



## **Climate Change Advisory Council's Reaction to the National Climate Action Plan 2023**

The Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council, Marie Donnelly, today welcomed the publication of the National Climate Action Plan 2023.

“The Council welcomes publication of National Climate Action Plan 2023 today. The publication of this annual plan marks an important step in meeting the legal commitments under the Climate Act,” she said.

“It is the first plan published since the Oireachtas approval of our proposed carbon budgets and the announcement of Sectoral Emissions Ceilings. Now there is an urgent need for the system to concentrate its efforts on implementation to address the gap between ambition and delivery.

Professor Peter Thorne, Council Member and Chair of the Adaptation Committee, stated that “Despite the progress evident in the new climate action plan the remaining gap of unallocated emissions reductions is a substantial concern. It is imperative that a roadmap to close this gap be completed expeditiously to bring certainty to sectors, industry and society as to how we will achieve our ambitions.

“Early indications for 2022, the second year of the current five-year carbon budget period, would suggest that total emissions will not have changed substantially compared to 2021, placing us further behind the needed pace of delivery. The Council welcomes the detail on the key performance indicators and emissions savings associated with key actions but would like to see detailed trajectories of how the sectoral emissions ceilings will be achieved. The speed of delivery of the most critical policies and measures must urgently increase.

Council chairperson Marie Donnelly added that “Electricity has a 75% emission reduction target, and despite the current energy crisis, demand continues to rise and with that, so do emissions. This problem has to be addressed now, especially given the solution of renewable energy sources of wind and solar are right outside our doors.

“Transport emissions are currently rebounding after COVID. We know we can reduce our emissions. The work we commissioned with the OECD earlier this year demonstrates the change in thinking required, and we are happy to see this reflected in the plan.

“Short term measures that can have an immediate impact on emissions whilst improving the quality of peoples’ lives must be prioritised while protecting those who are vulnerable to the worst impacts of the current energy crisis. There needs to be a strong focus on assisting those households that are most affected by high energy prices. Over the longer term we simply must reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels.”

On Climate Adaptation Professor Thorne added, “The issue of adapting to climate change and ensuring a climate resilient Ireland has become even more important given global emissions projections. There is now an urgent need to prioritize adaptation actions so that the resilience and health of our ecosystems, infrastructure, land, water, biodiversity and communities is enhanced. The Council therefore recommends for the new National Adaptation Framework to be completed as soon as possible.”

Council chairperson Marie Donnelly concluded by stating that “The Council will fully analyse and discuss the measures outlined in the National Climate Action Plan 2023 and provide more detailed sectoral advice to government in due course.”



ENDS

**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

Section 4.2 of the Climate Act as amended sets out that National Climate Action Plans should be “consistent with the carbon budget programme” and should include *inter alia*

- sector specific actions that are required to comply with the carbon budget and sectoral emissions ceiling for the period to which the plan relates,
- sector specific actions that are required to address any failure, or projected failure, to comply with the carbon budget and sectoral emissions ceiling for the period to which the plan relates