

Press Release

Issued: 13th November 2025

Climate Change Advisory Council calls for faster action

Ireland has failed to achieve the targeted emission reductions during the first Carbon Budget period (2021-2025). Instead of the maximum emissions of 295 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq) set out in the Carbon Budget to 2025, we will overshoot by about 10 Mt CO₂eq. Whilst acknowledging progress made, the Council warns that this overshoot will need to be paid back in the next Carbon Budget period (2026-2030) making it increasingly difficult to achieve.

The biggest blockage to Ireland's progress remains our dependence on expensive, harmful fossil fuels, which were subsidised by €4.7bn of taxpayers' money in 2024.

Launching the final chapter of its Annual Review the Council once again, called out Transport, where emissions remain stubbornly high. Both the Government and the public can do more collectively and individually to make significant emissions reductions. The Council calls for increased expenditure on public transport ensuring efficient, reliable and timely services, increased grants for less expensive electric vehicles (EVs) and the rapid implementation of a demand management strategy to help drive down emissions in this sector.

In addition, the Council has emphasised the critical role that Local Authorities play in driving climate action at community level, especially with the establishment of flagship "decarbonisation zones" within each local authority area. These zones create momentum and deliver locally tailored solutions for households and businesses.

The Council re-emphasised the significant opportunity that Ireland has to invest in households, communities and businesses, rather than paying extremely punitive compliance costs estimated to be up to €26bn for failing to meet EU targets.

Commenting, Marie Donnelly, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council said, "In our first Carbon Budget period, progress has undoubtedly been made in the built environment with the roll out of retrofits in our homes, the increased uptake of protected urea in agriculture and the growth in the development of renewable energy especially wind and solar, including on our houses. However, we need to redesign how we commute, heat homes, and power the economy. That means real investment in people, infrastructure, and communities, not more delay."

"We have the opportunity and the resources to transform Ireland, both in terms of reducing emissions and preparing for future climate events. We must act now because if we don't, we will pay the financial and societal price by losing out on secure and affordable energy, a healthier and more sustainable society, both today, and for future generations."

Ahead of Ireland's Presidency of the European Union, the Council has urged the Government to fully integrate all climate and energy-related EU directives into Irish law within the legally binding time limit.

ENDS

If you have any questions or are seeking further comment, please do not hesitate to contact:

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This year, the Climate Change Advisory Council has published Sectoral Reviews throughout the year.

Chapter	Published
Our Changing Climate	Published 19 th March 2025
Electricity	Published 30 th April 2025
Transport	Published 18 th June 2025
Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use (AFOLU)	Published 16 th July 2025
Built Environment, Industry and Waste	Published 3 rd September 2025
Preparing for Ireland's Changing Climate	Published 30 th September 2025
Biodiversity	Published 15 th October 2025
Cross Sectoral	Published 13 th November 2025
Irish Translation of Summary document	Published 13 th November 2025