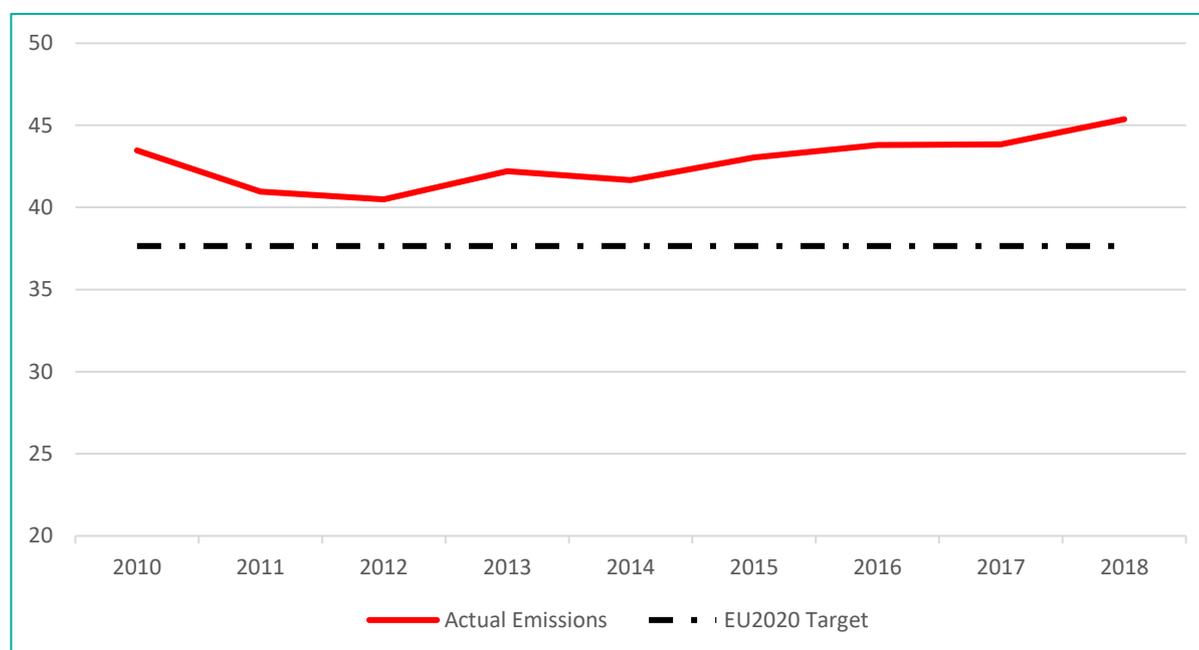


The present situation - a snapshot of some key issues

Climate and Sustainability

- Ireland is on track to overshoot our 2020 greenhouse gas emissions targets and our 2030 targets. Ireland is headed in the wrong direction to meet our national 2050 goal to reduce CO₂ emissions by 80 per cent on 1990 levels.
- Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase in line with economic and employment growth in the energy industries, agriculture and transport sectors. We are the second-worst performing European Union (EU) country on climate change.¹
- We are one of the highest greenhouse gas emitters in the EU and we have the highest levels of emissions from agriculture.
- Ireland could be liable to fines of up to €600m per annum from 2021-2030 for failure to reach our targets².
- There is a lack of policy coherence in pursuing economic and agricultural expansion and export oriented policies and our commitments in the Sustainable Development Goals on climate action and protecting our environment.
- We are failing in the necessary planning, services and infrastructure to ensure communities, towns and villages across all regions can adapt to changes that required to move to a more sustainable future.

Chart 1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Ireland's output versus Europe 2020 Targets



Source: Eurostat, 2019

¹ <https://www.climate-change-performance-index.org/country/ireland>

²

https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/joint_committee_on_communications_climate_action_and_environment/2018-05-16/2/

How can we put sustainability at the core of all Government policy?

Ensure that all development is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.



Things a new Government can do to ensure that all development is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable

- Set ambitious emissions reduction targets for 2030 and ensure sufficient resources to support implementation of these targets.
- Adopt targets and a reporting system for each of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Integrate a Sustainable Development Framework into economic policy.
- Introduce a circular economy strategy for Ireland.
- Develop a comprehensive mitigation and transition programme to support communities and people in the transition to a low carbon society.
- Develop a progressive and equitable environmental taxation system.
- Develop a new National Index of Progress encompassing environmental and social indicators of progress as well as economic ones. This index should include social and environmental sustainability and wellbeing indicators such as health (physical and mental), social and community development, participation, democracy and good governance and culture and values.
- Develop a Just Transition Dialogue structure at regional and national level to ensure support and understanding as to how adaptation and mitigation policies are to be resourced and rolled out at local, regional and national level.