



Mr Charlie McConalogue TD
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
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15th January 2021

Dear Minister McConalogue,

RE: Ag Climatise – National Climate & Air Roadmap for the Agriculture Sector

The Council welcomes the publication of “Ag Climatise: a roadmap towards Climate Neutrality” for the Agriculture and Land Use sector.

The Ag Climatise Roadmap will provide important guidance to progressing on early climate action in Ireland in the sector. The Council has a number of concerns which should be addressed in order to ensure that the Ag Climatise roadmap will continue to be relevant.

- Although the roadmap notes the importance of building the sector’s resilience and adapting to the impacts of climate change, the Council would have expected more discussion of adaptation issues and also potential co-benefits and trade-offs.
- Importantly, the Ag Climatise roadmap was developed in the context of the Climate Action Plan 2019, and meeting national targets under the Effort Sharing Decision and LULUCF decision. However, ambition has increased at both national level under the programme for government and EU level under the Green Deal. The Ag Climatise roadmap will need to be revised to adopt a higher level of ambition to respond to these developments.

The revised roadmap should give greater consideration to the impact of animal numbers and level of nitrogen use on greenhouse gas emissions, air quality and other environmental concerns. Recent trends in animal numbers and nitrogen use already present challenges to achieving current targets and are inconsistent with increased ambition.

The revised roadmap should provide greater detail as to the policies, measures and instruments which are to be deployed to achieve the objectives. Otherwise it is difficult to assess whether implementation of the roadmap can be achieved.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact the Secretariat on 087 172 9303 or info@climatecouncil.ie.

Kind regards,

Prof. John FitzGerald

Chair

Climate Change Advisory Council & Adaptation Committee