbon emissions, as shown in the figures below. Notably 53% of our energy consumption relates to our thermal fuels, which are all fossil fuels at present and heavily dependent on natural gas, while 52% of our carbon emissions relate to our electricity consumption. Given Ireland's planned decarbonisation of the national electricity grid over the coming years, this highlights the need for us to focus on fossil fuel reduction.

2024 final energy consumption

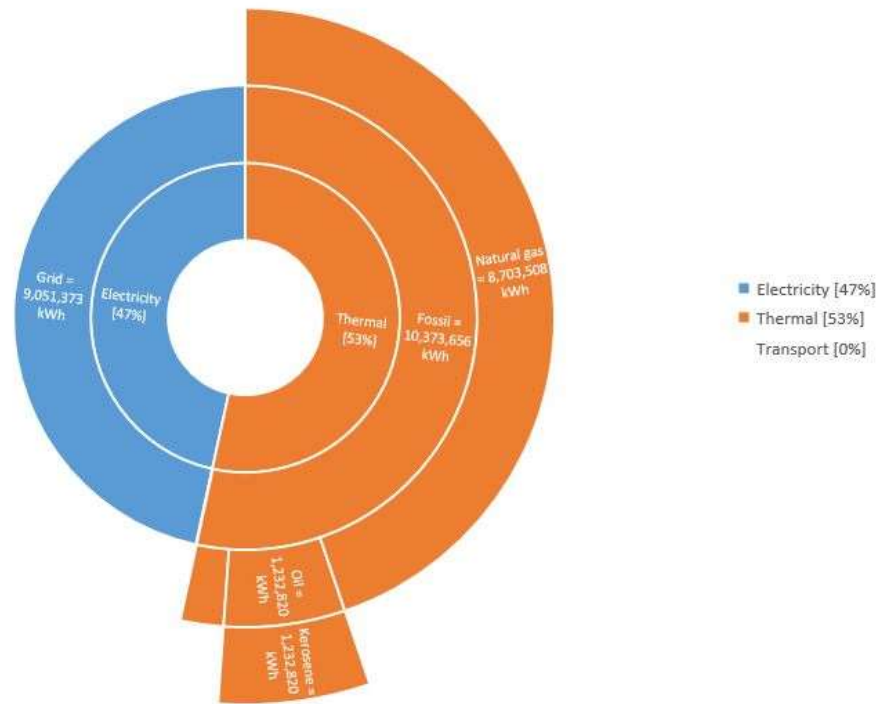


Figure 5: Courts Service 2024 Energy Types from SEAI GtT

2024 CO2 emissions

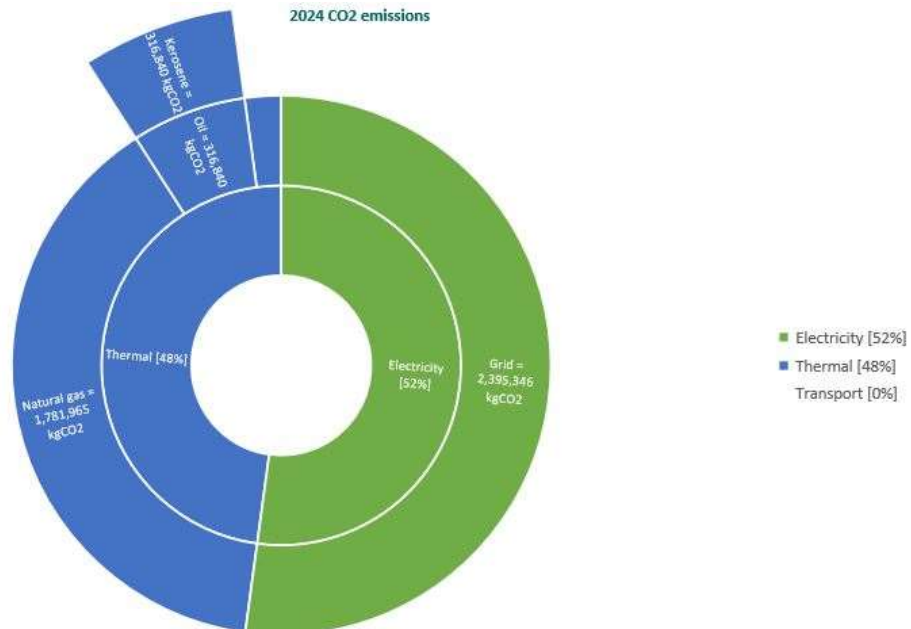


Figure 6: Courts Service 2024 Carbon sources from SEAI GtT

The GtT also provides us with a view of the Business-as-usual (BAU) scenarios. This indicates that without focused decarbonisation efforts we would exceed our fossil fuel decarbonisation target by 75% and our total CO₂ targets by 32% as shown below. We would exceed our energy efficiency targets by a lesser amount. By contrast, modelling the impact of completion of all projects within the project pipeline in Figure 4 highlights the work required to reach all targets.

1.6 Achieving the carbon emissions reduction targets

The modelled scenario indicates we can achieve our total CO₂ and fossil fuel decarbonisation targets, but with very tight margins and with a high reliance on a proposed heating system upgrade in the Four Courts. We have additional projects which have not been modelled, either because they are unconfirmed, difficult to quantify or the methodology for modelling does not yet exist within the GtT. These include:

- Future potential building refurbishment under new PPP or direct refurbishment arrangements,
- Fuel switching to HVO, a renewable fossil-free biofuel made from vegetable oils and animal fats which is a direct substitute for diesel or kerosene,
- The potential future availability of district heating schemes near our venues, and
- Enhancements in metering and monitoring.

The modelled scenario is shown below with our historic carbon generation from our heating systems shown in dark brown, while the light brown shows our projected future carbon generation based on our project pipeline. The darker blue represents historic carbon from our electricity consumption, while the lighter blue shows projected future carbon from electricity consumption based on our project pipeline and the planned national decarbonisation of the electricity grid in Ireland.

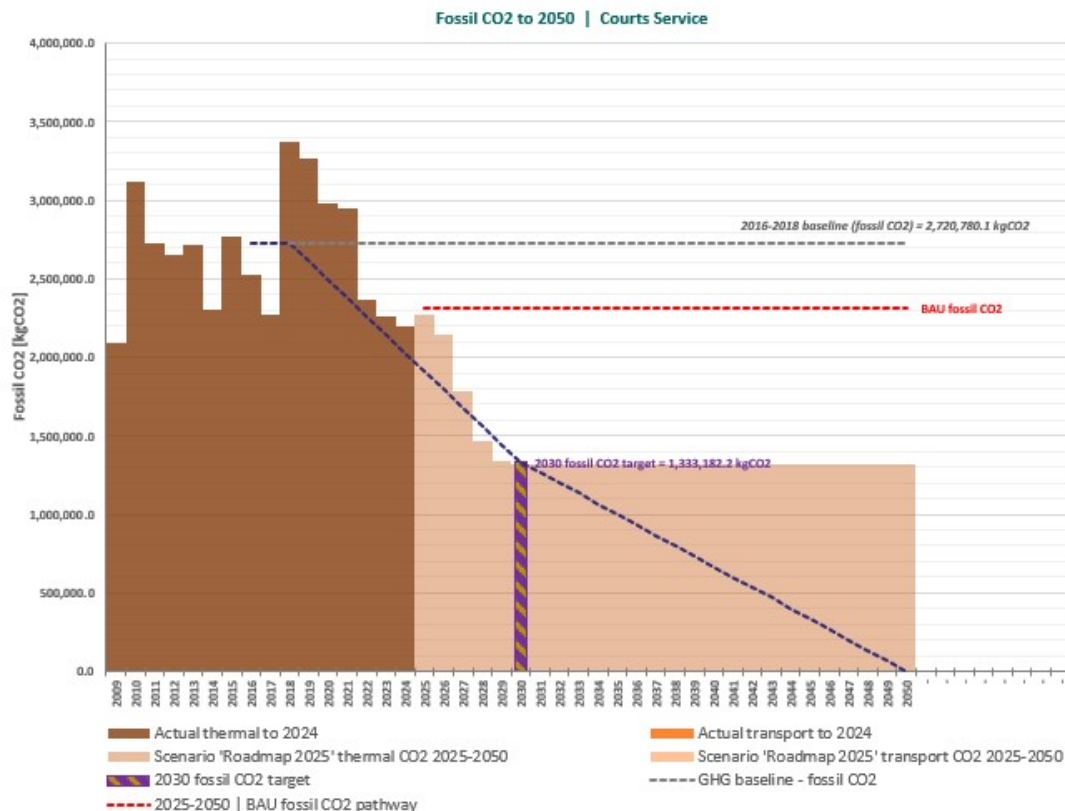


Figure 7: Modelled projects impact on fossil fuel CO₂ performance from SEAI GtT 2024

Both show the need to progress the projects modelled within the specified timeframe to maintain a gradual reduction in the coming years and reach our targets.

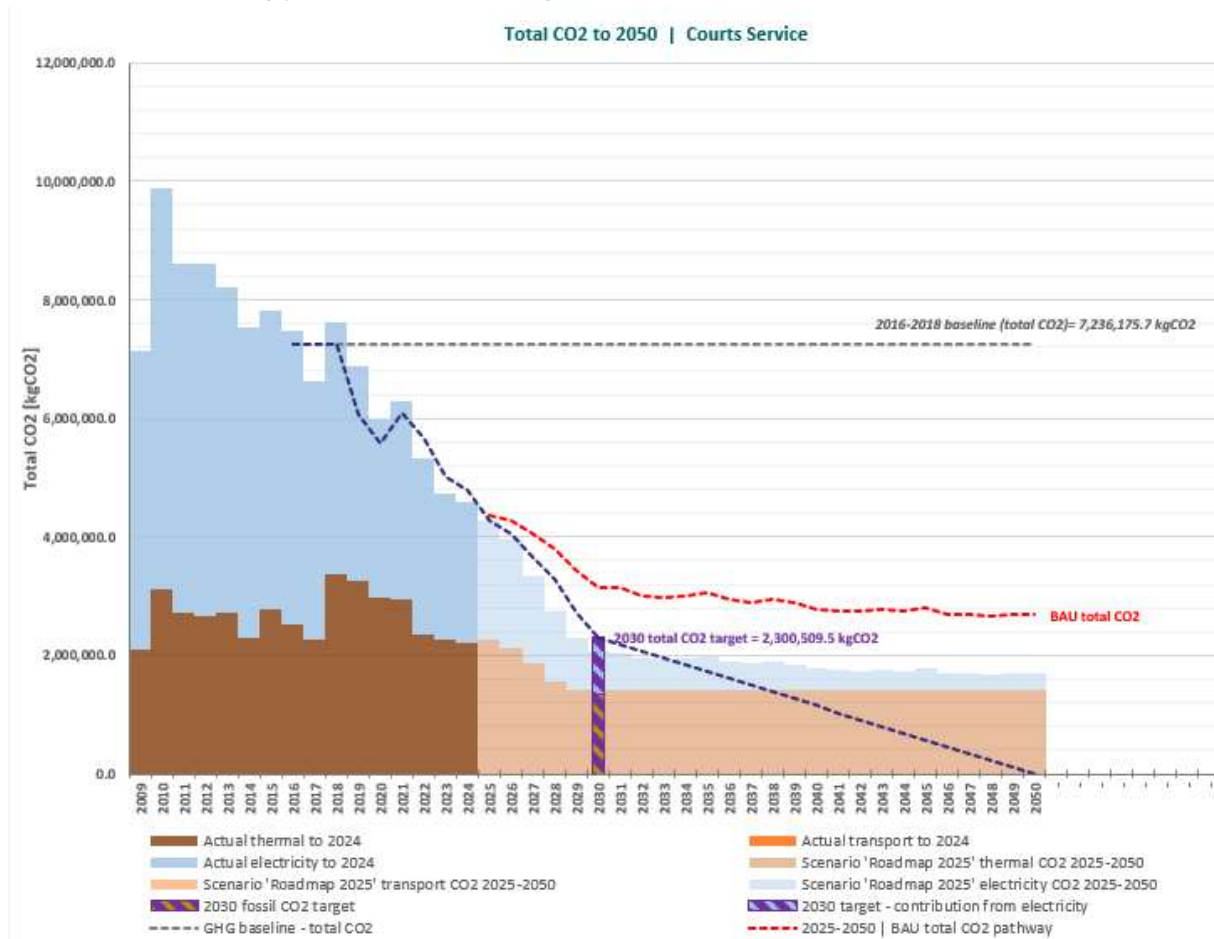


Figure 8: Modelled projects impact on Total CO2 performance from SEAI GtT 2024

The decarbonisation projects are focused on the following actions:

- Dedicated Energy Efficiency Action Plans in our SEUs
- Heating system upgrades in the poorest performing venues and those with known plant risk
- Offset of summer-time boiler use with Photovoltaic or heat pumps
- Fuel switching from LPG to BioLPG and kerosene to HVO
- Advanced controls upgrades, metering, and monitoring
- Whole building refurbishments

The impact of delivered projects will need to be continually monitored to ensure estimates are correct. Where divergence is identified the project pipeline may need to be expanded in subsequent GtT iterations.

1.7 Achieving the energy efficiency target

The modelled scenario sees us achieving and exceeding our total CO2 energy efficiency target. Figure 9 below shows our historic energy efficiency in purple, while the pink area shows our projected future energy efficiency based on our project pipeline. The overperformance modelled allows a small cushion against

project delay, abandonment or underperformance and will be continually revisited in roadmap iterations. Energy Efficiency efforts are also impacted by the requirements of

- The EU ban on the sale of fluorescent lamps containing mercury, effectively banning all T5, T8 and compact fluorescents, requiring extensive lighting upgrades, and
- The Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD) 2024, which requires installation of PV in public sector building in a rolling timeframe to 2030.

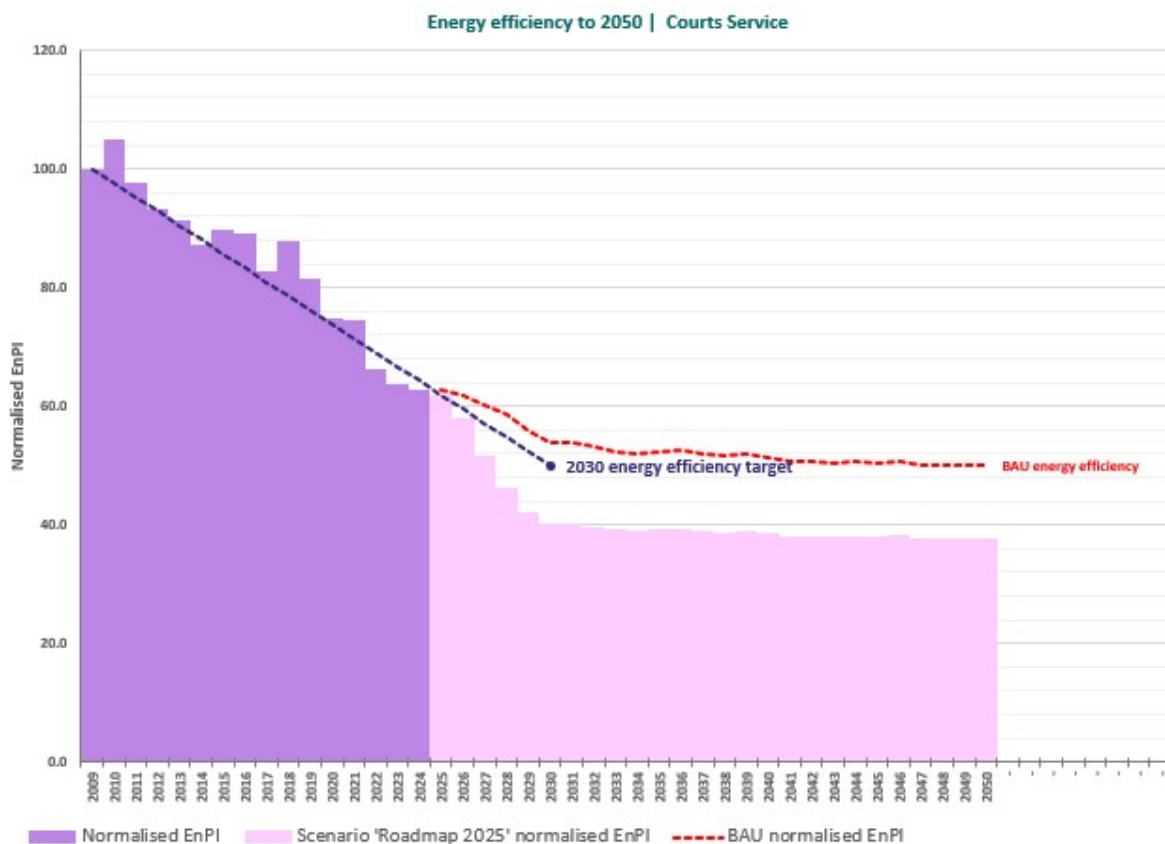


Figure 9: Modelled projects impact on energy efficiency performance from SEAI GtT 2024

Energy efficiency efforts which have been effective to date will be continued, iteratively and in more venues. They will focus on aligning energy use with operational requirements, upgrading equipment and controls, applying deeper upgrades, and optimising user behaviour via continual staff engagement.

The energy efficiency projects modelled are focused on the following actions:

- Dedicated Energy Efficiency Action Plans in our SEUs
- Heating system upgrades in the poorest performing venues
- Lighting upgrades
- Installation of Photovoltaic solar panels
- Electric heating system and controls upgrades

1.8 Funding, Dependencies and Risk

Our project pipeline is ambitious, involves work in multiple locations simultaneously and requires significant internal resourcing and funding. We will review the suitability and deliverability of these projects within the proposed timeframe on an ongoing basis and update the roadmap annually.

In relation to our project pipeline, it is essential to note that:

- It is understood there is no additional funding provided in the revised NDP 2026 – 2030, and no significant and viable alternative funding streams have been identified.
- Until 2025, we had a heavy reliance on the OPW technical teams geographical spread and expert knowledge in the delivery of elective Climate action projects. From 2025 onwards, the OPW no longer support Courts Service elective climate action projects. In this regard our position is different to many other public bodies for whom the OPW bear responsibility for delivery of Climate action.
- In quarter 3 2025, we established an independent internal consultant framework for design of projects independent of the OPW. It is proposed to establish a corresponding Mechanical and Electrical contractor framework quickly. This change means that in-house resources will replace those previously provided by the OPW, increasing pressure on our limited internal technical resources.
- We are also heavily dependent on the continued cooperation of our PPP partners in our decarbonisation journey.
- Technical resources, both internally and within the broader consulting and construction industry, are noted as potential constraints.

The Courts Service Management team have approved this roadmap and its proposed project pipeline and timeframe, subject to the availability of adequate funding, resourcing, and industry capacity.

2 Our People

2.1 Leadership and Governance for Climate Action

Our Leadership

- **Climate and Sustainability Champion:** Assistant Secretary John Cleere. John is Head of Corporate Services Directorate and a member of our Senior Management Team. He has decision making powers with respect to facilities, corporate budgets, and procurement.
- **Energy Performance Officer:** Principal Officer Úna Murphy. Úna is head of the Sustainability Unit within the Corporate Services Directorate and is responsible our climate action and reporting.

Our Climate Action Unit

In 2020, with the full support of our Senior Management Team (SMT), the Courts Service established a Climate Action Unit (previously the Sustainability Unit) within the Corporate Services Directorate. The Unit is responsible for reporting to the SMT, annual M&R reporting, delivering energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects to comply with public sector targets, raising awareness of the climate action mandate to responsible parties and supporting action, staff engagement and biodiversity.

The Unit has eight members across all grades as set out below.

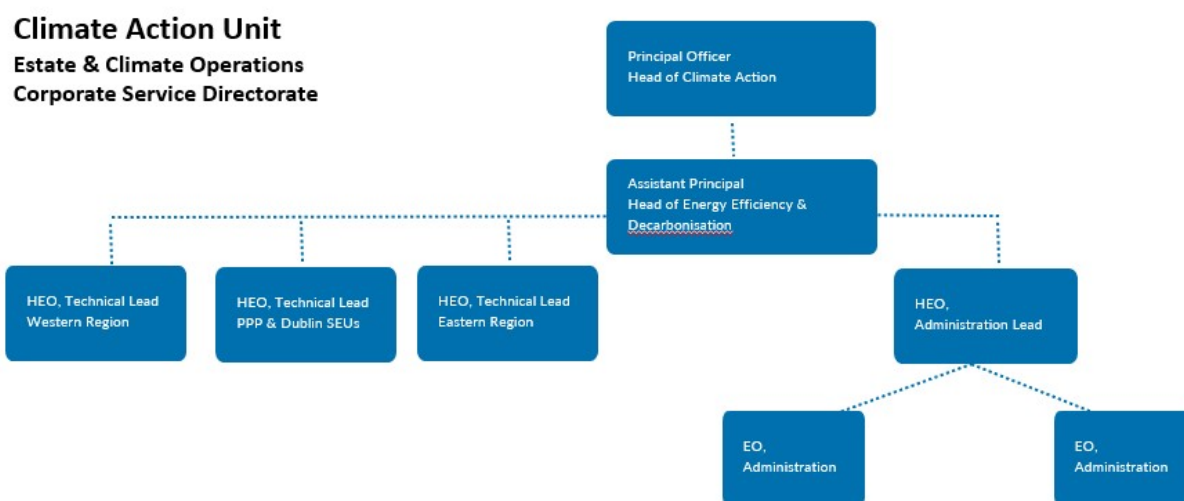


Figure 10: Climate Action Organisational structure

Our Strategies

The Courts Service *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021 – 2024* was published after establishment of our Sustainability Unit in 2020 and is publicly available at courts.ie. The strategy set out the priority areas and initial steps in our sustainability journey via four distinct but interconnecting priority activities.

1. The overarching sustainability priority for the Courts Service was to progress incrementally towards, and achieve, the public sector **energy efficiency and decarbonisation** targets for 2030. Ten essential actions were identified to set the groundwork for this transition.
2. The second priority area was **engagement and communication** with colleagues, the Judiciary, and stakeholders to increase knowledge and awareness of climate issues, keep all informed of our responsibilities and goals, and empower our colleagues as partners in this transition.
3. The third priority was to manage and **minimise the non-energy finite resources** we use, with the aim of becoming a resource-accountable organisation.
4. Priority 4 set out the path to identify **biodiversity** opportunities within our estate and support the actions required to take the first steps in managing our public lands in a pollinator-friendly manner.



Figure 11: Environmental Sustainability strategy Priorities

Many of the actions within our Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021 – 2024 became part of the Climate Action Mandate and the strategy is now superseded by the annual Climate Action Roadmap. The Courts Service *Estates Strategy 2022 – 2025* also sets out our broad ambition in relation to modernisation of our estates.

2.2 Engaging and Training Staff

Environmental and sustainability goals and targets will only be achievable with large scale participation from all. While the technical and systems-based initiatives and projects are suitable for an organisational approach, minimising energy and finite resource use requires constant attention and effort at point of use. A broad understanding of climate issues and our responsibilities as a public body is also required to inform decision making, particularly at management level. To support knowledge and engagement, a range of training is provided for all levels, and we have continual range of communication and interactions on climate action.

Climate Action training

Principal Office level and above

In late 2023, the Department of Justice approved the rollout of the Institute of Public Administration's (IPA) Climate Action Leadership Programme to all senior managers at Principal Officer level and above, in alignment with the requirements of the Climate Action Mandate 2023. All designated staff within the Courts Service registered with the IPA, with the majority engaging during 2024.

In 2025, our internal Learning and Development (L&D) Unit introduced tailored, in-person climate leadership training for senior leaders to meet the mandate requirements. This training is delivered in person as part of our Leadership-in-Action (LIA) development series. Recordings of these sessions are available for new appointees and for refreshers for others via their L&D portal.

Completion rates for this training will be included in our annual reports and via the M&R. Future plans for climate action leadership training will be guided by the upcoming Public Sector Climate Action Strategy 2026–2030, when it becomes available.

General Staff Training

In 2025, with support from the L&D Unit, we created a dedicated Climate Action training page within the L&D CORE learning platform. CORE learning offers a comprehensive suite of mandatory and essential courses designed to equip all staff—regardless of role or tenure—with the knowledge and skills needed to ensure compliance and uphold high standards of service. The Climate Action section includes training from the SEAI Energy Academy, One Learning's Climate Action modules, and Green Public Procurement training developed by the European Commission.



Climate Action at the Courts Service

Also in 2025, our Learning & Development (L&D) Unit launched a new Induction Programme and dedicated hub for onboarding new staff. A presentation on climate action within the Courts Service is included, highlighting public sector targets, our decarbonisation projects, key campaigns particularly our *One Small Change campaign* and achievements to date. Each new staff member also receives a Courts Service fleece, a reusable keep cup, and a water bottle—items originally developed through previous Climate Action staff engagement initiatives.

Looking ahead, our Climate Action training strategy will continue to evolve in line with the upcoming merger between the IPA and OneLearning. This transition will support the rollout of a centralised suite of climate-related training and upskilling opportunities currently in development.

Engagement and Communication

We have an ongoing and varied staff engagement campaign to share climate action updates with Courts Service colleagues, the Judiciary, other courts users and external stakeholders. Effective communication is essential to fostering a shared sense of ownership around this societal and organisational challenge. It enables the exchange of ideas, the identification of opportunities for solutions, and the dissemination of updates on initiatives and progress. Our channels include articles in our bi-weekly internal, organisation-wide emails regarding bank holidays and Courts vacation, and features in the Courts Service news.

Regular updates are provided to the Senior Management Team, the Board, committees, and regional management on our Climate Action responsibilities and actions. Additionally, our Annual Report includes data on energy consumption, carbon emissions, and progress toward our environmental targets as required. We continue to expand the information available to staff on our Climate Action Unit page on our intranet, which includes access to Climate Action Plans, Climate Action Roadmaps, Public Sector Annual Reports, and information on the many staff engagement initiatives and campaigns we run.

Our Campaigns

One Small Change

Our key internal campaign is the *One Small Change* campaign, developed in 2021. For 2024, reducing our key focus continues to be encouraging staff behaviour on site that reduces energy consumption. Our simple initiative of highlighting light switches and installing reminder stickers in all buildings with manual lighting systems, has helped staff to locate switches and encourages them to turn off lights when not needed.

This campaign continues to be well received, with many staff viewing it as a personal invitation to take action resulting in noticeable improvements across several venues.



Plastic Free July

As part of Plastic Free July®, we ran campaigns in 2023 and 2024 encouraging staff to reduce their use of single use plastic and disposable cups. In 2023 we provided reusable keep cups and in 2024 water bottles—both branded with the Courts Service logo. These initiatives are highly visible reminders of the environmental impact of single use items and have encouraged sustainable habits in the workplace.

In July 2025, we replenished our supplies and continued to raise awareness by featuring engaging articles in our staff newsletter, reinforcing the importance of reducing plastic waste.



Adopting a cardigan culture

As part of the OPW/SEAI “Reduce Your Use” energy efficiency campaign, staff were encouraged to adopt a “cardigan culture”—staying warm at lower indoor temperatures by wearing extra layers. To support this, the Climate Action Unit distributed Courts Service fleeces to all staff, reducing reliance on plug-in heaters and unnecessary heating.



The fleeces were well received and are now issued to new employees during induction. This initiative has become one of our most visible and successful sustainability efforts, with the message reinforced annually at the start of the heating season. We continue to support the Government’s winter campaign by sharing energy-saving tips.

Staff Engagement Events

Twenty-six courthouses are engaged in the OPW’s Optimising Power at Work programme, working closely with dedicated energy advisors. These advisors carry out regular site visits and host on-site staff engagement events.



The events include workshops on energy use, carbon emissions, and climate change, while also offering practical advice on local sustainability actions such as waste reduction, limiting single-use plastics, conserving water, and enhancing biodiversity. Advisors also provide one-to-one clinics, giving staff the opportunity to explore energy-saving practices, home energy upgrades, and available grants.

This collaborative approach supports both workplace and personal efforts toward greater energy efficiency and environmental awareness.

Greener Travel

In 2025, our staff engagement campaign will focus on encouraging Greener Travel. Timed to align with World Car Free Day on September 22nd, the campaign will promote more sustainable commuting options such as public transport, cycling, and walking.

To support this initiative, every Courts Service location nationwide will receive a Greener Travel Kit, which includes practical items like umbrellas and bicycle repair/maintenance tools. This campaign will be assisted with information on the benefits of Greener Travel via our staff newsletter and our intranet site.



3 Our Ways of Working

3.1 Annual Report

The Courts Service Annual report 2024 was launched on July 7th, 2025. It detailed information on our activities in relation to the Climate Action Mandate, as well as our provisional M&R results – these results have updated since to final results presented above. The extract from the Annual Report 2024 is as follows:

Climate Action in 2024

Sustainability activities report

In 2024, the Courts Service continued to focus our Sustainability resources on the public sector Climate Action Mandate and on key 2024 actions set out in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2024. Actions taken include:

- *We published our third Climate Action Roadmap in Q3 2024 to align with Climate Action Plan 2024. This included an updated Gap-to-Target model, reflecting projects delivered or delayed in 2023 and identifying projects required to reach our public sector 2030 energy efficiency and decarbonisation targets. We socialised the Roadmap goals and projects across the organisation.*
- *We invested €2 Million in energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects across our varied estates. These included upgrading to energy efficient lighting, transitioning to high-efficiency thermal plant and systems, enhancing building controls and automation, systems and fabric insulation and enhancing digital monitoring and oversight.*
- *We have developed a multiyear Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the Criminal Courts of Justice (our largest energy consumer) and are working with our PPP partners in progressive implementation. We continue ongoing energy efficiency actions with our regional bundle PPP partners, including full PV design in 2024 for installation in 2025.*
- *In 2024 we began in-depth analysis of the Four Courts systems, operation and control, in cooperation with the OPW, with a view to developing a similar multiyear Energy Efficiency Action plan for launch in 2025.*
- *We participated in the SEAI ISO50001 10-day accelerator course throughout 2024 and made significant progress towards ISO50001 certification. We gained CEO approval of our energy policy, established a protocol with OPW to meet the operational control requirements of the standard, increased oversight of our utility consumption, and conducted a full review of statutory compliance with energy regulations. We plan to move progressively towards certification throughout 2025.*
- *We continued our participation in the Optimising Power at Work programme in 26 of our venues, with our advisors delivering staff workshops and engagement events nationwide.*
- *We rolled out the IPA Climate Action Leadership Training to all managers at PO level and above throughout 2024. We also commenced engagement on a customised leadership training event for managers for 2025.*
- *We completed a full review of our estate to inform the development of a greener travel policy and continue to monitor central Government guidance in this regard.*
- *We made our first application for a Smarter Travel Mark for our Phoenix House headquarters.*
- *We continued our staff engagement programs, displays and sustainability communication.*

Monitoring and Reporting 2024

In 2024 the Courts Service was fully compliant with all reporting requirements via SEAI's Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System for our energy consumption across our estate and our provisional M&R results (as of April 16th, 2025) indicate:

- *Total carbon emissions of **4,749,283 kgCO₂**, an improvement of **34.4%** compared to the baseline of the 2016-2018 average.*

- Fossil carbon emissions (from on-site heating) of **2,199,077 kgCO₂**, an improvement of **19.2%** compared to the baseline of the 2016-2018 average.
- Energy Efficiency improvement of **34.1%** compared to 2009.
- Total final energy consumption of **19,435,829 kWh**.
- Total energy expenditure of **€4,145,449**.

Climate Action Mandate

In 2024, a new mechanism for reporting progress across all elements of the Climate Action Mandate was introduced by SEAI within the Monitoring and Reporting software. The Courts Service reported on progress in Q4 2023 on the elements of the 2023 Climate Action Mandate as follows: fully implemented eleven, partially implemented four, under review nine, and non-applicable six. Our Climate and Sustainability Champion provided a comprehensive summary statement on our progress to date, challenges encountered and intentions for the years ahead. We will report in May 2025 on our progress on elements of the 2024 Climate Action Mandate.

Official Air travel

*In 2024 the Courts Service was fully compliant with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel. We calculated the carbon generated from air travel in 2024 as **33.03 tonne** based on 166,346km flown and paid an on-time contribution of **€1,849.85**.*

3.2 Comply or Explain

We have completed the 'comply or explain' element of the expanded SEAI M&R platform in November 2024 to report on compliance in 2023 and in May 2025 to report on compliance in 2024. For 2024 we were obligated under 34 mandate items and of those, we fully achieved 14, have partially achieved 12 and have not achieved 8. We have requested additional resources and funding as part of our estimates submission to address outstanding mandate elements.

3.3 ISO50001 Certification

The *Climate Action Mandate* calls for all large Public Sector Bodies with an annual energy spend of greater than €2 Million to achieve formal environmental certification to ISO50001 by the end of 2024. The Courts Service is an obligated party in this regard as we had a spend of €4.145 Million in 2024. ISO50001 is an internationally recognised EnMS standard based on the management system model of continual improvement and provides an alternative route for compliance with SI426.

The Courts Service Climate Action Unit team were participants in the 2024 SEAI ISO50001 accelerator course for public bodies. While we made significant progress towards ISO50001 and have put in place many of the requirements of the standard, we have identified two areas where significant further work is required and have been focusing on these elements since mid-2024. This relates to:

- Statutory compliance with energy regulation: In our review for ISO50001 we identify gaps in our compliance and are working towards full compliance. This includes an expanded list of DEC certificate, a proposed new resource to progress Electric Vehicle (EV) charging on site and a more robust analysis of energy performance at time of building lease.
- Operational control of our buildings: The current situation is that the OPW contract and manage the maintenance in the majority of the Courts Service buildings, with the exception being the PPPs and our Local Authority buildings. We are working with the OPW to establish a procedure to provide

greater transparency to the Courts Service in relation to contractor maintenance visits and reporting.

3.4 Green Public Procurement

The Courts Service continues to operate a devolved procurement function with a dedicated procurement officer located in the Finance Unit. The procurement plan updates are delivered quarterly to the SMT who are committed to creating more awareness of GPP and its benefits.

2024 was an important year regarding the Green Public Procurement with the publications of;

- The Climate Action Plan 2024
- The Environmental Protection Agency – Green Public Procurement (GPP) Guidance for the Public Sector (third edition 2024)
- Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027

On foot of these publications, our quarterly Procurement Network meeting in July 2024 included a GPP presentation about the transformation of public procurement in relation to the Government's GPP Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2027. It also included references to the changes to GPP criteria for the coming years and referenced the ISO 50001 certification that the Courts Service are striving to achieve. Furthermore, guidance on the GPP criteria search engine, which facilitates the inclusion of green requirements and ambition in public procurement documents, was discussed. These quarterly network meetings create awareness around changes in Public Procurement Policy and in relation to GPP, this highlighted the recommendations, and the actions contained in the Governments strategy about monitoring and reporting. Further information will be provided in the Autumn and Winter network meetings as the Governments information on GPP is further refined.

All information, including the Government's Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027 and The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) updated guidance on GPP for the public sector in 2024 is readily available on the Courts intranet to support the organisation's public procurement needs. The Courts Service published their own Green Public Procurement Policy which, was ratified at the Finance Committee meeting of 30 June 2025.

The EPA guidance calls out ten priority sectors where clear, verifiable criteria that can be included in procurement documents have been identified to ensure that the goods and services procured are sustainable. In the last year, of the ten EPA criteria sets, the Courts Service have drawn down framework agreements from the OGP in relation to the following services:

- Provision of Managed Print Services (Joint Contract with Department of Justice)
- Provision of Electricity and Gas,
- Provision of paper and printing services,
- Provision of Cash in Transit Services
- Provision of Electrical Goods (White Goods, Small Appliances)
- Cleaning, Paper, Personal Hygiene and Period Equality Products

We also continue to draw goods and services from a wide range of contracts agreed in prior years for ICT and general services that included green criteria.

Work is continuing on the development of a complex Multi-party Framework Agreement for Design Teams and Technical Advisors to support future building/ construction projects. Part of the remit of the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) is to ensure public works become more sustainable, while helping to deliver the National Development Plan. The Courts Service will keep up to date with construction-related sustainability information available on the CWMF site to ensure that the tender documents have all the relevant sustainability information included.

In 2024, we sought expressions of interest for the supply, assembly, and installation of Office Furniture and GPP award criteria featured in this procurement. GPP has also been considered in relation to the air conditioning and ventilation upgrade in Phoenix House. This project has been delivered in partnership with OPW and is expected to complete in the coming months.

The Courts Service green selection and award criteria have been applied, where possible, on contracts below threshold or procured directly. As older contracts are renewed the Courts Service GPP commitments will be reviewed and included, where applicable. A system to gather and record data on GPP implementation in the Courts Service, using the reporting template and relevant guidance, will be developed during 2025. This will help us to meet the new reporting requirements in line with action thirty-six of the Green Public Procurement Strategy 2024 – 2027.

3.5 Construction

The Courts Service have only one construction project at development stage at the present time i.e. the Dublin Family Court in Hammond Lane in Dublin 7 adjacent to the Four Courts complex. The building is planned as a PPP project and final contract specification are due to be finalised in Q2 2025. They include reference to the requirements of the Climate Action Mandate wording on low carbon intensity construction products, legal timber, building energy systems, resource, and waste management as well as all other relevant legislation and building regulations.

3.6 Organic Food

We have communicated the new requirement under the Climate Action Mandate 2025 to ensure at least 10% of the food sought under new contract arrangements is to be certified organic for specific food types to the relevant sections of the organisation and plan to review implementation during 2025.

3.7 Food Waste

The Climate Action Mandate calls for all public bodies to measure and monitor food waste generated on premises from 2024 using the standardised EPA protocol. During 2024 the Courts Service carried out a detailed review of our waste facilities, segregation, and disposal nationwide, which highlighted that composting bins, containing food waste, were un-weighed and in many smaller venues taken off site by staff personally for disposal. We are seeking to agree a realistic approach to implementation of the EPA protocol as part of enhancement of our general waste procedures.

A dedicated staff engagement page was set up on our intranet site to educate staff on the importance of minimising food waste. The content also includes tips and tricks from guides on sustainable food shopping to preparation and recipe ideas. Using our internal newsletter, staff will be directed to these resources seasonally and to align with the National Stop Food Waste Day on 1st March annually.

As mentioned, the Courts Service has devolved procurement. We have advised all impacted parties of the requirement that all new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, including events and conferences, must include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste and we plan to compile their response and progress at year end.

3.8 ICT

Since the start of 2025, the Courts Service has purchased a total of 357 devices that fall under “end user products (desktop computers, portable computers and mobile phones)”. Of these a total of 307 devices are certified to Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Gold Standard, with the remaining 50 devices not certified to either certification target or remanufactured. As such, to date since January 2025 we are at 86% compliance compared with the required minimum of 80%.

Our ICT Shared Services Unit will monitor any new procurements that we enter into with regard to the green compliance requirements. Furthermore, the ICT Operations unit will monitor drawdown of devices under existing, and future procurements, for compliance.

3.9 Paper

The Courts Service Modernisation Programme continues to pursue the goal of digitising many traditionally paper-based processes, contributing to a reduction in paper consumption. However, recent legislative changes have led to an increase in some paper-based activities compared to the start of the programme.

Since May 2025, the Courts Service has adopted a new Office of Government Procurement (OGP) contract for the **Supply of Multi-purpose Office Paper for Printing and Photocopying**. All paper supplied under this contract is 100% recycled. Exclusive use of this contract has been communicated to all staff responsible for paper procurement across the organisation. Offices that require specialist paper are seeking to identify equally suitable recycled alternatives.

Tracking systems have been developed to monitor paper usage across the organisation. While we now have access to usage data from printer/copiers that use the ‘print release’ function, other printers are not yet included in these reports, and we are seeking alternative manual tracking. A baseline for paper consumption was established in early 2025, allowing us to also track wastepaper volumes through our shredding contract. Over time, we expect wastepaper levels to decline as targeted actions—such as service digitisation—lead to reduced paper use.

Staff engagement initiatives have already been introduced to raise awareness and encourage more sustainable paper use, including:

- A standard email footnote reminding recipients to consider the environment before printing.
- Default double-sided printing enabled on all new printers.



3.10 Water

All staff in our buildings currently have access to tap water or water refill drinking points, albeit in some cases at a distance from their office location. Reviews are ongoing to identify where additional drinking refill points are required and new points are being continuously added. We aim to connect to the mains supply where possible and use plug in water coolers only as a back-up option. This programme will be expanded to review provision of water refill points to stakeholders and members of the public where appropriate.

We have requested additional resources as part of our estimates submission to develop cross-organisation monitoring of water usage, which is currently devolved. Initiate engagement with Uisce Éireann to indicated that the process to set up online access to billing is complicated and time-consuming, but is an essential first step to enhance oversight, establish average usage profiles and seek to identify and address any anomalies.

3.11 Single Use

In line with the minimum requirement to eliminate all single-use items across the organisation and at events it organises, funds, or sponsors, we conducted a focus group with heads of offices and reviewed the types of single-use items currently in use, along with their plans for a phased removal. While the nature of our work necessitates occasional exceptions due to security concerns, we are actively exploring safe and sustainable alternatives. As a result of this engagement, disposable items are no longer purchased or used, and most areas are now equipped with dishwashers to support the use of reusable alternatives.

Guidance has been issued to all offices responsible for organising, funding, or sponsoring meetings and events. This includes raising awareness of the requirements and ensuring these obligations are reflected in all relevant procurement, funding, and sponsorship agreements.

The adoption of reusable water bottles and crockery has increased significantly, supported by our staff engagement campaign promoting reusable cups and bottles.



3.12 Other Materials

Building on our findings from a comprehensive baseline analysis—which highlighted significant disparities in waste types and recycling rates across venues, with many locations lacking dry recycling or composting facilities—we took part in the OGP session on the new Waste Management Services Framework. We have

since shared details of the updated contract arrangements with all our regional offices. This new framework supports the implementation of a centralised waste management contract across all venues, aligning with the Climate Action Mandate 2025 which requires contracted waste collection services to segregate waste into at least three streams: residual/general waste, recycling, and organic/biowaste, with weight monitoring included.

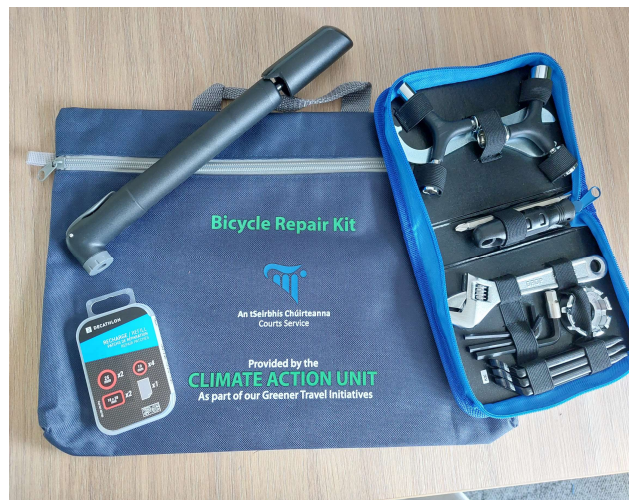
This framework also supports our organisation's goal of establishing a standardised process for regularly analysing billing and waste data reports. This will be done in line with the EPA's food waste protocol and toolkits, helping us track our waste management practices and identify areas for improvement.

Once monitoring processes and procedures are in place, we will launch a dedicated waste awareness campaign to share progress and encourage staff engagement. In the meantime, we continue to promote the use of waste signage available through the Government's MyWaste.ie website to support proper waste segregation across the organisation.

4 Our Buildings and Vehicles

4.1 Promoting the use of bicycles and shared mobility

In 2025, our staff engagement campaign will focus on encouraging Greener Travel. Timed to align with World Car Free Day on September 22nd, the campaign will promote more sustainable commuting options such as public transport, cycling, and walking. To support this initiative, we have created a Greener Travel Kit, bringing together practical items from various sources into a handy pack for staff on-site. The packs include umbrellas, bicycle pumps and bicycle repair/maintenance tools. It is stored in a convenient case promoting climate action in the Courts Service. Every Courts Service location across the country is due to receive their Greener Travel Kit in September 2025.



In 2025 we made an initial application to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for Smarter Travel Mark certification for our Phoenix House headquarters in Dublin. We have progressed actions on site in response to NTA guidance and were delighted to be awarded Bronze certification in August 2025. This process will help us identify the key actions needed to extend the certification across our estate.



NTA presenting The Courts Service with the Smarter Travel Mark certification for our Phoenix House in September 2025

We have sought additional resourcing as part of estimates to advance our greener travel initiatives, including expanding the Smarter Travel Mark efforts beyond HQ, improving bicycle and shared mobility parking in our venues, installing e-mobility charging stations and expanding our EV infrastructure.

4.2 Parking in Buildings

It is a requirement of the Climate Action Mandate that public bodies phase out the use of parking in buildings that have access to a range of public transport services and active/shared mobility options for most staff/visitors while providing that sufficient accessible parking is maintained for those with physical mobility issues. We await further details on phasing, timelines, and conditions of the proposed phase out and will seek to gain clarity on our obligations upon review, while continuing to maintain the safety and security of our staff and the Judiciary.

4.3 Display Energy Certificates

The Climate Action Mandate calls for the public display of valid Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for all buildings open to the public. Many of our buildings are protected, which are exempted under SI426, and we are therefore not obligated to display DEC. Nonetheless we display DEC in our largest buildings, including protected structures. In 2025 we obtained DEC for an additional 11 Courts Service venues nationwide, bringing the number of our buildings displaying DEC to 45. We plan a further expansion in 2026. We track our DEC annually on renewal and seek to quickly address any deterioration.

4.4 Fossil Fuel Heating Systems

In line with the Climate Action Mandate, we will not install heating systems that use fossil fuels in new buildings or those undergoing major renovations retrofit projects per the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) definitions, unless the exclusions per the Mandate apply.

Courts Service venues have historically suffered from a lack of planned preventative maintenance and lifecycle replacement of major energy-intensive plant, such as boilers and chillers. This led to equipment that was malfunctioning, obsolete or beyond economic lifecycle, resulting in higher energy use and carbon generation than is required per unit of output. For boilers, an additional critical element is the use of carbon intensive fossil fuels (oil/diesel/kerosene) which needs to be phased out.

The Courts Service maintains an asset register of all thermal plant across our estate detailing age, condition, and fuel source. This informs project prioritisation with a focus on elimination of oil/diesel system. Since 2020, we have carried out a major summer capital investment program annually to rectify the historic underinvestment and update our boiler stock. We continually reduce our dependence on oil/diesel and increase the use of electricity and LPG (with a view to full migration to bioLPG when the market allows) as heating fuels. Our boiler upgrade projects also include a complete upgrade of building control and Building Management Systems. Post-project analysis indicates efficiency improvements in the 40-60% range.

4.5 Procurement of energy-related products

Our Procurement Officer has circulated the requirements within the Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027 across our procurement network. This includes the requirement for all tenders for the public procurement of energy-related products, heating equipment, or indoor and outdoor lighting to

include a requirement for tenderers to specify recommendations and options for the product, when the product or components of the product comes to the end of life, that consider environmental sustainability, including options for reuse, repair, and recycling.

The procurement office will monitor and track compliance with these requirements across the organisation for reporting as part of the annual M&R requirements.

4.6 Procurement of cleaning contracts

Our Procurement Officer has circulated the requirements within the Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027 across our procurement network. This includes the requirement for all tenders for the public procurement of indoor cleaning services to include a requirement for tenderers to specify the training that will be put in place to ensure that all staff involved in delivery of the contract have the knowledge and skills to apply cleaning methods, which will reduce the environmental impact of the services.

The procurement office will monitor and track compliance with these requirements across the organisation for reporting as part of the annual M&R requirements.

4.7 Existing Building retrofit

The Courts Service completed our Stage 1 Building Register in 2024 and plan to update it in 2026.

Within 2024 guidance, the Courts Service was noted as a National Estates Portfolios Lead (NEPL), alongside the OPW, HSE, Local Authorities. We engaged with the SEAI and DECC on this issue in 2024 to highlight our reliance on the OPW and our inability to deliver on the NEPL requirements within existing funding and resourcing envelopes. As per 2025 guidance, we are no longer designated as a NEPL and are to be included within the OPW NEPL envelope.

4.8 Vehicles

The Courts Service has no fleet and no transport operations beyond staff travel in private vehicles, which is reported separately to SEAI. We do not anticipate any change in this over the coming decade and do not expect to purchase any vehicles.

5 Biodiversity

The Courts Service, as a partner of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP), is committed to actively enhancing biodiversity across our estate to reverse pollinator decline and promote sustainable ecosystems. We continuously seek new ideas and partnerships to expand and improve our biodiversity efforts.

Key Biodiversity Initiatives

- Pilot Projects: Bug hotels and rewilding in Nenagh and Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Spider Plants provided to many offices with no green space
- Full estate review, with follow on 'No mow' rewilding projects expanded to Carlow, Cork, Ennis, Mullingar, Roscommon.
- Wildflower meadows created at Nenagh Courthouse and Anglesea Street Courthouse, Cork
- Rewilding with Local Authorities: Green areas around Limerick Mulgrave Street and Cavan Courthouse.



Nenagh Courthouse biodiversity initiatives



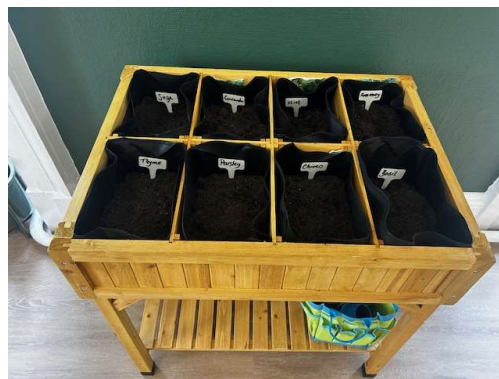
Anglesea Street, Cork – biodiversity wildflower bloom

New Projects

- Planters Installed at Chancery Street and Four Courts Complex.
- Four Courts rear lawn rewilded in collaboration with the OPW and Climate Bar.
- Bird & Bat Boxes research underway with Birdwatch Ireland for proposed implementation.
- Wildflower seeding provided to courthouses following ground preparation locally - Dun Laoghaire, Limerick, Cork, Letterkenny, Mullingar, Waterford & Wexford.
- Indoor Herb Garden Pilot launched in the Central Office, Four Courts, empowering staff to grow herbs indoors.



Planters, Chancery Street



Herb Garden, Central Office canteen

6 Conclusion

The scale of the challenge embedded in our transition to a more sustainable organisation over the next decade is very significant. It requires a fundamental rethink of the systems that service our buildings, the fuels we use and the resources we consume, as well as new solutions and collaborations not explored before. The transition will require commitment from every level of the organisation, and we will all need to reconsider how we interact personally and collectively with our workplaces and the environmental impact of our actions and inactions.

This fourth Climate Action Roadmap, aligned with the Climate Action Plan 2025, builds on and expands the work of our previous Roadmaps. We have identified a range of potential projects to achieve our 2030 energy efficiency and decarbonisation targets. We acknowledge the challenge in delivering such an extensive and broad ranging series of interventions over a relatively short period. We will continue to support, resource, and fund these efforts within the confines of the annual budgetary process, while also seeking to leverage as many channels for alternative funding as possible.

The public sector has been asked to lead by example and the Courts Service are committed to rising to this challenge by pursuing our 2030 targets. The Senior Management Team have noted that the project pipeline to achieve our 2030 targets is ambitious, with projects in many venues simultaneously, for which costs have not been determined nor funding secured at this point. Furthermore, our new reality of operating without OPW support and assistance for elective energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects, while using independent internal consultant and contractor frameworks, will undoubtedly stretch our technical resources. Additional challenges are identified within the broader construction industry in Ireland at present.

Given these known challenges, our Senior Management Team approve this roadmap subject to the availability of adequate funding and resourcing to deliver our project pipeline, as well as adequate capacity within the broader industry.