

2nd June 2023 - Statement by the Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council following the publication of Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2022 to 2040

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2022 to 2040 published by the EPA today, lays bare the scale of the challenge that Ireland faces if we are to remain within our carbon budgets. Growth in our population and the economy is very positive but it must take place in a way that decouples this growth from emissions.

We need to decarbonise the economy and society, at greater speed and scale, while ensuring there is a just transition. The Government needs to set out credible and detailed implementation plans to enable us to achieve our ambitious targets. Every sector of the economy is required to play its part, with support being provided by Government to the most vulnerable people in communities throughout Ireland.

We have seen significant progress in the reductions of emissions when the Government has set out, implemented and financially supported the delivery of transformational measures such as the National Retrofitting Scheme. We need to see this approach taken across all sectors.

Each sector needs a detailed emissions trajectory now, setting out how the sectoral emissions ceilings will be achieved including resolution of the outstanding issues regarding unallocated savings and the Land Use Sector.

Actions that will have an immediate impact include:

- acceleration of the roll out of solar power on commercial and public sector buildings.
- rapid increase of the use of newer fertilisers in agriculture.
- a continued reduction in public transport fares to support a modal shift and behavioural change.

Whilst the projections have illustrated that Ireland has a much stronger story to tell in respect of its climate ambition than a few short years ago, we must urgently resolve the remaining policy gaps and move on swiftly to implementation.