

Statement by the Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council following the publication of Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2021 to 2040

Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2021 to 2040, published by the EPA today highlights the huge challenge Ireland faces in meeting its national and EU targets.

The projections reinforce the need to accelerate the implementation of planned climate actions and identify and implement significant further measures to put Ireland on track to remain within its carbon budgets.

All sectors must urgently increase their efforts to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Across society a sea change is required to urgently reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels. The decarbonisation of the electricity sector using our own indigenous resources (e.g. wind and solar power) will contribute to the clean energy transition in heating and transport and needs to be accelerated. This has the added long-term benefit of reducing our currently high household and business energy costs.

Realising this potential will require a very significant level of investment. While Government investment must increase, businesses and households will also need to play their part.

Measures should be targeted at those in challenging circumstances, fuel poverty and with low incomes. This includes income supports and targeted investment in low income households that will support society in reducing its dependency on fossil fuels.