



Update on the implementation of the Just Transition programme in the Midlands

The Government is committed to ensuring that the exit from peat in the Midlands is managed in a way that is just and fair. Significant State funding has been allocated to the region, including from carbon tax receipts, to supporting workers, companies and communities affected by the closure of the peat-fired power stations and the end of peat harvesting by Bord na Móna.

- €108 million for Bord na Móna's large-scale [peatlands restoration project](#) which is now underway. The plan will protect the storage of 100 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, sequester 3.2 million tonnes of carbon to 2050, enhance biodiversity, support approximately 350 jobs and contribute to Ireland's target of being carbon-neutral by 2050
- The National Parks and Wildlife Peatlands Restoration Scheme has been allocated €19 million in 2020 and 2021 for peatland restoration measures on almost 1,900 hectares of protected raised bogs in the Midlands region, along with the development of drainage management plans and other peatland management and conservation measures
- The [National Just Transition Fund](#) is supporting innovative and employment generating projects in the Midlands. 35 projects are now in delivery with a total grant value of €10 million. The majority of remaining projects are due to receive final funding contracts by the end of July
- An allocation of €20 million has been provided to the Midlands Retrofitting Programme. While Covid has caused some delays, local authorities are on course to retrofit 750 homes in 2021
- The ESB has [announced](#) plans to re-develop its two power stations at Lough Ree and Shannonbridge into centres for renewable energy to support the delivery of the Government's renewable energy and climate targets
- €10 million is being provided under the [EU LIFE Programme to the Peatlands and People](#) consortium, being led by Bord na Móna to develop a regional Peatlands Knowledge Centre of Excellence, a Just Transition Accelerator to support enterprise development in the region, and an immersive People's Discovery Attraction

- Funding of €77 million has been secured from the EU Just Transition Fund for investment in the longer-term transition of the region. This will be underpinned by a Territorial Just Transition Plan which is expected to be completed by the end of 2021

Minister Ryan would like to thank the Just Transition Commissioner, Mr Kieran Mulvey, for his work on the programme outlined in his [third progress report](#). Mr Mulvey will continue to support the Minister, the Department and Government in the delivery of the just transition programme in the Midlands until the end of 2021. The Minister has agreed an updated terms of reference to guide the Commissioner's work for the remainder of this year.

The Commissioner's recommendations are informing the Just Transition chapter of the 2021 Climate Action Plan. They will also help inform the preparation of the new Regional Enterprise Plan for the Midlands for 2021-2024 as well as the Territorial Just Transition Plan being prepared to drawdown Ireland's allocation from the EU Just Transition Fund.