

Chapter 4: Resilient Economy and Job Creation

4.10 Foreign Direct Investment

We suggest:

- That the CDP outlines how future FDI investments be climate risk proofed to establish the likelihood of their long-term existence in a climate transition.
- That the CDP established climate criteria for planning decisions related to FDI investment.

4.11 Small-Medium Enterprises

We suggest:

- Criteria related to positive biodiversity and climate outcomes are established when deciding levels of SME supports.
- The CDP identifies how the LEO will ensure sustainable enterprise development that does not widen the emissions gap in the county.

4.16 Data Centres

In relation to the following:

RE O70 - *Require data centres to consider the use of sustainable renewable sources of energy to fuel their operations in whole in the first instance or in part where this is not possible and where it has been satisfactorily demonstrated not to be possible.*

- The CDP should clarify what criteria will be used to determine whether the use of sustainable renewable sources of energy is not possible.

4.17 Green / Circular Bioeconomy

In the interests of clarity, we suggest rewording the title of this section to **Green / Circular economy and Bioeconomy**. As the Green / Circular economy relates to more than just biological resources (e.g., fossil fuel and precious metal products).

Additionally, the word bio-based should be deleted from the third paragraph in this section, as all products, materials and resources should be maintained in the circular economy for as long as possible:

*The transition to a more circular economy and bioeconomy, where the value of **bio-based** products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste minimised, will provide an essential contribution to Kildare developing a sustainable, low carbon, resources efficient and competitive economy.*

- Additionally, insert clarification of native trees of native origin and provenance in RE P12:

RE P12 Additional native tree planting of native origin and provenance and landscaping on existing and proposed enterprise zones and development sites to aid with carbon sequestration

- We welcome objectives **RE 071-080** but note that there are no specific actions detailed.
- Additionally, objective **RE 083** is welcomed but lacks clarity and details no specific action.

RE 083 *Maximise the ability of communities to be self-sufficient in food production, energy savings and production, waste disposal etc.*

Additionally, we would like to see support for creation of a local economy based on the Doughnut Economics model pioneered by Kate Raworth, which aims to balance the boundaries of a thriving society with those of a thriving planet. For example: <https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/cornwall-council-doughnut-economics>

4.18 Agri-Food and Beverage Sector

We note the following objective:

RE 083 - *Maximise the ability of communities to be self-sufficient in food production, energy savings and production, waste disposal etc.*

- We suggest Linear to Circular Economy Hub pilots should be scaled up across the county, for example:
 - The Bord na Móna HQ in Newbridge is an example of an Innovation Hub for employment and training in a shift from a Linear to Circular economy availing of AES Waste material to fuel future economies.
 - Newbridge is currently having a new cultural quarter planned and the location of the Bord na Móna Head Office and surrounding real-estate can be the driver of energy and waste savings pilots and scale up innovation in the shift to a just recovery. Here is the current form for the plan Newbridge Cultural Quarter by Ozan Balcik (https://issuu.com/metnetwork/docs/1818_urdf_a1_boards_online)
 - The Climate Office of Kildare County Council has already attended an event in Newbridge to map the area for future collaborations with the community.
 - In line with Energy Access & Circularity, batteries will be important for the green energy transition and the achievement of the Paris goals. Harvesting renewable energy and heat loss must be part of the plan for energy capture and storage. (<https://www.globalbattery.org/energy-access-and-circularity/>)
 - That KCC establish and fund a Kildare Energy Agency in collaboration with experts in the area, including Bord Na Mona engineers. as part of the prioritising of green energy plans for the new cultural quarter including KCC real estate.
 - That Green and Social Procurement be included in the plan costing and Life cycle analyses of KCC purchases
 - That KCC, as part of the plans to reduce waste, host a Circular Economy training and Innovation Hub, potentially located in Newbridge, in partnership with Bord na Mona And that concerned citizens, along with past and present employees of Bord Na Mona be included in this 'Just Recovery'.

- Explore the potential that Newbridge and Maynooth (in conjunction with NUIM Green Campus) be a pilot towns for the creation, research and implementation of Nature and Social prescription health models.

Section 4.21 Tourism

We suggest:

- That the CDP outlines how any negative environmental impacts as part of increased tourism in the area, such as induced demand for transport, will be managed.

Section 4.24 Peatland Tourism

Amend all instances of **National Peatlands Heritage Park** to **National Peatlands Park** in this chapter – to provide consistency throughout the Development plan. For example:

- *This has potential for tourism resources, examples of which could include, peatways, bike-hire facilities recreational forestry, wilderness, eco-tourism based on biodiversity and a National Peatlands Heritage Park.*
- in RE O126
- in RE O127

General Comments on Chapter 4

- While it is welcome to see efforts to develop the circular and bioeconomy in Kildare, what precautions will be taken to ensure mitigation against induced demand? For example, should a circular or bioeconomy business be developed that is built on the utilisation of what is a current waste material, how will KCC ensure that the further development of this business will not lead to further demand for the waste raw material product?
- Objectives are set out to increase overall sustainable and climate enterprises throughout the county. However, it is not clear if this is in addition to traditional industries or with an aim to displace? Clear targets and criteria should be set.
- It is not clear what criteria is being used to define ‘sustainable’ when it comes to the different sectors mentioned in this chapter. Does this mean jobs? Will there be a higher weighting given to climate and biodiversity criteria versus traditional economic criteria which does not reflect the current crises or planetary limits?
- How will new employment opportunities be climate proofed? e.g., logistics is mentioned as an opportunity area. How does KCC plan to support the implementation of carbon budgets while also growing industries contributing to higher emissions?
- Can an objective be included to mandate new and existing employers to set out sustainable travel policies for employees?
- In line with decarbonisation and reducing EU Fines for failing to meet EU Climate emissions targets, we suggest that KCC job creations be inclusive of:
 - Collection of and education on data waste and e-waste so that young people realise the negative impacts of digital economy.
 - The identification and setting of ambitious waste recycling and reuse targets and supporting initiatives.

- Support for local “repair cafes” where people can bring their electronics to get fixed through providing access to KCC buildings and supporting with insurance needs.
- Introducing a KCC procurement mandate to buy refurbished and remanufactured digital equipment as part of Green Procurement.