

# INTERIM CLIMATE ACTIONS 2021

Third Progress Report  
Q3 2021

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Rialtas na hÉireann  
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## Glossary of Acronyms

<b>AA</b>	Appropriate Assessment
<b>CEG</b>	Clean Export Guarantee
<b>CO<sup>2</sup></b>	Carbon Dioxide
<b>CRU</b>	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
<b>DAFM</b>	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
<b>DCEDIY</b>	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
<b>DCCAE</b>	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (now DECC)
<b>D/Education</b>	Department of Education
<b>DECC</b>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>DETE</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>DFA</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs
<b>DFHERIS</b>	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
<b>DFIN</b>	Department of Finance
<b>DHLGH</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
<b>DPER</b>	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
<b>DRCD</b>	Department of Rural and Community Development
<b>D/Taoiseach</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
<b>D/Transport</b>	Department of Transport
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>ESB</b>	Electricity Supply Board
<b>ETB</b>	Educational Training Board
<b>ETS</b>	Emissions Trading System
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EVs</b>	Electric Vehicles
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>LDCs</b>	Least Developed Countries
<b>LED</b>	Light-Emitting Diode
<b>LIFE-AR</b>	Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience
<b>NAF</b>	National Adaptation Framework
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan
<b>NESC</b>	National Economic and Social Council
<b>NGCP</b>	National Grand Challenges Programme
<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>NTA</b>	National Transport Authority
<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>OREDPA</b>	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan
<b>RED</b>	Renewable Energy Directive
<b>RESS</b>	Renewable Electricity Support Scheme
<b>SBIR</b>	Small Business Innovation Research
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SEAI</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
<b>SEC</b>	Sustainable Energy Community
<b>S.I.</b>	Statutory Instruments
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium sized Enterprises
<b>SPPAS</b>	Sustainable Poultry Products Assurance Scheme

## Infographic

### 39% Climate Action Measures Completed in Q3 2021

#### Highlights include:



##### Governance

Published the Economic Recovery Plan, setting out renewed supports, investments and policies for a new stage of green economic recovery



##### Research & Innovation

Secured funding for a National Grand Challenge Programme, including around Climate, to coordinate national research capacity and develop solutions

##### Finance



Progressed environmental tax reform including analysis on carbon tax, diesel and petrol excise rates, and emissions-based vehicle taxation

##### Agriculture



Launched the Signpost Farms website to share learnings and key messages from farmers displaying best climate practice

##### Transport



Brought the Clean Vehicles Directive into Irish law, setting out binding targets for the purchase of low- and zero-emitting vehicles by public bodies



##### Circular Economy

Established legislation to ban single use plastic items like cutlery, plates, cotton bud sticks and straws



##### International

Provided financial and diplomatic support to the Least Developed Countries' Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience to develop more effective, long-term and ambitious climate responses globally

##### Land-Use



Continued efforts to restore land on protected raised bog sites, key for carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection



##### Built Environment

Conducted a space survey of the higher education sector to help inform future investment for upgrading public buildings

**Overall Interim Climate Actions delivery to date: 66%**

## Executive Summary

### Climate change in Q3 2021

In Q3 2021, the impacts of climate change were worldwide. Following record high temperatures in North America, [a group of leading climate scientists have warned](#) that the world needs to prepare for extreme heat hitting faster and harder than previously forecast.

There were also fatal floods across central Europe, with Germany and the Netherlands particularly affected. Meanwhile, people in the Chinese province of Henan were evacuated in the face of floods of their own, with the city of Zhengzhou seeing a year's worth of rain in three days.

Climate scientists have long predicted that greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) would cause more floods, heatwaves, droughts, storms but recent events have surpassed many expectations. The science has now firmed up, with the [Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), published in August, determining that human-caused GHGs have led to an increased frequency and/or intensity of some weather and climate extremes since pre-industrial times. They report that significant climate changes are now inevitable and irreversible, with extreme weather disasters increasing fivefold in the past 50 years.

### Climate action in Q3 2021

In Ireland, tracking of domestic climate action under the [Interim Climate Actions 2021](#) continued in Q3 2021, as detailed in this Third Progress Report. A delivery rate of 39% is reported, with 32 of the 82 measures delivered on schedule. Progress on delayed measures from previous quarters continued to be slow, with 67 of the 94 actions (71%) experiencing further delays.

Headline achievements in Q3 2021, with high mitigation potential, include the progression of environmental and vehicle tax reform, transposition of key European Directives on [single use plastics](#) and [public sector vehicles](#), the continued restoration of raised bogs, and international support for climate justice. The publication of the [National Economic Recovery Plan](#) and the [revised National Development Plan](#) also signal important future green investment.

Previously delayed, high impact publications also completed this quarter, including in the agri-food sector ([Food Vision 2030](#)), [Electric Vehicle Policy Pathways](#), and cement industry action. The establishment of a [Community Benefit Fund Register](#) for renewable projects as well as the launch of the [Signpost Farms website](#) further expanded public engagement in the need for climate action.

Impactful, and often persistent, delays in Q3 however include a range of actions related to governance, energy planning, diversification in agriculture, transport infrastructure delivery, Just Transition and capacity building across public and private sectors.

There is an urgent need to re-focus on implementation at this time of intense planning for future climate ambition. The system must address challenges to implementation and step up on delivery rates as we move into the higher ambition of [Climate Action Plan 2021](#).

## International Perspectives

This quarter, the policy-analyst group [Climate Action Tracker](#) looked at the policies of 36 countries, plus the European Union (EU), that are responsible for 80% of the world's greenhouse-gas emissions. Their analysis indicates that none of the world's major economies, including those in the G20 group, have a sufficient plan to meet their obligations under the Paris Agreement. This demonstrates a continued mismatch between climate effects and climate action.

In Q3, the European Commission laid out how it intends reduce the continent's emissions by 55% by 2030, compared with 1990 levels. This is a significant increase in effort from the previous target of 40%. Supporting the new ambition centres around a dozen measures which make up the "[fit for 55](#)" package. Greater ambition is articulated, for example, in the EU's emissions-trading system, a carbon border tax and renewable energy targets.

The EU has also moved to use the financial markets to funnel hundreds of billions of euro annually into sustainable investments. The [EU's sustainable finance strategy](#) sets out detailed milestones and measures for the financial sector, companies and households. Classification of truly green investments and mandatory climate-related disclosures by companies will play a role in helping to avoid "greenwashing" or companies overstating their green credentials to attract investors.

[China's national emissions trading scheme](#) also officially started trading this quarter, with an [opening price of 48 yuan \(€6.5\) per tonne of carbon dioxide](#). Even though it only includes the power sector in its initial phase, it is already the world's largest ETS, covering approximately 12% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

There was also key international progress on electric vehicles in Q3, with [EU plans to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2035](#) and [major carmakers pledging billions to develop electric vehicles](#) (EVs). Beijing also stated aims to have over 10,000 fuel cell vehicles on the road and 37 hydrogen filling stations by 2025. French laws, meanwhile, are working to compel large cities to create low-emission zones to curb air pollution and ban the sale of the most polluting cars from 2030.

## Irish Developments

A [Noteworthy investigation](#) into the state of Ireland's biodiversity, found that the natural world remains significantly impacted by human activity and climate change. Ireland is reported to not be spending enough on protecting our biodiversity and existing schemes are failing to have impact.

Agriculture came under increasing focus in Q3. There were calls in the [Seanad for farming within ecological limits](#) and [discussion in the Dáil of the importation of peat for the horticultural sector](#) while peat is no longer being harvested in Ireland for this purpose.

The [implications for data centres on energy demand, energy security and our climate targets](#) also received attention this quarter. Singapore became the first country in the world to introduce a [moratorium on data centres](#). The expansion of such centres has similarly led to a large increase in electricity demand in Ireland. [Eirgrid's latest generation capacity statement](#) projects that data

centres could account for 25% of all electricity demand in Ireland by 2030. This growth will need to be balanced with energy security and climate targets.

## Public engagement on the climate crisis in Q3

A [Eurobarometer report](#) finding, released this quarter, meanwhile reveals that climate change is the most serious global problem according to Irish respondents. It ranked well ahead of any other serious problem facing the world, such as infectious diseases, poverty, and the economic situation. The report highlighted the willingness of Irish respondents to act on this issue with 86% agreeing that the cost of climate change is much higher than the investment needed for green transition.

An [independent scorecard](#), commissioned by Friends of the Earth, assessed the Irish Government's progress on climate change and the environment. Three academic experts awarded 8.5 out of 10 on waste policies, but only 4 out of 10 on agriculture and forestry. Climate policy overall achieved a 7.5 out of 10, with recognition of new legislation enacted and better governance.

There was also progress on a number of local projects across Ireland with important climate action implications this quarter. Examples include:

- Q3 saw Tipperary being earmarked for a quarter of a billion Euro [biofuel project](#) which aims to take agricultural waste and extract biogas for use as an energy source.
- The [biggest solar energy farm in Ireland](#) also opened this quarter near Kinsale in Co Cork. The €5 million facility will produce up to 5.6MW of electricity for US pharmaceutical manufacturer, Lilly.
- EDF Renewables [announced plans](#) to have up to 500MW of onshore wind and solar projects operational by 2030. This is in addition to its flagship Codling Wind Park project off the coast of Wicklow.

## Funding

Finally, some key Government funding for environmental initiatives was announced in Q3, including:

- [€57 million for 83 community and home energy projects](#), supporting 2,105 homes and 536 non-domestic projects (including sports facilities, community buildings and businesses).
- A €2 million [Creative Climate Action Fund](#) to support creative projects which can meaningfully connect people with profound climate-induced changes.
- The [EPA's revised Green Public Procurement](#) to assist public authorities in sourcing goods, services or works with reduced environmental impact in the c. €20 billion spent annually.

## Overview of Interim Climate Actions in Q3 2021

The [Interim Climate Actions 2021](#) were published in March 2021 to promote a continued focus on implementation while the Climate Action Plan 2021 was being prepared, recognising the urgency of the climate crisis and need for continued, immediate action.

The Q1 2021 Progress Report saw a 78% delivery rate on 100 measures. The Q2 Progress Report showcased a delivery rate of 51% on 158 measures. Table 1 details measures due for delivery and reporting in Q3 2021, including accountability on any delayed actions from previous quarters.

**Table 1 Number of measures due by Department in Q3 2021**

Responsible Department	Delayed Q1 2021 Measures	Delayed Q2 2021 Measures	Scheduled Q3 2021 Measures	Measures due for reporting in Q3 (Total)
D/Transport	1	11	10	22
DAFM	2	13	6	21
DECC	2	35	27	64
DCEDIY	1	1	0	2
D/Education	0	0	2	2
DETE	2	3	3	8
DFA	0	0	3	3
DFHERIS	0	1	7	8
DHLGH	6	9	10	25
DPER	1	1	3	5
DRCD	0	1	1	2
D/FIN	0	0	4	4
D/Taoiseach	1	3	6	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>176</b>

This is the Third Progress Report on the Interim Climate Actions 2021. In sum, in Q3 2021:

- 32 out of the 82 new measures due for delivery in Q3 2021 were delivered on schedule giving a delivery rate of 39% this quarter.
- 67 of the 94 measures (71%) which had been delayed in previous quarters under the Interim Climate Actions 2021 experienced further delays in Q3 2021.
- Coupled with 50 new delays in Q3, this results in 117 delayed measures carrying over for delivery into the Climate Action Plan 2021.

When combined with implementation seen in Q1 and Q2 2021, this gives an **overall delivery rate of 66% for measures due to date** under the Interim Climate Actions 2021, with 223 measures completed out of a total of 340 measures due. Full details of delivery rates across each quarter are included in Appendix A.

## Progress of Q3 2021 measures

Overall, this report provides updates on:

- A.** Progress of delayed measures from previous quarters in Q3 2021; and
- B.** Progress of new Q3 2021 measures.

You can find a summary of each category of actions below, including headline completed and delayed measures with high emission reduction potential. More detail on the progress of each individual measure due for reporting is provided from page 19 onwards.

## Progress of measures delayed from Q1 2021 and Q2 2021

As per Table 1, there were 16 delayed measures from Q1 2021 and 78 delayed measures from Q2, due for reporting in Q3 2021. Of these 94 delayed measures combined, just 27 were completed in Q3 2021 (29%). The remaining 67 measures experienced further delays for a number of reported reasons, including:

- Resourcing and capacity across Departments and Agencies;
- The complexity and technical aspects of climate action delivery, including levels of consultation required, environmental impact assessments and the speed of the legislative process;
- Knock-on effects from delays encountered due to Covid-19 restrictions; and
- An intense focus on preparing the new Climate Action Plan, diverting resources from delivery.

Overcoming such persistent delays is critical to emissions reduction delivery, with a need to overcome any blockages to implementation in the Climate Action Plan 2021.

Table 2 provides an overview of the headline delayed measures from previous quarters which were completed in Q3 2021. Table 3 meanwhile details examples of headline delayed measures that remain outstanding across sectors.

**Table 2 - Example delayed measures completed in Q3 2021**

Sector	Action/ Measure	Progress Update
<b>Governance</b>	<i>Action 6c: Publish Revised National Development Plan (NDP)</i>	The <a href="#">revised NDP</a> was published on 4 October. It lays out the public investment framework to 2030, the largest ever delivered in the State at €165 billion. The investments planned include a priority focus on climate ambition, including across energy, transport, housing and economic renewal projects. Each of the Exchequer-funded measures contained in the NDP has been assessed against its likely climate and environmental outcomes, further embedding a climate focus.
	<i>Action 197a: Amend legislation to copper fasten the Programme for Government 2020 commitment on petroleum and gas exploration and extraction</i>	Section 21 of the <a href="#">Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021</a> ends the granting of exploration and prospecting licences. This is important to keep fossil fuels in the ground. It follows from a similar decision taken in 2019 with respect to oil exploration and extraction. Combined, this means that DECC is no longer accepting new applications for exploration licences for natural gas or oil.
<b>Electricity</b>	<i>Action 36c: Establishment of Community Benefit Fund Register as part of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) auctions</i>	The community commitments in the RESS support sustainable community energy projects, particularly in rural Ireland, and ensure that local communities' benefit. The online <a href="#">Community Benefit Fund</a> Register was launched in Q3. Funds, in turn, support the economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the local community.
<b>Transport</b>	<i>Action 98a: Develop a policy pathway or roadmap to drive significant ramp-up in passenger EVs and electric van sales from very early in the next decade</i>	Charting a <a href="#">pathway</a> to achieve our ambitious EV targets is important to signpost the supports, incentives and policy changes that will be required to ramp-up EV sales. The report makes 36 recommendations, and emphasises the need to decarbonise transport on the basis of a Just Transition, including both urban and rural communities.

<b>Agriculture</b>	<i>Action 140c: Publish the final Agri-Food 2030 Strategy</i>	<a href="#">Food Vision 2030</a> - A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems” was launched on 3 August. It sets a vision for Ireland to become a world leader in sustainable food systems by 2030, delivering benefits for the sector, society and the environment. It is an important signal to the agricultural sector and industry, with one of its four missions focusing on the development of a climate-smart, environmentally sustainable agri-food sector.
<b>Enterprise</b>	<i>Action 58a: Agree detailed action plan for the cement sector with key stakeholders</i>	Cement industry actions have now been agreed for inclusion in the Climate Action Plan 2021, alongside the key actors who will be involved in implementing them. These steps are important to help decarbonise the emissions intensive cement industry, as well as reducing emissions in the construction sector.

**Table 3 – Headline measures still delayed**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Action/ Measure</b>	<b>Progress Update</b>
<b>Governance</b>	<i>Action 12b: Finalise Section 28 Development Planning Guidelines for Local Authorities which will provide that climate adaptation and climate action plans should be taken account of in the preparation of County Development Plans</i>	Mainstreaming climate action considerations throughout local government is essential for both mitigation and adaptation at the local level. Finalising and issuing guidance to local authorities to embed this is key, as this action aims to achieve. A draft update to the Section 28 Development Plan Guidelines for Local Authorities was <a href="#">published for consultation</a> in August and will conclude on 8 October 2021. A finalised update will follow for publication.
<b>Electricity</b>	<i>Action 39a: Introduce revised regulations for interim solar rooftop planning exemptions, with defined exclusion zones around airports and aerodromes</i>	The need to conduct a full <a href="#">Strategic Environmental Assessment</a> has delayed this action. The process, including a public consultation, is expected to complete in December, with approval of the interim regulations by the Houses of the Oireachtas expected in Q1 2022. The regulations are essential to enable community participation in the micro-generation of energy.

<b>Electricity</b>	<i>Action 30a: Finalise Wind Energy Guidelines</i>	<p>Finalising the <a href="#">Wind Energy Guidelines</a> will provide clarity for onshore renewable energy development. This process has suffered repeated lengthy delays, namely related to noise complexities and the need to achieve a balanced, practicable, technically acceptable and robust guidance that considers the many public submissions received in 2020. DHLGH and DECC met this quarter to discuss new developments. This included the impact of the revised 2030 renewable electricity target stated in the NDP, as well as plans for finalisation of this action in Climate Action Plan 2021.</p>
	<i>Action 41b: Marine Planning and Development Management Bill enacted</i>	<p>The <a href="#">Maritime Area Planning Bill</a> is making its way through the Oireachtas. It is crucial to provide a regulatory basis for offshore renewable energy development. This quarter, the Bill was initiated in August, with Second Stage debate held on 15 and 16 September. It will progress to Committee Stage shortly.</p>
<b>Forestry</b>	<i>Action 172a: Increase output of forestry licences to meet demand</i>	<p>A total of 942 forestry licences issued in Q3 2021. While this is the highest output per quarter this year, it is still below target to meet demand. <a href="#">Project Woodland</a> working groups continue to progress efforts to streamline the licensing process. Overcoming licencing delays is essential to meet our ambitious afforestation targets, facilitate land use diversification and enable crucial carbon sequestration, through the appropriate siting of afforestation.</p>
<b>Built Environment</b>	<i>Action 73e: Develop and launch a new National Retrofit Scheme focused on achieving B2 retrofits</i>	<p>Retrofitting is vital to decarbonise our buildings. New schemes will support households and accelerate progress towards ambitious targets. SEAI is in the final stages of design and consultation for this action. However, it is important to note that <a href="#">a range of SEAI grants</a>, including grants to achieve B2 retrofits remain available.</p>

<b>Transport</b>	<i>Action 111a: Submit planning applications for Core Bus Corridor projects under BusConnects Dublin</i>	Improved public transport is key to reducing emissions in the transport sector. Preparation of the documents required to submit the first tranche of planning applications is expected in Q4, with some delays experienced earlier in the year due to Covid-19 imposed restrictions regarding property referencing.
<b>Public Sector Lead</b>	<i>Action 104a: Complete the tender process and award contract to retrofit the public lighting network</i>	A letter of intent issued to the successful contractor on 20 August, with the contract award anticipated in Q4. Replacing public lighting with energy efficient LED lights holds significant emissions reduction potential by reducing this source of energy use.

### Progress on new Q3 2021 measures

32 new climate action measures were delivered on schedule by Departments and Agencies in Q3 2021, out of a total of 82 measures due. This equates to a delivery rate of 39% this quarter, the lowest seen under the Interim Climate Actions 2021.

Headline examples of completed measures, with high emissions reduction and/or adaptation potential, are outlined in Table 4. Priority examples of the 50 delayed Q3 measures are detailed in Table 5.

Coupled with the 67 persistent delays from previous quarters, this results in 117 delayed measures carrying over for consideration and inclusion in the Climate Action Plan 2021.

**Table 4 – Headline Q3 2021 measures completed**

Sector	Action/ Measure	Progress Update
<b>Governance</b>	<i>Action 9 and 10: Progress Environmental and Vehicle Tax Reform</i>	DFIN completed a number of measures this quarter to better align our taxation system with climate ambition. This includes analysis on carbon tax, diesel and petrol excise rates, vehicle tax reform in light of new emissions testing standards and emissions-based taxation for commercial vehicles. All results were presented to the Tax Strategy Group in Q3, and are <a href="#">available online</a> .

	<i>Action 20a: Complete and publish National Economic Recovery Plan</i>	Rhetoric to ‘build back better’ after Covid-19 has been strong. The <a href="#">National Economic Recovery Plan</a> translates this ambition into action. Decarbonisation permeates the Plan, across enterprise and sectors, labour market and skills, regional development, and innovation and knowledge. It will drive sustainable economic opportunities through clear deliverables.
<b>Transport</b>	<i>Action 132a: Draft and implement legislation to transpose the EU Clean Vehicles Directive</i>	The <a href="#">EU Clean Vehicles Directive</a> sets targets for the procurement of clean vehicles in each member state by increasing the share of low and zero-emission vehicles in contracts tendered by public authorities for both purchase or lease. This includes targets across car, van, truck and bus categories. The Directive was <a href="#">transposed into Irish law</a> in July and came into effect in August.
<b>Built Environment</b>	<i>Action 90a: Undertake an updated space survey of the higher education sector, to fully ascertain the baseline on energy efficiency and inform future capital investment</i>	Upgrading public buildings to be more energy efficient, such as across the higher education sector, holds high mitigation potential given the number of buildings involved. Retrofit decisions must be underpinned by robust evidence, such as that provided by the space survey completed this quarter. Results will help to guide future investment decisions.
<b>Agriculture</b>	<i>Action 158c: Launch Signpost website as a key tool in disseminating the signpost farms messages</i>	The Signpost farms are important for demonstrating how climate mitigation practices can be adopted while maintaining, or even improving, farm profitability. Promoting peer learning amongst farmers, the launch of <a href="#">the Signpost Farms website</a> is welcome to extend the reach of the network. It encompasses regular updates, an e-newsletter and critical farm advice.
<b>Land Use</b>	<i>Action 179c: Restoration of raised bogs</i>	Our bogs are key for carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection. This quarter, efforts continued to restore land predominately in State ownership on protected raised bog sites (including <a href="#">Special Areas of Conservation/Natural Heritage Areas</a> ). A Protected Raised Bog Restoration Incentive Scheme also commenced, providing important financial incentives.

<b>International</b>	<i>Action 205b: Ensure climate action, especially for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, reflected in the funding by DFA Climate Unit</i>	Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have contributed the least to the causes of climate change, but often experience its most intense impacts. The <a href="#">LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience</a> (LIFE-AR) aims to develop more effective, long-term and ambitious climate responses, led by LDCs. DFA provided financial and diplomatic support to LIFE-AR in Q3. They have also engaged with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, with a view to further support in Q4.
<b>Circular Economy</b>	<i>Action 204c: Transposition of the Single Use Plastics Directive</i>	Reducing resource consumption is key to reducing emissions from the waste sector. The <a href="#">Single Use Plastics Directive</a> commits member states to measures to deal with the most common single use plastic items. Ireland <a href="#">transposed the Directive</a> in Q3, banning Single Use Plastic items like cutlery, plates, cotton bud sticks and straws from being placed on the Irish market.

**Table 5 - Priority Measures delayed in Q3 2021**

Sector	Action/ Measure	Progress Update
<b>Governance</b>	<i>Action 7a: Develop a consultation paper on potential methodologies for apportioning any cost of compliance across Government Departments</i>	Assigning the cost of compliance across Government Departments is central to ensuring accountability for any exceedance of emissions targets. This action was delayed in Q3 due to a delay in the publication of the Climate Action Plan 2021 which will provide draft target ranges across sectors.
<b>Transport</b>	<i>Action 111c: Submit planning applications for MetroLink Project</i>	<a href="#">MetroLink</a> is essential to improve public transport in Dublin, with high mitigation potential to reduce car journeys. Extensive work remains to finalise the preliminary design of MetroLink, complete the required environmental impact assessments and close out property referencing issues. Aspects were impacted by delays experienced due to Covid-19 restrictions.

	<i>Action 122b: Publish a charging infrastructure strategy which stays ahead of demand and assists in enabling the transition to zero emission vehicles</i>	Reducing range anxiety by developing a comprehensive national charging network will support the uptake of EVs. Procurement activity is under way to support this action, stakeholder engagement has begun and a review of international best practice is underway. It is expected to publish the Strategy in Q1 2022.
<b>Built Environment</b>	<i>Action 222a: Examine how and when fossil-fuel heating systems could be phased-out of public buildings, including disallowing the installation of any new fossil-fuel heating systems</i>	Completion of this measure is needed to provide clarity to the public sector, including schools, hospitals and Government developments, on the future of public building heating systems. A detailed report on the action commissioned by the OPW in 2020 but it was delayed this year due to the retirement of the project lead. A timetable is now in place to complete the study, with a view to finalising recommendations in Q4.
<b>Agriculture</b>	<i>Action 161a: Review effectiveness of Teagasc organics programme which covers promotion of organics and farm income diversification options</i>	This measure is important to increase the uptake at farm level of low input organic and diversified systems to achieve government targets and reduce emissions from the agricultural sector. Staffing issues delayed delivery of this measure in Q3. An internal review of the <a href="#">Teagasc organics programme</a> is ongoing.
<b>Enterprise</b>	<i>Action 53c: Launch of climate action portal and delivery communications campaign to advertise the launch of the Climate Action Hub for businesses</i>	Business, small and large, must be supported on the journey to climate neutrality. Providing clear and consistent messaging and supports is central to this. User testing of the developed portal is expected to commence in October, with launch and associated communications campaign expected in November.
<b>International</b>	<i>Action 211a: Develop Climate Finance Roadmap in collaboration with other departments</i>	A Climate Finance Roadmap is necessary to meet our international obligations for climate justice to fund climate adaptation and mitigation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Resourcing and capacity constraints has delayed the in-depth engagement required with other departments to develop this Roadmap. Additional resources and an external consultant have been engaged to support this activity into 2022.

<b>Just Transition</b>	<i>Action 213b: Prepare and finalise the Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland and submit to European Commission for approval</i>	<p>Securing a Just Transition where nobody is left behind will demand both national and EU-wide planning and support. To access the <a href="#">EU Just Transition Fund</a>, Member States must submit <a href="#">Territorial Just Transition Plans</a> to the European Commission. The plans will outline the regions and sectors seeking such funding, with up to €77 million available for Ireland. The need for further Departmental engagement, public consultation and decisions around future management and control has delayed the preparation of Ireland’s Territorial Plan.</p>
<b>Public Sector Lead</b>	<i>Action 224c: Seek Government approval for public sector mandate requirements for all non-commercial public bodies</i>	<p>The public sector must lead by example by transitioning its ways of working and demonstrate best practice. This climate action mandate will set targets for public bodies to reduce emissions by 51% by 2030, with requirements across governance, transport and buildings categories. A detailed proposal has been prepared and will be completed following Climate Action Plan 2021.</p>

## Q1 2021 Delayed Measures

### Q1 2021 Delayed Summary

Complete	Delayed	Total
6	10	16

### Governance

#### Action 12 Implement National Planning Framework

**Q1 2021 Delayed measure: Take account of Local Authority Climate Action Plans when including objectives for GHG emissions and climate change adaptation**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Section 10(2)n has been amended by the [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Bill 2021](#) which was passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas on 16 July 2021.

#### Action 12 Implement National Planning Framework

**Q1 2021 Delayed measure: Provide that Local Authorities consider GHG emissions, in the context of Local Authority Climate Action Plans as part of the City/County Development Plan process**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Draft update to the Section 28 Development Plan Guidelines for Local Authorities was [published for consultation](#) in August 2021. The consultation concludes on 8 October 2021, with a finalised update to follow.

**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 Delayed measure: Develop and implement a Remote Working Framework for Civil Service Organisations**

**Responsible body:** DPER

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Discussions with the Civil Service Unions on seeking agreement on the Blended Working Policy Framework commenced on 24 September. These discussions are expected to conclude mid-November, with the agreed Framework being brought to the [Civil Service Management Board](#) for sign off.

Departments/Offices will then use the Framework to inform the development of their own Blended Working Policy to meet their own specific business needs.

## Electricity

**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

**Q1 2021 Delayed measure: Hold quarterly meetings of the Climate Action Delivery Board**

**Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** While the Cabinet Committee and Senior Officials Group has been meeting regularly throughout 2021, the [Climate Action Delivery Board](#) did not meet this quarter. It will be convened again following adoption by Government of the Climate Action Plan 2021.

**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 Delayed 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 draft interim regulations have been reviewed under the [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Directive 2001/42/EC](#). It has been determined that they are likely to have significant effects on the environment, necessitating the undertaking of a full SEA on the draft proposals. The SEA process, involving a public consultation on the proposals which will be launched in the coming weeks, has commenced and is expected to be completed in December 2021.

The process for finalising the interim solar panel planning exemptions including approval of the Houses of the Oireachtas is expected to be completed in Q1 2022.

**Action 51** Expand the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Programme from 256 members to 500 by 2025 and 1,500 by 2030

**Q1 2021 Delayed measure: Establish a National (and Regional) Sustainable Energy Communities Forum and National Steering Group with membership from the Network, SEAI, DCCAE 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 the development of a new Communities Strategy and approach for the forum and work programme. New planned delivery date is Q4 2021.

## Enterprise

**Action 58** Engage with the cement sector to identify measures to support the achievement of identified potential abatement in the sector

**Q1 2021 Delayed 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:** Complete

**Update:** The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has convened a group of key stakeholders and agreed the next steps to reduce emissions in the cement sector. These agreed actions, and the key actors who will be involved in implementing them, will be detailed in the 2021 Climate Action Plan.

**Action 58** Engage with the cement sector to identify measures to support the achievement of identified potential abatement in the sector

**Q1 2021 Delayed measure: Undertake consultation with key stakeholders to determine lead actors in implementation of the policy and sectoral recommendations**

**Responsible body:** DETE

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has convened a group of key stakeholders and agreed the next steps to reduce emissions in the cement sector. These agreed actions, and the key actors who will be involved in implementing them, will be detailed in the 2021 Climate Action Plan.

**Action 86**      **Develop and implement planning rules and guidelines across residential and non-residential parking locations for Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure**

**Q1 2021 Delayed measure: Review planning guidelines with a view to increasing the obligation: public consultation**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** A [public consultation on the Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Development Plans](#) was launched on 13 August 2021 and will close on 8 October 2021. The guidelines promote the formulation of measures in Development Plans to increase the use of, and facilities for, EVs (such as dedicated parking and charging points). Finalised Guidelines will issue in Q4.

## Built Environment

**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 Delayed 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:** Complete

**Update:** Draft update to the Section 28 Development Plan Guidelines for Local Authorities was [published for consultation](#) in August 2021. The consultation concludes on 8 October 2021, with a finalised update to follow.

## Transport

**Action 106**      **Deliver a network of safe, segregated cycling facilities**

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

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Awaiting the publication of the Climate Action Plan before the final 5-Year Delivery Plan is published to ensure coherence between both documents in terms of active travel actions and targets.

## Agriculture

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

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

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) has funded several timber projects aimed at encouraging the use of wood and improving knowledge of timber products.

[Forest Industries Ireland](#) have developed a Communications, timber marketing and promotion strategy which details a range of measures and initiatives aimed at increasing the use of wood in construction and raising awareness of good practice in building with wood. This promotional campaign charts out a number of initiatives lead by the industry aimed at reducing barriers in the use of wood. Forest Industries Ireland's strategy extends out to 2022 and is funded by Industry with some supports from government funding.

DAFM have provided funding for a number of these initiatives and have funded research in timber products and standards.

DAFM have recently awarded several projects focusing on timber under the recent [Woodland Support Funding Call](#) for 2021/2022. Some of these projects will support Forest Industries Ireland in the promotion and use of wood.

## Forestry, Peatlands and Land Use

**Action 172** Implement Forestry Programme 2014-2022 (includes 2 year extension)

**Q1 2021 Delayed measure: Increase output of forestry licences to meet demand**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** A total of 942 forestry licences were issued in Q3 2021. This is the highest output per quarter this year. In September, 585 licences issued. This included 244 private tree felling licences, an increase on the output in June, which was then the highest of that licence type issued in five years. The increase in outputs is a direct result of efficiencies and new processes that have been put in place over the last few months.

Licensing statistics are published each week at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/15b56-forest-statistics-and-mapping/>. The four working groups that form [Project Woodland](#) are continuing to examine the issues under their remits to streamline the licensing process.

**Action 178 Support biodiversity data collection**

**Q1 2021 Delayed measure: Collate data on status of protected habitats and species, ecosystem services, natural capital accounts, land use, landcover**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Although over 20 biodiversity surveys have been initiated or are on-going, for others there has been a lack of suitable tenders submitted and resource issues that has resulted in delays.

## Waste and the Circular Economy

**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 Delayed 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:** Circular Economy Strategy published [for public consultation](#) on 16 April and was open for submissions until 11 June. Review of submissions and final amendments to the Strategy currently underway, for publication following release of Climate Action Plan.

## Citizen Engagement

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

**Q1 2021 Delayed 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:** Delayed

**Update:** The Department is establishing a Youth Assembly, delivered within existing Participation Services. A manager has been appointed to manage the setting up of this Youth Assembly.

The Youth Assembly will convene as the Youth Climate Assembly in January 2022 and a Youth Advisory Group will be consulted to finalise details.

## Q2 2021 Delayed Measures

### Q2 2021 Delayed Summary

Complete	Delayed	Total
21	57	78

### Governance

**Action 2** Commence the process of forming carbon budgets for 2021 to 2025, 2026 to 2030, and 2031 to 2035 ahead of a new Climate Action (Amendment) Bill 2019 being enacted

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Propose initial multiannual carbon budget programme for 2021-2035**

**Responsible body:** Climate Change Advisory Council

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The [Climate Change Advisory Council](#) will propose budgets once the Government has adopted regulations on accounting for emissions. This is expected early in Q4.

**Action 3** Prepare Long-Term Climate Strategy to meet requirements of EU and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Publish Long-term Climate Strategy**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The [Long Term Climate Strategy](#) will be completed in light of Climate Action Plan 2021.

**Action 6** Publish a revised National Development Plan detailing Government capital expenditures planned over 2021 – 2032

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Publish Revised National Development Plan**

**Responsible body:** DPER

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Revised **National Development Plan** was published on 4 October 2021.

Please see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/7ac57-government-launches-the-renewed-national-development-plan-2021-2030/>

**Action 12** Implement National Planning Framework

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Establish a working group to examine implementation of climate actions in National Planning Framework**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The Department is currently progressing a number of competing priorities, including implementing the [Housing for All strategy](#) in line with commitments in the Programme for Government, and developing Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines.

As these priorities are at an advanced stage, it is envisaged that there will be capacity in Q4 to establish the working group as per the action.

**Action 22** Establish an appropriately resourced Climate Action Unit in every Government Department to ensure Climate considerations are at the core of policy development

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: As per headline action**

**Responsible body:** All Departments

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** At the end of Q2 2021, 14/18 (78%) Departments had established a Climate Action Unit, varying in structure and size according to individual needs. In Q3 2021, a further 2 Departments established such Units (D/Health and DRCD), bringing the total number of completed Units to 16/18 (89%) Government Departments:

- Update from D/Health: "Approval for a climate action work programme was signed off by the Secretary General in June 2021. The design and initial work plan of the Climate Change Oversight Group, which will ensure a coherent approach to climate action across the health sector, was subsequently put together. The Oversight Group was launched in September 2021 and held its first meeting on 27 September"
- Update from DRCD: "A Climate Action Unit has been established in DRCD. The Unit sits within the Corporate Policy and Strategic Support Unit and will bring a cohesive focus to climate matters across the organisation, and will feed into the cross-Government climate agenda. All obligations under the Climate Action Plan are being progressed, through cross-Government engagement and collaboration with Departmental colleagues"

The final two outstanding Departments (DFHERIS and DCEDIY) demonstrated good progress on this action this quarter, as detailed below. Final updates will be sought from them in Q4 2021 with respect to the status of their Climate Action Unit establishment.

- Update from DFHERIS: "Capital Planning and Climate Unit has been established but does not yet have a full staff complement in place. The Unit will be staffed progressively over the coming months, with recruitment of a senior Mechanical and Electrical engineer underway".
- Update from DCEDIY: "The Department has identified a Unit to lead on a whole of department response to climate action. This unit will lead on the development of a Departmental action plan for 2022 in Q4 2021. The unit will drive and coordinate implementation over 2022".

**Action 23** Enhance Cabinet procedures to ensure that all Government Memoranda are considered against their carbon impact and mitigation potential

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop guidance for all departments for preparation of Government Memoranda**

**Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Work is underway to develop a suite of measures to support climate consideration in public policy. Guidance material and training events will be considered further in the context of the forthcoming Climate Action Plan 2021.

**Action 23** Enhance Cabinet procedures to ensure that all Government Memoranda are considered against their carbon impact and mitigation potential

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Training events**

**Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Work is underway to develop a suite of measures to support climate consideration in public policy. Guidance material and training events will be considered further in the context of the forthcoming Climate Action Plan 2021.

**Action 21** Establish existing climate change expertise, within the Civil Service and develop a proposal to address any skills gaps identified

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Convene an Interdepartmental Working Group to explore the skills deficit and existing expertise and training**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Measure to be completed following Climate Action Plan 2021. Will utilise workgroup established under Climate Action Plan 2021.

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Each local authority will identify and develop plans for one "Decarbonising Zone"**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** 28 of 31 Local Authorities have identified [decarbonising zones](#). Finalisation of selection process by 3 Local Authorities is underway.

**Action 28** Continue to improve Ireland’s national climate monitoring capabilities through the delivery of advanced, sustainable and long-term climate and environmental monitoring programmes

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Modernise the surface climate and weather observation monitoring station network**

**Responsible body:** Met Éireann

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** 76 out of 81 stations installed. 3 scheduled to be installed 2021. 2 scheduled to be installed 2022. Delays due to Brexit.

This step is now included in the Climate Action Plan 2021 annex of actions, with a deadline of Q4 2022.

## Electricity

**Action 30** Ensure that updated planning guidelines for onshore wind are published in 2021

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Finalise Wind Energy Guidelines**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The main focus in concluding the review of the [Wind Energy Development Guidelines](#) has been on the review of the noise chapters of the document and achieving a balanced, practicable, technically acceptable and robust guidance that takes into consideration the many submissions received as part of the public consultation in 2020.

DHLGH and DECC have recently met to discuss new developments in this regard including, inter alia, consideration of the impact of the revised 2030 renewable electricity target outlined in the National Development Plan 2021- 2030, which may impact the delivery date of this action. This matter is currently being considered by DECC, who lead on noise, and further engagement between both Departments is expected imminently.

Following this inter departmental engagement, DHLGH will be in a better position to provide an update on the time required to finalise the Guidelines, however it should be noted that the Wind Energy Development Guidelines have already been included as an action in the new Climate Action Plan.

**Action 31** Review the policy position on the development of private networks/direct lines with a view to developing the legislative position in the context of the transposition of the Clean Energy Package

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop and submit memorandum on private wires policy options and planning for ministerial approval**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Ministerial approval will be sought by the end of November to commence the project, with a revised text simplifying the action and the individual steps.

Delay is due to staff involved have been assigned additional priority, time-critical tasks in the electricity area.

**Action 32** Review the existing electricity transmission and distribution network tariff structures to assess what changes may be necessary to deliver equitable, cost reflective and transparent charges that facilitate investment in our low carbon transition and the new ways in which the network will be used in the future

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Publish a Call to Evidence Paper setting out the proposed objectives and principles of the Review, and seek information from network users as to what might change the pattern of network usage in the future**

**Responsible body:** CRU

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Finalising Call to Evidence Paper and plan to publish in October. Slight delay due to resource constraints. In parallel to progressing the paper, the project team is working to define the proposed objectives and principles of the review, as well as engaging with ESNB and Eirgrid to establish their modelling capability and available data.

This work will drive our approach for the Review (project papers, modelling requirements etc.) and will feed into pre-baselining the project plan.

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Establishment of Community Benefit Fund Register**

**Responsible body:** SEAI

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Register was launched on 6 July. Please see:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5f12f-community-projects-and-benefit-funds-ress/>

**Action 38** Facilitate very high penetration of variable renewable electricity by 2030 (both System Non-Synchronous Penetration and average) through system services and market arrangements

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Complete the remaining deliverables under the DS3 Programme to enable 75% of the demand on the system to be met from variable renewable generation**

**Responsible body:** EirGrid

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The 70% [System Non-Synchronous Penetration](#) trial was successfully completed in March 2021.

EirGrid commenced the 75% System Non-Synchronous Penetration trial in April 2021 and subject to wind availability and system conditions, the trial is expected to conclude in Q1 2022.

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Functionality to enable smart services in place, subject to initial review. This will facilitate microgeneration.**

**Responsible body:** CRU

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The CRU was informed that it has provisionally been given responsibility by the Department for the detailed design of a [Clean Export Guarantee](#) (CEG). This will include interim arrangements for the administration and implementation of the CEG so as to enable renewables self-consumers and renewable energy communities to be paid for excess renewable electricity to reflect the market value of the exported electricity. This will entail CRU engagement with ESB Networks, suppliers and stakeholders and a consultation on aspects of the regulatory framework to effect implementation.

The CRU [published a consultation](#) on 1 October, with a view to making its decision on the interim solution in November, contingent on the finalisation and enactment of the legislation.

The CEG remuneration may commence from when the legislation is enacted, followed by the CRU's decision on its consultation and a period of time for key stakeholders to finalise arrangements to effect implementation of the remuneration.

**Action 41**      **Ensure Offshore Renewable Energy requirements are delivered in the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Marine Planning and Development Management Bill enacted, which provides a comprehensive regulatory basis for development of offshore renewable energy**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The legal text of the [Maritime Area Planning Bill](#) (previously the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill) was approved by Cabinet on 29 May 2021 and was initiated in August.

Second Stage debate was held on 15 and 16 September. The Bill will progress to Committee Stage shortly.

**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**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Development of a digital portal which allows the public and planners to interrogate the marine planning map of Ireland and the relevant policies on a sectoral basis**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The tool is developed but delays completing security testing and overcoming some software issues (a new platform is being used) is delaying publication. Timeline changed from Q2 2021 to Q1 2022.

**Action 47**      **Develop a new Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP II)**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Establish an OREDP steering group, agree structure and terms and conditions of the project**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Work programme defined, consultations held with stakeholders, invitations to participate in the Steering Group in the process of being issued.

**Action 50      Launch of Renewable Energy joint venture between Coillte and ESB**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Approval of the joint venture**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Discussions are well advanced between Coillte and ESB on the establishment of new private commercial company.

NewERA has finalised their report and approval of the joint venture is currently with DPER with a decision expected in Q4 2021.

## Enterprise

**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)**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Development of the portal, including user testing and roll out of the final online tools**

**Responsible body:** DETE

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** User testing is expected to commence week beginning 11 October, with launch of the online tool expected in early November.

**Action 62      Undertake analysis to determine the demand for, and nature of, the skills required to deliver on key elements of Ireland's Climate Action Plan to Tackle Climate Breakdown over the years to 2030**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop a suite of recommendations that can be drawn upon to ensure that these future skills needs are fully addressed**

**Responsible body:** Expert Group on Future Skills Needs

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** This report, along with its extensive set of recommendations, received final approval from the [Expert Group on Future Skills Needs](#) and the [National Skills Council](#) at their respective meetings in mid- and late September.

The report and its key findings and recommendations have been disseminated and presented to key stakeholders, and discussions are also being held with key Departments on establishing an implementation mechanism for its recommendations. Formal publication of the report will be the subject of a Ministerial launch in the coming weeks.

**Action 71**      **Expand the Small Business Innovation Research programme to build momentum in driving adoption of new and more sustainable technologies and business models across the public sector**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Launch calls for applications to identify public sector bodies with innovation challenges including greenhouse gas emissions reductions & support client companies to undertake a technical feasibility study to solve the problem and develop a prototype**

**Responsible body:** Enterprise Ireland

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The potential of the [Small Business Innovation Research](#) (SBIR) programme as a climate action response for the public sector has been assessed by Enterprise Ireland.

The experience of past SBIR pilot calls is that it would not be effective as a climate action response without significant changes to the design of the programme to ensure that appropriate challenges can be identified and scoped out across the public sector which would be suitable for pre-commercial innovation initiatives in collaboration with Irish SMEs.

Therefore, it is not possible for Enterprise Ireland to commit to holding calls for applications by public bodies under the SBIR Programme for the foreseeable future. Should future SBIR calls be held to stimulate public sector innovation in future, Enterprise Ireland will work to ensure they are aligned to the Government's objectives under the Climate Action Plan.

**Action 72**      **Publish the National Retrofit Plan**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Engage in National Development Plan review process in relation to retrofit**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Department has engaged with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the residential retrofit allocation under the National Development Plan review. The [revised National Development Plan](#) was published on 4 October 2021.

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop a marketing campaign aimed at educating the public on the multiple benefits of residential retrofit and associated technologies and encouraging uptake**

**Responsible body:** SEAI

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The home energy grants campaign "[Discover a new world of comfort](#)" commenced in September and will run for approximately two months. Informed by qualitative and quantitative research the campaign comprises a mix of advertising, public relations, web, social media, virtual and live events, call centre and supply chain engagement.

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop and launch a new Community Activation Scheme**

**Responsible body:** SEAI

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** SEAI is in the final stages of design and consultation and this will be ready for launch alongside the National Retrofit Scheme (One Stop Shop Service) in Q4 2021.

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop and launch a new National Retrofit Scheme focused on achieving B2 retrofits**

**Responsible body:** SEAI

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Scheme in design and consultation phase with the ambition of a launch in Q4 2021, subject to all appropriate approvals.

**Action 74**      **Introduce changes to improve how the Warmer Homes Scheme targets those in energy poverty**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Implement changes to improve how the Warmer Homes Scheme targets those in energy poverty**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Recommendations on changes to the [scheme](#) to improve targetting to be finalised shortly.

**Action 78**      **Develop and introduce financing/funding options to support residential retrofit**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Undertake research to better understand the retrofit financing needs of the market**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Choice modelling survey delayed on advice from consultants about the risk of Covid-19 lockdown skewing consumer sentiment. Survey to launch at the start of July. New delivery deadline is end of Q3 2021 to ensure results help to inform the design of the retrofit low-cost loan scheme.

**Action 79      Decarbonise the Heat Sector (with a focus on Built Environment)**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop a District Heating Policy Framework**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The [Programme for Government](#) has committed Ireland to a significant increase in the level of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The work that is underway in developing Climate Action Plan 2021 has identified district heating as a key measure that will be needed to support this increased ambition.

In this context, key elements of the planned policy framework are being reviewed and are now planned to be included in Climate Action Plan 2021 as opposed to as a separate policy framework. It is also planned that Climate Action Plan 2021 will set out a detailed range of actions to support the development of district heating in Ireland.

**Action 80      Support the delivery of district heating projects under the Climate Action Fund**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Commence the Dublin District Heating System project, supported by the Climate Action Fund, which will provide low carbon heat to businesses and homes in Dublin city**

**Responsible body:** Dublin City Council

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Draft Business Case has been reviewed by the Project Board and is currently being revised on foot of that engagement. An updated Business case will be submitted to the Project Board for approval in November 2021. It will be submitted to DECC following Board approval.

## Built Environment

**Action 87      Skill-up current contractors/other industry players in deep retrofit, Nearly Zero Energy Building and new technology installations**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Bring total number of centres of excellence to support the national expansion of retrofit and Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) courses for new and existing construction workers to 5 during 2021**

**Responsible body:** DFHERIS

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** There are currently two retrofit centres of excellence (run through Waterford Wexford Educational Training Board (ETB), Laois Offaly ETB). This will be increased to five, adding centres under the auspices of Cork, Limerick Clare, Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETBs. The longer than anticipated impact of Covid-19 on the ETBs means that this is now re-scheduled to Q4 2022.

**Action 87** Skill-up current contractors/other industry players in deep retrofit, Nearly Zero Energy Building and new technology installations

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop Retrofit Standard/Guidance for traditionally built buildings (i.e. generally pre-1940 construction): launch public consultation**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** [Public consultation](#) period concluded on 17 September; submissions currently being reviewed.

## Transport

**Action 96** Conduct all-island strategic rail review

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Award contract**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The contract has been awarded and the Review underway with anticipated timeline of 12 months. For more information, please see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/9be22-ministers-ryan-and-mallon-announce-launch-of-strategic-rail-review/>

**Action 98** Develop a policy pathway or roadmap to drive significant ramp-up in passenger EVs and electric van sales from very early in the next decade

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Complete work of group, bring proposals to the Minister and seek Government approval**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The report was published online in September. Please see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/a6a2f-government-approves-electric-vehicle-policy-pathway-report/>

**Action 100** Support the transition to alternatively fuelled and zero-emission vehicles by removing the vehicle weight barrier

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Amend the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 5 of 2003) to increase the maximum permissible weight for laden alternative fuel vehicles and zero-emission vehicles**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The Office of the Parliamentary Counsel has advised the Department of Transport that due to an unrelated vires issue, the [Construction and Use Regulations 2003](#) must be amended via primary legislation.

A Committee-stage amendment is therefore planned for inclusion in the forthcoming [Road Traffic and Roads Bill 2021](#). Once the Bill has been finalised (anticipated Q4 2021), work to amend the legislation and transpose our European commitments can then be completed. This is a priority file and progress will be ongoing.

**Action 104** Award a contract to support the replacement of 78,000 lights in the southwest region as part of the national public lighting energy efficiency project and progress remaining 202,000

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Complete the tender process and award contract**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Letter of intent issued to successful contractor on 20 August 2021. Contract award and signing anticipated October/November 2021.

**Action 109** Award framework contract and place first order for: full electric single deck bus fleet; and full electric double deck bus fleet as part of transition of urban bus services to zero emissions

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Execution of Framework Contract and Placement of first order - full electric single deck buses**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Contract awarded and first order for single-deck electric buses placed in July 2021. Please see: <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/nta-signs-framework-agreement-for-up-to-200-fully-electric-buses/>

**Action 111** Submit planning applications to An Bord Pleanála for Core Bus Corridor projects under BusConnects Dublin; the Cross City Link in Galway; the MetroLink Project; and the DART+ West Project

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Core Bus Corridor projects under BusConnects Dublin: completion of required statutory documentation**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The Department of Transport has received and is reviewing the Preliminary Business Case which represents Decision Gate 1 under the [Public Spending Code](#). A Government decision is required and is expected in the near future.

If approved by Government, that will allow the [Core Bus Corridors](#) to move into the Statutory planning process with An Bord Pleanála.

Preparation of the statutory documentation required to submit the first tranche of planning applications is expected to be completed during Q4, with some delays experienced earlier in the year due to Covid-19 imposed restrictions in relation to property referencing.

**Action 111** Submit planning applications to An Bord Pleanála for Core Bus Corridor projects under BusConnects Dublin; the Cross City Link in Galway; the MetroLink Project; and the DART+ West Project

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Cross City Link in Galway: completion of required statutory documentation**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Planning consent will be sought in Q1 2022.

**Action 120    Increase Train Fleet Capacity**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Award Framework Contract for new electric and battery-electric train fleet**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The Department of Transport has received and is reviewing the Preliminary Business Case which represents Decision Gate 1 under the [Public Spending Code](#). A Government decision is required and is expected in the near future.

If approved by Government, that will allow the contracts to be signed in relation to [DART+ Fleet](#). Government approval will furthermore allow DART+ West move into the statutory planning system, with the submission of a Railway Order to An Bord Pleanala, subject to the completion of the necessary planning and environmental documentation.

The second round of [public consultation on DART+ West](#) was extended until early October. Issues raised during this consultation, including those raised by public representatives, will need to be fully considered and appropriately addressed before the project can enter the planning system.

**Action 121    Set out the planned level of biofuel use for the period 2021 to 2030**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Publish updated Biofuels Policy Statement setting out the planned level of biofuel use from the end of 2021 to 2030**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** It is intended to publish the updated Policy Statement on Renewable Fuels for Transport following the publication of Climate Action Plan 2021.

**Action 121    Set out the planned level of biofuel use for the period 2021 to 2030**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Draft and implement legislation to transpose relevant Renewable Energy Directive (RED) II provisions**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Legislation to transpose relevant [RED II provisions](#) has not yet been implemented. Draft Regulations, including provisions relating to transport, are being prepared by DECC and the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

**Action 130** All cities with a population exceeding 75,000 to produce a sustainable transport plan by no later than June 2021 for review by the National Transport Authority and D/Transport

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Finalise and publish sustainable transport plan for Limerick**

**Responsible body:** Local Authorities

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The [draft Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy](#) was published by the National Transport Authority (NTA) in September 2020 and was open for public consultation for 8 weeks. The NTA intend to undertake a second round of consultation later this year on a revised draft strategy.

**Action 131** Review further linkages between accessibility and climate action

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: As per headline action**

**Responsible body:** DCEDIY

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** DCEDIY coordinates a Transport Working Group under the [National Disability Inclusion Strategy](#) to progress action 104.

Action 104 states: We will lead a review of transport supports encompassing all Government funded transport and mobility schemes for people with disabilities, to enhance the options for transport to work or employment supports for people with disabilities and will develop proposals for development of a coordinated plan for such provision. This plan will have regard to making the most efficient use of available transport resources.

The Group includes representation from the Health Service Executive, Revenue, Department of Social Protection, Department of Health, National Disability Authority, National Transport Authority, Department of Transport and members of the Disability Stakeholder Group. The group met once in March 2020 and work was paused due to Covid-19. D/FIN have been confirmed as members of the group and the group will reconvene shortly. Terms of reference of the group have not been finalised.

## Agriculture

**Action 138** Complete a review of the Teagasc Marginal Abatement Cost Curve, including an update

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: As per headline action**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** While discussions between DAFM and Teagasc continue in the background to scope out how to carry out this review, and the benefits of completing same, this action is currently delayed.

**Action 140** Publication of the 2030 Agri-Food Strategy

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Complete the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment Process**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Strategic Environmental Assessment was completed and published in August 2021. Further detail is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c73a3-food-vision-2030-a-world-leader-in-sustainable-food-systems/>

**Action 140** Publication of the 2030 Agri-Food Strategy

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Publish the final Agri-Food 2030 Strategy**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** “Food Vision 2030 - A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems” was launched by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine with the Taoiseach and colleagues on 3 August 2021.

The vision of “Food Vision 2030” is that Ireland will become a world leader in sustainable food systems over the next decade, delivering benefits for the sector, for Irish society and the environment.

“Food Vision 2030” was developed by a Committee of agri-food stakeholders and envisages a pathway to a position of world leadership based on progressing the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and social. It sets out four high-level missions to fulfil this ambition:

- A climate-smart, environmentally sustainable agri-food sector.
- Viable and resilient primary producers, with enhanced wellbeing
- Food that is safe, nutritious and appealing, trusted and valued at home and abroad
- An innovative, competitive and resilient sector, driven by technology and talent.

The implementation process for Food Vision 2030 will be led by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Further detail is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c73a3-food-vision-2030-a-world-leader-in-sustainable-food-systems/>

**Action 149 Conclude review of the Nitrates Action Programme**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Launch a subsequent consultation following analysis of the submissions and further development of proposed measures**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** A public [consultation on Ireland's Draft Nitrates Action Programme](#) was launched by Minister O'Brien on 9 August 2021. The closing date for receipt of responses was 20 September 2021.

Over 600 consultation submissions were received and these will inform any changes to the Draft Nitrates Action Programme. The Nitrates Action Programme will be finalised and published by the deadline of 31 December 2021.

**Action 154 Commencement of audits against the Sustainable Poultry Products Assurance Scheme, replacing the Poultry Products Quality Assurance Scheme**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Complete Sustainable Poultry Products Assurance Scheme audits on 75% of Poultry Breeding Farms**

**Responsible body:** Bord Bia

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Remote auditing under the new [Sustainable Poultry Products Assurance Scheme](#) (SPPAS) for Breeder Rearers, Breeder Layers and Hatcheries began in Q1 of this year. To date there are 80 Breeder houses (Breeder Rearers and Breeder Layers) certified under the new standard.

Remote auditing under the SPPAS standard for all Poultry Producers began on 1 September 2021. All field officers have conducted online training in the new scheme requirements, while all poultry farmers are required to undergo a similar online training module prior to their next audit. To date, there are 17 Poultry Production houses certified under the new standard and the old Poultry Products Quality Assurance Standard will be phased out by the end of 2022.

Due to the recent disease outbreak of Infectious Laryngotracheitis within Irish poultry and egg flocks in the Cavan/Monaghan region, Bord Bia, in line with DAFM guidance, have decided to implement a temporary lockdown zone for the counties of Cavan and Monaghan. In these two counties, all audits will continue to be conducted remotely for biosecurity reasons.

For all other areas, resumption of on-site SPPAS audits will commence following the lifting of Government Covid-19 restrictions on 22 October 2021. Monitoring of the prevalence and biosecurity threat of Infectious Laryngotracheitis across the national flock is ongoing.

**Action 155**      **Develop and Implement Bioeconomy work programme in support of the use of sustainable, renewable biological resources to displace fossil fuels for chemical, material and energy purposes**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Appoint Chair, confirm work programme and invite members for National Bioeconomy Forum**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The [National Bioeconomy Forum](#) met for the first time on 23 July 2021 which included a workshop to gather feedback from the Forum members on their bioeconomy activities, challenges faced, and solution currently being deployed.

The next meeting is scheduled for 8 October 2021 and a series of bilateral meetings will be held with Forum members in advance of this meeting to gather their feedback to finalise the draft work programme.

**Action 159**      **Training of farm advisors to support farmers in the implementation of climate mitigation practices at farm-level**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop and roll-out a Training of Farm Advisors Programme to 400 public and private advisors in 2021 to upskill in key areas such as climate change, health and safety, biodiversity, and soil and water challenges**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:**

Three steps to deliver this action are as follows:

1. Procure the provision of an online platform to deliver training online – the tender was published at the end of June, a suitable provider was selected by the evaluation committee and the contract signing stage is in progress. it is expected that the contract will be in place mid-October.
2. Procure content for the training modules – the tender was published on 1 October. All content for 5 separate training modules was procured in this tender with a view to rolling out 1 topic per month once a successful tender is chosen and contracts are signed.
3. Roll out the training – is expected to commence in November for at least one of the training modules (as per point 2).

Although this measure is partially complete rollout will not take place until Q4 2021.

## Forestry, Peatlands and Land Use

**Action 165** Commence Land Use Review: complete Phase 1 Evidential Review, in line with the Programme for Government 2020

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Establish Steering Group to define objectives and scope of the review as well as the work programme - to be co-chaired by DECC and DAFM**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Phase 1 of the Evidential Review has commenced and is being overseen by a Land Use Review Steering Committee, co-chaired by DAFM and DECC. The Steering Committee is in place and has convened two meetings to date, with representatives from DAFM, DECC, EPA, DHLGH, and independent nominees.

Phase 1 will form the principal evidence gathering phase of the Review to determine the environmental, ecological and economic characteristics of land types across Ireland.

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Prepare and publish white paper**

**Responsible body:** Coillte

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** This will not be achieved in 2021 due to resource constraints in University of Limerick to support the scoping of the project in Q1 and Q2. Scoping is complete and Coillte are now working with Enterprise Ireland on a funding application to support the project.

Once this has been finalised the ambition is to commence the project in Q4, but is dependent on University of Limerick resource availability. The white paper on the topic will be delivered in 2022. The new target date is Q3 2022.

**Action 185** Establishment of the National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory in association with the Signpost Farm Programme

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Identify sites and install carbon towers and other infrastructure for establishing the measurement of carbon in Irish soils, quantifying carbon sequestration in Irish soils and understanding how it is affected by changes in management practice**

**Responsible body:** Teagasc

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** A list of sites for National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory has been sent for approval to DAFM. Three ancillary towers have been established in Curtins Farms and Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork and Timoleague, Co. Cork.

In addition, a new tower has been installed at Johnstown Castle in order to bring the site up to EU [Integrated Carbon Observation System](#) standards.

**Action 185** Establishment of the National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory in association with the Signpost Farm Programme

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Complete the first year of field work to evaluate the carbon sequestration potential of hedgerows and small farm woodlands and to identify measures to further enhance this carbon sink**

**Responsible body:** Teagasc

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The first year's field work was completed in Spring 2021. The Farm Carbon project is led by EPA and co-funded by DAFM. A report on the fieldwork was submitted directly to EPA in July 2021 and approved by EPA in August 2021.

## Marine

**Action 188** Conduct a baseline study to monitor the essential variables of climate importance in Irish Waters

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Conduct a baseline study of essential ocean variable monitoring in Irish waters, current measurement programmes and data quality**

**Responsible body:** Marine Institute

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Baseline Study of Essential Ocean Variable monitoring in Irish waters is complete and has been submitted to DAFM. The report will shortly be published on the [Marine Institute website](#).

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop a national and catchment fluvial model for Ireland**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Flood Forecast Centre has built the 36 fluvial catchment models. This is not a static development and the models will continuously be re-calibrated when new data becomes available.

The next step is to integrate these into the Flood Early Warning System. This will start in the coming weeks. The intention being to run a trial of all 36 catchment models in Q4 2021.

**Action 191**      **Develop online tools for resource use efficiency by Seafood Processors**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Initiation of a quarterly newsletters to support engagement**

**Responsible body:** Bord Iascaigh Mhara

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The newsletter was distributed to the seafood processing sector via email in September 2021. Content included information on the green programme toolkit along with upcoming events and information for the seafood processing sector.

## Waste and the Circular Economy

**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 (batt**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Undertake SEA/AA (if required)**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was required and is being undertaken on the [Draft Policy Statement for Mineral Exploration and Mining](#).

An SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Statement were published along with the Draft Policy Statement for Mineral Exploration and Mining on 30 July 2021 [for public consultation](#), which runs until 15 October 2021. Thereafter the SEA and AA process will continue in tandem with the policy development and will be completed with the publication of the SEA Statement and final AA Natura Impact Assessment in Q4 2021.

**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 for renewable energy, energy storage (batteries), the move to a digital economy and electrifying the transport system

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Publish policy statement on mineral exploration and mining for public consultation**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Draft Policy Statement for Mineral Exploration and Mining was published on 30 July 2021 [for public consultation](#). The consultation runs until 15 October 2021, thereafter the submissions will be considered and the Policy Statement finalised.

**Action 196** Develop a policy and regulatory framework for geothermal energy to support its use as a secure, environmentally sustainable and cost-effective source of renewable energy

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Undertake SEA/AA (if required)**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Screening for both SEA and AA of the Draft Policy for Geothermal Exploration are underway. Screening Determinations which will determine whether SEA/AA are required are expected by 8 October 2021, though it is likely that full SEA/AA will be required.

Thereafter, the full SEA and AA process (if required) will commence in tandem with the policy development and will be completed with the publication of an SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Assessment for public consultation in Q4 2021. The delay will not affect the publication of the draft policy statement for consultation by end Q4 2021.

**Action 197** Amend the policy statement on petroleum, exploration and production and amend legislation to copper fasten the Programme for Government 2020 commitment on petroleum and gas exploration and extraction

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Prepare supporting legislation to give effect to Programme for Government commitment**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Section 21 of the [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Act 2021](#) repeals a number of provisions of the [Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act 1960](#), ending the granting of exploration and prospecting licences.

The Climate Act 2021 was signed into law by the President on 23 July 2021 and came into operation on 7 September 2021.

**Action 197** Amend the policy statement on petroleum, exploration and production and amend legislation to copper fasten the Programme for Government 2020 commitment on petroleum and gas exploration and extraction

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Finalise policy statement on petroleum and gas exploration and production activities as part of Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Economy**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** It was planned that the policy statement on petroleum, exploration and production would follow the commencement of the legislation, which was delayed. The revised policy statement is currently being finalised and it is intended to bring this to Government for approval in Q4 2021.

**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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Work will commence to establish a national Circular Economy Platform**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Scoping work on Platform has commenced. No scoping document currently available. Note delivery date for completion of this work is Q1 2022.

**Action 204** New and expanded environmental levies to encourage reduced resource consumption and incentivise higher levels of re-use and recycling

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Expansion of the plastic bag levy to medium weight plastic bags and increase to 25c**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Changes in plastic bag levy are no longer proceeding at this time as further work is needed on the environmental impact of different classes of medium-weight plastic bag.

The [Circular Economy Bill](#) will provide legislative basis for expanding the scope of the plastic bag levy in the future, if appropriate.

## Just Transition

**Action 212** Assess the economic and employment implications of the transition to a low-carbon economy

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure:** Conclude Phase 2 of the assessment of the implications of climate mitigation options on socio-economic value of agricultural production and the rural economy

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The assessment report is currently being finalised.

**Action 214** Complete the evaluation process and contractual arrangements for successful projects under the 2020 Just Transition Fund call

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure:** Issue Funding Agreements to successful projects which meet fund requirements

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** 45 [National Just Transition Fund](#) projects in contract, 13 projects outstanding. Verification checks are progressing in relation to the outstanding 13 projects.

**Action 214** Complete the evaluation process and contractual arrangements for successful projects under the 2020 Just Transition Fund call

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure:** Finalise administrative arrangements for delegated management of the 2020 Just Transition Fund call

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Discussions ongoing in relation to finalising Administrative Agreement and agreeing budget in relation to the delegated management of the [Just Transition Fund 2020](#).

**Action 215 Support the work of the Just Transition Commissioner**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Publish Implementation Plan in response to the Just Transition Commissioner's recommendations**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Implementation Plan will be included in forthcoming Climate Action Plan 2021 in a dedicated Just Transition Midlands chapter.

Public Sector Lead

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Seek Government Decision on target, methodology and rollout of 50% decarbonisation including communications strategy**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Measure to be completed following Climate Action Plan 2021. Detailed proposal prepared and must align with Climate Action Plan 2021 ambition.

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Communicate measurement and systems to all public sector bodies**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Measure to be completed once above step is complete.

**Action 224 Introduce Climate Action Mandate for every public body**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Consult with public sector across range of channels on content of mandate**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Measure to be completed following Climate Action Plan 2021. Detailed proposal prepared.

**Action 224 Introduce Climate Action Mandate for every public body**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop framework for commercial semi-state sector to address climate action objectives**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Measure to be completed following Climate Action Plan 2021.

**Action 225 Mandate the inclusion of green criteria in all procurements using public funds, introducing requirements on a phases basis and provide support to procurers as required**

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Government departments to report on Green Public Procurement activity during 2020 to EPA by end of Q1 2021**

**Responsible body:** EPA

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** All Departments provided required information to EPA by end Q1. EPA currently preparing final report and will require final sign-off by EPA Board.

## Citizen Engagement

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

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Launch a Community call under the Climate Action Fund to support activation at local and community level**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Substantial work has been undertaken on the development of this programme. Work is continuing to finalise a number of more complex issues particularly to ensure compliance with the [Climate Action Fund](#) establishing legislation.

These issues are expected to be resolved during October to enable the programme progress to delivery in Q4.

**Action 237** Support the provision of training and capacity building in relation to climate change to community development and local development organisations

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Determine the scope for supporting capacity building in communities under the forthcoming Community Call under the Climate Action Fund**

**Responsible body:** DRCD

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The Department of Rural and Community Development engaged [Pobal](#) to undertake a training needs analysis of the community and voluntary sector, including specific reference to training needs under climate action and sustainable development goals.

The first report will be available shortly with a view to being published in Q4 2021.

**Action 245** Expand the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Programme from 256 members to 500 by 2025, and 1,500 by 2030

**Q2 2021 Delayed measure: Develop a proposal to use Citizens Information Centre network to offer climate information to citizens and communities**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The [SEAI Sustainable Energy Community Programme](#) (SEC) is expanding rapidly with 550 member communities by end of Q2 2021.

The SEAI have developed a Sustainable Energy Communities Policy Paper setting out a proposed stakeholder structure to inform the future policy design of the SEC programme.

This includes an Sustainable Energy Communities National Forum and National Steering Group with representation from the [National Dialogue on Climate Action](#). This sets out a proposed effective stakeholder structure that can inform the future policy design of the SEC programme. It considers a review of the climate change governance landscape and proposes a structure of community representation and engagement.

The opportunity of collaborating with the [Citizens Information Centre Network](#) can be considered as part of the future policy of the SEC programme with key stakeholders from National Dialogue on Climate Action, the EPA and the Citizens information Centre Network.

## Q3 2021 Measures

### Q3 2021 Summary

Complete	Delayed	Total
32	50	82

### Governance

**Action 7**      Develop a system that determines how any cost of compliance with EU climate and energy targets should be met. This will be informed by the sectoral allocation of climate targets under the forthcoming carbon budgets

**Q3 2021 measure:** Develop a consultation paper on potential methodologies for apportioning any cost of compliance across Government Departments

**Responsible body:** DPER

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Delayed due to delay in publication of the Climate Action Plan 2021 which will outline potential sectoral ceilings.

**Action 9**      Progress Environmental Tax Reform

**Q3 2021 measure:** Monitor and review successive carbon tax increases as announced in Budget 2021

**Responsible body:** DFIN

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Analysis of current carbon tax policy was prepared in the Climate Action and Tax 21/09 Tax Strategy Group paper and presented to Tax Strategy Group on 8 September 2021.

The paper is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/d6bc7-budget-2022-tax-strategy-group-papers/>

## Action 9 Progress Environmental Tax Reform

**Q3 2021 measure: Equalise diesel and petrol excise rates over an appropriate period of time**

**Responsible body:** DFIN

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Options for equalisation were proposed in the Climate Action and Tax 21/09 Tax Strategy Group paper and presented to Tax Strategy Group on 8 September 2021.

The paper is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/d6bc7-budget-2022-tax-strategy-group-papers/>

## Action 10 Progress Vehicle Tax Reform

**Q3 2021 measure: Monitor and review recent vehicle tax reform in light of new emissions testing standards**

**Responsible body:** DFIN

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Analysis of the vehicle registration tax system in the context of emissions-testing standards reform was prepared in the Climate Action and Tax 21/09 Tax Strategy Group paper and presented to Tax Strategy Group on 8 September 2021.

The paper is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/d6bc7-budget-2022-tax-strategy-group-papers/>

## Action 10 Progress Vehicle Tax Reform

**Q3 2021 measure: Consider the introduction of emissions-based taxation for commercial vehicles**

**Responsible body:** DFIN

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Preliminary analysis for an emissions-based system of commercial vehicle taxation has been undertaken and options have been proposed in the Climate Action and Tax 21/09 Tax Strategy Group paper and presented to Tax Strategy Group on 8 September 2021.

The paper is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/d6bc7-budget-2022-tax-strategy-group-papers/>

**Action 14** Strengthen our delivery of public funding for basic and applied research to underpin government policy, meet our decarbonisation objectives and open up new economic opportunities

**Q3 2021 measure: Develop proposals for mission-oriented funding to address complex and long-term challenges**

**Responsible body:** DFHERIS

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The [Science Foundation Ireland Future Innovator Prize](#), funded by DFHERIS, is a challenge-based prize funding programme that seeks to support Ireland's best and brightest, to develop novel, potentially disruptive, technologies to address significant societal challenges.

A relevant recent challenge was to achieve Zero Emissions. This scheme completed on schedule in 2021. Minister Harris announced the winning team on 21 June 2021.

The winning team from UCD and Carbery Group aims to help Shinagh Farm in Co. Cork achieve net-zero emissions by 2027. To progress this, they will study pasture planting, hedgerow support, renewable energy, and livestock feed. The plan is to extend the work to a further 5,000 farms within five years.

Further teams under this and other challenge programmes were supported in areas including renewable energy and climate adaptation. Further information is available at:

- Science Foundation Ireland Zero Emissions Challenge Winning Teams (Press Release): <https://www.sfi.ie/research-news/news/climate-neutral-farm/>
- Farm Zero C: <https://www.sfi.ie/research-news/stories/bioeconomy/farm-zero-c/>

**Action 14** Strengthen our delivery of public funding for basic and applied research to underpin government policy, meet our decarbonisation objectives and open up new economic opportunities

**Q3 2021 measure: Examine climate research metrics that could be used in the next National Research & Innovation Strategy and identify data gaps to support the gathering of these metrics which the next strategy could address in its work programme**

**Responsible body:** DFHERIS

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** A new action to agree climate research classification to be included in a standardised public research classification system and agree relevant climate research metrics is included in the new Climate Action Plan 2021. This work will be led by the EPA in conjunction with DFHERIS and the Climate Research Coordination Group and replaces this action.

**Action 14** Strengthen our delivery of public funding for basic and applied research to underpin government policy, meet our decarbonisation objectives and open up new economic opportunities

**Q3 2021 measure: Work to identify how a grand challenge around climate could be developed and tested**

**Responsible body:** DFHERIS

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Based on the successful delivery of initial challenge-funding programmes by Science Foundation Ireland (see 14a for just one example), further development of how a larger scale challenge programme around climate was undertaken and a proposal was included in the [National Resilience and Recovery Plan](#).

This proposal, the [National Grand Challenges Programme](#) (NGCP), was accepted. The NGCP is funded by the National Resilience and Recovery Plan and is currently in a scoping phase. The NGCP will use a challenge-based approach to coordinate national research and innovation capacity to address a range of issues in either green or digital sectors.

A new action on the NGCP has been suggested for the forthcoming Climate Action Plan 2021.

The funding will support research and innovation projects to develop solutions in the areas of Climate and Digital, including Agriculture and Health. Complex problems call for novel approaches that embrace trans-disciplinarity, agility, and acceptance of risk. The programme will be managed by Science Foundation Ireland.

Further information on the NGCP is in the National Development Plan at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/774e2-national-development-plan-2021-2030/> (p. 103)

**Action 20** Embed Green Recovery and reskilling as part of the National Economic Recovery Plan

**Q3 2021 measure: Complete and publish National Economic Recovery Plan**

**Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The [Economic Recovery Plan](#) was published on 1 June. It set out renewed supports, investments and policies for a new stage of economic recovery. The Plan has an overarching ambition of 2.5 million people in work by 2024, but more productive, innovative, resilient jobs, and in new areas of opportunity, aligned with the Government's green and digital ambitions.

The Plan will drive the sustainable rebuilding and renewal of our economy by helping people back into work through labour market activation and reskilling opportunities; by re-building sustainable, innovative, productive and resilient enterprises; by ensuring sustainable public finances; and through a balanced and inclusive recovery.

Supporting the decarbonisation transition is an overarching focus throughout all pillars of the Plan.

**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

**Q3 2021 measure: Publish progress report each quarter for the Climate Action Plan**

**Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Q2 Progress Report was approved by Government this quarter and published online at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/55fde-climate-action-important-publications/#progress-reports>

It reported a delivery rate of 51% for Q2 2021, with all delayed actions carried forward for monitoring, delivery and reporting in Q3.

A round of first text updates on all Q3 2021 measures due were obtained from Departments on 7 September to facilitate early discussion on any measures deemed at risk of delay. Final Q3 updates were due from Departments to D/Taoiseach by close of business on 7 October 2021. This report represents the Third Progress Report on the Interim Climate Actions 2021.

**Action 28** Continue to improve Ireland's national climate monitoring capabilities through the delivery of advanced, sustainable and long-term climate and environmental monitoring programmes

**Q3 2021 measure: Promote development of observations in Weather Observations Website- IE (WOW-IE)**

**Responsible body:** Met Éireann

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The [wow.met.ie](http://wow.met.ie) website is growing in popularity with dozens of new weather stations added since its launch in 2020.

In particular, Met Éireann is supporting the [Fingal County Council Weather Stations for Schools Project](#) launched in June 2021. 100 Primary Schools across Fingal are to receive a weather station rain gauge as part of an effort by Fingal County Council to produce more detailed rainfall records for the county.

Schools can easily enter rainfall measurement and other weather information collected from their weather stations onto Met Éireann's Weather Observations Website, [WOW-IE](#). This is a global network of weather observations where the public can view and share their measurements.

## Electricity

<b>Action 31</b>	<b>Review the policy position on the development of private networks/direct lines with a view to developing the legislative position in the context of the transposition of the Clean Energy Package</b>
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Publish consultation paper and complete consultation on focussed policy options</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DECC	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> The CRU has approved for publication the paper "Objectives, Principles and Call for Evidence paper" to be published in the week beginning 18 October 2021. It will be the first paper published as part of CRU's Electricity Network Tariff Structure Review.  The paper contains 24 questions for interested parties. The responses and feedback received will allow CRU to refine the objectives and principles of the review and will give a broad platform from which to launch the next phase of the review. It will be an eight week consultation.	
<b>Action 33</b>	<b>Transposition of Internal Market for Electricity Directive (EU) 2019/944</b>
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Develop Statutory Instruments transposing remaining articles in Directive</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DECC	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Delayed until Q2 2022. Statutory Instruments are being developed and 3 draft Statutory Instruments are the subject of ongoing Attorney General Office/legal engagement. The earliest of these was sent to the <a href="#">Attorney General Office</a> in November 2020.	
<b>Action 34</b>	<b>Assess the network development required to integrate higher levels of RES-E and develop a high-level network development plan to (and beyond) 2030</b>
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Publish final 'Shaping our Electricity Future'</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> EirGrid	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Drafting of documentation to complete in September, with plan to launch in Q4 2021.	

**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

**Q3 2021 measure: Develop necessary aviation safeguarding maps in conjunction with external consultants in order to avoid threat to aviation safety in vicinity of airports**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Project scoping feedback has been received from interested parties through the draft Request for Tender process. This information is highly technical in nature and is being considered by DHLGH, alongside key stakeholders, in the development of the final Request for Tender documentation.

DHLGH intends to publish the call for tender shortly.

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

**Q3 2021 measure: Finalisation of detailed high level design of microgeneration support scheme**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The high level design is delayed due to prioritising the enabling framework and associated transposing legislation that supports the [Clean Export Guarantee](#) tariff.

The CRU [published a consultation](#) on the enabling framework on 1 October. DECC are working intensively with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel on the draft Statutory Instrument that transposes the relevant Articles of the [Internal Market for Electricity Directive](#) and the [recast Renewable Energy Directive \(RED II\)](#) to provide the legal basis for the enabling framework.

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

**Q3 2021 measure: Launch finalised policy and pricing support regime for micro- generation**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The scheme launch will follow from the publication of the final scheme design.

**Action 45      Develop a clear Offshore Energy Grid and Regulatory Policy**

**Q3 2021 measure: Develop interim Regulatory Policy for Offshore Energy projects following Government decision on grid policy**

**Responsible body:** CRU

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Following DECC decision, CRU has been examining decision points and developing a plan in conjunction with DECC and EirGrid. The first in a series of consultations for Phase 1 projects will begin in the coming weeks. A second consultation will be published in Q4 2021.

The policy framework to cover all offshore will take a number of years to complete.

**Action 46      Finalise design and rollout of dedicated offshore RESS auction**

**Q3 2021 measure: Develop terms and conditions for dedicated offshore RESS auction**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Draft terms and conditions for the first offshore renewable auction are due to publish on 11 October for stakeholder consultation. A Fourth Offshore Industry Workshop will be held in November, focussed in depth on the draft terms and conditions.

Following consultation, final terms and conditions will be published in advance of the actual auction opening date which will likely be Q3/Q4 2022.

**Action 47      Develop a new Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP II)**

**Q3 2021 measure: OREDP work programme commenced, with consultants in place and stakeholder engagement in progress**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The [Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan](#) work programme has commenced, governance structures are in place and stakeholder engagement is in progress. It is expected that a contract will be signed with the successful tenderer re the SEA consultancy in the next 2 weeks.

## Enterprise

<b>Action 53</b>	<b>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)</b>
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Lanuch of climate action portal and delivery communications campaign to advertise the launch of the Climate Action Hub for businesses</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DETE	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> User testing is expected to commence week beginning 11 October, with launch of the online tool and delivery of comms campaign expected in November.	

<b>Action 57</b>	<b>Decarbonise the Heat Sector (with a focus on Enterprise)</b>
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Develop the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat with an increased focus on large energy users</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DECC	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> The annual review of the <a href="#">Support Scheme for Renewable Heat</a> was completed in July 2021. It did not lead to any changes to the supports at this time.	
As the review of supports is carried out on at least an annual basis, the work on the next review will commence shortly.	

<b>Action 58</b>	<b>Engage with the cement sector to identify measures to support the achievement of identified potential abatement in the sector</b>
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Support implementation of actions in a Cement Sector Action Plan, agreed across key stakeholders</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DETE	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Actions for a number of Departments and bodies aiming to achieve carbon abatement in the cement sector have been included in the Climate Action Plan 2021.	

**Action 64** Continue to develop and support the offshore wind industry cluster, which comprises over 50 Irish supply chain companies

**Q3 2021 measure: Hold the Enterprise Ireland Offshore Wind Showcase Forum in September 2021**

**Responsible body:** Enterprise Ireland

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was not possible for Enterprise Ireland to hold the Offshore Wind Showcase in Ireland in 2021. It is planned that this event will now take place in January 2022 (subject to public health advice at the time). The event will bring delegates from the UK and Ireland together to promote collaboration between Irish SMEs and the global offshore wind industry.

[Enterprise Ireland](#) continues to support the growth of the offshore wind cluster which comprises over 60 Irish companies with offshore wind capabilities. For example, while it was not possible to organise a formal Enterprise Ireland presence at this year's [Global Offshore Wind](#) 2021 event (held in London on 29 and 30 September), members of Enterprise Ireland's London office attended the event to meet with global industry leaders on behalf of the Irish supply chain.

**Action 79** Decarbonise the Heat Sector (with a focus on Built Environment)

**Q3 2021 measure: Develop an updated comprehensive assessment of the potential for an efficient heating and cooling sector in Ireland in the context of achieving net zero emissions by 2050**

**Responsible body:** SEAI

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The updated Comprehensive Assessment was completed and submitted to the European Commission on 30 July 2021. It was also published on gov.ie on 6 August 2021.

Please see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e4332-introductory-text-for-publication-of-the-national-comprehensive-assessment-on-govie/>

**Action 86** Develop and implement planning rules and guidelines across residential and nonresidential parking locations for Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure

**Q3 2021 measure: Review planning guidelines with a view to increasing the obligation: issue guidance to Local Authorities**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Draft update to the [Section 28 Development Plan Guidelines](#) for Local Authorities was [published for consultation](#) in August 2021. The consultation concludes on 8 October 2021, with a finalised update to follow.

## Built Environment

<b>Acti on 89</b>	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
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Individual areas of work/projects identified and showcased in national media</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> D/Education	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Press release issued featuring one of the 2020 Pathfinder Projects, St Annes Secondary School Killaloe.	
Please see: <a href="https://merrionstreet.ie/en/news-room/news/sustainability_in_our_schools_major_upgrade_pathfinder_project_completed_in_st_annes_community_college_killaloe_transforming_energy_consumption.171615.shortcut.html">https://merrionstreet.ie/en/news-room/news/sustainability_in_our_schools_major_upgrade_pathfinder_project_completed_in_st_annes_community_college_killaloe_transforming_energy_consumption.171615.shortcut.html</a>	

<b>Action 90</b>	Set a trajectory for commencing and implementing a deep energy retrofit programme for the higher and further education sectors
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Undertake an updated space survey of the higher education sector, to fully ascertain the baseline with regard to energy efficiency and inform future capital investment</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DFHERIS	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Report compiled by the <a href="#">Higher Education Authority</a> , with information received from the higher education sector, was submitted to DFHERIS.	

<b>Action 90</b>	Set a trajectory for commencing and implementing a deep energy retrofit programme for the higher and further education sectors
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Map the technical and administrative capacity required to design, deliver and oversee a deep energy retrofit programme for the higher and further education sectors</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DFHERIS	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> The first essential step has been completed with a review of structures within DFHERIS and additional resourcing to support climate action agreed.	
The new resource, to be assigned in early 2022, will take forward the broader piece of work in relation to capacity mapping across the wider sector. It is expected that the action can be completed in Q2 2022.	

**Action 92** Mandate the establishment of climate action Strategic Policy Committees in each local authority

**Q3 2021 measure:** Conduct a review of Strategic Policy Committees commencing in 2021

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Intend to start review process in Q4 2021.

## Transport

**Action 101** Examine the role of demand management measures in Irish cities, including low emission zones and parking pricing policies

**Q3 2021 measure:** Publish findings of the Demand Management study

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Report being finalised following completion of final modelling work.

**Action 101** Examine the role of demand management measures in Irish cities, including low emission zones and parking pricing policies

**Q3 2021 measure:** Based on findings of study identify regulatory barriers to Demand Management measures and develop proposals to address them

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Regulatory barriers to be identified in delivery roadmap included in published report; will follow publication of report.

**Action 111** Submit planning applications to An Bord Pleanala for Core Bus Corridor projects under BusConnects Dublin; the Cross City Link in Galway; the MetroLink Project; and the DART+ West Project

**Q3 2021 measure: MetroLink Project: completion of required statutory documentation**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The Department of Transport has received and is reviewing the Preliminary Business Case which represents Decision Gate 1 under the [Public Spending Code](#). A Government decision is required and is expected in the near future.

If approved by Government, that will allow [MetroLink](#) to move into the statutory planning system, with the submission of a Railway Order to An Bord Pleanala, subject to the completion of the necessary planning and environmental documentation.

An extensive body of work remains in relation to finalising the preliminary design, completing the required environmental impact assessment reports and closing out property referencing issues. Aspects of this work were impacted by delays experienced due to Covid-19 imposed restrictions.

Preparation of the statutory document is expected to be completed during Q1 next year.

**Action 112** Develop BusConnects Cork

**Q3 2021 measure: Publish Network Strategy options report for public consultation**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** An initial round of public consultation for the [Cork Bus Network Redesign](#) took place in July 2021 on a 'Choices Report' seeking feedback on certain choices about the future Cork bus network. Following the public consultation, the design process is under way and a draft new bus network will be published in Q4 2021 for public consultation.

**Action 113** Deploy electric vehicles for the delivery of Local Link services

**Q3 2021 measure: Deploy two Electric Vehicle buses on the Dingle peninsula, Co. Kerry**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Electric Vehicles are on track to be deployed in Q4 2021. The deployment incurred delays due to the pandemic initially, with the National Transport Authority currently in the process of identifying and installing chargers at a designated location in Dingle.

**Action 115**      **Assessment of options to ensure commercial State ports are positioned to facilitate the development of offshore renewable energy**

**Q3 2021 measure: Conduct assessment in consultation with relevant Offshore Wind Energy stakeholders**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Engagement with stakeholders ongoing and assessment still underway; report due to be submitted to Minister in early October.

**Action 122**      **Develop and publish a charging infrastructure strategy which stays ahead of demand and assists in enabling the transition to zero emission vehicles**

**Q3 2021 measure: Work with Local Government to ensure policy coherence between the strategy and the guidance being developed by local authorities for Electric Vehicle infrastructure**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Officials from D/Transport are in regular contact with the Dublin Local Authorities in relation to the development of the Dublin Area Infrastructure Strategy.

In addition, officials have recently met with the [Local Government Management Agency](#) and several of the Local Authorities including Galway, Limerick, Cork and Laois.

The Department also sat on a [County and City Management Association](#) working group that has recently developed an electric vehicle guidance document for the Local Government sector.

**Action 122**      **Develop and publish a charging infrastructure strategy which stays ahead of demand and assists in enabling the transition to zero emission vehicles**

**Q3 2021 measure: Government approval to publish**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** D/Transport is aiming to produce the Strategy document by end of Q4 with a view to bringing it to Government in Q1 2022. Work has commenced on the document.

Procurement activity is under way. Key issues have been identified and stakeholder engagement has begun as well as a review of international best practice.

**Action 128** Undertake public consultation on proposals for an enhanced rural transport system under the Connecting Ireland Programme

**Q3 2021 measure: Complete public consultation**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The National Transport Authority has now completed the first phase of consultation on its proposals, titled '[Connecting Ireland](#)', with all Local Authorities and is now engaging with Regional Authorities and other key stakeholders.

This will be followed by a wider public consultation in Q4 2021 prior to finalisation of the proposals by the National Transport Authority and submission to D/Transport.

**Action 132** Set mandatory alternatively fuelled vehicle procurement targets for public sector bodies

**Q3 2021 measure: Draft and implement legislation to transpose the EU Clean Vehicles Directive**

**Responsible body:** D/Transport

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The [Clean Vehicles Directive](#) was transposed into Irish law by S.I. No. 381 and came into effect on 2 August 2021. The Clean Vehicles Directive sets out binding targets for the share of low- and zero-emitting vehicles for the procurement of vehicles by all public bodies, for both purchase or lease.

S.I. No. 381 is available at:

[http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/si/381/made/en/print#:~:text=No.-,381%2F2021%20%2D%20European%20Communities%20\(Clean%20and%20Energy%20Efficient%20Road,Vehicles\)%20\(Amendment\)%20Regulations%202021&text=%E2%80%9C%20Iris%20Oifigi%3%20%BAil%E2%80%9D%20of%2027th%20July%2C%202021.&text=1.&text=339%20of%202011%20%20and%20these,Vehicles\)%20Regulations%202011%20and%202021](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/si/381/made/en/print#:~:text=No.-,381%2F2021%20%2D%20European%20Communities%20(Clean%20and%20Energy%20Efficient%20Road,Vehicles)%20(Amendment)%20Regulations%202021&text=%E2%80%9C%20Iris%20Oifigi%3%20%BAil%E2%80%9D%20of%2027th%20July%2C%202021.&text=1.&text=339%20of%202011%20%20and%20these,Vehicles)%20Regulations%202011%20and%202021)

## Agriculture

**Action 145**     **Contribute to developing the capability of an Anaerobic Digestion industry in Ireland**

**Q3 2021 measure: Startup of the Teagasc biomethane anaerobic digestion pilot plant in Grange**

**Responsible body:** Teagasc

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Approval from DAFM has very recently been received to commence with the plant for [biomethane production](#) rather than as a Combined Heat & Power plant. A contractor to complete the work is booked and Teagasc hope to be producing gas by Q1 2022.

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

**Q3 2021 measure: Develop a roadmap to promote greater use of lower-carbon building material alternatives in construction**

**Responsible body:** OPW

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** This action was delayed due to key resources being diverted to deliver critically required infrastructure in preparation for Brexit. A draft Roadmap document which was in preparation over the past number of months has now been completed by the OPW.

The document outlines key areas of guidance for lower-carbon building materials in construction supported by examples of best practice in this area. The impact of lower carbon building materials on the construction industry needs careful consideration.

In terms of next steps, the draft Roadmap document will form the basis of a consultation process to be held with key stakeholders which will be commenced in November 2021. This consultation process will road-test the content of the draft Roadmap and will incorporate appropriate feedback ahead of finalisation and approval of the Roadmap in Q1 2022.

**Action 155**      Develop and Implement Bioeconomy work programme in support of the use of sustainable, renewable biological resources to displace fossil fuels for chemical, material and energy purposes

**Q3 2021 measure: Invest in research in the agri-food sector, prioritising data, agri-digitalisation and the circular bioeconomy under DAFM's Research Call 2021**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** [DAFM Research Call 2021](#) was launched seeking research projects across key thematic areas including data, agri-digitalisation and the circular bioeconomy. This new Call fully reflects the key strategic drivers both nationally (Agri-Food Strategy 2030) and internationally ([EU Farm to Fork](#), [Biodiversity](#) & [Circular Economy](#) strategies of the [EU Green Deal](#)).

It is designed to offer flexible and agile research opportunities to a wide variety of disciplines through an integrated and systems-based approach to research.

**Action 156**      Invest in research in the agri-food sector, prioritising investment in areas such as climate and the sustainable bioeconomy

**Q3 2021 measure: Develop and launch a mission-orientated research call prioritising the key investment areas of climate, environment and the circular bio-economy**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** This is the first call under a restructured approach based on seeking research projects across key thematic areas including climate, environment and the circular bioeconomy. The new mission-orientated research call will continue to run periodically in the future to more effectively address key Research, Development and Innovation challenges.

The inclusion of 'other eligible actors' is also being piloted as an additional component of this call with the aim to include the activities of 'innovation intermediaries' to support Research Performing Organisations with the wider stakeholder knowledge transfer/dissemination activities of the project and encourage a multi-actor engagement in the projects. Co-funding with other agencies will continue as a feature of this programme.

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

**Q3 2021 measure: Launch Signpost website as a key tool in disseminating the signpost farms messages**

**Responsible body:** Teagasc

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Signpost Programme website, <http://www.teagasc.ie/signpost> was launched in May earlier this year. Teagasc will continue to generate Signpost Farmer updates for publication on the website as well as publication of our Signpost newsletter and farm advice.

**Action 161** Introduce enhanced knowledge transfer programme through Teagasc advisory service on farm diversification

**Q3 2021 measure:** Review effectiveness of Teagasc options programme which covers promotion of organics and farm income diversification options, towards increasing the uptake at farm level of low input organic systems to achieve government targets

**Responsible body:** Teagasc

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The review of the [options programme](#) has been delayed by staffing issues. An internal review of the Teagasc organics programme is ongoing.

## Forestry, Peatlands and Land Use

**Action 170** Develop and implement the new All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025

**Q3 2021 measure:** Publish All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

**Responsible body:** NPWS

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The strategy was published in March 2021 entitled the new [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#). This represents the second phase of this very successful project.

The Plan presents a five-year roadmap that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity by engaging communities, local authorities, farmers, schools and businesses, among others. It includes 186 actions to help biodiversity and action for nature.

Further information is available at: <https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/>

**Action 179** Continue to implement the third National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and build on the commitments made at the first National Biodiversity Conference

**Q3 2021 measure: Implementation of conservation measures to maintain and restore protected habitats and species**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** [LIFE IP PAF \(Prioritised Action Framework\) Wild Atlantic Nature](#) aims to reactivate 5,000ha of blanket bog in the Northern and Western Region. A pilot results based project was launched in the Owenduff/Nepin Complex [Special Area of Conservation](#) in June 2021 and will extend to other project blanket bog Special Areas of Conservation in 2022.

The [Corncrake LIFE project](#), in conjunction with DAFM, is in the process of developing a results based payment scheme to improve habitat for Corncrake in project areas which will be operational from January 2022.

The [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#) (NPWS) are continuing to design new Farm Plans – it is expected that there will be over 200 NPWS farm plans in operation by year end, encompassing a range of different habitats and species. A new Conservation Measures unit has also been established in NPWS.

**Action 179** Continue to implement the third National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and build on the commitments made at the first National Biodiversity Conference

**Q3 2021 measure: Development of post-production peatlands rehabilitation plans**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** 19 Bord na Mona rehabilitation plans have been reviewed by DHLGH as part of the Enhanced Decommissioning, Rehabilitation and Restoration Scheme.

Rehabilitation and restoration works have commenced on several post-production peatlands. Please see: <https://www.bnmpcas.ie/bogs-peatlands-climate-action-scheme/>

**Action 179** Continue to implement the third National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and build on the commitments made at the first National Biodiversity Conference

**Q3 2021 measure: Restoration of raised bogs**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#) is continuing restoration measures on land predominately in State ownership on protected raised bog sites ([Special Areas of Conservation/Natural Heritage Areas](#)).

Since Q3 2020 (last update) a further four sites have been completed with over 2,900 dams inserted and over 14,600 metres of bunding completed within 338ha. Works are ongoing on two sites at present within 110ha, with a further two sites within 90ha to commence in early September. Four further sites within over 500ha will directly follow these. Contractors have been appointed for these sites.

An Eddy Covariance tower has been installed on a raised bog Special Area of Conservation in Co. Offaly, to monitor Greenhouse Gas and other atmospheric exchanges.

The rollout of a financial incentives scheme, the Protected Raised Bog Restoration Incentive Scheme, to facilitate restoration measures also commenced in Q3 2021 on some of the project sites.

**Action 181** Coordinate the actions in the Programme for Government 2020 regarding peatlands to maximise the benefits for biodiversity and water quality

**Q3 2021 measure: The Peatlands Strategy Implementation Group will report on progress on the implementation of actions regarding peatlands additional to those set out in the National Peatlands Strategy 2015**

**Responsible body:** DHLGH

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Review of public consultation on review of [National Peatlands Strategy](#) ongoing with a view to publishing progress report in Q4 2021.

## Marine

<b>Action 193</b>	<b>Develop comprehensive legislation for the identification, designation, and management of Marine Protected Areas in Irish marine waters</b>
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Publication of Expert Advisory Report followed by public consultation</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHLGH	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> <a href="#">Public consultation</a> closed on 30 July 2021. The tender for the analysis of the consultation has been awarded, and the analysis will be being carried out in the autumn-winter 2021.	

<b>Action 193</b>	<b>Develop comprehensive legislation for the identification, designation, and management of Marine Protected Areas in Irish marine waters</b>
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Commence work on legislation</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHLGH	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> The preparation of the legislation for <a href="#">Marine Protected Areas</a> has commenced. This is expected to continue into 2022.	

## Waste and the Circular Economy

<b>Action 196</b>	<b>Develop a policy and regulatory framework for geothermal energy to support its use as a secure, environmentally sustainable and cost-effective source of renewable energy</b>
<b>Q3 2021 measure: Prepare draft policy statement on geothermal energy</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DECC	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> The drafting of the policy statement is being prepared and will be published in Q4 2021.	

**Action 196**      Develop a policy and regulatory framework for geothermal energy to support its use as a secure, environmentally sustainable and cost-effective source of renewable energy

**Q3 2021 measure: Support policy development through targeted research into Ireland's Geothermal Energy Potential**

**Responsible body:** Geological Survey Ireland

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** [Geological Survey Ireland](#) have commenced the compilation of a new National Geothermal Database and have procured one dedicated resource to support this, in place since July 2021. The first outputs, [deep temperature maps for Ireland](#), were published on 30 September 2021.

**Action 201**      Develop a Food Waste Prevention Roadmap that sets out a series of actions to deliver the reductions necessary to halve our food waste by 2030 and promote our transition to a circular economy

**Q3 2021 measure: Consult with stakeholders**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Contact made with DAFM in Q3 to discuss future consultation on the draft roadmap (will take place in Q4). Comments received from EPA Food Waste Prevention Team lead on the draft roadmap. Draft roadmap will go out for further consultation with stakeholders in Q4.

**Action 204**      New and expanded environmental levies to encourage reduced resource consumption and incentivise higher levels of re-use and recycling

**Q3 2021 measure: Introduction of a new Waste Recovery levy**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Introduction of Levy requires legislative underpinning via the [Circular Economy Bill](#). The Bill is on the Priority list for enactment in Q4. This would allow for introduction of the Levy from Q1 2022.

**Action 204** New and expanded environmental levies to encourage reduced resource consumption and incentivise higher levels of re-use and recycling

**Q3 2021 measure:** Transposition of the Single Use Plastics Directive

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The 'banning' clauses of the [Single Use Plastics Directive](#) were transposed in July. The remaining provisions were fully transposed at the start of October.

## Ireland's International Action on Climate Breakdown

**Action 205** Place climate action, especially for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, at the heart of all development cooperation and policy partnerships, as well as our engagement in multilateral processes

**Q3 2021 measure:** Ensure climate action, especially for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, is reflected in the new Climate Strategy

**Responsible body:** DFA

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Work is ongoing with key stakeholders to advance this action. The DFA Climate Unit has been provided with additional human resources in Q3 which provides the necessary capacity to facilitate this action. An external consultant has been engaged to support this activity.

This will continue throughout the rest of 2021 and into 2022.

**Action 205** Place climate action, especially for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, at the heart of all development cooperation and policy partnerships, as well as our engagement in multilateral processes

**Q3 2021 measure:** Ensure climate action, especially for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, reflected in the funding by DFA Climate Unit

**Responsible body:** DFA

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The DFA is a Board Member of the [Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience](#) (LIFE-AR) and continues to provide financial and diplomatic support.

The DFA has engaged with the [Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility](#) with a view to supporting its Caribbean Oceans and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility in Q4.

**Action 210 Enhance Ireland's engagement at UNFCCC, in preparation of COP26**

**Q3 2021 measure: Strengthen coordination through National Climate Delegation to enhance Ireland's input to EU preparations for and engagement at COP26**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Delegation has met three times. Submission to Minister sent on proposals for [COP26](#) agreed.

**Action 211 Seek to at least double the percentage of ODA spending on climate finance by 2030, and report on our expenditure each year**

**Q3 2021 measure: Climate Finance Roadmap developed in collaboration with other departments**

**Responsible body:** DFA

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Work has been initiated on the Climate Finance Roadmap. The DFA Climate Unit has been provided with additional human resources in Q3 which has provided the capacity required to facilitate in-depth engagement with other government departments throughout this quarter. An external consultant has been engaged to support this activity.

This work will continue throughout the rest of 2021 and into 2022.

## Just Transition

**Action 213 Prepare a Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland for the EU Just Transition Fund, to be approved by European Commission**

**Q3 2021 measure: Prepare analysis to support investment priorities for the Territorial Just Transition Plan, supported by the EU Structural Reform Support Programme**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** EnvEcon consultants completed this analysis. They consulted with stakeholders using one-to-one interviews, written submissions and online group workshops. Their reports focus on the transition process, identifying potentially affected territories, and assessing challenges, needs and recommended actions.

**Action 213 Prepare a Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland for the EU Just Transition Fund, to be approved by European Commission**

**Q3 2021 measure: Prepare and finalise the Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland and submit to European Commission for approval**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Preparation of the [Territorial Plan](#) is underway. This action is delayed as consultation with relevant Government Departments and public consultation on the Plan and development of the wider programme needs to take place to assist the development of the Plan.

Agreement also required on the management and control system to support the plan.

**Action 213 Prepare a Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland for the EU Just Transition Fund, to be approved by European Commission**

**Q3 2021 measure: Contribute to the preparation of the Partnership Agreement for the European Structural and Investment Funds for 2021-2027 in respect of the EU Just Transition Fund**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** DECC is engaging with the Partnership Agreement Working Group which is preparing the Partnership Agreement for all EU Cohesion funds.

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

**Q3 2021 measure: Explore rural resilience and a just transition**

**Responsible body:** NESC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The Council's Comprehensive Shared Island Research Report is scheduled for publication in Q1 2022 including economic, social and climate and biodiversity research. This work substantively expanded to include a North West regional study.

Reflecting an extensive and rich consultation process on Climate and Biodiversity Challenges and Opportunities, a second and additional Council Report was considered by the Council in Q3 2021 and will be published in Q4 2021.

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

**Q3 2021 measure: Roll-out courses on skills to support the low-carbon economy and to support the aims of the Climate Action Plan in Springboard+ 2021**

**Responsible body:** DFHERIS

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** [Springboard+ 2021](#) launched in June 2021, providing 310 places on 14 courses in low carbon/green areas. Courses range from Corporate Environmental Planning, to Near Zero Energy Buildings and Energy Infrastructure and are offered in 11 different institutions.

Latest data shows strong interest with 560 applications and 231 offers to date. Further offers are expected as courses commence.

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

**Q3 2021 measure: Following the success of the pilot DigiEco programme in Q4 2020, roll out the DigiEco Programme in 2021**

**Responsible body:** DFHERIS

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** [Regional Skills Fora](#) Managers are actively promoting the [DigiEco programme](#). The DigiEco programme, which primarily targets SME and Micro Enterprises and is delivered in partnership with Education & Training Boards (ETBs), has not been a priority for many businesses during the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

In Q3, one course was held in the Mid-West region at Limerick Clare ETB Further Education and Training Centre in Ennis on 22 July and 26 August. The focus was on manufacturing companies and participants were sourced in collaboration with the Clare Local Enterprise Office. Seven manufacturing companies in the Clare area participated.

In the North-East region, a course took place in July at the Monaghan Institute, Cavan Monaghan ETB. Four companies from the manufacturing /engineering sectors participated.

Regional Skills Fora managers continue to liaise with employers with a view to delivering the programme in Q4.

## Public Sector Lead

**Action 222** Examine how and when fossil-fuel heating systems could be phased-out of public buildings, including disallowing the installation of any new fossil-fuel heating systems

**Q3 2021 measure: As per headline action**

**Responsible body:** OPW

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** This action requires input from multiple organisations across the Public Sector. A detailed report on the action was commissioned by the OPW in 2020. The action was delayed this year due to the retirement of the project lead.

In September, the OPW convened a working group comprising key representatives from Public Sector organisations that have large building portfolios. At the Working Group, the OPW presented a series of questions relating to the actions that are to be answered by each Public Sector body. These were signed-off at the Working Group meeting.

The following is the current timetable:

- 10 September – Submit any comments or additions to the Questions Template (Complete)
- 13 September – The OPW will issue final revised Questions Template (Complete)
- 8 October – Final Date for Public Bodies to submit Responses to Questions
- 20 October – Working Group Meeting 2 - Examination and Discussion of Responses Received

Following this, a final report collating all the responses received shall be prepared with an executive summary of the findings. This shall be circulated to all Working Group members for sign-off and then issued as the OPW's final response to the action in November.

**Action 224** Introduce Climate Action Mandate for every public body

**Q3 2021 measure: Seek Government approval for public sector mandate requirements for all non-commercial public bodies**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Measure to be completed following Climate Action Plan 2021. Detailed proposal prepared.

## Citizen Engagement

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

**Q3 2021 measure:** Develop an enduring structure for a new localised citizen engagement model as part of ongoing Dialogue on Climate Action

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The new enduring structure for the [National Dialogue on Climate Action](#) has been finalised and is awaiting final sign off. It will be published very shortly after the publication of the Climate Action Plan 2021.

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

**Q3 2021 measure:** Hold a National Stakeholder Engagement Forum to provide feedback from annual Climate Action Plan consultation, and discuss and showcase local engagement opportunities which will lead to mobilisation

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The National Stakeholder Engagement Forum has been pushed out to Q1 2022 to provide adequate time for the Climate Action Plan 2021 to be published, and to secure dates in diaries for Minister, senior politicians and national and international speakers and stakeholders.

**Action 229** Continue to support the delivery of projects approved for funding as part of the first round of support from the Climate Action Fund

**Q3 2021 measure:** Continue to support the delivery of the GRAZE (Green Renewable Agricultural Zero Emissions Gas) Project

**Responsible body:** Gas Networks Ireland

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** This is delayed to Q4 pending finalisation of financial analysis required to enable the [GRAZE project](#) move to delivery.

**Action 229** Continue to support the delivery of projects approved for funding as part of the first round of support from the Climate Action Fund

**Q3 2021 measure: Continue to support the delivery of the Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project**

**Responsible body:** Road Management Office

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** This is delayed to Q4. Updated business case is being finalised for approval by Project Board.

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

**Q3 2021 measure: Publish report outlining citizen views and submissions received as part of the Climate Action Plan 2021 consultation demonstrating how the consultation shaped the Plan**

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The new enduring structure for the [National Dialogue on Climate Action](#) has been finalised and is awaiting final sign off.

The Climate Conversations Report will be published at the same time as the National Dialogue on Climate Action enduring structure very shortly after the publication 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

**Q3 2021 measure: Publish Initial Report on draft framework**

**Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** A [First Report on a Well-being Framework for Ireland](#), supported by a related Inter-departmental Working Group, was published on 6 July. The National Economic and Social Council provided a vehicle for consultation on the initial framework throughout its development, through a Subgroup of Stakeholders and Experts, and wider consultation. It produced a corresponding [Consultation Report](#), also published on 6 July.

The next phase of work on the Well-being Framework will include a further consultation and engagement phase lead by the Department of the Taoiseach, and publication of an initial online interactive dashboard by the Central Statistics Office.

**Action 232** Progress the establishment of a Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity

**Q3 2021 measure: Conclude and analyse stakeholder engagement on scope of Assembly**

**Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** D/Taoiseach has engaged with relevant Departments in relation to a Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity. Consideration is being given to the appropriate methodology for future Citizens' Assemblies including on Biodiversity, to be guided by the experience of the [Gender Equality Assembly](#) which completed earlier this year.

An independent researcher was appointed by the Assembly to monitor and record, amongst other things, the perceived deliberative quality of the Assembly. [This report](#), published in July 2021, will assist in decisions on future Assemblies use of virtual meetings.

Stakeholder engagement on the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity is ongoing, in particular consultation with youth through [Comhairle na nÓg](#) for their input into the terms of reference of the Assembly and for their engagement with it, when established.

**Action 233** Advance coordinated climate action communications from the centre of Government

**Q3 2021 measure: Maintenance and update of gov.ie/climateaction**

**Responsible body:** D/Taoiseach

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** [Website](#) updated on a regular basis to reflect progress in the implementation of actions under the Climate Action Plans and publication of key documents and consultations.

**Action 234** Deliver a Citizen Engagement event regarding Climate Action for Rural Communities

**Q3 2021 measure: As part of a new Rural Ideas Forum, organise a Stakeholder Engagement Event for discussion and information sharing on the topic of climate action and its impact on rural communities**

**Responsible body:** DRCD

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** DRCD is holding three thematic [Rural Ideas Fora](#) in 2021 (one of which will have a climate focus) as per a commitment in [Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021-2025](#).

The events will take place in October and November, focused on the themes of Digital, Climate Action, and Town and Village Renewal.

**Action 240** Implement an enhanced approach to energy performance and renewable energy capability in school buildings

**Q3 2021 measure:** Encouraging schools to have an “energy champion” within their distributed leadership team

**Responsible body:** D/Education

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** The Department of Education have had very positive engagement with the [Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland](#) (SEAI) who have agreed to support this area with schools within the existing established programmes in the SEAI suite.

Issuing the communication to schools encouraging them to nominate an energy/sustainability champion as part of their distributed leadership team was to occur within the action delivery timeline but has been rescheduled to dovetail as part of a broader communication to schools later this year.

This is in line with feedback from the school sector more generally to reduce the frequency of communications by the Department by scheduling and grouping information to schools, thereby maximising impact.

**Action 242** Support, through the education system, the required initiatives to raise awareness of climate action

**Q3 2021 measure:** Development of new short course on climate action for Junior Cycle

**Responsible body:** SEAI

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** Action 242 has changed in the new Climate Action Plan 2021 to review the [Aistear Framework for Early Years](#) and the primary curriculum. The Aistear and Early years work are within the Junior cycle representing progress in this area under the Interim Climate Actions.

This action has been expanded significantly to include ongoing review and support the redevelopment of Senior Cycle from an '[Education for Sustainable Development](#)' and climate change perspective, marked to be delivered quarterly.

## Adaptation

**Action 246** Build sectoral resilience to the impacts of climate change through delivery of sectoral plans as required under the NAF

**Q3 2021 measure:** As per headline action

**Responsible body:** DECC

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** An independent monitoring exercise of progress at sectoral level and of progress made implementing the [National Adaptation Framework](#) was undertaken by [Climate Change Advisory Council](#) in Q2 2021. The final assessments will be published as part of the Climate Change Advisory Council Annual review this year. The preliminary assessment indicates good progress being made in the water and flood risk sectors, with moderate or limited progress being made in the remaining sectors.

Reporting by sectors in 2021 via the [National Adaptation Steering Committee](#) indicate significant challenges in progressing individual actions during the Covid-19 pandemic. In light of this, actions from sectoral plans received from parent departments are included separately in the Climate Action Plan 2021 in the appropriate chapter and within the adaptation chapter.

## Appendix 1 – Overall delivery rates to date: Interim Climate Actions

Delivery Table for Q2 2021

	Measures Completed in the Quarter	Measure Subsequently Delivered	Total Measures Delivered to date	Measures still delayed	Delivery Rate
Q1 2021	78/100	6/22	84/100	16	84%
Q2 2021	80/158	N/A	80/158	78	51%
Total Delivery to date	158/258	6/22	164/258	94	64%

Delivery Table for Q3 2021

	Measures Completed in the Quarter	Measure Subsequently Delivered	Total Measures Delivered to date	Measures still delayed	Delivery Rate
Q1 2021	78/100	12/22	90/100	10	90%
Q2 2021	80/158	21/78	101/158	57	64%
Q3 2021	32/82	N/A	32/82	50	39%
Total Delivery to date	190/340	33/100	223/340	117	66%