



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Department of Agriculture Food and Marine

Climate and Air Policy Update October 2023

Bernard Harris, Climate Change and Bioenergy Division

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021



- National Strategic objective – climate neutral by 2050
- Greenhouse gas reduction – 51% by 2030 (legally binding)
- Pathways to targets: – Annual Climate Action Plans (CAP); five yearly strategies; Carbon budgets; sectoral emissions ceilings
- Actions for each sector set out in annual Climate Action Plans
- Government Ministers responsible for achieving the legally-binding targets for their sector

Ireland's Carbon Budget



	2021-2025 CB1	2026-2030 CB2	2031-2035 (provisional) CB3
All Gases			
Carbon Budget (MtCO ₂ eq)	295	200	151
Annual Average Percentage Change in Emissions	-4.8%	-8.3%	-3.5%
The above figures are consistent with emissions in 2018 of 68.3 Mt CO ₂ eq reducing to 33.5Mt CO ₂ eq in 2030 a 51% reduction			



Sectoral Emission Ceilings

- Carbon Budget 1 106 MtCO₂eq
- Carbon Budget 2 96 MtCO₂eq
- Emissions Abatement 25% reduction / 17.25 MtCO₂eq
- Emissions up to 2021 23.09 MtCO₂eq





We will support farmers to continue to produce world class, safe and nutritious food while also seeking to diversify income through tillage, energy generation and forestry



- 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 5.7 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

Ambition by 2025 for LULUCF Sector

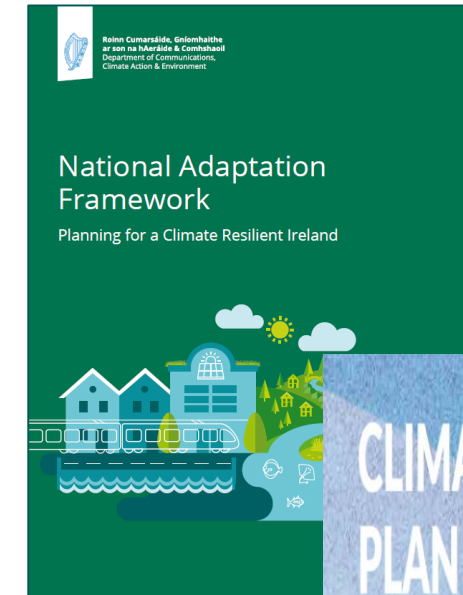
- No Sectoral Ceiling Agreed – Ongoing Emissions Refinements however activity-based targets in place to include;
- Increase afforestation rates from 2,000 ha to 8,000 ha per annum from 2023 onwards – **new forestry programme** increased premia 46-66%
- Increase the store of carbon in harvested wood products
- Increase the inclusion of cover crops in tillage to 25,000 ha
- Increase the incorporation of straw to 35,000 ha of tillage area
- Improve the management for carbon sequestration of 200,000 ha of grasslands on mineral soils
- Reduce the management intensity of grasslands on 25,000 ha of drained organic soils – raising the water table
- Rehabilitate 33,000 ha of peatlands as part - Bord na Móna's

Adaptation Policy – not just our climate that is changing



Adaptation policy environment is changing:

- European Climate Law – stronger provisions on adaptation
- EU Strategy on Adaptation published Feb 2021
- Sectoral Adaptation Plan reviewed in 2022
- National Adaptation Framework (NAF) review in progress
- Climate Action Plans 2021 and 2023



Adaptation in practice



CSP Eco scheme includes a range of agricultural practices for:

- Space for Nature, tree/hedgerow planting,
- Chemical N reduction, soil sampling, multi-species sward
- Livestock extensification

Agri environment climate measures:

- **AECM General** –results and prescription based actions applied at farm level.
- **AECM Cooperation Project** -in defined high priority geographical areas, standard measures, as well as bespoke farm, landscape and river catchment measures. Local Cooperation Team will assist with landscape actions.
- Multi-functional actions contributing to biodiversity, water and climate related objectives

DAFM response to changing policy environment and mainstreaming adaptation

- DAFM Statement of Strategy- climate action is a core pillar
- DAFM Internal Adaptation Steering Group — Review of membership to ensure relevant divisions are represented.
- CSP — Dual benefit actions covering adaptation and mitigation included under the new CSP (2023-2027). Also specific adaptations measure included under the ACRES eco scheme. Teagasc has also launched its Climate Action Strategy (2022-2030), which includes an adaptation pillar.
- Food Vision 2030 — food system approach, Mission 1, Goal 1 specific reference to implementing Adaptation Plan. Also includes action to carry out risk analysis to assess the impact of climate change on Irish food production
- CAP 23 — adaptation actions incorporated into Agriculture actions



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Air Quality – Ammonia from Agriculture

- Agriculture accounted for **99.4 per cent** of total ammonia emissions in Ireland
- Ammonia emissions have been steadily increasing in Ireland since 2011 (EPA, 2021) as a result of increasing agricultural activity, with the first exceedance reported in 2016, and subsequently in 2017, 2018, 2019 and now exceedance for 2020 has been confirmed.
- On 26th of January 2023 the European Commission wrote to Ireland to highlight that it has not fulfilled its commitments.
- Importance of fertiliser type and protein levels in concentrate feeds in contributing to a reduction in overall Ammonia levels is guiding future policy measures.

National Carbon Farming Framework

- Key CAP Action for 2024
- EU Carbon Removal Certification Regulation to 2030
- Development of a Carbon Farming Framework
 - Governance
 - Methodologies
 - Registries

Manage the expectation of outcomes



Thank You

