

Allied Irish Banks (AIB)

Cork - Ireland

Short description

AIB, a leading pillar bank in Ireland with 8 branches within the Cork City boundaries, is committed to driving a low-carbon economy and fostering societal progress through its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy.



Industry/Sector

- Energy & renewables
- Mobility & transport

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Cork city
- AIB (large company)

Scope of LGD

AIB aims to achieve the following under its Local Green Deal:

- Maintain ISO 14001 and 50001 certifications across branches. Through our CPPA agreement in support of its commitment to achieve 100% of its energy requirements from certifiable renewable sources by 2030 (also supporting Irish Government's CAP commitments regarding CPPA's)
- Achieve a 10% waste (general and recycling) reduction per employee by year end 2025, and 3% reduction in energy use across the Cork City Branches.
- Nationally AIB will invest €40m in branch upgrades, including electric heating, enhanced insulation, and energy monitoring, reducing operational emissions by

an additional 10%. Western Rd branch will be first branch in Cork City to benefit from this investment by end of 2025.

- Continue transitioning the corporate fleet to electric vehicles by 2027 and promote remote work under an Agile Working Policy.
- Equip all of our Branch Business Advisors with ESG certifications by Dec 2025.
- Promote financial literacy through the Future Sparks Programme and “Banking Made Easy” workshops.
- Enhance community support via the AIB Together program (volunteering days), partnerships with Food Cloud and others, and the AIB Community Fund.
- Mandate sustainability training for all staff, linking it to performance reviews.
- Organise an annual "Sustainability in Action Week" to engage communities on green initiatives.
- Promotion through Cork City Council promotional channels, including Cork City Council website, We are Cork website and associated social media accounts.
- Focused expert advice throughout the lifecycle of the deal via Local Enterprise Office Cork City supports, and other external consultancy as required.
- Guidance on grant aid where applicable (subject to criteria).
- Peer learning opportunities through workshops and network building.
- Invitation to a launch event with the Lord Mayor of Cork City in City Hall to spotlight those organisations committed to the Local Green Deal movement.
- Participation in the movement to help Cork become a climate neutral and resilient city.

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission target - climate neutrality by 2030.

Ballymaloe Foods

Cork - Ireland

Short description

Ballymaloe Foods' Climate Action Strategy, as detailed in our Origin Green plan is centred around reducing carbon emissions, enhancing sustainability across our supply chain, and improving overall environmental performance.



Industry/Sector

- Construction & built environment
- Energy & renewables

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Cork City Council
- Ballymaloe Foods (SME)

Scope of LGD

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: We aim to reduce overall energy consumption by 5-10% per product output through the implementation of a new energy management system. Additionally, we are progressing with the procurement of a large-scale solar PV project which aims to reduce grid electricity usage by 30% minimum.
- Sustainable Sourcing: Ballymaloe Foods plans to source 50% of its raw materials from certified sustainable suppliers. This aligns with our broader goal to enhance supply chain transparency and reduce Scope 3 emissions.

- **Packaging Innovation:** We are initiating a comprehensive audit to transition our packaging to more sustainable materials, with a focus on reducing plastic use and increasing recyclability.
- **Biodiversity Enhancement:** As part of our biodiversity initiative, we will continue to create pollinator-friendly zones in Courtsown business park, continue our sponsorship of native pollinator plants on the Glanmire road roundabout. We are also hoping to help sponsor the publishing of “farming for nature handbook”, this handbook will be an aid to farmers to help them manage their local ecosystems, flora and fauna in a sustainable way.

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to the City's Sustainable Energy Action Plan target: climate neutrality by 2030

Ballyphehane Community Association

Cork - Ireland

Short description

BCA are implementing a major renovation of their community centre and plan to engage with householders in their area to encourage home energy upgrades. Cork City Council (CCC) has funded a number of BCA initiatives over many years and supports the BCA vision to increase climate action initiatives in the community in line with CCC's ambition to accelerate towards carbon neutrality in Cork City.



Industry/Sector

- Construction & built environment
- Energy & renewables

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Cork City Council
- Ballyphehane Community Association

Scope of LGD

- Ballyphehane Community Association (BCA) is a long-standing, impactful and proactive community group in Cork City. BCA has a large community centre building, providing sports, leisure, social and health services, at the heart of the community of approx. 1,500 homes.
- Over the last several years, the Board of BCA has been working on an ambitious plan to make Ballyphehane a sustainable energy community and for their community centre to be the most sustainable of its type in the country.

- BCA are implementing a major renovation of their community centre and plan to engage with householders in their area to encourage home energy upgrades.
- Cork City Council (CCC) has funded a number of BCA initiatives over many years and supports the BCA vision to increase climate action initiatives in the community in line with CCC's ambition to accelerate towards carbon neutrality in Cork City.

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission target - climate neutrality by 2030.

Boston Scientific

Cork - Ireland

Short description

Our site goal aligned with Boston Scientific's global goal is to achieve Carbon Neutrality on scope 1 and scope 2 emissions by 2023. At the Cork site, we expect to achieve this by the end of 2026. This will be achieved through an intensive capital investment in Heat Pump and Chiller technologies which will replace our Natural Gas burning boilers and CHP electrical generation system. This project has already been approved for IDA sustainable grant funding and will commence in Q2 2025.



Industry/Sector

- Energy & renewables

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Cork City Council
- Boston Scientific (Large company)

Scope of LGD

- Our site shares Boston Scientific's global commitment to achieving carbon neutrality for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, targeting this milestone by 2023. At the Cork site, we are on track to reach this goal by the end of 2026.
- To accomplish this, we are investing significantly in advanced Heat Pump and Chiller technologies, which will replace our natural gas-burning boilers and CHP electrical generation system. This transformative project has already secured

approval for IDA sustainable grant funding and is scheduled to begin in Q2 2025.

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission target - climate neutrality by 2030.

Cork Chamber

Cork - Ireland

Short description

Cork Chamber is advancing sustainability through initiatives across energy, natural resources, and community engagement. In energy and the built environment, we are retrofitting our Victorian building with attic insulation and new windows, installing solar panels to power operations and generate income, and completing annual EcoMerit audits. Six companies have secured €10,000 each for energy efficiency projects, monitored by our EEN Executive. Through the REEValue project, we mentor businesses on energy efficiency and renewables. For natural resources, our Green Team is enhancing biodiversity with pollinator-friendly plants and a bird-friendly garden. A staff member is also undergoing ESG training to help develop our first Sustainability Strategy. In community engagement, we collaborate with Cork City Council to advocate for LGDs, aiming to secure 10 for the city. As an SDG Champion, we integrate SDGs into our activities, host events, and aim to achieve the SDG Ambassador badge in 2025. Quarterly Sustainable Cork Programme (SCP) events will focus on impactful ESG topics. A Sustainability Hub and strategy will launch in 2025, supported by our Sustainability Committee. The Cork Offshore Renewables Industry Forum (CORIF) advocates for policy and infrastructure to position Cork as a renewable energy hub. Additionally, we support Cork City Council's Climate City Capital Hub initiative, engaging city-based members and facilitating applications.



Industry/Sector

- Energy & renewables

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Cork City Council
- Cork Chamber (Business representative body)

Scope of LGD

Built Environment and Energy

1. Retrofit: Cork Chamber is conducting a major retrofit of our Victorian building by insulating the attic and installing new windows to improve energy efficiency.
2. Solar PV Installation: We installed solar panels to power our operations and generate revenue by selling excess energy back to the grid.
3. Annual EcoMerit Audits: The latest EcoMerit audit was completed in July 2024, with a follow-up site visit planned for autumn.
4. EENergy Funding: Six companies have each secured €10,000 in funding for energy efficiency projects. Implementation is now underway and closely monitored by our EEN Executive.
5. REEValue Project: We provide mentoring for SMEs and large businesses to identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities.

Natural Environment and Resource Management

1. Biodiversity On-Site: Our Green Team will enhance our site with pollinator-friendly plants and a bird-friendly garden.
2. ESG Strategy: A staff member is undergoing ESG training and will be part of the team designing our first Sustainability strategy.

Communities and Partnerships

1. LGDs for our members: Cork Chamber will collaborate with Cork City Council by advocating for LGDs among our membership and providing support during their application process. We aim to provide 10 LGDs to the city.
2. SDG Champions: In June 2024, Cork Chamber was selected as SDG Champion; over 12 months, we are advocating for the SDGs, integrating them into our activities, and organising an event during SDG Week. We will present our progress at the 3rd Quarterly Meeting in 2025. We also aim to accomplish the SDG Ambassador batch in 2025.
3. Sustainable Cork Programme: In 2025, we will host four quarterly SCP events with relevant invited guest speakers. These events will focus on impactful topics that offer value to a wide range of members and cover all ESG angles.
4. Sustainability Committee: Cork Chamber staff, in partnership with the Sustainability Committee, will draft and review, respectively, our first Sustainability Strategy to further embed environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles throughout our work. Also, we will enhance the Chamber's sustainability offering on a cohesive, easily understood document aimed at our members and the wider community.
5. Sustainability Hub: Cork Chamber will develop a Sustainability Hub in 2025.
6. CORIF: The Cork Offshore Renewables Industry Forum (CORIF), comprised of Cork Chamber members in the wider offshore renewable sector, will work together to identify the needs of industry to ensure the development of Cork Harbour into an offshore renewables hub and advocate for the delivery of enabling policy and infrastructure to decision-makers and key stakeholders. In 2025, CORIF will seek to engage with elected representatives, Departments and state bodies. Key policy

asks and messages for the new government will be identified to support engagement around the new Programme for Government.

7. Climate City Capital Hub: We will collaborate with Cork City Council's Climate Action office by providing support for the Climate City Capital Hub initiative, including hosting a number of meetings as necessary and engaging with interested city-based members and companies that wish to submit an application.

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission target - climate neutrality by 2030.

Inclusive Sustainability in Cork: Empowering Disability Services through Local Green Action

Cork - Ireland

Short description

The Local Green Deal (LGD) in Cork is a collaborative initiative between Cork City Council and Enable Ireland, a non-profit service provider for people with disabilities. Focused on sustainability in service operations and facilities, the LGD introduces concrete actions in recycling, energy management, and stakeholder engagement through Green Teams. The initiative aims to promote inclusive participation in the city's climate goals, reduce environmental impacts, and foster a culture of awareness and behavioural change among staff, service users, and the broader community.



Industry/Sector

- Energy & renewables
- Culture & creative

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Cork City Council
- Enable Ireland

Scope of LGD

This LGD contributes to Cork City Council's Climate Action Plan and the EU Green Deal by embedding sustainability into disability service operations. The initiative covers multiple locations across Cork City and focuses on:

- Recycling system transformation
- Creation of sustainability-led Green Teams
- Implementation of smart energy monitoring systems
- Awareness-raising and behaviour change

These efforts aim to reduce waste, manage energy use more effectively, and empower communities through inclusive, site-specific sustainability initiatives.

Concrete measures/commitments

Enable Ireland commits to:

- Introducing a binless office system: remove individual desk bins.
- Replacing with a 2-bin system (colour-coded, clearly signed) in high footfall areas.
- Encouraging staff to separate waste properly by making them more mindful of disposal.
- Using an online portal from the waste provider to track the weights of each waste type.
- Reporting on progress in increasing recycling, reducing waste, and managing food waste

Cork City Council commits to:

- Creating Green Teams in each facility (excluding retail stores), including staff and service users, to monitor electricity, heat, and water usage.
- Developing site-specific sustainability initiatives through these Green Teams.
- Managing energy and fuel consumption to align with 2030 targets.
- Submitting annual energy reports to SEAI (covering staff travel, electricity, gas, and fleet operations).
- Exploring the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel as it becomes more widely available.
- Installing smart meters at all facilities starting in 2025 to enable detailed monitoring.

Springboard Communications

Cork - Ireland

Short description

Springboard Communications conducted our own materiality assessment in 2023 and a further Sustainability Assessment with the Cork Chamber/Enterprise Network Europe in October 2024. Over the next 12 months, actions supporting the Local Green Deal include monitoring and recording 2024 carbon emissions and waste with a sustainability consultant, setting reduction targets in early 2025, and recognizing the limited material impact of energy efficiency in their rented building. A local sourcing policy has been implemented, with 90% of suppliers identified as local, and the next step involves screening suppliers for environmental and social impact. Social initiatives include giving employees one day of leave for volunteering aligned with SDG4 and SDG5, matching employee fundraising efforts, and providing a three-year bursary for a female student at the Cork Life Centre. Additionally, the company avoids working with fossil fuel-related organizations, and 10% of its annual turnover supports social innovation and the non-profit sector.



Industry/Sector

- Energy & renewables

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Cork City Council
- Springboard Communications (SME)

Scope of LGD

Springboard Communications conducted our own materiality assessment in 2023 and a further Sustainability Assessment with the Cork Chamber/Enterprise Network Europe in October 2024. Within the next 12 months, key actions aligned with the Local Green Deal are as follows:

Energy Efficiency and Waste Management – as a service business in a rented building we recognise that our impact in this area is not materially significant. However, we are currently working with a sustainability consultant to monitor and record our 2024 carbon emissions and waste. Based on these benchmarks we will set clear reduction targets at the beginning of 2025.

Local Sourcing – we have implemented a local sourcing policy and have currently tracked all of our suppliers and established that 90% of our current suppliers are local. The next step on our journey is to conduct a supplier screening questionnaire to ensure our suppliers are screened based on their environmental and social impact.

Social Impact – Through our Company Volunteering, each employee is given 1 days leave to volunteer for a charitable cause aligned with SDG4/Quality Education and SDG5/Gender Equality. We also match fund our employee fundraising. We have a three-year bursary with the Cork Life Centre to support one female student to progress to third level. We have a policy of not working with organisations in the fossil fuel industry and 10% of our current annual turnover is aligned with social innovation and the non-profit sector.

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission - climate neutrality by 2030.

Sundays Well Rugby Football

Cork - Ireland

Short description

Sundays Well Rugby Football Club has begun its Sustainability Drive with the installation of two solar arrays in July 2024 through funding from Cork City Council Community Climate Action Fund along with cistern replacement. We have made provisions to increase the capability of these arrays and so with additional funding, can introduce any upgrades within weeks. The SWRFC solar project will produce enough electricity to power the entire electricity of three average sized Irish homes in one year.

Floodlight Replacement (in progress) - Club will be illuminated using LED floodlights saving a further 3,000kg of CO2 equivalent emissions p.a.

Cistern replacement (in progress) replacing less efficient cisterns in the clubhouse reducing water usage by approximately 75%. (Uisce Ireland submission to CCC CAP on the carbon emissions from clean water supply, sewage treatment)

EV Chargers (in progress) the installation of a community-based EV charger will further complement the solar investment. (strategic importance given low amounts of chargers)

Exchange Corner - this is a year round initiative to promote the recycling of second hand playing kit, including gear and boots, within the club at no cost to parents/players. It is aimed especially at the Mini/Youth rugby participants. (Circular Economy/Social Climate intervention).



Industry/Sector

- Energy & renewables

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Cork city
- Sundays Well Rugby Football Club (Civil Society)

Scope of LGD

- The club has already begun its Sustainability Drive with the installation of two solar arrays in July 2024 though funding from Cork City Council Community Climate Action Fund along with cistern replacement. We have made provisions to increase the capability of these arrays and so with additional funding, can introduce any upgrades within weeks. Nearly all other 'in-house' proposals can be implemented as soon as we receive further funding approval. Identifying the most suitable foliage and landscaping schedule for our proposed 'green wall' may take up to 18 months.

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission target - climate neutrality by 2030.

The Toy library

Cork - Ireland

Short description

At The Toy Library, we leverage both our online platform and our pop-up community event to recirculate a large number of toys within Cork (and beyond). As of October 2024, in only three months since the platform's launch, we've recirculated 278 KG of plastic toys through peer to peer sharing on our online platform. In only one community event as part of our Circular Christmas campaign, we have recirculated 120 Kg of plastic toys. This is incredible impact that we are going to keep delivering if supported by local and national authorities.



Industry/Sector

- Culture & creative industries

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- The Toy library (Social Enterprise/SME)

Scope of LGD

We measure social impact calculating the amount of plastic recirculated, the CO2 deflection if toys were to be produced from scratch and we also add transportation and packaging variables to build a lifecycle assessment and calculate overall carbon reduction.

As of October 2024, in only three months since the platform's launch, we've recirculated 278 kg of plastic toys through peer to peer sharing on our online platform. In only one community event as part of our Circular Christmas campaign, we have recirculated 120 kg of plastic toys..

Concrete measures/commitments

LGD contributing to Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission - climate neutrality by 2030.

Trigon Group

Cork - Ireland

Short description

Our 3-Year Action Strategy focuses on Planet, People, Performance, and Partnerships. For Planet, we aim to reduce energy usage by 10% compared to 2024 and eliminate single-use plastics from hotel operations. For People, we foster a culture of self-led sustainability, increasing our employee survey score on environmental impact efforts to over 80% and overall satisfaction to 85%. We'll also establish a Sustainability Development Officer role and engage in national social partnerships. In Performance, we will work toward international sustainability certification by 2026, aim for the Chambers Ireland Sustainability Award, and reduce energy costs by 20%, with a reinvestment plan. For Partnerships, we'll lead as industry innovators, securing early access to grants, investments, and innovations.



Industry/Sector

- Tourism

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Trigon group (SME)

Scope of LGD

1. Planet

- Reduce Energy usage by -10% versus 2024
- Removal of "Single Use Plastics" from the operation of the hotel

2. People

- Culture of self-led sustainability: Each year we conduct an employee survey through Great Places to Work, a question is "This workplace is working to reduce its environmental impact" current score is 78% with the aim of increasing that to +80% with an overall Employee Survey Score of +85%

- National Team Award & Social Partnership
- Employ Position of Sustainability Development Officer/Exec (FT/PT)

3. Performance

- International Certification (GSTC/Earth check/ISO/BCorp) - Based on criteria from the Failte Ireland Sustainability Programme we will prepare our baselines in 2025 so we can work towards internationally recognised certification in 2026
- Chambers Ireland Sustainability Award
- Reduced Cost PKWH by 20% and re-investment plan in place

4. Partnerships

- Thought Leader within industry
- Have early access to grants, investment, innovations through our partnerships.

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission - climate neutrality by 2030.

University College Cork

Cork - Ireland

Short description

UCC launched its Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (2023-28) in June 2023. The Plan includes a target to be net zero carbon across all scopes by 2040. UCC, as a public sector body, is mandated by the government to reduce its absolute scope 1 and 2 emissions by 51% by 2030, based on a 2016-2018 baseline. The University has already achieved a reduction of 32%. The University has identified a list of projects that will need to be implemented to meet the 2030 CO2 targets and planned growth.



Industry/Sector

- Construction & built environment
- Energy & Renewables
- Mobility & transport

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- University College Cork

Scope of LGD

The planned projects can be grouped into:

Energy Efficiency and Awareness

- Achieve a 2% annual reduction in energy use through awareness and rolling energy upgrades, i.e., lighting, BMS optimisation and pump replacement programs.

Expand Saver Saves Scheme and Green Labs Programme.

- Expanding Climate Leadership training to all senior managers and Climate Literacy Training to students and staff.

Decarbonisation of Heating Systems

- Change out of heat generation plant to heat pump technology without significant fabric upgrades.
- 11 Projects to be completed between 2023 and 2030, at least two of which will be completed in 2023/24

PV Installations

- Roll out of PV installations from 2025 to 2028 to supply 750 MWH of onsite renewables. The pathway schedule aligns to Irelands carbon budget program of 2021-2025 (4.8% per annum) and 2026-2030 (8.3% per annum).
- Participation in the movement to help Cork become a climate neutral and resilient city.

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission - climate neutrality by 2030.

Velo Coffee Roasters

Cork - Ireland

Short description

Velo Coffee Roasters is committed to achieving substantial reductions in energy consumption, cutting operational costs, and boosting overall productivity. Through these initiatives, the company aims to significantly shrink its carbon footprint, enhance energy efficiency, and actively involve its workforce in sustainable practices—all within the next 12 months.



Industry/Sector

- Energy & Renewables

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Velo Coffee Roasters

Scope of LGD

1. Complete an Energy Audit:
 - Objective - Identify areas of high energy consumption and inefficiencies within their operations.
 - Action - Engage a certified energy auditor to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the entire facility. This will include evaluating lighting, heating, cooling, roasting processes, and other significant energy uses as well as looking at Scope 3 Emissions.

- Outcome - Obtain a detailed report highlighting opportunities for energy savings and recommendations for upgrades or behavioural changes.
2. Develop a Business-Wide Emissions Training Programme:
- Objective - Increase awareness and understanding of carbon emissions and their impact among employees.
 - Action - Collaborate with an environmental consultant to create a tailored education program. This will involve workshops, training sessions, and informational materials to educate staff on the sources of emissions, the importance of reduction efforts, and individual contributions to sustainability goals.
 - Outcome - Foster a culture of environmental responsibility, empower employees to participate in emission reduction initiatives, and develop a sustainability officer in each department of the business.
3. Implement LEAN Production Strategies:
- Objective - Streamline production processes to minimise energy use and waste.
 - Action - Apply LEAN principles to optimise operations. This includes analysing current workflows, eliminating non-value-added activities, and introducing more efficient practices in roasting, packaging and distribution.
 - Outcome - Achieve significant reductions in energy consumption, lower operational costs and enhance overall productivity. By executing these actions, Velo Coffee Roasters aims to significantly reduce their carbon footprint, improve energy efficiency, and engage their workforce in sustainable practices over the next 12 months..

Concrete measures/commitments

- The LGD is contributing to the Cork City's Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Mission - climate neutrality by 2030.