



## Now loading

### Climate Action Plan to tackle climate breakdown

The Irish Government launched its Climate Action Plan (the **"Plan"**) on 4 June 2019. Overall, the plan has been welcomed positively by the energy community as an ambitious and strategic plan to tackle climate breakdown.

The Plan acknowledges that we have not yet broken the link between economic growth and carbon emissions. It also sets out sector-based measures that need to be taken to reduce emissions. Taking an honest view of previous shortcomings, the Plan includes detailed timetables for achieving the actions it identifies and contains a "Marginal Abatement Cost Curve" to help establish the most cost effective ways of tackling climate breakdown. The Plan highlights the need to make a fair and "just" transition and the need to build resilience to climate change.

#### Leadership

The Plan aims to ensure accountability at the highest levels of government. It closely follows the recommendations of the Oireachtas Committee and contains the following key features:

- a five year Carbon Budget cycle which will be put on legislative footing in the Climate Action (Amendment) Bill
- a Climate Action Delivery Board overseen by the Department of the Taoiseach
- an independent Climate Action Council (established by legislation) to recommend the Carbon Budget and evaluate policy
- holding ministers and public bodies to account by a Standing Committee of both Houses on Climate Action and an Oireachtas Climate Action Committee to provide robust advice and evidence
- carbon proofing all Government decisions and major investments
- a Just Transition Review Group within the National Economic and Social Council

The Plan is clear that the public sector must lead by example, building on their monitoring and reporting of emissions, for example:

- consistent development of a Green Procurement Strategy
- targets of 50% improved energy efficiency and 30% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030
- every public body must have a Climate Action Mandate and every local authority must adopt a Climate Action Charter
- all public buildings must be upgraded to a BER "B" rating by 2030

#### Targets

The Plan commits to evaluating the changes required to adopt a more ambitious commitment of a net zero target in Ireland by 2050. It also puts into place a decarbonisation pathway to 2030 that would be consistent with this adoption. There are new commitments that 70% of our electricity needs, will come from renewable sources by 2030; also the objective to implement a carbon tax rate of €80 per tonne by 2030. Accompanied by a trajectory of increases over successive annual budgets. The Plan commits to further consideration of targets, especially in the context of the budgets.

#### Sectoral roadmap

The Plan provides detailed actions and timetables for tackling climate breakdown in the various sectors. Some key highlights include:

##### Electricity

- Phasing out fossil fuels including ending coal at Moneypoint and transitioning from peat by 2019.

- Harnessing renewable energy with a target of 70% renewable electricity by 2030 including through the use of RESS auctions, Corporate PPAs (to meet 15% of electricity demand) and increased interconnection.
- Supporting microgeneration, not only through support schemes and smart metering but also by committing to changing market rules in early 2020 to allow micro-generated electricity to be sold to the Grid.
- Other measures including continuing DS3 and supporting ocean energy research and developing a legislative and regulatory regime for CCS by Q3 2020 if initial research into its feasibility is positive.

### Buildings

- Aiming to ambitiously up-grade 500,000 existing homes to BER “B2” rating and install 600,000 heat pumps in residential buildings by 2030 (and 25,000 in commercial premises).
- Encouraging individuals not only through scaling up grants but also by putting in place an area-based, scaled retrofitting model.
- Focussing on a combination of building on current plans (eg developing a new public sector-driven information campaign on the Major Renovation Building Regulations and continuing to encourage Sustainable Energy Communities) and developing new policies (eg a new national policy framework for district heating and a smart finance initiative).

### Transport

- Accelerating the take-up of Electric Vehicles (cars and vans), so that Ireland reaches 100% of all new cars and vans being EVs by 2030.
- Committing to developing a “roadmap on the optimum mix of regulatory, taxation and subsidy policies” for transport. Key to this will be delivering the EV charging network.
- Other policies including making growth less transport intensive through better planning, remote/home-working and modal shift to public transport to increase the renewable biofuel content of motor fuels and to set targets for the conversion of public transport fleets to zero carbon alternatives.

### Agriculture

- Aiming to deliver substantial verifiable greenhouse gas abatement through adoption of a specified range of improvements in farming practice in line with recommendations from Teagasc – and deliver expansion of forestry planting and soil management to ensure that carbon abatement from land-use is delivered over the period 2021 to 2030 and in the years beyond.

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EVE.DUB.2283 07/19

- Supporting land use diversification, better management of peatlands and soil, committing to adopting a whole-of-Government approach to reviewing the potential of anaerobic digestion and committing to setting a biogas and bio-methane development target.
- Emphasising the importance of the next EU Common Agricultural Policy in ensuring the agricultural part of the Plan is implemented.

### Enterprise and services

- Aiming to embed energy efficiency, replacement of fossil fuels, careful management of materials and waste and carbon abatement across all enterprises and public service bodies.
- Aiming to mobilise clusters regionally and in different sectors to become centres of excellence for the adoption of low carbon technologies.
- Recognising that leadership of enterprise must play a key part, with the development of sectoral networks being supported, as well as the delivery of quality employment and enterprise in new areas of opportunity.

### Waste and the circular economy

- Setting a number of 2030 targets, including reducing food waste by 50%, recycling 60% of municipal waste and recycling 55% of plastic packaging waste, as well as limiting landfill’s biodegradable municipal waste to max of 427k by 2020.
- Other initiatives including implementing EU schemes (eg around banning single use plastics), publishing a Circular Economy Action Plan by Q2 2020 and implementing full eco-modulated fees for packaging by Q1 2020.

The Climate Action Plan is available at the following link:

<https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/topics/climate-action-plan/Pages/climate-action.aspx>.

The plan contains an accompanying annex of actions, also available at: <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/topics/climate-action-plan/Pages/climate-action.aspx>. [This annex of actions is to be fully implemented by 2050.](#)

### Key contacts



#### Mark Varian

Partner, Construction & Projects

+353 1 6644 341

markvarian@eversheds-sutherland.ie



#### Jennifer Burke

Senior Associate, Construction & Projects

+353 1 6644 254

jenniferburke@eversheds-sutherland.ie