



**Joint Committee on Communications, Climate Action
and Environment**
30 January 2018

Analysis of Climate Policy Developments

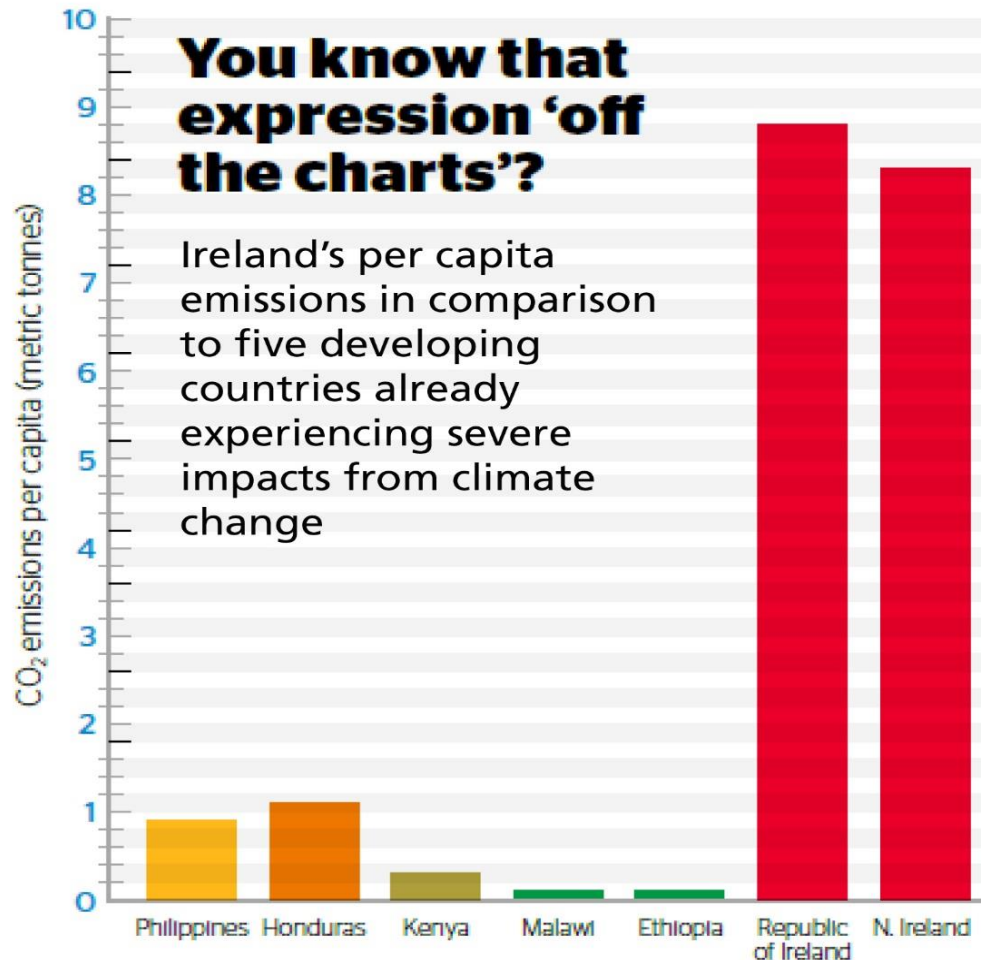
Cliona Sharkey, Trócaire;
Oisín Coghlan, Friends of the Earth

Climate Impacts today – already hitting the poorest countries hardest



A third of Malawi was declared a National Disaster Zone in late 2015/early 2016 due to major flooding.

Climate Impacts today – already hitting the poorest countries hardest



Sources:

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322822/20140624_Full_Dataset.xlsx



Livestock succumbing to drought in Turkana, Kenya. May 2017. Persistent drought continues to leave millions struggling in East Africa.

More than an environmental issue – a systemic risk

- In 2015 alone, more than 19.2 million people across 113 countries fled climate-related disasters. Norwegian Refugee Council (2016) 'Disaster and Climate Change'.

- Climate change and directly connected issues of extreme weather have consistently featured among the top 10 risks ranked in the **World Economic Forum Global Risks Report** since 2011.

- A report by an **Advisory Committee to the European Systemic Risk Board** in 2016 highlighted that '**a late transition** to a low-carbon economy would exacerbate the physical costs of climate change', risking, 'a hard landing, constraining energy supply, increasing whole economy production costs, with effects equivalent to a large and persistent negative economic shock'. 'Too Late, Too Sudden'. Scientific Advisory Committee to European Systemic Risk Board. (2016)

*'The need to manage emerging, mega risks is as important as ever. Alongside major technological, demographic and political shifts, our very world is changing. **Shifts in our climate bring potentially profound implications for insurers, financial stability and the economy**'. Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, speaking at Lloyds of London, 2015.*

Europe, including Ireland, is also **vulnerable to spill-over effects from climate change impacts occurring elsewhere**, including trade, infrastructure, transport, security risks, geopolitics, human migration and finance. European Environment Agency (2016). 'Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016'.

Climate change resulted in 85,000 additional deaths in Europe over the period 1980-2013. European Environment Agency (2016). 'Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016'.



The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement

All countries must

- hold increase in temperatures to well below 2 °C and pursue efforts to limit increase to 1.5 °C.
- communicate new more ambitious pledges every 5 years
- take stock of efforts in 2018 & update current pledges by 2020.

But as of now

- No country's existing climate action plan, emissions targets or pledges are yet compatible with the Paris temperature goals.
- Ireland and the EU's targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050 will have to be ratcheted up



Ireland is a drag on EU ambition

Ireland's negotiation approach has actively hindered greater EU ambition to achieve Paris Agreement - Major reputational damage

EU 2030 Effort Sharing Regulation (transport, buildings, agriculture and waste)

- Primary focus on securing loopholes and offsets
- Negative impact on overall EU ambition
- A10% additional reduction in emissions to just 1%

EU Renewable Energy Directive

- Government proposed 2030 target no higher than 2020 target
- EP - 35% renewables target and no binding national targets.
- Still short of Paris Agreement ambition

Ireland's emissions are going the wrong way



Environmental Protection Agency

- Ireland's emissions have risen more than 7% in two years.
- 2016 increased by 3.5 % - all sectors: Agriculture increased by 2.7%; Transport increased by 3.7%; Energy increased by 6.1%
- Significant increases expected to continue in agriculture and transport
- Steep challenges post-2020 without new policies
- Substantial non-compliance costs - €500million by 2020? €3-€6billion by 2030?

European Environment Agency

- Ireland – 3rd highest producer of emissions per person in the EU
- Part of small number of Member States set to miss 2020 targets (ESD).
- **Ireland only one of group where emissions predicted to continue to rise.**



Per person, 8th highest in the rich world

Country	Year	Per capita GHG Gross in tonnes Co2 equiv (ex LULUCF)	EU 28	OECD 35
Australia	2014	25.14		1
Canada	2014	20.96		2
United States	2014	20.00	1	3
Luxembourg	2014	19.43		4
New Zealand	2014	16.80	2	5
Estonia	2014	16.76		6
Korea, Rep. (South)	2014	13.23		7
Ireland	2014	12.71	3	8
<i>For comparison:</i>				
European Union (28)	2014	8.04		
Denmark	2014	8.64		
United Kingdom	2014	7.83		

Source: CAIT Climate Data Explorer. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

The worst performing country in Europe



Overall Results CCPI 2018

Rank	Country	Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.*	-	19.	Brazil	40.	Poland
2.	-	20.	Ukraine	41.	China
3.	-	21.	European Union (28)	42.	Bulgaria
4.	Sweden	22.	Germany	43.	Czech Republic
5.	Lithuania	23.	Belarus	44.	Hungary
6.	Morocco	24.	Slovak Republic	45.	Algeria
7.	Norway	25.	Luxembourg	46.	Argentina
8.	United Kingdom	26.	Romania	47.	Turkey
9.	Finland	27.	Mexico	48.	South Africa
10.	Latvia	28.	Egypt	49.	Ireland
11.	Malta	29.	Cyprus	50.	Japan
12.	Switzerland	30.	Estonia	51.	Canada
13.	Croatia	31.	Slovenia	52.	Malaysia
14.	India	32.	Belgium	53.	Russia
15.	France	33.	New Zealand	54.	China
16.	Italy	34.	Netherlands	55.	Kazakhstan
17.	Denmark	35.	Austria	56.	United States
18.	Portugal	36.	Thailand	57.	Australia
		37.	Indonesia	58.	Republic of Korea
		38.	Spain	59.	Islamic Republic of Iran
		39.	Greece	60.	Saudi Arabia



National Mitigation Plan – Not fit for purpose



DPER memo, September 2017

“it would appear that almost no progress has been made on an appraisal-based, prioritised and integrated view of how to meet 2020 and 2030 climate targets’

- NMP - clear on scale of challenge
- Unclear on scale of risks and opportunities
- More action promise than action plan
- Listing of (some positive) climate-relevant initiatives
- But no clear pathway to meeting key objectives



Advisory Council Annual Review, November 2017

'There is an **urgent requirement for new policies and measures, and action beyond what is committed to in the National Mitigation Plan** if Ireland is to reduce emissions by 2020 and to move onto a sustainable path to 2050 to tackle climate change

EPA, November 2017

Achieving Ireland's long-term decarbonisation objective can only take place with a **transformation of our energy, agriculture and transport systems**. We need to adopt a much greater sense of urgency about **reducing our dependence on fossil fuels** while radically improving energy efficiency. In relation to agriculture, Ireland must optimise agricultural production to ensure long term environmental integrity and sustainability. The growth in this sector, particularly for dairy and other cattle, points to **very significant risks in relation to meeting our decarbonisation objectives**

Budget did not deliver climate action



NMP promised the Budget and the Capital Plan would prioritize climate action

2018 Budget

- €2 billion investment needed every year to 2030 for retrofitting homes.
- 2018 Budget only delivered an additional €38 million for energy savings schemes.
- €7 million to incentivize renewable heat but scheme excludes community projects.
- Road development €2.4 billion invested over four years
- Only €35 million to support low-carbon projects and only €10million additional funding allocated to cycling and walking.

Upcoming 10-year Capital Investment Plan - a piecemeal or integrated approach?

Laggard or Leader?



14 June 2017

"I am determined that the Government should show new ambition when it comes to tackling climate change"

Dáil Eireann



17 January 2018

"... as far as I am concerned, we are a laggard. I am not proud of Ireland's performance on climate change."

European Parliament

What needs to happen every year



The Climate Act establishes an annual policy cycle but too many loopholes.

This committee is central to ensuring parliamentary oversight and accountability.

- The EPA, CCAC and a climate scientist should testify every January
- All four ministers who deliver annual transition statements in December should come before the Committee in Q1
- *Before* EU Councils discussing climate, Minister should lay out approach to Committee
- DPER and DFin should lay out their approach to climate in the Budget in Q2
- CCAC should produce its annual report well before Minister delivers transition statement.
- Actual transition statement must be published before Dáil and Seanad statements (*unlike 2017*).

What needs to happen this year



- This Committee should formally recommend to Minister Naughten that he immediately begin a process to revise the National Mitigation Plan.
- The Oireachtas should start a process to consider the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly on climate as they did on the 8th Amendment:

A special all-party committee to report by end July?

- The Capital Investment Plan must prioritize emissions from transport and buildings
- Minister must deliver on his commitment that the new support schemes for renewables will deliver community ownership of renewables and a fair payment for smallscale rooftop solar power.
- Budget 2019 is key opportunity to look and carbon tax and site value tax.