



# BUILD CAPA-CITIES

## DUBLIN & CORK, IRELAND

### Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



Consumption of non-electricity energy for thermal uses in buildings & facilities



Multi-sector waste management & disposal



Land use (agriculture, forestry & other land uses)



Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure



All vehicles & transport (mobile energy)



### Key Terms

Governance Innovation | Storytelling | Co-design | Community Engagement | Public Realm | Climate Capacity Building

### Levers of Change

Data and Digitalisation | Democracy and participation | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Social innovation | Technology/infrastructure

### Description of the Pilot Activity

Build Capa-cities is developing climate action capacity across Dublin and Cork City Councils through three approaches: new governance structures to embed climate leadership at senior level, innovation sandboxes to co-design public realm improvements with communities, and storytelling-based communication to engage staff and citizens in climate action in more accessible and compelling ways.

Year 1 established foundations across all three initiatives, A director-level steering group now brings together 14 directors in Dublin City Council to collaboratively oversee climate action delivery and create a sense of ownership around the 121 cross departmental actions in the climate action plan. Cork City Council hosted several Sandboxes to engage citizens and stakeholders in reimagining public spaces and actively participate in co-designing physical street interventions. Dublin City Council also used sandboxes to engage with the community of the norther east inner city. Dublin City Council launched "City Stories", a storytelling programme using personal leadership stories to build climate engagement with staff, stakeholders and the public.

### Innovation Highlights

The sandbox model — creating real experiences of what a space could become rather than presenting visions — is a transferable approach to building community buy-in for public realm transformation. City Stories events have been well received by staff, stakeholders, and the public alike. The City Stories format demonstrates how storytelling can replace conventional presentations to make climate action relatable and break down organisational silos.

### Year One Highlights

In Cork, physically closing streets gave citizens a direct experience of transformed public space, generating support for longer-term change more effectively than consultation alone. In Dublin, co-design workshops with 40+ children aged 7-12 identified locations for safe routes and playful spaces, with two artist groups now delivering placemaking interventions in the community.

### Twinning with La Rochelle (France)

Site visits to Cork and La Rochelle provided direct learning from implemented projects. La Rochelle's one-stop-shop model for citizen climate engagement inspired similar approaches in Irish cities. During a March visit to Dublin, representatives from Cork and La Rochelle took part in a story slam workshop and attended a staff story slam, gaining practical experience to apply locally.

