



*****EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 ON WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER 2026*****

Government measures not enough to prevent industrial emissions rising again, warns Climate Change Advisory Council

- Industry is projected to be Ireland's second worst-performing sector after transport, with emissions set to rise again between now and 2030
- Ireland is significantly off track on biomethane production, while delays in approving low-carbon cement technologies are holding back progress.
- Ireland generated 16.7 million tonnes of waste in 2024, while 37% of municipal waste was exported for final treatment highlighting significant gaps in Ireland's ability to manage its own waste.
- Ireland has the second-lowest circularity rate in the EU.

Wednesday 14th October:

Launching the *Industry and Waste* chapter of its Annual Review 2026 today, the Climate Change Advisory Council has warned that much stronger Government action is needed to reduce industrial emissions, which are projected to rise again over the coming years.

The Council said that while industrial emissions have fallen for four consecutive years and are now 15.9% below 2018 levels, emissions from this sector are now expected to stagnate until 2030. Industry has already provisionally exceeded its emissions ceiling for 2021–2025 by 9.1% and is projected to be the second worst-performing sector after transport against its next emissions ceiling. By 2030, emissions are projected to be just 11.6% below 2018 levels, well short of the Government's 35% reduction target.

The Council said it is particularly concerning that EPA projections show almost no difference between projected industrial emissions under existing Government measures and those including additional planned measures, demonstrating that there is an absence of clear additional Government measures to meet 2030 decarbonisation targets.

A key priority for the sector is electrification and fuel switching away from fossil fuels to renewables such as biomethane, which can provide a renewable energy for industrial processes that are difficult to electrify. However, Ireland remains significantly off track against its target to produce 5.7 TWh of biomethane by 2030. Just seven projects, worth €19 million, were approved under the first €40 million Biomethane Capital Grant Scheme.

With up to €200 million in further capital supports planned between 2026 and 2030, the Council says lessons must be learned from the first scheme. It is calling for the

Renewable Heat Obligation to be finalised urgently, alongside a separate support scheme to accelerate indigenous biomethane production.

The Council has also warned that a growing backlog in the approval of low-carbon cement and concrete technologies is holding back emissions reductions in the sector. Some proposed solutions have been awaiting decisions from the National Standards Authority of Ireland's Concrete Committee for several years.

The Review also finds that Ireland's progress towards a circular economy is stalling. Ireland generated 16.7 million tonnes of waste in 2024 - around 8.5kg per person every day - with annual waste generation increasing by more than 20% over the past decade. A significant reduction in the generation of waste is required to meet Ireland's EU commitments, supported by increased recycling rates and spending on new circular economy infrastructure. More than a third (37%) of municipal waste was exported for final treatment, highlighting significant gaps in Ireland's ability to manage its own waste.

Ireland's circularity rate - a measure of how much material is recycled back into the economy - was just 2% in 2024, the second lowest in the EU and significantly below the EU average of 12.2%. The municipal recycling rate has also remained largely unchanged over the past decade and Ireland will miss the EU target to recycle 55% of municipal waste.

The Council is calling on the Government to use Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the EU to provide greater leadership on the circular economy. The Government should translate this into decisive national action and accelerate the delivery of the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy 2026–2028.

Jillian Mahon, Member of the Climate Change Advisory Council, said:

"Industry has made real progress in reducing emissions in recent years, but we cannot assume that progress will continue. The projections are a clear warning that the measures currently planned are not enough to deliver the change needed by the end of this decade.

We need to remove the barriers that are slowing transition. That means making it easier to electrify industry, developing a viable indigenous biomethane sector and ensuring that lower-carbon technologies are not left waiting years for approval.

There is enormous untapped potential in the circular economy. Ireland cannot be satisfied with having the second-lowest circularity rate in the EU. Reducing waste and making better use of the materials and resources already available to us can cut emissions, reduce our reliance on raw materials and build a more resilient economy."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

- The Industry sector includes emissions from manufacturing combustion and industrial processes. In 2025, these accounted for 11.4% of Ireland's total greenhouse gas emissions.

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

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The Climate Change Advisory Council will publish Sectoral Reviews throughout the year. The publication schedule below is subject to change and indicative only:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Published</u>
Our Changing Climate	Published 1st April 2026
Electricity	Published 13th May 2026
Transport	Published 17th June 2026
Built Environment	Published 29th July 2026
Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use (AFOLU)	Published 9th September 2026
Preparing for Ireland's Changing Climate	Published 29th September 2026
Industry and Waste	Published 14th October 2026
Biodiversity	Start of November 2026
Cross Sectoral	Mid November 2026
Irish Translation of Summary document	Mid November 2026