

Strategic Goal	Programme for Government Commitments	Section Progress Update
<i>"Advance our climate, energy and environment objectives through effective EU and international leadership, engagement and collaboration"</i>	Fast-Track Offshore Wind Development by prioritising the publication of Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs)	The National DMAP, a spatial plan for offshore renewable energy delivered through marine spatial planning, will designate sites sufficient to deliver 20GW renewable energy by 2040. The project is on track with work progressing in line with key milestones and timelines set out. Significant stakeholder engagement is taking place in Q1/Q2 2026, in line with the statutory Public Participation Statement and with the support of dedicated Fisheries and Community liaison services. Identification of the data layers is ongoing, along with other workstreams e.g. environmental and socio-economic assessments.
	Set ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 and ensure we have the correct mix of incentives and regulations.	The Council of the EU agreed a general approach on an EU-wide 2040 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, and as of 1 December 2025 will enter trilogue negotiations with the European Parliament. After these negotiations discussions on Member State level targets will commence. Ireland published a dedicated Climate Finance Roadmap in 2022 to guide the scaling up of climate finance following a pledge at COP26 in 2021 to provide at least €225 million per year by 2025 in international climate finance.
	Ensure there is continued support for climate finance delivered through Ireland's Overseas Development Aid programme.	Ireland's climate finance is provided by four government departments – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Finance, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment and the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine.
<i>"Accelerate climate action and prepare Ireland for the impacts of a changing climate"</i>	Deliver actions to achieve a 51% reduction in emissions from 2018 to 2030 and net-zero emissions no later than 2050.	The Department operates a delivery-focussed approach to climate governance and has revised how it can support the implementation of the measures and actions in the Climate Action Plans. As part of updated governance arrangements, the Minister has taken up the role of Chair of the Climate Action Delivery Board (CADB), providing direct oversight of this Board, which comprises the heads of relevant Government Departments. The CADB met for the first time in December 2025, and has met again since, with a regular quarterly cadence of meetings agreed. To provide enhanced and co-ordinated oversight and strategic direction on the delivery of the Climate Action Plan, the Climate Action Programme Board (CAPPB) has also been established. The Assistant Secretary level Programme Board brings together the chairs of the various climate delivery taskforces from across sectors to bring an overall
	Strengthen the delivery structures to deliver the Climate Action Plan through the Climate Action Delivery Board.	

	Enhance and improve the Governance Structures to deliver the Climate Action Plan and the underpinning legislation.	cohesion and alignment to climate action. The CAPPB met three times in 2025 and has met twice in Q1 2026, and will work in tandem with the CADB to provide strategic oversight to delivery and help to remove barriers to implementation.
	Complete the second phase of the Land Use Review, which aims to balance environmental, social and economic consideration.	The Final Report for Land Use Review Phase 2, which is entitled <i>A Living Land</i>, was received by the Minister (DCEE), the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon; the Minister of State at Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Christopher O'Sullivan in May 2025. The Minister has also been briefed on the Review by the independent Chair of the Oversight Group. Following consideration and further discussion at broader Government level late last year, it was agreed that wider consideration of the final Report across Government is necessary. This process is currently advancing with a view to publication thereafter.
	Continue efforts to raise air quality standards, especially in urban areas, ensuring healthier environments for all.	The Air Quality in Ireland Report 2024 from the Environmental Protection Agency (September 2025) noted that overall air quality is generally good and meets all EU legal requirements. The European Environment Agency's Europe's environment 2025 (September 2025) noted in Ireland's Country profile that Ireland's air quality is among Europe's best (it also noted that Ireland meets current EU air quality standards). Significant progress in improving Ireland's air quality was also noted this year in the annual Clean Air Strategy Progress Report 2025 (July 2025), including reduced ammonia emissions on foot of improvements in agricultural practices and reduced sulphur dioxide emissions due to a greater use of renewables in energy generation and increased retrofitting and heat pump installation. The Government published the Air Pollution (Amendment) Bill 2025 which seeks to strengthen the enforcement powers available to local authorities to ensure that they can regulate commercial operators more effectively and that only compliant solid fuel is available on the market. The Bill has been passed by the Seanad and passed Second Stage in the Dáil on 16 April, 2026.

<i>"Transform Ireland's energy systems to be sustainable, affordable and secure"</i>	Deliver 9GW of onshore wind, 8GW solar and at least 5GW of offshore wind by 2030	Ireland reached over 8 GW of renewable generation capacity in March this year. Onshore wind is the largest contributor to this, with 5.1 GW of wind generation capacity and 2.4 GW of solar PV installed, with hydro, biomass, and other small sources contributing the remainder. The fifth RESS auction, RESS 5, completed in September 2025 saw over 1 GW of successful offers – enough to power over 350,000 homes. The next RESS auction, RESS 6, will commence later this year, as part of the Government's commitment to hold at least one RESS auction per year. Following on from Ireland's first offshore wind auction in 2023, five projects off our east coast, with a combined capacity of 3.8 GW, are currently in development, while the first South Coast DMAP project, 900 MW, was awarded through an Offshore RESS auction last year. A second SC-DMAP auction, with a potential capacity of 1.5 GW, is expected to be held in 2027. Work on the National DMAP is underway and will designate a further ten to fifteen offshore wind sites by the end of 2027. DCEE is responsible for the delivery of several crucial workstreams to support the delivery of ORE, including through the provision of high-quality marine data to inform and de-risk the auction process. Crucial geophysical, geotechnical and metocean datasets were published in advance of the Tonn Nua auction, and work is ongoing to replicate this ahead of future auctions. The Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (OWDT) and the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce (ARET) bring together key organisations to ensure a cohesive approach to policymaking and to identify potential barriers and solutions to accelerating the delivery of both offshore and onshore renewable generation capacity and related infrastructure.
	Take all necessary action to ensure and protect Ireland's energy security	In March 2025, Government approved the development of a State-led strategic gas emergency reserve which is critical to Ireland's energy security as we transition to indigenous, clean renewable energy. This non-market measure is intended for use only in the event of a significant disruption to gas supplies, ensuring compliance with EU standards and regulations. Gas Networks Ireland, on behalf of the State, is progressing the delivery of this project through the relevant procurement, planning, environmental and regulatory processes, with appropriate stakeholder engagement. The State-led strategic gas emergency reserve will be located near Kildysart, County Clare, following a robust site selection process that concluded in November 2025. It will consist of a jetty, gas infrastructure terminal and Floating Storage and Regassification Unit on a long-term berth. Site investigations,

		community engagement, and landowner engagement are underway in relation to the site. DCEE is working with stakeholders to progress an enabling policy, legislative and regulatory framework for the accelerated delivery of the SGER.
	Expedite the publication of a Private Wires Policy Framework	In July 2025, the Government adopted a policy statement on Private Wires. This reformed policy will unlock private sector investment in electricity infrastructure, particularly renewable generation and storage. It will also facilitate the provision of low-cost charging solutions for electric vehicles and expand opportunities for self-supply of electricity. The General Scheme of the Private Wires legislation was approved by Government on 16 December 2025. As priority for this Government, my Department has been engaging with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to draft the necessary legislation. The Joint Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy have undertaken pre-legislative scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Private Wires Bill with a report expected in the coming weeks. It is my intention that the Bill will be in effect as early as possible this year.
	Develop and accelerate the roll-out of new electricity interconnectors to ensure Ireland is well positioned to be a net exporter of electricity to the UK and the EU.	Ireland's interconnection capacity currently stands at 1000 MW in 2 connections to the GB market. On the completion of the Celtic and Maresconnect projects, Ireland will have a total of 2,450 MW interconnector capacity including a return of direct interconnection to the EU. Construction on the Celtic Interconnector began in 2023, with Irish terrestrial work expected to finish by 2026. Marine cable installation started in 2025 with a second sea campaign just started. The Maresconnect project is undergoing regulatory assessment by CRU, who is "minded to" to grant a cap and floor regime, with a decision due Q2. A decision to add the project to the Unions 2nd Union list of projects of Common & Mutual interest is due shortly. In line with the 2023 National Policy Statement on Electricity Interconnection, further connectivity potential is being explored with France, Spain and the UK. Two very early projects with the UK have been supported for inclusion in the 2026 ENTSO-E Ten Year Network Development Plan process. Regionally, Ireland is working with the North Seas Energy Cooperation and Offshore TSO Collaboration to develop shared cost-benefit planning. The European Commission's 2025 Grids Package is currently under review with agreed revisions to update the TEN- regs with the potential to update

		the interconnector delivery framework. Its implications will be carefully considered as Ireland integrates this new EU approach into ongoing national Interconnector policy development.
	Prioritise investment into our electricity grid to update our power generation systems to enhance security and affordability	Government approval was received in July 2025 for €3.5bn investment in EirGrid and ESB to facilitate the Price Review 6 investment programme of up to €18.9bn out to 2030. and connection of 5GW offshore wind. Price Review 6 was approved by CRU in December 2025.
	Scale up investment in critical infrastructure and in our electricity grid	The Electricity (Supply)(Amendment) Act 2025 was enacted to facilitate the investment of €1.5bn in ESB by end of 2025 for onshore electricity network infrastructure. Legislation to be introduced by Q4 2026 to facilitate the investment of €2bn in EirGrid for offshore electricity network infrastructure. The €2 billion will be invested in EirGrid in tranches over the next 5 years.
	Enact legislation in 2025 to accelerate the roll out of district heating systems	The Department is working on necessary revisions to the general scheme of the Heat (Networks and Miscellaneous Provision) Bill. Work is ongoing with OPC to confirm a target date for a final draft of the Bill in Q2 2026.
	Ramp up our targets to deliver more B2 equivalent home retrofits each year	The National Residential Retrofit Plan 2026, published in January 2026, introduced a number of new and expanded measures to make energy upgrades more affordable, and accessible to many more homeowners.
	Revise and improve the provision of grants and financing models for homeowners who wish to retrofit	The new and enhanced measures in the Plan announced in January were designed to make home energy upgrades more accessible and affordable. These include: • new and enhanced individual upgrades to support homeowners with their upgrade journey – including new windows and doors grant; • higher grants and wider eligibility making it easier for homeowners to complete deep retrofits on a phased basis that suits their budgets; • higher grants for homeowners on qualifying welfare payments; • new support for first time buyers (of existing houses); and • increased grant support for Approved Housing Bodies and Local Authorities, as well as support in the community for older people
	Target older homes still using oil to switch to renewable heating systems	These measures are making more homes more sustainable and energy-efficient, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and lowering energy costs for households. In the first quarter of the year, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) data shows a very positive upward

	Promote the €500 million Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme, offering low interest loans for home energy upgrades, from €5,000 to €75,000.	trend with clear evidence of growth in both demand and output. The retrofit sector is mobilising and responding to the growing interest in energy upgrades underpinned by SEAI grant support. Following the introduction of the new measures, applications to SEAI for individual home energy upgrades are up 186% on Q1 2025, and overall applications are up 96%. In Budget 2026, the Government provided a record allocation of €640 million, allowing us to target 73,000 home energy upgrades this year. This includes a record €340 million for the Warmer Homes Scheme which provides fully funded upgrades for those in energy poverty and will target 11,500 upgrades this year. The 2026 budget allocation includes an allocation of €558 million in carbon tax revenues. In line with the Programme for Governments commitment to “Promote the €500 million Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme, offering low interest loans for home energy upgrades, from €5,000 to €75,000”, the Department has: • Expanded the number of lenders operating under the Scheme, with 11 finance providers now offering loans. • Engaged with the SBCI and SEAI, as well as a number of lenders, to identify further actions that various parties involved in the operation of the Scheme can undertake, to further promote and drive awareness of the Scheme. • Worked with the SBCI, SEAI and the participating lenders on a comprehensive marketing and communications campaign to scale up activity in the Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme.
	Acknowledging the increased energy cost pressures on households and businesses, bring forward taxation measures to help contain energy costs, including with regard to VAT. Explore ways to use surplus renewable energy to help reduce energy poverty, ensuring that renewable	The reduced 9% VAT rate on electricity and gas has been extended until 31 December 2030, to help reduce household energy costs by up to €100 per annum. The €400 income tax disregard for certain profits arising from the micro-generation of electricity is being extended for a further three years to 31 December 2028. The relief applies to a qualifying individual who generates energy from renewable, sustainable or alternative energy sources for their own consumption, and who sells surplus electricity to the grid. The Accelerated Capital Allowances (ACA) scheme for energy-efficient equipment is extended until 31 December 2030, encouraging investment in low-emission technology among businesses.

	energy benefits all communities.	The Department is leading the Cross Government Energy Affordability Taskforce which aims to identify, assess and implement measures that will enhance energy affordability for households and businesses, operating within the broader policy context set by the Programme for Government and Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. A key output of this Taskforce will be to develop and publish an Energy Affordability Action Plan which will identify a comprehensive range of solutions including demand-side solutions for households to allow them to adjust their energy demand and avail of low cost, including the use of surplus energy to address energy costs and poverty.
<i>"Protect and enhance our environment and improve the circular and resource-efficient economy"</i>	Support enterprises in the circular economy	Ireland's second Whole of Government Circular Economy was published recently and sets sectoral actions and targets covering aspects such as reductions in resource use and increases in reuse/repair. It also provides for a range of supports for circular enterprises including increasing the annual allocation to the Circular Economy Innovation Grants Scheme from €650,000 to €1.5M as well as the introduction of a repair voucher scheme and the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for the circular economy to support industry in the transition.
	Set Waste Reduction Targets in appropriate sectors of our economy, encouraging sustainable practices.	
	Support development of waste management infrastructure. Assess the need for a new waste to energy facility and maintain a renewed focus on zero waste infrastructure	The Waste Action Plan for the Circular Economy (WAPCE) will be updated in 2026 to ensure that it aligns with and drives the implementation of the new strategy. The updated WAPCE will also reflect the commitments given in the Programme for Government and will inform and give direction to waste planning and management in Ireland, the delivery of appropriate infrastructure, and how we can enhance our capacity to transform waste into secondary materials and create a culture of circular behaviour.
	Modernise and consolidate legislation pertaining to inland fisheries.	The Department is working with Inland Fisheries Ireland to modernise the regulatory framework, provide stronger enforcement tools and address pressures such as climate change, water quality and habitat degradation. Heads of Bill are being drafted with a view to bringing these legislative proposals to Government as soon as possible.