



Climate Action and the Local Authority Development Plan

Speakers: Alexandra Revez, Connor McGookin

12 November 2021 | OPR Local Authority and Regional Assembly Staff Training Webinar

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Project Overview



Tasks

- 1 Overview of legislative context in Ireland
- 2 Development of a framework to assess current local authority climate mitigation planning in LA Development Plans
- 3 High level review of development plans and selection of 'pathfinders'
- 4 Analysis of pathfinder local authorities
- 5 Engagement with Local Authority officials involved in the process to obtain practical insights and reflections
- 6 Summary of baseline emission inventory methods used to date
- 7 Write-up Research Report



Team: Alexandra Revez, Connor McGookin, Mary Venables, Barry O'Dwyer, Brian Ó Gallachóir (PI)



Adaptation

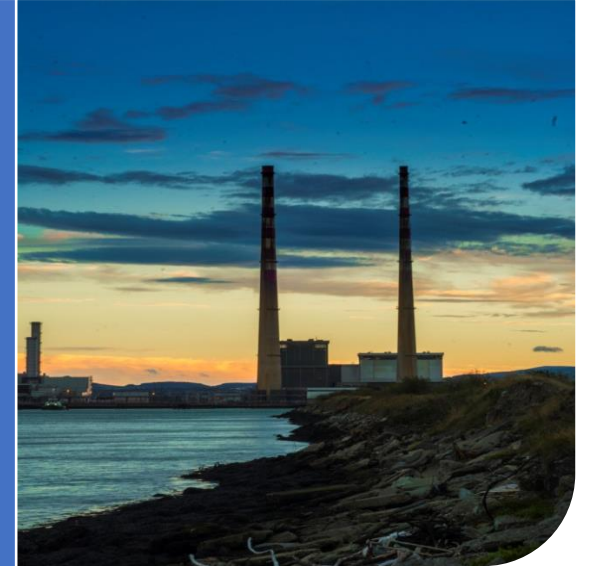


Addressing the
impacts of climate
change

Mitigation



Reducing, preventing
and capturing GHG
emissions

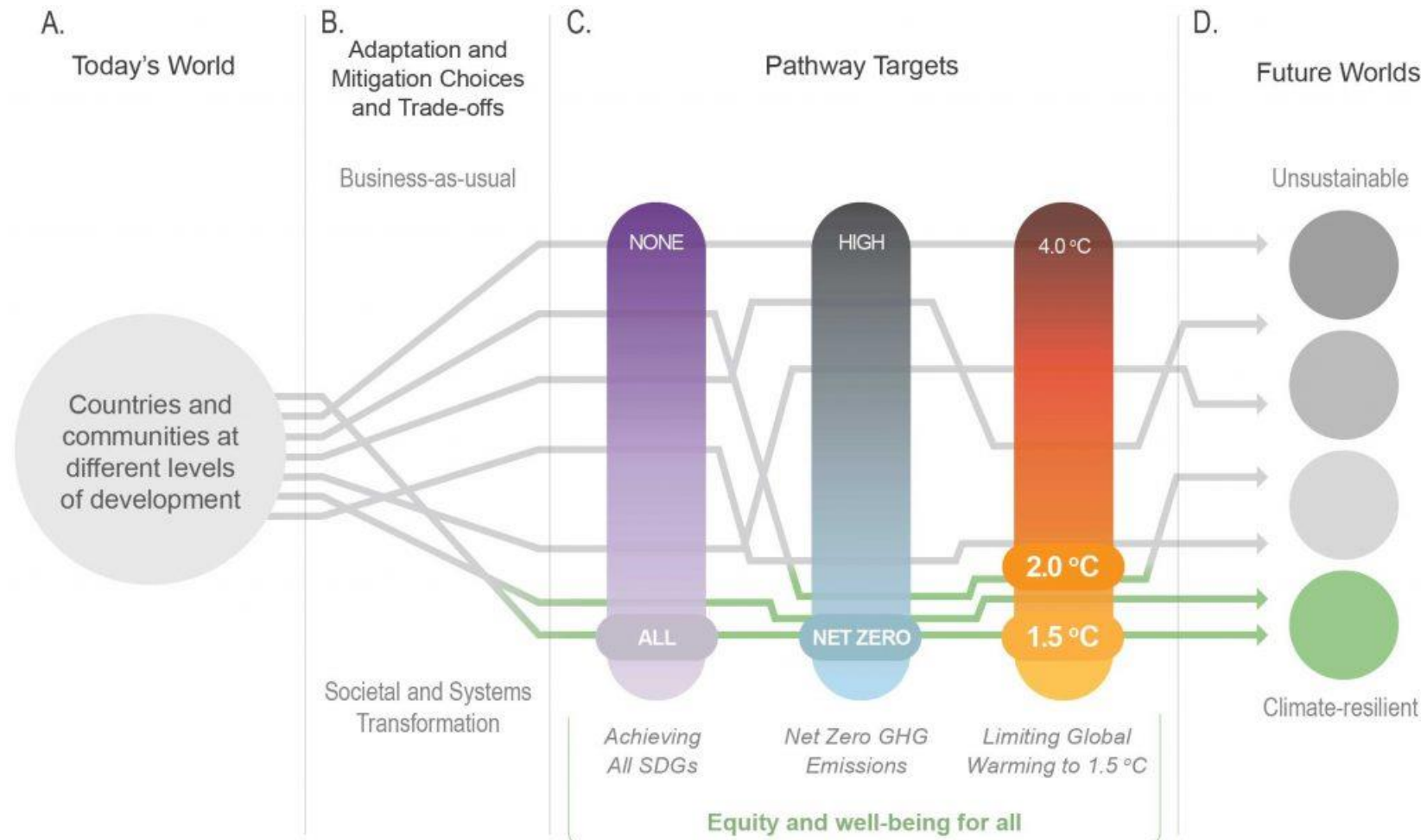


Mitigation: working definition

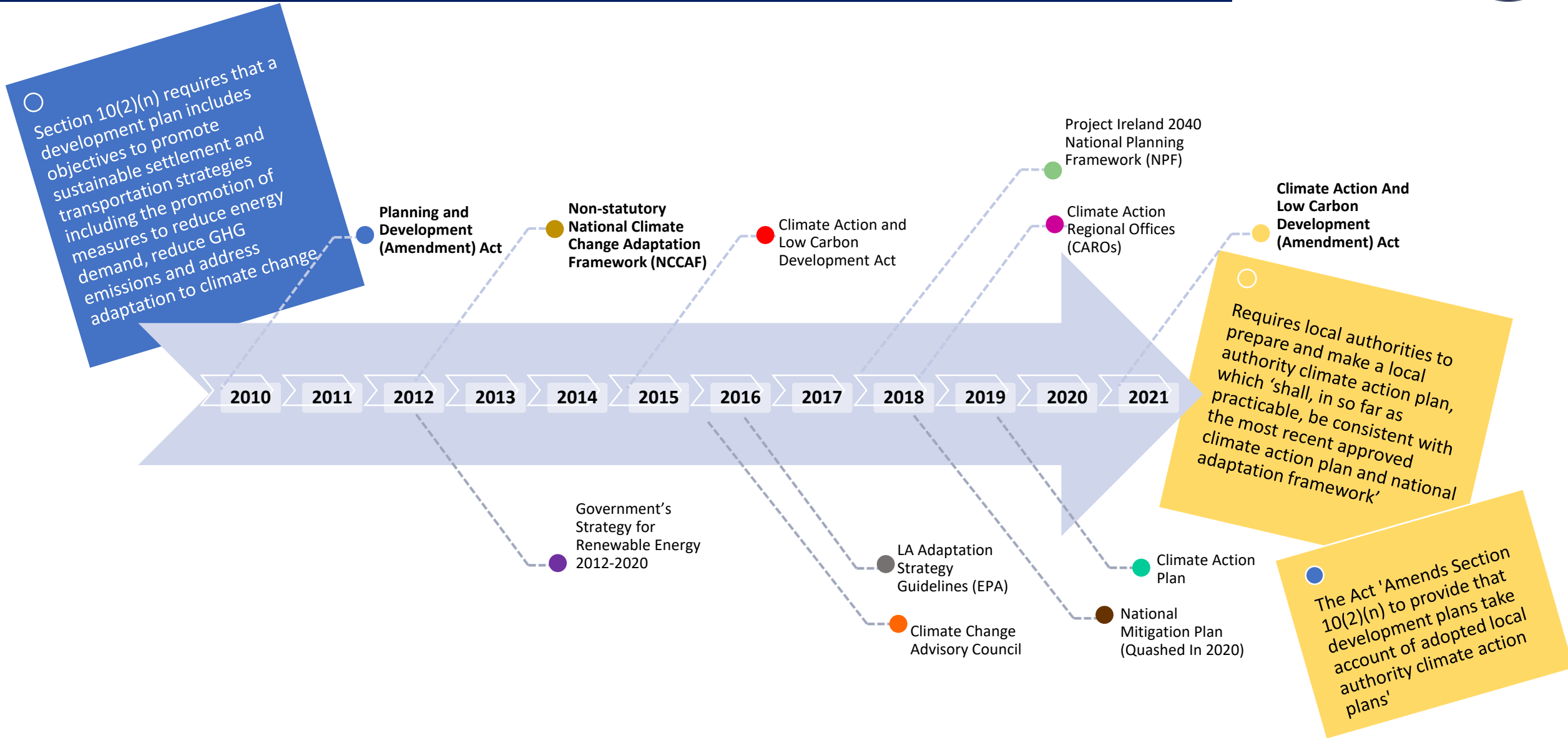


Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C

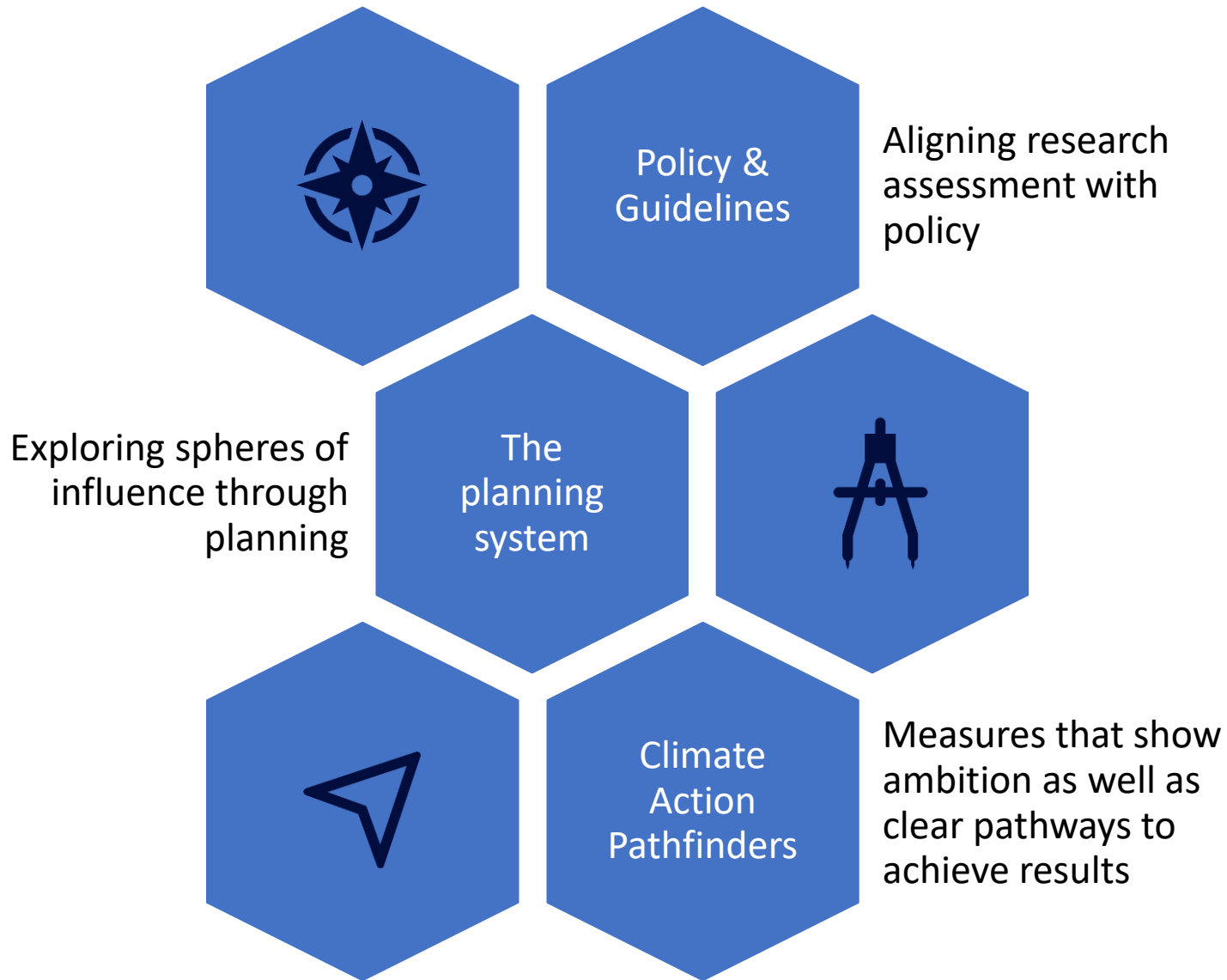
'LIMITING GLOBAL WARMING TO 1.5°C REQUIRES RAPID, FAR-REACHING AND UNPRECEDENTED CHANGES IN ALL ASPECTS OF SOCIETY'



Task 1. Overview of Climate Action Policies



Task 2. Research framework



Complementary work

1. The work the OPR is already doing through the plans evaluations function
2. The QGasSP project that seeks to help LAs calculate estimated carbon footprints for future development (<https://emra.ie/qgassp/>)
3. The work the Local Government Management Agency has done on local authorities and climate action
4. The development of Ministerial Guidelines for writing Local Authority Climate Action Plans, which will cover methodology for estimating the baseline emissions and other aspects of climate action planning






Task 3.a The Development Plan: a high level review



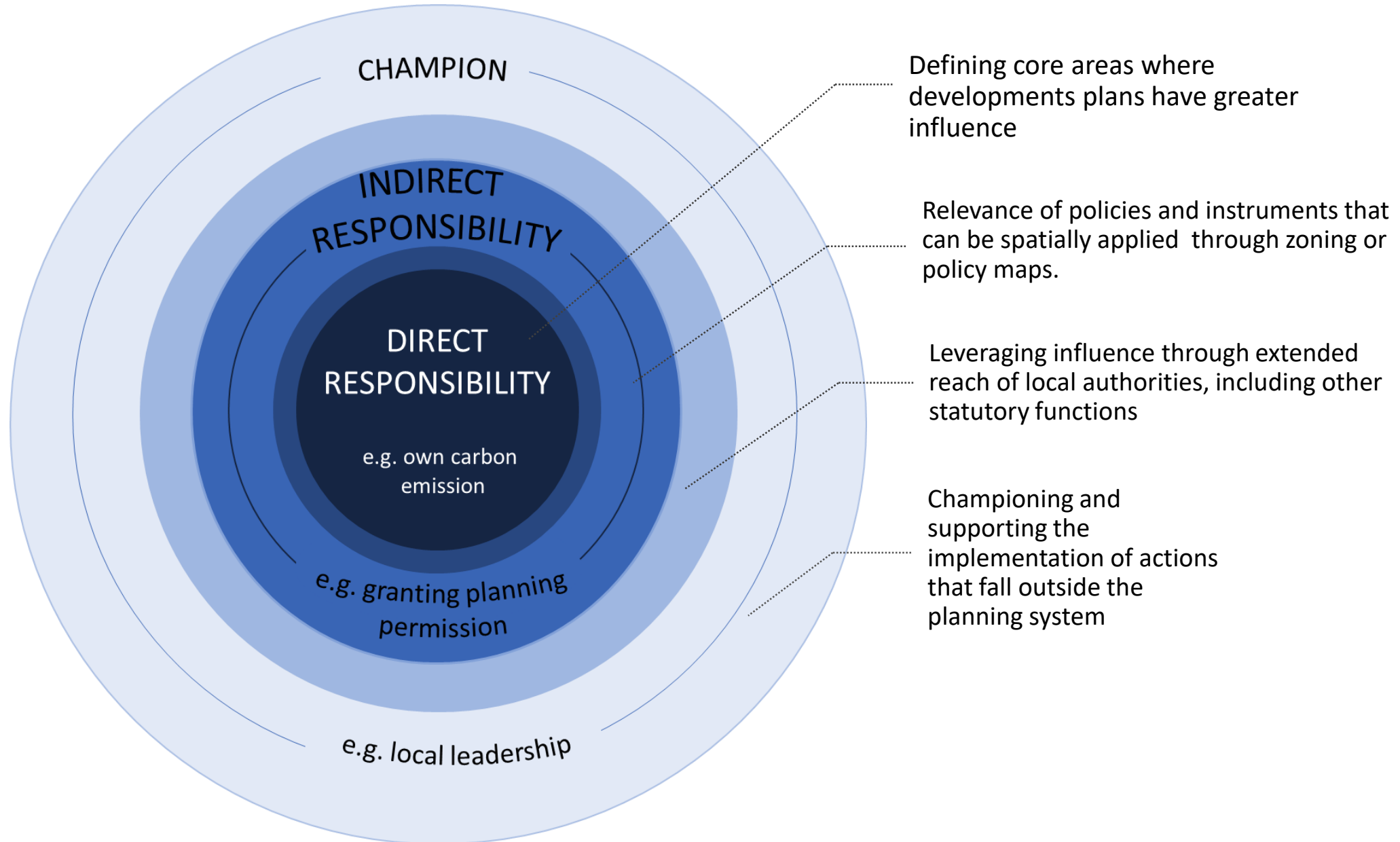
Figure 2. Word cloud with top 100 words from all 31 development plans

Task 3.b emerging mitigation criteria: *an overview*



	Energy 	Transport 	Economy 	Societal 	Other 
100% of CDPs	Renewable Energy				
	Wind Energy	Permeability	Broadband Network	Consultation	Green Infrastructure
	Energy Efficiency				
> 50% of CDPs	Solar Energy	Modal Shift			
		Walkability	Circular Economy		Peatlands
		Cycling Infrastructure		Compact Growth	
	District Heating		Data Centers		Afforestation
		EV Charging Network			
< 50% of CDPs	Off-shore wind		Green Public Procurement	Decarbonization Zones	Nature Based Solutions
				Climate Justice	

Task 4.a The role of the Local Authority



Task 4.b

Aligning strategies



Safety, Connectivity to Schools and Rail, EV Charging, Cycle network, Permeability



Encouraging Native Woodland Schemes, ID of Suitable afforestation lands



Farming diversification, bioenergy, small scale energy generation, forestry, agritourism



Bring centres, Waste to Energy sites, Zero waste measures



Sustainable settlement patterns, town revitalisation, place making, target growth rates



ID of suitable areas for wind energy; access to distribution grid landscape sensitivity



ongoing work to upgrade housing stock to bring dwellings to a BER level of B2

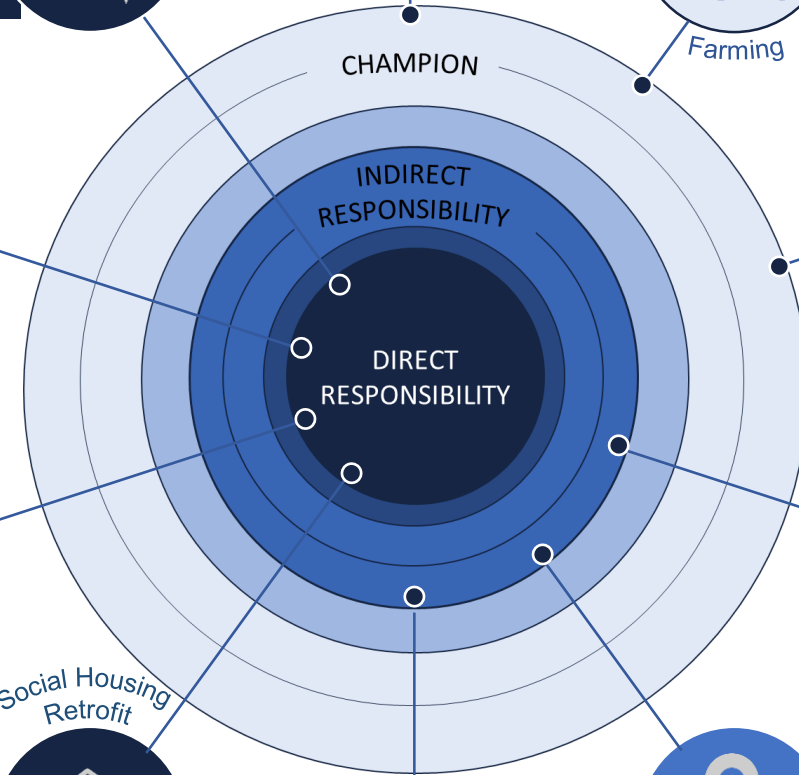


Tree planting, awareness raising, solutions to erosion, SUDS



Feasibility Studies, Prioritise development in areas of potential, Support Installation Schemes

Interoperability between public and private transport modes



Nature Based Solutions

Task 5.a Engagement process

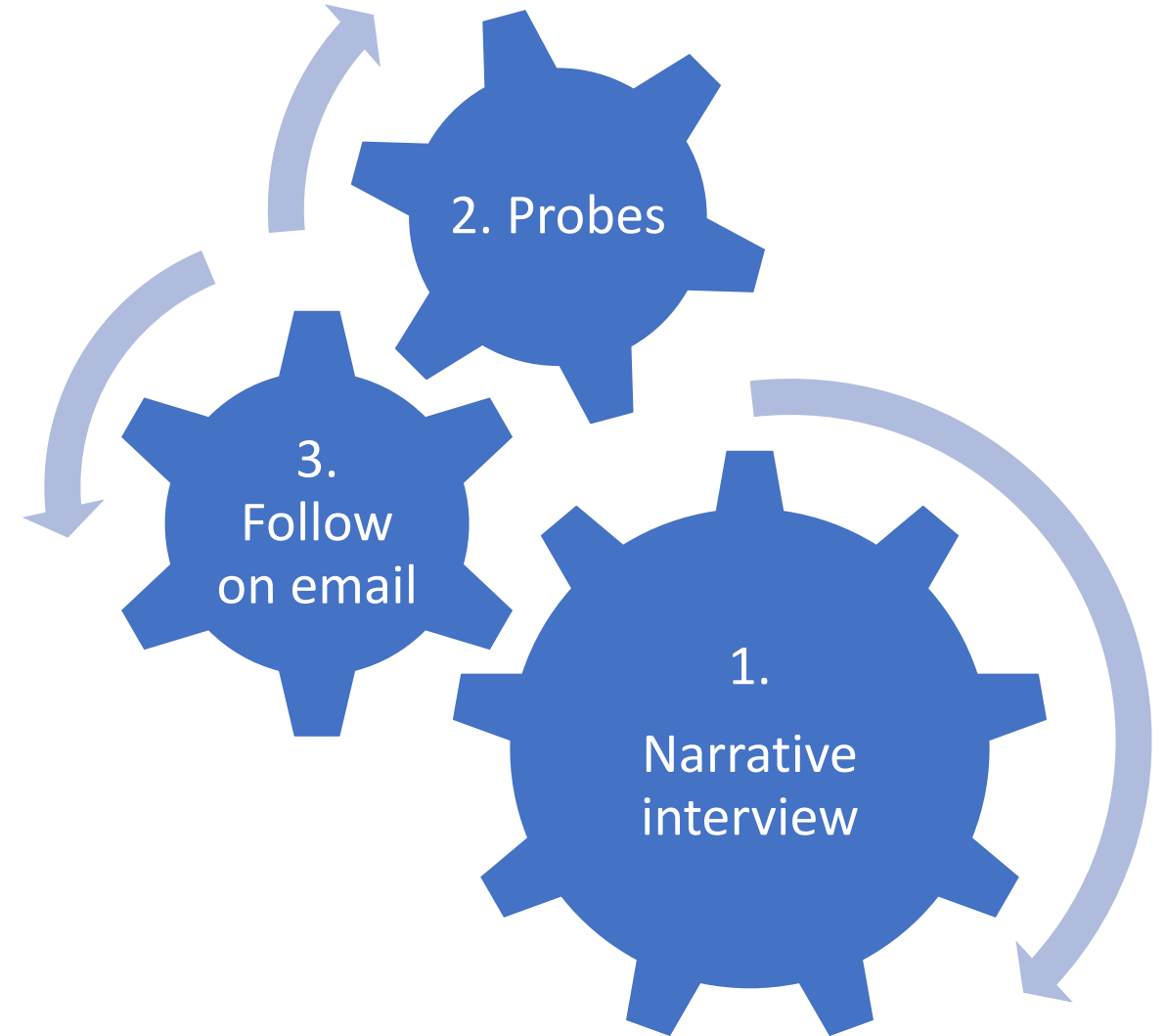


Spoke to:

7 x local authorities, 11 x planners

One single question:

'Please recount your experience, all the events and activities that have been important in the development of the most recent Development Plan, with emphasis on aspects addressing climate mitigation'





Pathfinders

- Key focus with a dedicated chapter
- Climate impact assessment at end / start of each chapter, or at the end of CDP

“we decided that after each chapter, at the end of each chapter, we would have this climate audit”

Challenges

- Most emissions outside LA remit
- Monitoring important but challenging
- Rapidly evolving national policy

“it’s difficult to see how development can have an immediate impact”



Pathfinders

- Set green / climate standards for new developments
- Manage emerging technologies

“a lot of our development management standards have been informed by climate”

Challenges

- Crossing with national legislation, e.g. building regulations
- Enforcement

“in our previous plan, we had brought a requirement in for an energy rating higher than building regs. [...] It was felt as a very positive thing, but there's this reluctance to cross codes”



Pathfinders

- Evidence-based mapping
- Co-ordinate regionally and nationally
- Understand LAs contribution to national targets

“it’s evidence-based, based on what the evidence is telling us, this is where the opportunities are, and also, this is where the constraints are”

Challenges

- Local opposition
- Absence of guidelines
- New technologies emerging
- Distribution and equity issues

“the absence of guidelines nationally is a big issue”



Pathfinders

- Active travel / modal shift
- Co-benefits, for example: reduced commuting and local economic development

“that whole thing around where people live, how they live and how they travel to work is a big thing, and getting jobs locally”

Challenges

- Services not up to scratch
- Needs of rural communities
- Hard to see impact within development plan period

“a lot of our towns and villages do not have services. Those that have, they’re probably creaking or not up to the standard”



- The role of local authority in climate action has been greatly expanded
“What exactly does this mean for the local authority?”
- Development plans need a Climate Action lens
“Good forward planning has to consider climate change”
- Developing an evidence-base is a vital first step
“There’s lots of data gaps in terms of what we need, and obviously coming down the line is the local authority climate action plan. There isn’t the expertise certainly in our local authority”



- Need for guidance

“if there was specific guidelines or documents there that would advise planning practitioners, I suppose how to promote climate action and energy in their plans, their land use plans a bit better, it would be great”

- Support from the CAROs

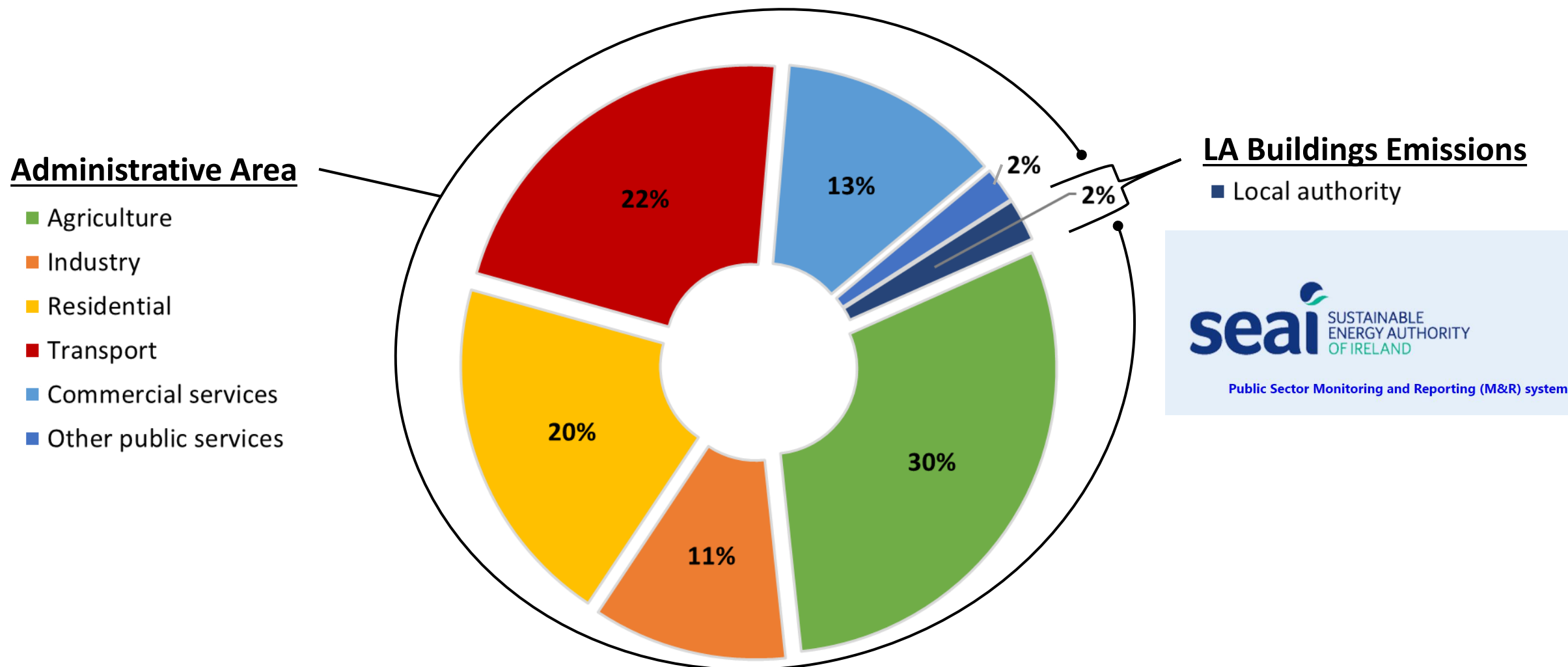
“I’m not saying anything negative about them, but I just felt that they could play a stronger role in maybe educating the local authorities within their area, informing, guiding, ”

- Learning from peers

“we got together as a group, seven or eight authorities, about a year ago to share wind energy, sort of, thinking, if you like, and that was useful”



Example LA Baseline Emissions Inventory



Task 6.b Baseline Emissions Inventory



Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy

- 21 LAs signed up to initiative
- 12 LAs have already submitted action plans

<https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/plans-and-actions/action-plans.html>

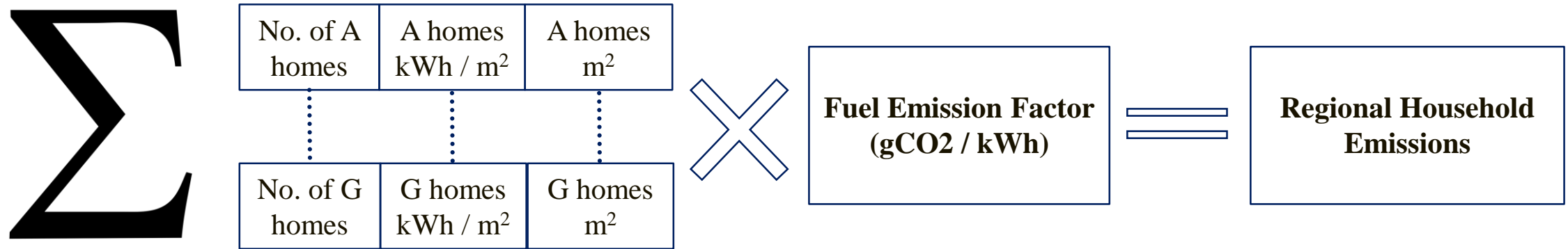


Task 6.c Baseline Emissions Inventory Methods



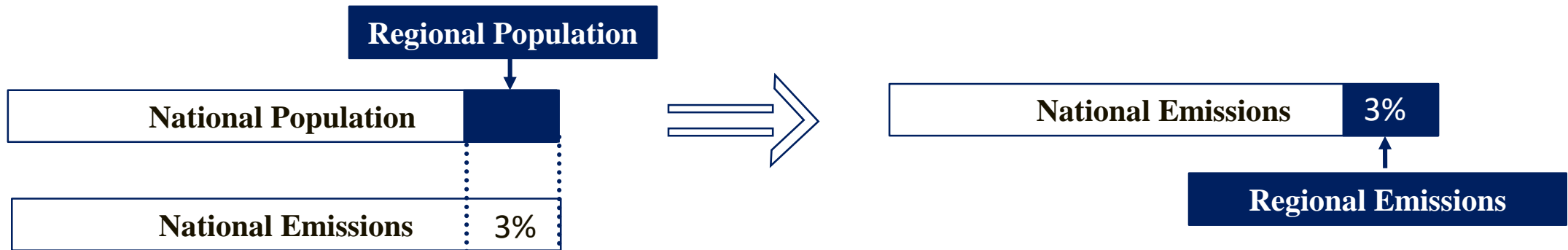
Bottom-Up

Aggregating estimated emissions by a combination of local and national statistics



Top-Down

Portioning national emissions data based on local statistics



Task 6.d Baseline Emissions Inventory



Region	Industry	Agriculture	Residential	Services		Transport
				Commercial	Public	
Kilkenny 2017	population	land area usage	Building Energy Rating (BER)	population	Monitoring & Reporting system	number of vehicles
Tipperary 2017	employee numbers	land area usage	number of households	employee numbers	Not Applicable	number of cars
Dublin City 2016	energy benchmark & floor areas	energy benchmark & land area	Building Energy Rating (BER)	energy benchmark & floor areas	Monitoring & Reporting system	NTA Regional Modelling System
Carlow 2015	population	land area usage	number of households	population		population (public) & number of vehicles
Kerry 2013	fuel spending	land area usage	Building Energy Rating (BER)	energy benchmark & floor areas	Monitoring & Reporting system	number of vehicles

■ top-down
 ■ bottom-up
 ■ data available
 □ most commonly used



- Summary of policy and legislative context
- Examples of climate mitigation in LA planning to date
- Insights from interviews with pathfinders
- Providing suggestions for developing, implementing and monitoring climate change mitigation as part of local authority climate action planning



- CDPs must take account of the new Local Authority Climate Action Plans
- Good practice identified through review of CDPs
- Identification of challenges facing PA's when adopting CDPs
- Opportunities for shared learnings between PAs



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