



Cllr Pádraig McEvoy

Member of Kildare County Council
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Re: Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan

3 November 2023

Submission via the Kildare County Council Consultation Portal

A Chara,

I welcome the opportunity to engage in the public consultation on “Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan”, November 2023, [1].

The substantial work undertaken to draft the plan compares with the scale of the challenges for Irish society at national, regional and local levels. To meet these challenges, local authorities must transition decision-making at policy and operational levels to take account of the contributions to worsening climate change and seek to mitigate and adapt by changing how local authorities deliver services.

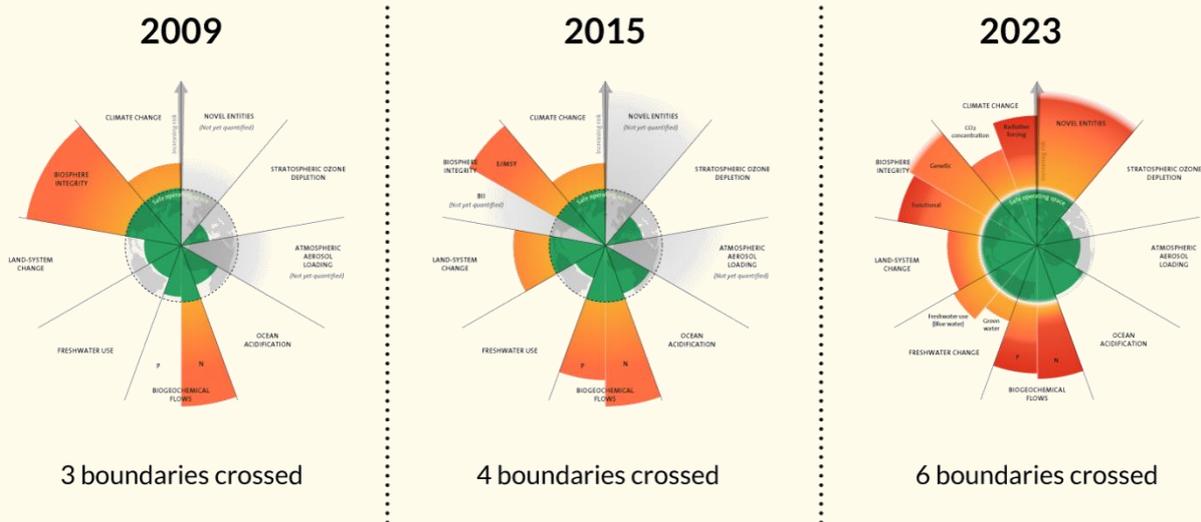
As an elected representative to the council and the municipal district since 2009, this submission is framed by experiences of reviewing draft policies and contributing to decisions on financial budgets, local authority projects, policy documents and prioritising resource allocations.

While the effects of climate change are increasingly apparent through media reports from abroad and within Ireland, there is some way to go before a

1 <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/kildare-county-council-climate-action-plan>

critical mass of people appreciate that local climate friendly actions make up the collection action need to address climate change at a global level.

The Doughnut Economics [2] workshops at Kildare County Council's Climate Day 2023 represent interesting approaches to the system level thinking that could reform how issues are addressed and policy is make.



Assessments show that the ecological planetary boundaries that support societies, which in turn maintain economies, are degrading towards threatening levels.

In a local authority context, policymaking and operational decisions urgently need to become consistent with national climate change legislation and regulations that link local action to global improvements. The local authority is familiar with decisions taken by elected members that are not consistent with national legislation and regulations. Local decisions that delay or undermine climate action is a serious issue given the targets to reduce emissions across sectors by 2030.

It would be helpful elected members to have key performance indicators that demonstrate whether particular choices are consistent with climate friendly

² <https://doughnuteconomics.org>

approaches, of whether the choice goes against the greater common good. The strategic environmental assessment reports that inform plans and spatial policies are the clearest examples that are available, when writing this submission.

Training for members on the climate legislation and national climate action plans would help with decisions before members.

Under the governance and reporting sections of the KCC LACAP, it would be helpful if each of the units within the departments provided periodical reports on their contributions to changing custom, practice and culture towards the obligations under the climate act.

Yours faithfully,

Pádraig McEvoy

By email.