



Press Release

Climate Change Advisory Council propose Ireland's first carbon budget programme

- The Council has today submitted proposed carbon budgets consistent with a 51% reduction in greenhouse gases in 2030 relative to 2018 as provided for in the Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development (Amendment) Act to the Minister of Environment, Climate and Communications.
- Carbon budgets prescribe the maximum amount of greenhouse gases that may be emitted over a specific period of time in the State.
- It is now for the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to propose carbon budgets to Government and the Oireachtas. Once adopted by the Oireachtas, the Minister will use each carbon budget to prepare sectoral emissions ceilings for relevant sectors of the economy.
- The Council stresses the need for urgent and immediate action by all of Government including investment in enabling infrastructure and policies to support emissions reduction actions across all sectors of the economy.

25 October 2021: The Climate Change Advisory Council (the Council) has submitted its proposal for Ireland's first carbon budget programme to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan T.D. The programme is broken down into three five-year carbon budgets.

Carbon budgets prescribe the maximum amount of greenhouse gases that may be emitted over a specific period of time in the State. The first two carbon budgets in the programme provide for the 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the state by 2030 relative to 2018 as set out in the Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development (Amendment) Act.

The following table sets out the proposed carbon budget programme:

	2021 – 2025 CB1	2026 – 2030 CB2	2031 – 2035 (provisional) CB3
	All Gases		
Carbon Budget (MtCO ₂ eq.)	295	200	151
Annual Average Percentage Change in Emissions	-4.8%	-8.3%	-3.5%
The above figures are consistent with emissions in 2018 of 68.3Mt CO ₂ eq reducing to 33.5Mt CO ₂ eq in 2030 thus allowing compliance with the 51% emission reduction target.			

The first carbon budget has built in the implications of the time-lag between making decisions and investments on the one hand, and on the other hand, seeing the emissions reductions come into

effect. It should also be recalled that the first year of the first carbon budget period is almost over. Therefore, the Council does not believe that a 7% per annum reduction in the first carbon budget period is appropriate. However, the Council stresses that the carbon budget programme for the decade requires immediate action and investment in the first period in order to deliver the accelerated reductions in the second carbon budget period which are required to meet the 2030 target of a 51% reduction relative to 2018.

Commenting on the programme, Marie Donnelly, Chair of the Council said:

“The proposed carbon budgets will have an impact on society and the economy but allow us to act on climate change in a planned and organised way. The budget is based on the best available science and defines an appropriate and necessary path to addressing the climate challenge. Many of the changes required now will only have a real impact on emissions in the second period.

Now is the time to put policies and supports in place that will help those people, communities and businesses that will be impacted by the significant changes we need to make to how we live, work and travel.”

The Council’s submission marks the first step in the budgetary process. Once the carbon budget programme has been adopted by the Government and the Oireachtas, Minister Ryan will prepare individual emissions ceilings for each sector of the economy in consultation with other relevant Ministers.

Ms Donnelly concluded:

“The carbon budgets provide a framework, but what is urgently required is transformative change which is led by all of Government on a sustained basis, supported by all sectors of the economy, and all members of society. This will require significant investment across the economy.”

The scientific advice, data and reasoning which informed the Council’s proposed carbon budget programme are outlined in a detailed technical report. The Technical Report is available on www.climatecouncil.ie/carbonbudgets.

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Notes for Editors

About the Council

The Council was established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

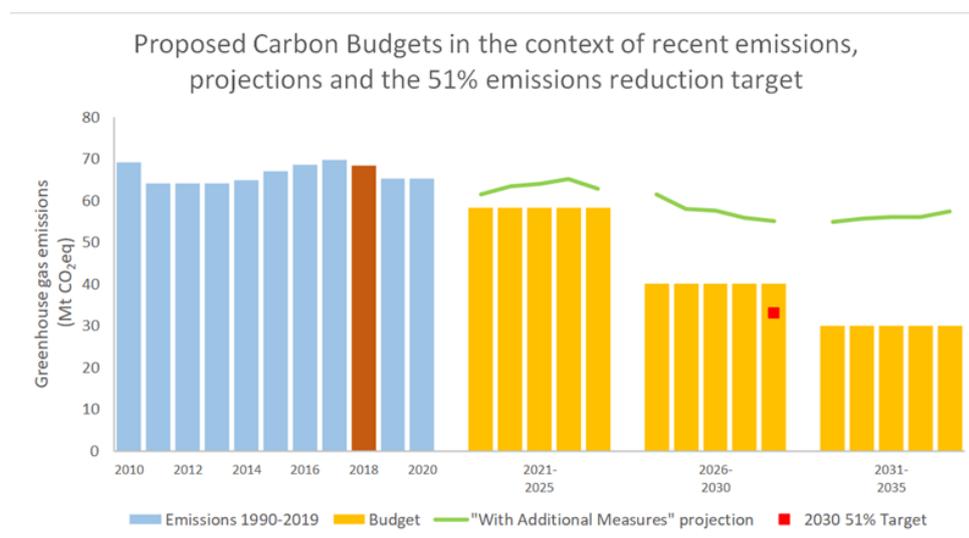
The Climate Change Advisory Council provides independent and science-based advice to Government and policy makers on what Ireland needs to do to achieve a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050. It is also tasked with assessing the progress made towards this goal.

About the Carbon Budgets

The Council’s proposed carbon budget programme is:

	2021 – 2025 CB1	2026 – 2030 CB2	2031 – 2035 (provisional) CB3
	All Gases		
Carbon Budget (MtCO ₂ eq.)	295	200	151
Annual Average Percentage Change in Emissions	-4.8%	-8.3%	-3.5%
The above figures are consistent with emissions in 2018 of 68.3Mt CO ₂ eq reducing to 33.5Mt CO ₂ eq in 2030 thus allowing compliance with the 51% emission reduction target.			

The third carbon budget is provisional and consistent with the 2050 national climate objective. In line with the legislation this carbon budget will be reviewed and finalised by the end of 2024. The following chart illustrates the carbon budgets for the three budget periods relative to reported emissions for the period 2010-2019 and projected emissions for the year 2020.



In line with Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Regulations 2021, the budget is expressed in millions of tonnes (Mega Tonnes) of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂ eq.) as calculated using the common metric Global Warming Potential 100 (GWP₁₀₀) published in the IPCC 5th Assessment Report. These updated metrics will also be used in calculating Ireland’s compliance with its obligations under EU climate legislation in respect of the years 2021-2030. Emissions and removals from all sectors of the economy are included except international aviation and marine navigation. The table below shows the emissions for the year 2018 (the reference year for the 2030 target) using those metrics.

2018	Mt CO ₂ eq	
Energy		37.0
Industrial Processes		3.2

Agriculture		22.3
Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry		
	Emissions	9.6
	Removals	-4.8
	Net LULUCF	4.8
Waste		1.0
Total Emissions		68.3