

Climate-ADAPT use case 18 — Ireland

Using Climate-ADAPT Adaptation Support Tool to prepare the Local Authority Adaptation Wizard by Climate Ireland

Climate-ADAPT features used:

Adaptation Support Tool

Sector: adaptation in general

Governance level: national

Biogeographical region: Atlantic

Macro-region: North-western Europe

Policy stage: adaptation planning

The challenge

Ireland's climate is changing in line with global trends and temperatures have increased nationally by 0.8°C over the period 1900 to 2012. Sea level rise is expected to increase coastal erosion and coastal flooding while changes in patterns of precipitation will increase inland flooding risk. Increased temperatures and decreased summer rainfall may result in increased drought risk (1).

Through the National Adaptation Framework (NAF), the Irish Government has recognised that climate adaptation is required to offset the worst consequences of climate change and to take advantage of any opportunities that a changing climate might bring. The NAF recognises the importance of a strategic approach to climate change, and the critical importance of planning and development measures in delivering it. According to the NAF, local authorities should take a proactive approach to climate change by developing adaptation strategies and integrating climate adaptation in the development of relevant policies, plans and programmes.

The approach

With the purpose of enhancing adaptation decision making, Climate Ireland works as research service that connects and integrates scientific research, policy making and adaptation practice.

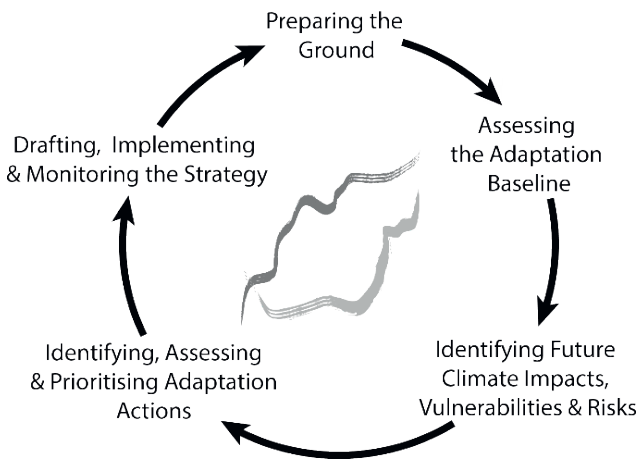
The Climate Ireland website makes tools and resources available to support the public sector, business and communities in the process of adapting to climate change.

Among these tools, the Local Authority Adaptation Wizard has been designed to support local Irish authorities in the development of adaptation strategies. The tool is based on Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines also developed by the Climate Ireland team and international experiences of planning for climate adaptation, including Climate-ADAPT's Adaptation Support Tool (Climate-ADAPT AST). Specifically, the Climate-ADAPT AST was employed as a reference to ensure that the Local Authority Adaptation Wizard covered all relevant aspects of adaptation planning in a systematic basis (e.g. assessing adaptation options) and that the Local Authority Adaptation Wizard reflected best practice in adaptation planning at the European scale.

As for Climate-ADAPT AST, the Local Authority Adaptation Wizard is organised in successive steps through a cyclic approach that start with a general understanding phase and end with the monitoring and evaluation phase to assess efficiency of the adaptation process. Moreover, the Local Authority Adaptation Wizard takes a risk based approach combining top-down and bottom up information to assess climate risks. The development of a profile of climate risks currently faced by Irish local authorities forms a key task and this profile is employed to determine potential future local scale climate risks. The Local Authority Adaptation Wizard is flexible and allows for the employment of both qualitative and quantitative information in the development of local authority adaptation strategies.

(1) Climate's Ireland Hazard Tool <https://www.climateireland.ie/#!/tools/hazardTool>

Figure 1
Key stages of the Local Authority
Adaptation Wizard



Future Plans

The Climate Ireland website and Local Authority Adaptation Wizard has been employed extensively by Irish Local Authorities in the development of their adaptation strategies. These strategies were published in September 2019 and all 31 strategies reference Climate Ireland as a key source of information and support. Local Authorities are required to update these strategies every 5 years. To further support Irish Local Authorities in planning for adaptation, future developments include the development of a climate risk toolbox to support the integration of spatial and temporal information on climate change risks into local scale adaptation planning processes. Information made available through Climate-ADAPT and specifically its case studies and the Climate-ADAPT interface to the Copernicus Climate Change Service will form key source of information in support of future development of the Local Authority Adaptation Wizard.