

REDUCE YOUR USE

Kilkenny County Council

Kilkenny County Council has developed a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the period 2024-2029. The Plan sets out how the Council will respond to the climate crisis by improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and embedding climate resilience across the organisation in its governance, services and operations. It also sets out how the Council will facilitate, support and inspire stakeholder climate action in the County through leadership, collaboration and advocacy. A total of 95 specific actions are identified in the Climate Action Plan covering mitigation, adaptation, sustainability and leadership measures. Training and staff engagement are key elements of the Climate Action Plan, and Kilkenny had already prepared the groundwork by signing up for the 2023/24 Reduce Your Use campaign. A programme of themed activities were rolled out to encourage every service area and office to take simple measures to reduce energy use over the winter months of October 2023 to March 2024. Also as part of this campaign, the Council selected the Thomastown and Callan Area Offices as two pilot buildings where they implemented a number of measures focusing on behavioural change in both offices and in addition, some minor investment in energy saving in the Callan Area Office.



24% energy savings - Winter 2023/24



Detailed pilot & measurement in two buildings



[See video](#)



CALLAN AREA OFFICE



The main measures implemented were:

- Reduce Your Use Communication Campaign rolled out.
- The oil heating boiler's timer was adjusted and the overall usage was reduced by 26%.
- Radiators in rooms not in use were turned off where feasible, throughout the building.
- Heating pipes in the building's attic were disconnected from the main heating system by installing valves.
- The number of light fittings in office areas was reduced by 30% through the installation of 50 Watt LED fittings.

THOMASTOWN AREA OFFICE



The main measures implemented were:

- Reduce Your Use Communication Campaign rolled out.
- Radiators with timers were reduced to 19°C.
- Heating was turned off during Christmas and holiday periods.
- A timer was installed to manage the building's external lighting, with the lights only being on in the winter between 4:30pm - 5.50pm.

MEASUREMENT & SAVINGS



The pilots were independently assessed by the SE Energy Agency, using a number of methods including comparing baseline data over the previous 3 years, and measuring savings from both behavioural and operational measures. The results demonstrate how behavioural changes and some minor investment can achieve significant savings.

Overall energy savings: 24% (= €5k p.a.)
Thomastown office energy savings: 11% (based on 100% behaviour change with no investment)
Callan office energy savings: 26% (based on behaviour change and €9k investment)