



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Climate Action Plan 2021

- To Tackle Climate Breakdown

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

19 February 2022

# Policy Context



- UN 1.5 Degree Report
- Report of the Citizens' Assembly 2018
- Oireachtas Joint Committee on Climate Action Report 2019
- Climate and Biodiversity Emergency declared in 2019
- 2019 Climate Action Plan step change in Irish climate policy
- Programme for Government – Our Shared Future
  - 7% per annum reduction in overall GHG emissions 2021 to 2030
  - a 51% reduction over the decade
  - net zero emissions no later than 2050
  - carbon budgeting and sectoral emissions ceilings
- European Green Deal – includes EU Climate Law with 2050 climate neutral objective

# Key Features



- Plan sets a roadmap identifying how Ireland will achieve a 51% reduction in emissions by 2030, putting us on a pathway to net zero emissions by 2050
- Strong governance enshrined in law – Climate Act 2021
- Will deliver a better, healthier, and more resilient future for the country
- Effective citizen involvement

# Informing the Climate Action Plan 2021 – a three step approach



- **Step 1:** Identified a menu of options across sectors to close the gap between the 2019 Climate Action Plan and enhanced ambition in Programme for Government and Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
- **Step 2:** Evaluated menu of options along five dimensions: total system cost; feasibility; socioeconomic impact; contribution to other sustainability goals; and ability to serve as a stepping stone to achieve 2050 target
- **Step 3:** Refined through detailed engagement with relevant Government Departments and Working Groups

## Core and Further Measures



- **Core Measures** build on and accelerate existing measures in the 2019 Climate Action Plan
  - Renewable electricity system
  - Electrification in transport, built environment, and industry
  - GHG-efficient farming practices
  - Afforestation
- **Further Measures** represent larger systems choices for Ireland – measures that are technically more challenging or do not exist at scale in Ireland today
  - Accelerate sustainability transformation in agriculture
  - Deploy zero-emission gas
  - Fundamental demand shift across sectors
  - Deploy Carbon Capture and Storage

# Proposed Emissions Reductions by Sector



<b>Sector</b>	<b>2018 emissions (MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq)</b>	<b>2030 target emissions (MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq)</b>	<b>% reduction relative to 2018</b>
Electricity	10.5	2-4	62-81%
Transport	12	6-7	42-50%
Buildings	9	4-5	44-56%
Industry	8.5	5-6	29-41%
Agriculture	23	16-18	22-30%
LULUCF	4.8	2-3	37-58%

# Electricity



- Increasing the share of electricity demand generated from renewable sources to up to 80% , including an increased target of up to 5 GWs of offshore wind
- At least 500 MW of these renewables will be delivered through local community-based projects
- Complete the phase-out of coal and peat-fired electricity generation
- Ensure that 20-30% of system demand is flexible by 2030
- Carry out a work programme to identify a route to deliver 1-3 TWh of zero emissions gas (including green hydrogen) by 2030

# Enterprise



- Accelerate uptake of carbon-neutral heating in industry
- Phase-out high-GWP F-gases
- Decrease embodied carbon in construction materials
- Enable electrification of high-temperature heat generation
- Deploy Carbon Capture and Storage

# Buildings



- Retrofit 500,000 homes by 2030
- Install 680,000 renewable energy heat sources in both new and existing residential buildings
- Strengthen NZEB requirements for new dwellings to effectively ban fossil fuels in new homes
- Ramp-up zero-emission heat in commercial buildings
- Increase targets for roll-out of district heating

# Transport



- Provide for an additional 500,000 daily public transport and active travel journeys
- Increase the fleet of EVs and low emitting vehicles (LEVs) on the road to 945,000, comprising of:
  - 845,000 electric passenger cars
  - 95,000 electric vans
  - 3,500 low emitting trucks
  - 1,500 electric buses
  - an expanded electrified rail network
- Raise the blend proportion of biofuels to B20 in diesel and E10 in petrol
- Reduce ICE kilometres by c. 10% compared to present day levels

# Agriculture



- Significant reduction in nitrous oxide emissions by changing farm management practices
- Improved animal breeding
- Improved animal feeding
- Increasing organic farming
- Contribute agricultural feedstocks to the production of 1.6 TWh per annum of indigenous sustainably produced biomethane for injection into the gas grid by 2030
- Explore diversification opportunities
- Explore model of carbon farming
- Explore the potential of methane reducing feed additives for pasture-based solutions

# LULUCF



- Increasing our annual afforestation rate consistent with realising our 2030 ambition and achieving carbon neutrality no later than 2050, including promoting forest management initiatives to increase carbon sinks and stores
- 80,000 ha. of reduced management intensity of grasslands on drained organic soils
- Improving our management for carbon sequestration of at least 450,000 hectares of grasslands on mineral soils
- Increasing the inclusion of cover crops in tillage to at least 50,000 hectares by 2030
- Increasing the incorporation of straw to at least 10% of the tillage area
- Rehabilitating 65,000 hectares of peatlands across numerous landowners and projects

# Circular Economy



- An Whole-of-Government Circular Economy Strategy will be published by end-2021
- The Circular Economy Bill 2021 be legislated for, putting the Circular Economy Strategy on a statutory footing

## Recycling:

- Recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035
- Recycle 70% of packaging waste by 2030
- Recycle 55% of plastic packaging waste by 2030
- Separate collection obligations extended to include hazardous household waste (by end 2024), bio-waste (by end 2023), and textiles (by end 2024)

## Plastic Single-Use Items:

- Provide for 90% collection of plastic drinks containers by 2029
- Determine and introduce reduction targets and measures no later than 2022 to be achieved no later than 2026
- Ensure all plastic packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030

# Public Sector Leading by Example



- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub>eq. from the sector by 51%
- Increase the improvement in energy efficiency in the public sector from the 33% target in 2020 to 50% by 2030
- Mandate public sector employers, colleges, and other public sector bodies to move to 20% home and remote working
- Introduce a Sustainable Mobility Policy in the public sector
- Replace all public service buses with electric vehicles nationally by 2035
- Triple the length of electrified rail on the network by 2030



# Citizen Engagement and Just Transition

- Establish enduring structures for an ongoing National Dialogue on Climate Action
- Establish a Just Transition Commission to ensure the transition is fair

# 2022



- Adoption of legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings
- Preparation of next Climate Action Plan
- Implementation of enduring structures for NDCA and Just Transition
- Thank you