

INTERIM CLIMATE ACTIONS 2021

First Progress Report

Q1 2021

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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Glossary

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CCMA	County and City Management Association
CE	Circular Economy
COFORD	Council for Forest Research and Development
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
D/Education	Department of Education
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DPER	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development
D/Taoiseach	Department of the Taoiseach
D/Transport	Department of Transport
EI	Enterprise Ireland
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
EU	European Union
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GLAS	Green Low Carbon Agri-environmental Scheme
IDA	Industrial Development Authority
LA	Local Authority
LESS	Low Emission Slurry Spreading
NESC	National Economic and Social Council
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSAI	National Standards Authority of Ireland
NUIG	National University of Ireland Galway
PPN	Public Participation Network
RESS	Renewable Electricity Support Scheme
RES-E	Renewable Energy Sources - Electricity
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SI	Statutory Instrument
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SWFLM	Severe Weather and Flood Liaison Manager
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
UN	United Nations
YFCIS	Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme

78% Climate Action Measures Completed in Q1 2021

Highlights include:



Governance

Published the **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021**, setting our climate commitments in law



Electricity

Government decision secured on new **offshore grid policy**, bringing more clarity to offshore renewable energy projects

New rural development policy published, including plans for rural Ireland to transition to a climate neutral economy



Agriculture



Organic Farming Scheme reopened to support farmers to farm more sustainably

Enterprise



Eco-design legislation updated, which will improve the energy efficiency of products on the market



Funding provided to support **peatland community initiatives**

€10 million Climate Enterprise Action Fund launched to support client companies through Enterprise Ireland

Citizen Engagement



Public consultation launched, seeking citizen and expert views to inform the Climate Action Plan 2021

Transport



Design teams appointed for the **improvement of bus routes** as part of BusConnects Cork



International

New grant scheme launched to assist in the purchase of more sustainable trucks, buses, vans and coaches

Co-chairing the **Informal Experts Group on Climate and Security for 2021** as part of Ireland's new leadership role on the UN Security Council

Executive Summary

Climate action in quarter 1 2021

With the [announcement](#) that 2020 had tied for the warmest year on record with 2016 globally, and was the warmest year ever for Europe, we could see more than ever the consequences of the climate crisis worldwide and the need for action. The publication of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill on 23 March 2021 signalled a new era for climate action policy in Ireland, marking significant progress for Q1 2021.

The Bill commits Ireland's transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally-sustainable and climate-neutral economy by 2050. It also strengthens the role of the Climate Change Advisory Council and sets out that the first two five-year carbon budgets produced by the Council must equate to an emissions reduction of 51% to 2030. To achieve this, the Bill commits to the development of a National Long-Term Strategy as well as annual updates to the Climate Action Plan.

Interim Climate Actions 2021

To ensure continued domestic climate action while the Climate Action Plan 2021 is being prepared, the Interim Climate Actions 2021 was also published on 23 March 2021. It contains 250 climate actions for delivery, broken down into 561 measures. Responsibility for their delivery is split across 13 Government Departments and over 35 Agencies.

Interim Climate Actions 2021 formally replaces the Annex of Actions published under the Climate Action Plan 2019, and will be subject to the same process of monitoring and reporting, including the publication of quarterly Progress Reports. This is the first Progress Report on the climate measures due for delivery in Q1 2021.

This First Progress Report demonstrates a 78% delivery rate for Q1 2021, with 78 of the 100 measures due delivered on schedule. The need to overcome any delays in climate action implementation is clear, with further scientific and policy developments this quarter underscoring the need for urgent climate action.

New research shows the risk we face

According to [new research](#) by the University of Leeds, global ice loss is accelerating and now following the worst-case climate warming scenarios. [Research](#) undertaken by the Marine Institute similarly found that climate change has already impacted Irish waters, indicating that the ocean off the southwest coast will become warmer and less salty by 2035, harming the marine eco-system.

This message was further echoed by the United Nations [2020 Adaptation Gap Report](#). The report presented the need to step up action to adapt to a "new climate reality", and stated the need for increased investment in adaptation measures and nature-based solutions.

Positive international action

There were several positive international climate action developments which took place in the first quarter of 2021. In the United States, one of President Biden's first actions upon taking office was to [re-join the Paris Agreement](#), signing several executive orders to re-instate greenhouse gas policies which were rolled back in the last administration. Over 50 countries committed to protecting at least 30% of the Earth's land and oceans at the [One World Summit](#) in January, in an effort to stop global biodiversity loss.

In February, the European Council established the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#), as part of the €750 billion EU recovery fund to invest in Member States post-COVID. Its main aims are to fund the development of a green, digital transformation, with an emphasis on building sustainable, resilient societies. Further, the EU LIFE programme was [announced](#) in February, which will invest €121 million into environment, nature and climate action projects. This is an increase of 20% on last year.

The public having their say

We could also see more public participation and engagement on the climate crisis throughout Q1 2021. For example, the United Nations Development Programme produced [the largest ever survey](#) on public opinion on climate change, covering 50 countries and reflecting over half of the world's population. The survey showed that the majority of people are calling for climate actions beyond what is already in place.

In March, Finland became the latest European country to actively involve citizens in its climate policymaking, [announcing](#) that it would establish a Citizens' Jury on Climate Action to gather public feedback on potential emission reduction measures. The Fridays for Future movement [returned to our streets and screens](#) around the world after months of quiet since the start of the pandemic, with over 700 digital and physical protests in 50 countries.

How Ireland is performing

Domestically in Q1 2021, Social Justice Ireland led the [Sustainable Progress Index](#), which ranked 15 comparable EU countries on their delivery of the UN's [Sustainable Development Goals](#). Ireland ranked lowest on the environmental index, showing that we the need to catch up with other EU countries regarding climate policy implementation.

In January, Bord na Móna [formally ended all peat harvesting](#) on its lands, reflecting a landmark change in Irish land-use towards a lower carbon future. Meanwhile, over sixty of Ireland's largest companies, including ESB, An Post and Gas Networks Ireland, [publicly committed](#) to a low-carbon pledge. The pledge states that emissions reduction targets must be set no later than 2024, and must include both direct and indirect emissions, including from supply chains.

Overview of Interim Climate Actions in Q1 2021

The Interim Climate Actions 2021 was developed with input from all Departments. It re-establishes a whole-of-government approach to climate action, with the spread of responsibility for measures due in Q1 2021 detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of measures due by Department in Q1 2021

Responsible Department	Q1 2021 measures due
D/Transport	8
DAFM	21
DECC	19
DCEDIY	1
D/Education	2
DETE	15
DFA	2
DFHERIS	1
DHLGH	16
DPER	2
DRCD	3
D/Taoiseach	10
Total	100

This is the first Progress Report on the Interim Climate Actions 2021. In sum, in Q1 2021:

- 78 out of the 100 measures due for delivery were delivered on schedule;
- A delivery rate of 78% is reported; and
- 22 measures were delayed and will carry over for delivery and reporting in Q2 2021.

Reasons for Delay in Q1 2021

Centrally reporting on climate action delivery by the Department of the Taoiseach continues to reveal challenges to action implementation across the system. In Q1 2021, delays in implementation primarily related to the complexity and technical aspects of climate action delivery that resulted in some work elements taking longer than anticipated. This includes:

- levels of stakeholder consultations required;
- persisting waste and forestry licencing issues;
- legislative complexities;

- tendering difficulties; and
- scale of outreach required.

Resourcing and capacity issues were apparent in many of these instances, echoing challenges experienced under the Climate Action Plan 2019.

Other reasons for delay included desires to stagger timetabling with other key developments (e.g. the publication of the Climate Action (Amendment) Bill), while constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic continued to bring challenges for some discrete measures in terms of capacity and community access.

Overall however, most Departments signalled that the delays experienced in Q1 2021 will be quickly overcome, with many expecting delivery in Q2 2021. We will continue to track progress and report next quarter on all delayed measures.

A summary of headline measures completed and delayed in Q1 2021 is provided below, with a focus on measures with the highest potential for emissions reduction. More detailed information on each measure due for reporting in this first reporting quarter is provided from page 15 onwards.

Progress of Q1 2021 measures

In total, 78 climate action measures were delivered on schedule by Departments and Agencies in Q1 2021, out of a total of 100 measures due. Headline examples of such completed measures are outlined in Table 2 demonstrating the breadth and depth of climate action across the system.

Table 2 - Example measures completed on schedule in Q1 2021

Sector	Action/ Measure	Progress Update
Governance	<i>Action 1a: Publication of Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill</i>	The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 published in Q1 will support Ireland’s transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally-sustainable and climate-neutral economy by 2050. It sets clear climate action targets, structures and commitments in law.

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	<i>Action 6a: Develop a methodology for the analysis of Departmental capital investment proposals from a climate perspective</i>	The National Development Plan is being revised and will detail Government capital expenditures planned over 2021-2030. To ensure that the review is consistent with climate commitments in the Programme for Government , a methodology for assessing the climate impact of capital spending proposals was agreed and shared with Departments.
	<i>Action 8a: Finalise and publish a new Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</i>	Climate action can, and must, work for rural Ireland. A new rural development policy, " Our Rural Future ", was published in Q1. It provides a plan for developing rural Ireland over the next five years, including its' transition to a climate neutral economy. It supports opportunities of the transition, including from housing, digital, planning, jobs and agricultural viewpoints.
Electricity	<i>Action 45a: Secure Government decision on new offshore transmission grid policy</i>	Developing clear offshore energy grid policy is key to reach our renewable energy targets and enable industry progression. The framework approved by Government on 14 April sets out business models and responsibilities that will help to bring clarity to offshore energy developments.
Enterprise	<i>Action 61a: Update Eco-design legislation to enable the enforcement of European Regulations on Eco-design</i>	Eco-design regulations enhance the energy efficiency of products and, in turn, can force less efficient products off the market. The Statutory Instrument signed in Q1 enforces new European regulations that set limits on the energy consumption of new products or increase the limits in place for others.
	<i>Action 63a: Deliver Enterprise Ireland's €10 million fund to support client companies in the low-carbon transition</i>	Enterprises must be supported in our transition to a climate neutral economy. Applications are now open for client companies to apply to the €10 million Climate Enterprise Action Fund through Enterprise Ireland, providing access to multiple business vouchers and supports.

	<i>Action 153a: Re-develop Origin Green Charter to incorporate emission reduction targets for manufacturing</i>	Origin Green is a national food and drink programme that helps industry to set and achieve sustainability targets. The measure completed in Q1 contributes to setting mandatory emissions targets for Origin Green members with a turnover of more than €50 million. This will help to drive emissions reduction at a large scale.
Transport	<i>Action 99a: Launch a new grant scheme to assist in the purchase of alternatively fuelled heavy-duty vehicles</i>	Freight is considered hard to decarbonise given the current limited opportunities to electrify heavy duty vehicles. Supporting the use of less emissions intensive vehicles, as this grant scheme aims to support, is key.
	<i>Action 112b: Appoint design teams to undertake options assessment stage for thirteen corridors to be developed with bus lanes or other forms of bus priority as part of BusConnects Cork</i>	Expanding public transport opportunities across Ireland is important for both climate mitigation and balanced regional development. BusConnects Cork aims to improve the overall bus network across the Cork area, improving the passenger experience and ensuring better connection with other forms of transport. The appointment of expert design teams in Q1 signals progress for the project.
Agriculture	<i>Action 144a: Organic Farming Scheme to be reopened following approval of relevant Rural Development Programme amendment in 2021</i>	Organic farming is a more sustainable way of farming, often less intensive and with fewer chemical inputs. The Programme for Government commits to increasing organic land cover from c.2% currently to 25% by 2030. Supporting farmers to make the organic transition is key, as this scheme aims to do.
	<i>Action 184a: Provide funding to purchase equipment to establish a 'National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory' to measure greenhouse gas fluxes from soils under agricultural management</i>	Approximately €2 million has been provided by DAFM to purchase monitoring equipment for a National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory. Storing carbon in soil holds significant sequestration potential, with some soils better at this than others. Establishing evidence to guide better land use management is important for farmers and national emissions reporting.

Land Use	<i>Action 183c: Provision of funding to support peatland community initiatives</i>	Grant funding of c.€230,000 was awarded to 25 local community groups for peatland projects in Q1 2021. Example projects include developing plans to restore the land, nature initiatives, recreational spaces and educational materials. Peatlands are important for carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection.
Education	<i>Action 89a: Individual areas of work/projects identified and showcased in national media</i>	To enhance communications on climate action in schools, a first press release was issued by the Department of Education in Q1 2021. It outlined investment of €14 million in the Schools Energy Retrofit Pathfinder programme . The programme will target energy use and emissions reduction of 50% in schools, including testing deep retrofit and more sustainable heating solutions.
Citizen Engagement	<i>Action 230c: Launch public consultation seeking citizen and expert views to inform the design of policies, measures and actions for the next iteration of the Climate Action Plan 2021</i>	Citizens must be at the heart of our transition to a climate-neutral economy. Expert views are also key to enable informed decisions. In Q1 2021, citizens and experts were asked to join the ‘Climate Conversation’ and give their views through online surveys, open submissions and workshops. Views received will help to inform the design of the wider National Dialogue on Climate Action and shape actions in the Climate Action Plan 2021.
International	<i>Action 209a: Co-chair the Informal Experts Group on Climate and Security for 2021 including the drafting of work programme and the identification of experts for briefings</i>	Through our new role on the UN Security Council , Ireland can now play a leadership role on climate and security issues internationally. A position paper and schedule of meetings were developed in Q1. The group aims to assist the Council to achieve a comprehensive approach to climate-security risks on the ground.

Measures delayed in Q1 2021

Finally, 22 out of the 100 measures due for delivery in Q1 under the Interim Climate Actions 2021 were not completed before the end of the quarter. They are now delayed and will be tracked and reported on in Q2 2021. Priority examples of such delayed measures, with high potential for emissions reduction, are outlined in Table 3.

Table 3 – Example Measures delayed in Q1 2021

Sector	Action/ Measure	Progress Update
Governance	<i>Action 12b: Provide that Local Authorities consider GHG emissions, as part of the City/County Development Plan process</i>	Local Authority (LA) Climate Actions Plans are essential to translate national climate policy and objectives into practice on the ground. The scale of outreach required for this measure has produced delays in Q1. So far, 27 of the 31 Development plans are being reviewed and adopted in the context of LA Climate Action Plans.
	<i>Action 24a: Hold quarterly meetings of the Climate Action Delivery Board</i>	The Climate Action Delivery Board is an important governance structure that brings the heads of Departments together to focus on climate action. The Board is co-chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach and DECC. Due to conflicting priorities and resource constraints, particularly arising from COVID-19, no meeting took place in Q1. A meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible.
Electricity	<i>Action 39a: Introduce revised regulations for interim solar rooftop planning exemptions, with defined exclusion zones around airports and aerodromes</i>	Removing barriers to community participation in the energy transition is essential, including reducing planning restrictions to install solar panels. Mapping of aviation safety is ongoing, and a temporary solution for revised regulations involving buffer zones was agreed to. These regulations are expected to be submitted to the Oireachtas in Q2 2021.
	<i>Action 42b: Completion of the National Marine Planning Framework</i>	The National Marine Planning Framework is essential to meet Ireland's renewable energy ambitions. It will set out a national plan for Ireland's seas for the next 20 years, providing a framework for the development of offshore renewable energy. It is now expected to complete in Q2.
Enterprise	<i>Action 58a: Agree detailed action plan for the cement sector with key stakeholders</i>	Cement is one of the largest emissions-producing industries in Ireland. Developing action plans is key to reduce impact. Concerns about the consistency of fuel switching proposals with national waste and energy policy require further work.

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<p>Transport</p>	<p><i>Action 106a: Develop a delivery plan for the implementation of 1,000 km of new/ upgraded cycling infrastructure</i></p>	<p>Shifting to more sustainable travel such as cycling is needed to reduce emissions from the transport sector. Ministerial feedback on a draft ‘Five Year Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Delivery Plan’ produced delays in Q1. Publication of the plan is now expected in Q2 2021.</p>
<p>Forestry</p>	<p><i>Action 172a: Increase output of forestry licences to meet demand</i></p>	<p>The area and volume of forestry licences issued in Q1 2021 displays an upward trend compared to the same period in 2020. However, the licences issued are still below target and the rate of issue will need to increase further in 2021. Sustainable tree planting brings benefits for climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity. Working groups in DAFM will progress this measure.</p>
<p>Waste & the Circular Economy</p>	<p><i>Action 200a: Publish a whole-of-Government Circular Economy Strategy setting out overall national policy in relation to circular economy</i></p>	<p>The circular economy shifts industry and growth away from a culture of disposal to instead focus on long-life products that can be renewed, reused, repaired and upgraded. This helps to preserve natural resources and reduce pollution. A whole-of-Government Strategy is key to embed this thinking and will publish in Q2 2021.</p>
<p>Citizen Engagement</p>	<p><i>Action 228a: Establish a Youth Climate Council to help support future dialogue with young people</i></p>	<p>The voices of young people are essential to strong and just climate policymaking as the generation that will be impacted the most by action taken now. The National Dialogue on Climate Action consulted with young people in Q1 as part of the Climate Action Plan 2021 consultation process. An Advisory Group of young people will guide the development of a permanent Youth Climate Council by Q3 2021.</p>

More detailed information on each measure due for reporting in Q1 2021 under the Interim Climate Actions 2021 is provided next.

Q1 2021 Actions

Q1 2021 Summary

Complete	Delayed	Total
78	22	100

Governance

Mitigation

Action 1	Publish the Climate Action (Amendment) Bill 2019
Q1 2021 measure: Publication of Bill	
Responsible body: DECC	
Status: Complete	
Update: Government published the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 on 23 March 2021.	
See: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/984d2-climate-action-and-low-carbon-development-amendment-bill-2020/	

Action 6	Publish a revised National Development Plan detailing Government capital expenditures planned over 2021-2030
Q1 2021 measure: Develop a methodology for the analysis of Departmental capital investment proposals from a climate perspective	
Responsible body: DPER	
Status: Complete	
Update: Methodology agreed between DPER and DECC and issued to all Departments.	

Action 8	Publication of new Rural Development Policy
Q1 2021 measure: Finalise and publish a new Rural Development Policy 2021-2025	
Responsible body: DRCD	
Status: Complete	
Update: New Rural Development Policy “Our Rural Future” finalised and published.	
Please see: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/4c236-our-rural-future-vision-and-policy-context/	

Cross-cutting Policies

Action 12	Implement National Planning Framework
Q1 2021 measure: Take account of LA Climate Action Plans when including objectives for GHG emissions and climate change adaptation	
Responsible body: DHLGH	
Status: Delayed	
Update: Work is ongoing with Local Authorities to integrate Climate Action Plans and climate change adaptation measures into the overall work of Local Authorities, particularly in relation to spatial planning.	

Action 12	Implement National Planning Framework
Q1 2021 measure: Provide that LAs consider GHG emissions, in the context of LA Climate Action Plan as part of the City/County Development Plan process	
Responsible body: DHLGH	
Status: Delayed	
Update: 27 of the 31 Development plans in the State are currently in the process of being reviewed and adopted which are taking account of LA Climate Action Plans.	

Stakeholder Engagement

Action 15	Advance coordination of climate action research & modelling from the centre of Government, including internal communications
Q1 2021 measure: Commence research update seminar series to connect research and policy communities	
Responsible body: D/Taoiseach	
Status: Complete	
<p>Update: The 'Research Update Series' was initiated at a meeting of the Research & Modelling subgroup on the Environment and Climate Change on 26 February 2021. The first presentation was from Prof. Brian Ó Gallachóir, Director of MaREI and Professor of Energy Engineering at University College Cork. Prof Ó Gallachóir was chosen to commence the series to provide a systems-wide perspective on the future of climate policy, including what a step-up in climate ambition might mean for Ireland. A policy brief was produced and circulated following the event to capture key learnings and discussion points.</p> <p>A preliminary list of sectoral speakers has been drawn up to continue the series as part of the Research & Modelling subgroup, serving as a key step in better bridging the divide between research and policy communities.</p>	

Action 17	Continue to work with departments to ensure that the central policies adopted by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform are conducive to the achievement of the Government's climate objectives
Q1 2021 measure: Develop and implement a Remote Working Framework for Civil Service Organisations	
Responsible body: DPER	
Status: Delayed	
<p>Update: This has been retitled the "Blended Working Policy Framework for Civil Service Organisations" and is currently going through legal review.</p> <p>The Framework will then be brought to the Civil Service Management Board and subsequently shared with Unions. The revised timeframe is Q3.</p>	

Public Sector Leading By Example

Action 19	Develop and exploit remote working infrastructure
Q1 2021 measure: Develop and map a national dataset of remote working hub infrastructure, facilities and services; including funding, estimated uptake/need and ownership models	
Responsible body: DRCD	
Status: Delayed	
Update: 400+ hubs contacted following initial data-gathering. Survey deadline extended to facilitate hubs' difficulties with COVID-19 restrictions. Map intended for publication in Q2 2021.	

Action 24	Maintain the existing implementation structures including the Cabinet Committee on the Environment and Climate Change, Senior Officials Group and Climate Action Delivery Board, to oversee the implementation of the Interim Annex of Actions and the development of the Climate Action Plan 2021
Quarterly measure: Hold quarterly meetings of the Climate Action Delivery Board	
Responsible body: D/Taoiseach	
Status: Delayed	
Update: Due to conflicting policy priorities and resource constraints, in particular arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, no meeting of the Climate Action Delivery Board took place in Q1 2021. A meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible to review and drive implementation of the Interim Climate Actions 2021.	

Action 24	Maintain the existing implementation structures including the Cabinet Committee on the Environment and Climate Change, Senior Officials Group and Climate Action Delivery Board, to oversee the implementation of the Interim Annex of Actions and the development of the Climate Action Plan 2021
Quarterly measure: Publish progress report each quarter for the Climate Action Plan	
Responsible body: D/Taoiseach	
Status: Complete	
Update: The Interim Climate Actions 2021 were published by DECC on 23 March 2021. The process for quarterly monitoring and progress reporting immediately resumed from D/Taoiseach, with both reporting deadlines and measures due for delivery in Q1 2021 communicated promptly to Departments. Final updates on Q1 2021 measures were due from Departments on 23 April on Q1 2021. This report represents the first Progress Report on the Interim Climate Actions 2021.	

Action 25 **Extend flagship low-carbon projects to other towns and villages**

Q1 2021 measure: Develop Portlaoise as a low carbon town using suite of initiatives and a range of technologies deployed to serve as demonstrator for other towns

Responsible body: DHLGH

Status: Complete

Update: Laois County Council are developing [Portlaoise as a low carbon town](#) and have issued an interim review report on this initiative. Laois County Council presented on this initiative to other local authorities at a Decarbonising Zone workshop on 12 February 2021.

Learnings from the Portlaoise low carbon initiative will help to inform the development of Decarbonising Zones by other Local Authorities. A circular issued to Local Authorities on 10 February requiring them to identify a decarbonising zone in their area by 30 April.

Action 25 **Extend flagship low-carbon projects to other towns and villages**

Q1 2021 measure: Carry out a mid-project review of the Portlaoise project and identify practical actions for other towns

Responsible body: DHLGH

Status: Complete

Update: The Portlaoise project has been reviewed by the Decarbonising Zones Working Group, and was presented to Local Authorities at a workshop on 12 February 2021.

A circular issued to Local Authorities on 10 February requiring them to identify a decarbonising zone in their area by 30 April.

Action 26 **Complete the establishment of IDA Ireland's Green Economy Department, which will have responsibility for driving climate action in its client base and in the agency itself, and for winning new green Foreign Direct Investments**

Q1 2021 measure: Full department team to be put in place

Responsible body: DETE

Status: Complete

Update: The establishment of IDA's new Green Economy Department has been completed and the full new team is in place.

Adaptation

Action 29 Continue the coordination of Irish Global Climate Observing System activities to increase national capability in earth, ocean and atmosphere observations

Q1 2021 measure: Coordination of Irish Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) - Status of Climate of Ireland report

Responsible body: Met Éireann

Status: Complete

Update: GCOS-Ireland, chaired by Met Éireann, commissioned a research project in 2017 under a competitive research call for proposals to produce the Status of Climate of Ireland report 2020. The project was co-funded by Met Éireann, the Marine Institute and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the EPA on behalf of GCOS-Ireland.

The Status of Climate of Ireland report is authored by University College Cork and is published as part of the EPA Research Programme 2014 –2020.

Electricity

Mitigation

Action 34 Assess the network development required to integrate higher levels of RES-E and develop a high-level network development plan to (and beyond) 2030

Q1 2021 measure: Launch public consultation on 'Shaping our Electricity Future'

Responsible body: EirGrid

Status: Complete

Update: The Public Consultation on 'Shaping our Electricity Future' launched on 8 March 2021.

See: <https://consult.eirgrid.ie/consultation/public-consultation-shaping-our-electricity-future>

Action 36 Oversight of RESS Community Benefit Funds and community enabling framework

Q1 2021 measure: Publication of draft Good Practice Principles guidebook for consultation

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: [Public consultation](#) on the Guidebook commenced on 31 March 2021.

Action 37 Ensure that 15% of electricity demand is met by renewable sources contracted under Corporate Power Purchase Agreements

Q1 2021 measure: Publish Consultation Paper on Renewable Electricity Power Purchase Agreements

Responsible body: SEAI

Status: Complete

Update: [Public consultation](#) closed on 14 April 2021 and responses are being analysed.

Action 39 Conclude the review of the current planning exemptions relating to solar panels, to ensure that households, schools, and communities can be strong champions of climate action

Q1 2021 measure: Introduce revised regulations for interim solar rooftop planning exemptions, with defined exclusion zones around airports and aerodromes for solar installations

Responsible body: DHLGH

Status: Delayed

Update: The revised regulations involving buffer zones around aviation infrastructure are at an advanced stage. They are now expected to be submitted to the Joint Oireachtas Committee and Houses of the Oireachtas for approval in early Q2 2021, with a view to being subsequently signed into law by Minister of State Burke.

Action 40 Develop an enabling framework for micro-generation which tackles existing barriers and establishes suitable supports within relevant market segments

Q1 2021 measure: Launch public consultation on call for evidence on support mechanisms for microgeneration

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: [Public consultation](#) closed on 18 February 2021 and responses are being analysed.

Action 42 Facilitate the development of offshore wind, including the connection of at least 5GW of offshore wind, based on competitive auctions, to the grid by 2030

Q1 2021 measure: Completion of the National Marine Planning Framework in a manner to give priority to key national policies such as the overall decarbonisation of the economy and Ireland's renewable energy ambitions

Responsible body: DHLGH

Status: Delayed

Update: National Marine Planning Framework approved by Government on 23 March and Seanad Éireann on 19 April. Awaiting Resolution by Dáil, with vote due to take place 12 May 2021. Due to complete in May 2021.

Action 45 Develop a clear Offshore Energy Grid and Regulatory Policy

Q1 2021 measure: Secure Government decision on new offshore transmission grid policy

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: Memorandum for Government on offshore grid policy approved by Government meeting on 14 April 2021.

The framework for [Ireland's Offshore Electricity Transmission System](#) approved:

1. Is consistent with the pre and post 2030 Programme for Government commitments on offshore renewable energy;
2. Envisages a phased transition from the current decentralised offshore grid model to a centralised model over the course of this decade; and
3. Assigns the role of system operator and asset owner of Ireland's offshore electricity transmission system to the existing electricity onshore transmission system operator, EirGrid, to be provided for by way of legislation amending the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999, as amended, which the Minister will bring to Government in due course.

Stakeholder Engagement

Action 50	Launch of Renewable Energy joint venture between Coillte and ESB
Q1 2021 measure: Submit proposal to DAFM and DECC for the approval of a new joint venture between Coillte and ESB to develop 1,000MW of onshore windfarms by 2030. This is enough to power 500,000 homes	
Responsible body: Coillte	
Status: Complete	
Update: The proposal received approval from the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission in February https://www.ccpc.ie/business/ccpc-obtains-commitments-in-esb-coillte-joint-venture/	
The proposal has been submitted to DAFM and DECC and is currently being reviewed by NewERA as part of the approval process.	

Action 51	Expand the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Programme from 256 members to 500 by 2025 and 1,500 by 2030
Q1 2021 measure: Establish a National (and Regional) Sustainable Energy Communities Forum and National Steering Group with membership from the Network, SEAI, DECC and Relevant Supporting Departments and Organisations with the mandate to take learnings and ideas from the Network and recommend local and national actions that will assist in accelerating their rollout	
Responsible body: SEAI	
Status: Delayed	
Update: SEAI is working on a new approach for the forum and work programme. New planned delivery date is Q3 2021.	

Enterprise

Mitigation

Action 52	Develop a clear understanding of the enterprise sector CO₂ emissions and develop a clear decarbonisation pathway for the enterprise sector to meet current and potential future targets
Q1 2021 measure: Complete full analysis of enterprise emissions and development of interactive model	
Responsible body: DETE	
Status: Complete	
Update: The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has completed an analysis of manufacturing combustion emissions in Ireland and developed a model that outlines a number of technologies that can be implemented, at a firm level, across a number of sectors.	

Action 52	Develop a clear understanding of the enterprise sector CO₂ emissions and develop a clear decarbonisation pathway for the enterprise sector to meet current and potential future targets
Q1 2021 measure: Undertake analysis of potential abatement opportunities – identifying key sectors and opportunities for carbon abatement.	
Responsible body: DETE	
Status: Complete	
Update: The analysis outlined that the largest emitting sectors are food and beverages and other non-metallic mineral products (predominantly cement).	
The analysis also identified that the most effective approach to reducing emissions in the enterprise sector is to target the highest users of fossil fuels, particularly those using oil or Liquid Petroleum Gas in their heating processes.	

Action 52	Develop a clear understanding of the enterprise sector CO₂ emissions and develop a clear decarbonisation pathway for the enterprise sector to meet current and potential future targets
Q1 2021 measure: Develop key actions that emerge from the analysis that can be included in Climate Action Plan 2021	
Responsible body: DETE	
Status: Complete	
Update: The analysis has informed DETE's Climate Action Plan 2021 submitted to DECC and includes proposals for a number of actions for inclusion in the Climate Action Plan 2021. The implementation of these actions can drive emissions reductions across key sectors in the economy.	

Action 53	Develop an online climate action portal for enterprises with relevant tools and content (to include a carbon calculator, template action plan, signposting to relevant agency supports)
Q1 2021 measure: Appoint digital design contractor for development of an online climate action portal for businesses following engagement with stakeholders on key features	
Responsible body: DETE	
Status: Complete	
Update: Contract signed with Matrix Internet Ltd on 27 January 2021 to develop the climate action portal.	

Action 58	Engage with the cement sector to identify measures to support the achievement of identified potential abatement in the sector
Q1 2021 measure: Agree detailed action plan for the cement sector with key stakeholders identified in the Climate Action Plan 2019, based on the review of issues and policy implications prepared by DETE	
Responsible body: DETE	
Status: Delayed	
Update: Work is ongoing with DECC to agree scope of action plan to be discussed with interdepartmental group in preparation for discussion in advance of Climate Action Plan 2021.	
Outstanding concerns about the consistency of Solid Recovered Fuels switching with national waste and energy policy will form part of the discussions.	

Action 58	Engage with the cement sector to identify measures to support the achievement of identified potential abatement in the sector
Q1 2021 measure: Undertake consultation with key stakeholders to determine lead actors in implementation of the policy and sectoral recommendations	
Responsible body: DETE	
Status: Delayed	
Update: Stakeholders will be identified as part of the interdepartmental working group in preparation for Climate Action Plan 2021.	

Action 59	Include sustainability (including climate action) as a criterion in the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund open call selection criteria
Q1 2021 measure: Incorporate the agreed sustainability criterion in ongoing and future Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund calls	
Responsible body: EI	
Status: Complete	
Update: Revised Economic Impact and Sustainability criterion included in Call 3 of the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund , which was announced in September 2020. A total of 62 completed applications were received under Call 3 of the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund.	

Action 60	Continue development of the National Standards Authority of Ireland programme to support climate action policy, expanding supports where possible across sectors
Q1 2021 measure: Complete review of National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) Climate Action Programme 2019-2020 and use findings to inform the development of the next NSAI Climate Action Programme	
Responsible body: NSAI	
Status: Complete	
Update: NSAI have completed a review of the NSAI Standards Climate Action Programme 2019-2020, and drafted a document to inform the development of the next NSAI climate action programme.	

Action 61	Complete update of Eco-design Regulations which will introduce limits on the energy consumption of new products or increase the limits in place for products already covered by Regulations
Q1 2021 measure: Update Eco-design legislation to enable the enforcement of European Regulations on Eco-design	
Responsible body: DETE	
Status: Complete	
Update: SI No 96 of 2021 European Union (Ecodesign Requirements for Certain Energy-Related Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 signed on 5 March.	

Action 63	Development and launch Enterprise Ireland's new €10 million fund to support client companies in the low-carbon transition
Q1 2021 measure: Deliver the €10 million fund	
Responsible body: EI	
Status: Complete	
Update: Applications are now open for client companies to apply under the €10 million Climate Enterprise Action Fund for the Climate Action Voucher, GreenStart and GreenPlus on the Enterprise Ireland online portal (as well as Green4Micro via Local Enterprise Offices).	

Action 63	Development and launch Enterprise Ireland's new €10 million fund to support client companies in the low-carbon transition
Q1 2021 measure: Intensify communications and marketing initiatives to put a spotlight on clients with solutions that address carbon reduction and sustainability and highlight the business case for investing in CO₂ abatement	
Responsible body: EI	
Status: Complete	
Update: A communications campaign to promote these offers commenced in April. It includes national print media ads, national and regional radio ads and interviews, targeted online marketing via LinkedIn and a series of webinars over the summer to put a spotlight on some sectors with most impact on Ireland's climate objectives.	

Action 70	Publish Industrial Development Authority Ireland's 2021-2024 strategy, which will include a sustainability/climate action pillar
Q1 2021 measure: Finalise preparations for publication of the strategy	
Responsible body: IDA Ireland	
Status: Complete	
Update: IDA Ireland's 2021-2024 strategy was published in January. One of five pillars of the new strategy is sustainability.	
Under the sustainability pillar, IDA will support decarbonisation and responsible production across its entire client base. Strategy targets include: 60 client sustainable investments; improving the agency's energy efficiency by 25%; reducing IDA's own carbon emissions in line with government targets.	

Built Environment

Mitigation

Action 73 **Develop and implement Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland schemes and initiatives to support the achievement of our national retrofit targets**

Q1 2021 measure: Commence a targeted campaign to install heat pumps in homes that are already suitable for the technology

Responsible body: SEAI

Status: Complete

Update: Budget 2021 allocated funding for a new marketing and information campaign focussed on promoting the uptake of heat pumps in properties deemed suitable for heat pump installation.

A two-pronged approach has been taken by SEAI, comprising:

- Digital Marketing Campaign targeted at areas with clusters of heat pump ready homes and at people using specific online websites (e.g. mortgage websites, DIY) to offer an information pack on heat pumps.
- A series of “SEAI Heat Pump Webinar for Homeowners” for people who request the information pack in step 1. The first webinar was held on 25 March 2021.

Action 77 **Ensure the effective operation of the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme**

Q1 2021 measure: Launch public consultation on the re-designed Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: Public consultation on the design of the new Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme was launched on 4 March 2021, with a closing date of 30 April.

See: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/11050-public-consultation-on-the-energy-efficiency-obligation-scheme-eeos/>

Action 84	Publish a Standard Recommendation for the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of heat pump systems in dwellings to support the phase out of conventional home heating systems
Q1 2021 measure: Complete drafting stage of the standard recommendation following resolution of comments received during the public consultation phase	
Responsible body: NSAI	
Status: Complete	
<p>Update: A draft edition of S.R. 50-4:2021 was submitted to public consultation for a 2 month period during Q3/Q4 2020. The consultation was facilitated through the NSAI platform Your Standards, Your Say and it was widely publicised (e.g. adverts in national newspaper, social media posts, Government News Service etc.).</p> <p>The public consultation allowed for interested stakeholders who were not directly involved in the development of the document to review and comment on the draft standard recommendation.</p>	

Action 84	Publish a Standard Recommendation for the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of heat pump systems in dwellings to support the phase out of conventional home heating systems
Q1 2021 measure: Finalise and publish the standard recommendation	
Responsible body: NSAI	
Status: Complete	
<p>Update: The comments and proposed changes received during this period helped to shape the final publication resulting in a more robust document. During Q1 2021 the NSAI, alongside the technical experts of the committee responsible for the development of the document, reviewed each of the comments received.</p> <p>All comments and proposed changes were considered by the committee of technical experts, and the outcome was reflected in the final draft by way of consensus.</p> <p>It is now published as an Irish Standard Recommendation. It is available here: https://shop.standards.ie/en-ie/standards/s-r-50-4-2021-1210946_saig_nsai_nsai_2932704/</p>	

Action 86	Develop and implement planning rules and guidelines across residential and non-residential parking locations for Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure
Q1 2021 measure: Review planning guidelines with a view to increasing the obligation: public consultation	
Responsible body: DHLGH	
Status: Delayed	
Update: Planning Guidelines on the preparation of development plan will be issued for consultation in Q2 2021. These will provide guidance in relation to incorporation of appropriate climate change action measures into development plans.	

Public Sector Leading By Example

Action 89	Enhance communications on Climate Agenda in schools sector with a particular focus on pilot deep energy retrofit projects delivered under Pathfinder Programme in partnership with the SEAI
Quarterly measure: Individual areas of work/projects identified and showcased in national media	
Responsible body: D/Education	
Status: Complete	
Update: First press release issued on April 26 2021: Ministers Foley and Ryan Launch 2021 Schools Energy Retrofit Pathfinder programme: €14 million in research and demonstration investment targeting energy use and CO ₂ emission reduction by 50%, testing deep retrofit and low carbon heating solutions in the schools' sector.	
See: https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2021-press-releases/PR21-04-26a.html	

Action 91 Local Authority development planning to drive the adoption of stronger climate action policies in relation to the patterns and forms of future development

Q1 2021 measure: Launch public consultation on updated statutory guidelines (Section 28 of the Planning Act) on Local Authority Development Plans setting out the appropriate requirements for integration of climate-action considerations in the preparation of the Development Plans

Responsible body: DHLGH

Status: Delayed

Update: Work is current underway in preparation of an update of the 2007 Development Plan Guidelines for planning authorities, which were issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). DHLGH expect to submit an initial draft guidelines document to the Minister shortly.

Given the complexity of the issues involved, the need for environmental assessment and both internal and external consultation, DHLGH now expect draft updated guidelines to be published for public consultation in Q2 2021.

Action 93 Ensure that development of sustainable communities is the core objective of the Land Development Agency

Q1 2021 measure: As per headline action

Responsible body: DHLGH

Status: Complete

Update: The [Land Development Agency Bill](#) published on 5 Feb 2021 includes references to the sustainable development of communities and housing, including climate adaptive, low-carbon and affordable housing as a purpose of the Act and a function of the Land Development Agency.

Transport

Mitigation

Action 96 Conduct all-island strategic rail review

Q1 2021 measure: Agree terms of reference with Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland)

Responsible body: D/Transport

Status: Complete

Update: Terms of reference agreed and Request for Tenders launched in April.

Please see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/9be22-ministers-ryan-and-mallon-announce-launch-of-strategic-rail-review/>

Action 97 Develop a 10-year strategy for the road haulage sector

Q1 2021 measure: Complete public consultation

Responsible body: D/Transport

Status: Complete

Update: Public consultation document published on 9 April 2021.

Available from: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/0dfc7-public-consultation-on-ten-year-strategy-for-the-haulage-sector/>

Action 99 Launch a new grant scheme to assist in the purchase of alternatively fuelled heavy duty vehicles

Q1 2021 measure: Launch scheme

Responsible body: D/Transport

Status: Complete

Update: The Alternatively-Fuelled Heavy-Duty Vehicle Purchase Grant Scheme was launched on 15 March 2021.

Details available from: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/03971-alternatively-fuelled-heavy-duty-vehicle-afhdv-purchase-grant/>

Action 102 Publish the impact of speed and speed limits on greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants

Q1 2021 measure: Commission study

Responsible body: D/Transport

Status: Complete

Update: Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have commissioned work to project the impact of changing speeds and varying speed limits on greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants.

The greenhouse gas emissions findings from this workstream are informing the wider transport emission analysis underpinning the Climate Action Plan development and have been shared with McKinsey & Company to assist in their work on the development of the Climate Action Plan 2021.

The air quality impacts of TII's Enhanced Motorway Operation Services project will be considered further by the Urban Transport Related Air Pollution Working Group exploring transport-related air quality in urban settings.

Action 106 Deliver a network of safe, segregated cycling facilities

Q1 2021 measure: Develop a delivery plan for implementation of 1,000 km of new/ upgraded cycling infrastructure

Responsible body: D/Transport

Status: Delayed

Update: Ministerial feedback received on draft plan leading to delay in publication; publication now expected in Q2 2021.

Action 112 Develop BusConnects Cork**Q1 2021 measure:** Appoint team to undertake review of the bus services network in Cork City**Responsible body:** D/Transport**Status:** Complete**Update:** Review team appointed; options report expected Q4 2021.**Action 112** Develop BusConnects Cork**Q1 2021 measure:** Appoint design teams to undertake options assessment stage for thirteen corridors to be developed with bus lanes or other forms of bus priority**Responsible body:** D/Transport**Status:** Complete**Update:** Four teams appointed to work on 13 corridors. Three teams have been assigned 4 corridors each, while the fourth team will work on the remaining corridor. Work has begun on feasibility/options stages.**Action 114** Publish new Regional Airports Programme, incorporating climate mitigation measures set out in the business plans of regional airports**Q1 2021 measure:** Publish Programme**Responsible body:** D/Transport**Status:** Complete**Update:** Programme includes requirement for business plans to demonstrate airport's efforts and targets in areas of sustainable development, climate mitigation and resilience/adaptation as well as commitments to move in the direction of carbon neutrality.

The Programme was published on 4 February 2021. Available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/4c47cc-irelands-regional-airports-programme-2015-2019/>

Action 125 **Develop a pilot initiative on alternative mode of transport scheme for those on low incomes via the Community Services Programme**

Q1 2021 measure: Scope, develop and launch pilot initiative

Responsible body: DRCD

Status: Delayed

Update: The initiative will be launched in April with a call for proposals. Applications will be assessed by a panel chaired by DRCD and including representatives from D/Transport and Pobal. It is expected that notifications will issue to successful applicants in May.

Agriculture

Mitigation

Action 141 **Re-Opening of a new Environment focused Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme**

Q1 2021 measure: Reopening of Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme 2021 to drive environmental gain

Responsible body: DAFM

Status: Complete

Update: Tranche 20 of Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme rolled over into 2021 and closed on 15 January 2021. Tranche 21 opened on 16 January 2021 and closed on 16 April 2021.

Tranche 21 included the following new investments:

- The addition of investments for calf welfare. Animal welfare is an identified climate action and supports Antimicrobial resistance objectives.
- Fertiliser spreaders were added for all categories of applicants supporting more efficient use of fertilisers (Farm to Fork action). Previously these were only available to tillage applicants under the scheme. Applicants can apply under the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme (YFCIS) or Animal Welfare Safety & Nutrient Storage Scheme, with no requirement for 15 ha of eligible tillage.
- In line with the rules for derogation farmers introduced last year, this cohort of farmers are no longer eligible to apply for support for Low Emission Slurry Spreading (LESS) equipment. Nitrates derogation farmers can no longer apply for LESS equipment under tranche 21 onwards.

Tranche 22 which opened on 17 April 2021 includes the addition of the investment potato Haulm toppers (reducing pesticide use); applicants can apply for this investment under the YFCIS, Tillage Capital Investment Scheme and Organic Capital Investment Scheme.

Link to the dates for each tranche on our website is as follows:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/targeted-agriculture-modernisation-schemes/>

Action 144 Re-opening of the Organic Farming Scheme in 2021 enhancing sustainability at farm level

Q1 2021 measure: Organic Farming Scheme to be reopened following approval of relevant Rural Development Programme amendment in 2021

Responsible body: DAFM

Status: Complete

Update: The Organic Farming Scheme re-opened for applications from 1 March to 30 April 2021. A guide to the application process and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is available on DAFM's website to assist potential applicants at: www.gov.ie/en/service/d46aec-organic-farming-scheme/

Action 149 Conclude review of the Nitrates Action Programme

Q1 2021 measure: Evaluation of submissions received during first consultation as part of the review of the Nitrates Action Programme

Responsible body: DHLGH

Status: Complete

Update: 101 submission were received during the [public consultation](#). These have been evaluated by the members of the Nitrates Expert Group. The findings of this evaluation will inform the development of the second public consultation in Q2, and the overall scope of the Nitrates Action Programme review.

Action 152 Work with industry stakeholders to increase the use of low carbon materials, taking into account international best practice

Q1 2021 measure: Collaborate with industry to develop a promotional campaign to encourage the increased use of timber in the economy

Responsible body: DAFM

Status: Delayed

Update: DAFM are currently developing a call for proposals for the promotion of forestry which will include the benefits of using timber in climate change mitigation. The promotional call will be launched by DAFM in April 2021 and will encourage a range of projects across a number of thematic areas. DAFM will work with industry stakeholders and the development of a promotional campaign will be examined when all project calls have been assessed and the competitive call concluded.

In addition, the COFORD Council appointed by the Minister to advise on matters relating to forestry is developing a number of climate change mitigation statements which will include one specifically on the importance of using wood. These statements will be published by Q4-2021.

Action 153 Mandatory Emission Targets for Origin Green Members above €50m in revenue/turnover

Q1 2021 measure: Re-develop Origin Green Charter to incorporate emission reduction targets for manufacturing

Responsible body: Bord Bia

Status: Complete

Update: At the manufacturing level of the Origin Green programme, participating companies are required to develop a comprehensive multi-annual sustainability plan with clear, measurable and time-bound targets across three key areas – Raw Material Sourcing, the Manufacturing Process, and Social Sustainability.

To achieve Origin Green membership, all sustainability plans are independently verified for accuracy and robustness by a third-party auditing body. This may include an on-site audit.

In order to drive impact at a large scale, Bord Bia has introduced a [mandatory carbon emission target](#) to Origin Green members with a turnover greater than €50 million. If companies below a turnover of €50 million want to incorporate an emissions target, they will receive Origin Green Mentor support.

Members must conduct baseline assessments this year to determine emissions targets from 2022 onwards. These plans will be reviewed, monitored annually, and independently verified by international specialists Mabbett.

Action 153 Mandatory Emission Targets for Origin Green Members above €50m in revenue/turnover

Q1 2021 measure: Develop an emissions reductions guidance document and arrange a webinar workshop with companies on how best to integrate emissions targets within their current Origin Green sustainability plans

Responsible body: Bord Bia

Status: Complete

Update: At a [webinar](#) on 11 March attended by over 140 industry representatives, Bord Bia published a comprehensive emissions guidance document titled '[Pathways to Net Zero](#)'. This document provides advice for Origin Green members to begin their decarbonisation journey towards net zero emissions.

The advice on net zero target setting and implementation is based on the United Nation's "Measure, Reduce, Compensate" model. This model encourages everyone in society to take action to help achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

In addition, the document provides clarity on target setting and a completed example for an Origin Green Plan or Annual Review submission. Origin Green will update the guidance document on an annual basis.

Action 157 Continuity of Agri-Environment Supports in Rural Development Programme for 2021

Q1 2021 measure: Contract extensions for 2021 notified and agreed with farmers

Responsible body: DAFM

Status: Complete

Update: Extensions were offered and accepted by 95% of farmers in the Green Low Carbon Agri-environmental Scheme (GLAS 1 and GLAS 2) by January 2021. Extensions were also notified and agreed with [Organic Farm Scheme](#) farmers by January 2021.

The extension of contracts for farmers in the Beef Data and Genomics Programme for 2021 has been completed and further information is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f81fb-beef-data-and-genomics-programme-2021/#beef-data-and-genomics-programme-bdgp2021>

Action 158 Establish exemplar network of SignPost Farms to demonstrate best climate practice

Q1 2021 measure: Establish Teagasc/Bord Bia co-operation agreement on collaboration and corresponding communications to support the reduction of agricultural emissions

Responsible body: Teagasc

Status: Complete

Update: Teagasc and Bord Bia have signed a Co-operation Agreement, effective from 1 January 2021, with the purpose of working collaboratively to scale the lessons from the [Signpost Programme](#) through their respective programmes and networks to promote a reduction in agricultural emissions.

A number of areas have been identified for collaboration, including a coordinated communications campaign to ensure the consistent delivery of aligned sustainability messages to Irish farmers, the co-delivery of training events and the provision of scientific advice by Teagasc to underpin the Bord Bia Farmer Feedback Reports.

Action 160 Roll-out of advisory and education services to farmers

Q1 2021 measure: Support of farmers operating within Nitrates Derogation with Nutrient Management Planning and Water Quality measures, to avoid overuse of N fertiliser resulting in greenhouse gas emissions

Responsible body: Teagasc

Status: Complete

Update: Teagasc advisory services have worked with farmers in Q1 2021 to develop nutrient management plans for farms, having completed almost 5,000 plans for farmers in Derogations between January and March 2021. These plans have been prepared and submitted in conjunction with the [Nitrates Derogation application](#) deadline of 31 March.

Additionally, a Nutrient Use Efficiency training course has been developed for farmers with a focus on the efficient use of Nitrogen and Phosphorus in grassland systems. Training of advisors on the course content and delivery tools has been completed. To date advisors have trained approximately 2,500 farmers by zoom and training courses will continue until the end of 2021.

Action 163	Upskill farmers and foresters to ensure they have the knowledge and tools to implement climate mitigation practices
Q1 2021 measure: Launch a tender to develop Continuing Professional Development training for advisors	
Responsible body: DAFM	
Status: Delayed	
<p>Update: The tender for the targeted training of advisors in climate change challenges and mitigation practices has been substantially drafted in consultation with key stakeholders.</p> <p>At present the tender has not issued, as technical details in relation to the most efficient platform to be used are being finalised. It is not envisaged that the slight delay in finalising this aspect of the tender will impact negatively on the wider target of delivering this training in 2021.</p>	

Forestry, peatlands and land use

Mitigation

Action 166	Roll out the European Innovation Partnerships Initiative on Rewetting of Farmed Peatlands
Q1 2021 measure: Contracts with successful applicant European Innovation Partnerships groups to be negotiated and awarded following open call in 2020	
Responsible body: DAFM	
Status: Complete	
<p>Update: Contracts were awarded and signed with two successful European Innovation Partnerships applicant groups in March 2021.</p> <p>Wetland Surveys Ireland Limited will look at developing a proposed farm programme that will aim to enhance the ecological and hydrological functioning of transitional areas. This is proposed to be done through a hybrid results-based payment model whereby farmers receive results-based payments based on the quality of their habitats, while also having the opportunity of claiming additional funds to undertake farm actions.</p> <p>Green Restoration Ireland will work with participating landowners who farm peatlands. They will provide support through participatory learning and accessible advice to voluntarily transition their land use from current conventional farming practices to economically viable carbon farming methods. Lessons learned and data gathered will be used to establish a practical model for future expansion of these new methods on farmed peatlands.</p>	

Action 167 Promotion of forestry activity

Q1 2021 measure: Continuation of the Teagasc forestry promotion campaign to encourage farmers to plant forestry on their farms, to develop economically sustainable forests which deliver biodiversity and carbon sequestration benefits

Responsible body: Teagasc

Status: Complete

Update: The strategy for the Teagasc Forestry Promotion Campaign 2021-2024 has been completed and approved for funding by DAFM. The campaign uses a wide range of virtual and physical communication approaches to encourage future and existing farmers to consider forestry as part of their farming enterprise.

The campaign will also promote the establishment and benefits of economically sustainable forests that deliver biodiversity and carbon sequestration benefits to a wider audience.

Action 168 Research and development in forestry

Q1 2021 measure: Build consortium to explore opportunities in circularity of forestry processes and inputs

Responsible body: Coillte

Status: Complete

Update: A number of consortiums have been established to explore opportunities in circularity of forestry processes and inputs.

Consortiums have been developed with Beuparc waste management to explore potential use of end-of-life construction waste for forest road construction and with SeaMeGrow (Irish SME) to test seaweed bio-stimulant and potential bio-pesticides on forest plants.

In addition, Coillte is also working with the Irish Nutrient Sustainability Platform in National University of Ireland Galway and Queens University to explore potential suppliers of high nutrient waste streams suitable for forestry fertilisation.

Action 168 Research and development in forestry**Q1 2021 measure:** Develop scope and trials for testing products**Responsible body:** Coillte**Status:** Delayed**Update:**Trial Product 1: Bio-stimulants

Trial in place with SeaMeGrow on bio-stimulants on forest plants in nurseries and in the field. Ongoing development of trials to test bio-pesticide, planned to start in Q2 2021.

Trial Product 2: End of life construction waste in roads

Delay in commencing field trial on end of life waste due to ongoing discussion between Beuparc and EPA on an end of life waste licence or direction from EPA on what testing parameters are required to prove the use of the material in a forestry road use. There are ongoing discussions between Beuparc and EPA but no timeframe has been agreed.

Action 170 Develop and implement the new All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025**Q1 2021 measure:** Funding of a Farmland Pollinator Officer for the next [All Ireland Pollinator Plan](#)**Responsible body:** DAFM**Status:** Complete

Update: Funding has been provided by DAFM to support a farmland pollinator officer. The officer was appointed in Q1 2021 and has taken up the post. The officer is based at the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

The officer will assist in the implementation of the farmland pollinator actions in the new pollinator plan for 2021 to 2025. A specific work programme will be developed to support delivery of the actions and to safeguard pollinators on farmland.

Action 172 Implement Forestry Programme 2014-2022 (includes 2 year extension)**Q1 2021 measure: Increase output of forestry licences to meet demand****Responsible body:** DAFM**Status:** Delayed

Update: The area and volume of forestry licences issued in Q1 2021 is listed in the table below and displays an upward trend compared to the same period in 2020. However, the licences issued are still below target and the rate of issue will need to increase further in 2021.

‘Project Woodland’ will focus on increasing output in 2021, through a number of working groups which will focus on the backlog of applications and streamlining the licensing process.

Hectares/Kilometres for Licences Issued

	Afforestation			Roads			Felling				
	Hectares			Kilometres			Hectares			Volume m ³	
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021
January	430	270	312	38	5	20	5,260	1,170	2,882	208,186	831,530
February	555	531	464	20	10	29	13,949	1,400	1,691	433,000	531,010
March	459	298	515	12	15	26	13,512	1,462	1,059	424,056	298,959
April	688	566	311	20	16	7	9,478	1,437	588	428,884	198,731
May	353	309		18	13		3,631	1,332		325,938	
June	208	166		19	9		2,575	694		175,766	
July	299	155		15	12		2,764	1,003		288,754	
August	448	214		14	10		1,606	1,904		539,706	
September	182	280		14	10		1,485	1,183		216,019	
October	358	570		8	7		633	2,387		761,213	
November	189	485		7	10		1,205	2,335		644,314	
December	176	499		9	13		1,097	1,935		577,531	
Totals	4,346	4,342	1,602	194	130	83	57,197	18,241	6,220	5,023,366	1,860,229

Action 176 Assess the potential opportunities and demand for developing advanced bio-products development (bio-fuels and chemicals) from lignocellulose in Ireland

Q1 2021 measure: Develop consortium and funding proposal

Responsible body: Coillte

Status: Complete

Update: The consortium has been established with partners from University of Limerick, NUIG and Coillte with a potential funding partner in Enterprise Ireland (EI). The funding proposal has been prepared by Coillte and is ready for submission to the EI Innovation Partnership Programme funding call when launched in early May.

The main objective of this proposal is to assess the potential opportunities and demand for developing advanced bio-products development (bio-fuels and chemicals) from lignocellulose in Ireland. This project, subject to funding, will run for one year.

Action 177 Explore and identify opportunities to increase afforestation

Q1 2021 measure: Explore opportunities for increasing afforestation and identify funding opportunities

Responsible body: Coillte

Status: Complete

Update: Coillte has explored the potential for increasing afforestation and has developed two models for increasing afforestation in Ireland.

The first model has been developed with Forestry Partners and Bank of Ireland to attract capital for Native Woodland planting in Ireland. The proposal has been submitted to DAFM for approval of setting up the legal structure. Subject to this and DPER approval, the aim will be to launch the vehicle in Q2 2021 to raise funds and commence afforestation in Q4.

The second proposal is under development and will be submitted to DAFM in Q2 2021.

Action 178 Support biodiversity data collection**Q1 2021 measure:** Continue funding the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#)**Responsible body:** DHLGH**Status:** Complete**Update:** Funding in place for 2021.**Action 178 Support biodiversity data collection****Q1 2021 measure:** Collate data on status of protected habitats and species, ecosystem services, natural capital accounts, land use, landcover**Responsible body:** DHLGH**Status:** Delayed**Update:** Tenders for a range of projects have been, and are being, issued in accordance with Public Procurement procedures. They are expected to be completed in Q2 2021.**Action 183 Continue to raise awareness of biodiversity through initiatives like the Annual Biodiversity Awards Scheme****Q1 2021 measure:** Invite applications to the Local Authority [Biodiversity Action Fund](#) (€1million)**Responsible body:** DHLGH**Status:** Complete**Update:** Invite for applications has been issued. Applications have been received.

Action 183 Continue to raise awareness of biodiversity through initiatives like the Annual Biodiversity Awards Scheme

Q1 2021 measure: Provision of funding to support peatland community initiatives

Responsible body: DHLGH

Status: Complete

Update: [Grant funding](#) of just under €230,000 was awarded to 25 local community groups and organisations for a variety of peatlands related projects through the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme in 2021.

This funding allocation - a two-fold increase on last year's allocation to the scheme - will support various projects in local peatland areas from peatland restoration plans, invasive species control, peatland trails and boardwalks, information signage, habitat and bird surveys, oral history projects, publications, education programmes and promotional material to nature awareness, wellness and sensory experiences.

Public Sector Leading By Example

Action 184 Improve the monitoring, verification and reporting of CO₂ emissions and removals of Ireland's soils

Q1 2021 measure: Provide funding to purchase equipment to establish a 'National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory' to measure greenhouse gas fluxes from soils under agricultural management

Responsible body: DAFM

Status: Complete

Update: DAFM provided funding of approx. €2 million to purchase monitoring equipment infrastructure required for the establishment of a National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory.

This investment will establish a field-scale CO₂ flux monitoring network to accurately quantify the CO₂ losses from managed grassland on organic (peat) soils and quantify the impact of stocking rate and land management on grassland soil organic carbon sequestration on mineral soils. This technology will also enable researchers to assess the impact of re-wetting on organic soils under agricultural management which is a key action area under the 2019 Climate Action Plan.

The project will be led by Teagasc researchers and will encompass CO₂ flux towers being established as part of the Teagasc led Agricultural Catchments Program, with two grassland sites also being incorporated into the EU Integrated Carbon Observation System (see: <https://www.icos-cp.eu/>).

It can be expected that the enhanced ability to refine emissions from the agricultural sector, as a direct result of data gathered from this technology, will have positive consequences for the refinement of our national emissions inventory reporting.

Action 184 Improve the monitoring, verification and reporting of CO₂ emissions and removals of Ireland's soils

Q1 2021 measure: Provide funding to purchase equipment to Develop a National Soil Moisture Monitoring network

Responsible body: DAFM

Status: Complete

Update: On 20 January 2021, DAFM committed to provide approx. €500,000 to fund a proposal by the National Soil Moisture Monitoring Network, to purchase soil moisture monitoring equipment to enable Ireland to develop a national soil moisture measurement network.

A network of soil moisture probes and new instrumentation known as Cosmic-ray Soil Moisture Observing Systems will be deployed across Ireland with co-located Automatic Weather Stations (operated by Met Eireann) to provide long-term measurements of soil moisture, a key variable in the control of land-surface-atmosphere interactions, and of essential climate variables such as rainfall, temperature, atmospheric pressure, and relative humidity.

This infrastructure will allow for the real-time reporting of a number of different climatic variables and will be of benefit to a range of stakeholders, such as those involved in peatland conservation and restoration.

The working group on agro-meteorology undertaking this project comprises of researchers from Teagasc and University College Dublin. The project will be carried out over 18 months and is due for completion in Q1-Q2 2022.

Adaptation

Action 186 Protect and monitor the forest estate for pest and disease in order to maintain carbon stocks and stores

Q1 2021 measure: Annual monitoring of the existing forest estate

Responsible body: DAFM

Status: Complete

Update: DAFM continue to monitor for the presence of pests and diseases across the forest estate and around Ireland's ports. The fourth cycle of the [National Forest Inventory](#) is currently taking place and a range of data is being collected including information on forest health and vitality.

Previous cycles indicate that overall, the Irish forest estate is healthy.

Marine

Mitigation

Action 189 Develop fluvial (river) flooding capability in the context of increased flooding risk related to climate change

Q1 2021 measure: Develop a network of contacts points in the event of flood risk

Responsible body: DHLGH

Status: Complete

Update: As part of the Flood Forecast Division's Communication Strategy, Met Éireann engaged with the County and City Management Association (CCMA). The aim of this engagement was to develop a network of contacts in the event of flood risk.

In June 2020, the CCMA's Environment Committee endorsed the creation of a Severe Weather and Flood Liaison Manager (SWFLM). Each Local Authority has nominated two staff to fulfil this role.

Met Éireann has started to work with the SWFLMs and an introductory session is planned at the end of Q2 2021. In Q3 2021, a training session is planned to allow the SWFLM staff to access the Flood Forecast Division products and forecasts.

Waste and Circular Economy

Mitigation

Action 195 Develop a policy statement on mineral exploration and mining that supports the sustainable supply of minerals required to transition to a climate neutral economy, particularly in terms of the materials required for renewable energy, energy storage (batteries), the move to a digital economy and electrifying the transport system

Q1 2021 measure: Undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)/ Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: As of 16 April 2021, the process of Screening for SEA and Screening for AA has been completed. It has been determined that SEA and AA are required for the emerging draft policy statement on mineral exploration and mining.

The five environmental authorities as specified in the SEA Regulations have been notified of these determinations.

The determinations have also been published on the gov.ie website at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c4fc1-determinations-for-emerging-draft-policy-statement-on-mineral-exploration-and-mining/>

Action 199 Establish a Circular Economy Innovation Scheme, focusing on providing funding for a limited number of regional and/or national scale CE projects with the capacity to significantly raise awareness of CE and/or improve consumption patterns in relation to specific sectors

Q1 2021 measure: Launch a call for a new Circular Economy Innovation Scheme

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Delayed

Update: Launch of the scheme was deferred from end March 2021 so as not to clash with the publication of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill. Scheme will now be launched in April.

Action 200 Publish a whole-of-Government Circular Economy Strategy and promote the Circular Economy including focus on awareness raising, Green Public Procurement and international partnerships

Q1 2021 measure: Publish a whole-of- Government Circular Economy Strategy setting out overall national policy in relation to circular economy

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Delayed

Update: Publication of the Strategy was deferred from end March 2021 so as not to clash with the publication of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill. Publication will now take place in April.

Ireland's International Action on Climate Breakdown

Public Sector Leading By Example

Action 208 Strengthen Climate Diplomacy across HQ units and our embassy network

Q1 2021 measure: Strengthen capacity and coordination to ensure common and systematic messaging on climate action across DFA, including HQ Units and embassy network

Responsible body: DFA

Status: Complete

Update: Climate Network established across DFA network.

Action 209	Play a leadership role on climate and security on the UN Security Council
Q1 2021 measure: Co-chair the Informal Experts Group on Climate and Security for 2021 including the drafting of work programme and the identification of experts for briefings	
Responsible body: DFA	
Status: Complete	
Update: Position paper complete and rolling schedule in place for Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security at the UN Security Council.	

Just Transition

Mitigation

Action 217	Support strategic advice and research on just transition in Ireland, including future priorities and spatial and sectoral impacts
Q1 2021 measure: Agree an annual programme of research with NESC and establish appropriate delivery structures	
Responsible body: DECC	
Status: Complete	
Update: DECC and NESC have agreed the scope of work that NESC will undertake during 2021 to support the development of policy on Just Transition.	

Action 217	Support strategic advice and research on just transition in Ireland, including future priorities and spatial and sectoral impacts
Q1 2021 measure: Publish Strategic Advice on a Just Transition	
Responsible body: NESC	
Status: Complete	
Update: Report published in February 2021 and is available at: http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/152_GroundingInSD.pdf	

Action 217 Support research on just transition in Ireland, including future priorities and spatial and sectoral impacts

Q1 2021 measure: Engage Irish and European stakeholders on a just transition

Responsible body: NESC

Status: Complete

Update: Report published on 22 February 2021 and is available at:
http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_background_papers/EEAC_28thAnnual_Conf_2020.pdf

Action 217 Support research on just transition in Ireland, including future priorities and spatial and sectoral impacts

Q1 2021 measure: Explore rural resilience and a just transition

Responsible body: NESC

Status: Complete

Update: The Just Transition: Understanding Rural Resilience Roundtable was held on 12 February 2021, with 38 attendees including Council members, departments, researchers and key stakeholders.

The Roundtable will inform further measures including NESC's work on the Shared Island Project and sustainable development research programme.

Adaptation

Action 218 Support, through the education system, the required initiatives to support the development of a climate neutral economy

Q1 2021 measure: Highlight the importance of skills required to support the low-carbon economy in the Call for Proposals for courses under Springboard+ 2021

Responsible body: DFHERIS

Status: Complete

Update: Call for Proposals under Springboard+ 2021 issued on 21 January 2021, with a closing date of 11 March 2021.

The call for proposals highlighted the importance of skills requirement to support the low carbon economy.

Public Sector Lead

Mitigation

Action 223 Develop a strategy to achieve at least a 50% reduction in CO₂eq emission by 2030

Q1 2021 measure: Confirm methodology for measuring, accounting, reporting and recording GHG emissions reductions

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: Methodology has been prepared following consultation with SEAI and EPA. DECC will now take for Government approval in Q2 2021 in accordance with Interim Climate Actions.

Citizen Engagement

Action 228 Build a new, localised citizen engagement model through the National Dialogue on Climate Action

Q1 2021 measure: Establish a Youth Climate Council as part of the new National Dialogue on Climate Action engagement model and annual Climate Action Plan consultations, to help support future dialogue with young people

Responsible body: DCEDIY

Status: Complete

Update: [The National Dialogue on Climate Action](#) consultations with young people have now been completed. DCEDIY and DECC will now work together to establish the required partnerships with relevant policy departments and seek the guidance of relevant stakeholders, including young people, on the establishment the Youth Climate Council in Q3 2021.

The Council will serve as an enduring structure for ongoing participation of young people in climate dialogues and consultations.

Action 228 Build a new, localised citizen engagement model through the National Dialogue on Climate Action

Q1 2021 measure: Engage with [Public Participation Networks](#) to better understand local climate action initiatives and to explore barriers and enablers for community activation

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: With support from DRCD through the Climate Action Plan 2021 Interdepartmental Engagement and Consultation Steering Group, DECC invited 26 PPNs to take part in a series of workshops as part of the on-going Climate Conversation.

16 PPNs took part in self managed workshops in March and April 2021, with over 270 members taking part. An additional 8 PPNs were invited to recruit up to 45 members to take part in in-depth focus groups taking place in April 2021.

These sessions helped raise awareness of Climate Action Plan 2021 and its objectives in meeting Ireland's climate obligations, allowed people to engage constructively with the development of the Climate Action Plan 2021, and enabled more in-depth citizen, community and sectoral discussions. The feedback from these sessions is currently being collated and analysed and will be used to inform the optimum structure for ongoing engagement with the Local and Community Sectors.

Action 230 Ensure all of society have an opportunity to contribute and provide input into each annual iteration of the Climate Action Plan

Q1 2021 measure: Consult with Stakeholders to ensure content and questions included in the Public Consultation are consistent with their Policies in the revised Climate Action Plan

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: Established by DECC, an interdepartmental Working Group with stakeholder representation from key Departments, Agencies and the Local Authority sector, developed all public consultation content and material to ensure that all elements of Irish society could contribute to the process, and engage constructively with the development of the Climate Action Plan 2021.

The draft consultation was also circulated to the relevant sectors including Energy, Waste, Transport, Agriculture, and Circular Economy for input before finalising. Environmental non-governmental organizations were also briefed on the proposed structure and feedback was welcomed.

Action 230 Ensure all of society have an opportunity to contribute and provide input into each annual iteration of the Climate Action Plan

Q1 2021 measure: Design a call for evidence to seek expert views from Organisations and Citizens to feed into the design of the revised Climate Action Plan

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: [The call for Expert Evidence](#), launched on the 23 March 2021, seeks input from climate scientists, experts and industry to share their data-based technical proposals to support development of the next iteration of the Climate Action Plan 2021.

Action 230 Ensure all of society have an opportunity to contribute and provide input into each annual iteration of the Climate Action Plan

Q1 2021 measure: Launch public consultation seeking citizen and expert views to inform the design of policies, measures and actions as part of the next iteration of the Climate Action Plan 2021

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: A public consultation, launched on the 23 March 2021, invites citizens to be part of the ongoing [Climate Conversation](#). Views received will help inform the design of the wider National Dialogue on Climate Action and help shape policies, measures and actions as part of the next iteration of the Climate Action Plan 2021.

Action 231 Develop a comprehensive well-being framework for Ireland to create a well-rounded, holistic view of how our society is faring' including from social and environmental standpoints

Q1 2021 measure: Establish Steering Group to guide the work

Responsible body: D/Taoiseach

Status: Complete

Update: A Working Group on the development of a Well-being Framework for Ireland has been established and commenced its work). The Working Group is chaired by the D/Taoiseach and involves a broad range of government departments, the Central Statistics Office and NESC.

Complementing this, NESC has established a subgroup of stakeholders and experts to further enhance the development of the Framework through consultation and broader engagement.

Action 232 Progress the establishment of a Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity**Q1 2021 measure: Engage Departments on scope of Assembly****Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach**Status:** Complete

Update: Officials from D/Taoiseach are engaging with officials from the relevant Departments on the approach to be taken with regard to the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity. The specific timing of the Citizens' Assemblies set out in the Programme for Government has yet to be worked out.

Arrangements for and the timing of the Citizens' Assemblies will be contingent upon adaptations to the process in light of Covid constraints, the scoping of the issues, and the logistical and staffing support arrangements.

Action 233 Advance coordinated climate action communications from the centre of Government**Q1 2021 measure: Finalise and publish Jargon Buster developed in collaboration with Comhairle na nÓg to increase accessibility of climate terminology****Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach**Status:** Complete

Update: Climate Jargon Buster website has been published and is available in both Irish and English at www.climatejargonbuster.ie. It provides plain English explanations to common climate action terms. It will be expanded to include further terms in the coming months.

Action 233 Advance coordinated climate action communications from the centre of Government**Quarterly measure: Maintenance and update of gov.ie/climateaction****Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach**Status:** Complete

Update: [Website](http://www.gov.ie/climateaction) updated on a regular basis including temporary modification in March to accommodate launch of the Climate Bill, publication of the Interim Actions 2021 and launch of the Public Consultation on the Climate Action Plan 2021.

Action 239 Hold a public consultation on a National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development to 2030 to inform a new Strategy and Action Plan

Q1 2021 measure: Publish a consultation paper and survey inviting completion and/or option to provide detailed submission to inform the development of a National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development to 2030

Responsible body: D/Education

Status: Complete

Update: Minister for Education Norma Foley TD and Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD on World Earth Day (22 April) launched a joint public consultation on the development of the Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development to 2030, by the two Departments.

See: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/8bce5-joint-public-consultation-on-a-national-strategy-on-education-for-sustainable-development-esd-to-2030/>

Adaptation

Action 248 Report on climate change adaptation

Q1 2021 measure: Submit report on climate change adaptation as required under the EU Climate and Energy Governance Regulation to the European Environment Agency

Responsible body: DECC

Status: Complete

Update: Climate Adaptation Report submitted to the EU on 15 March through the Reportnet system.