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Department of Health

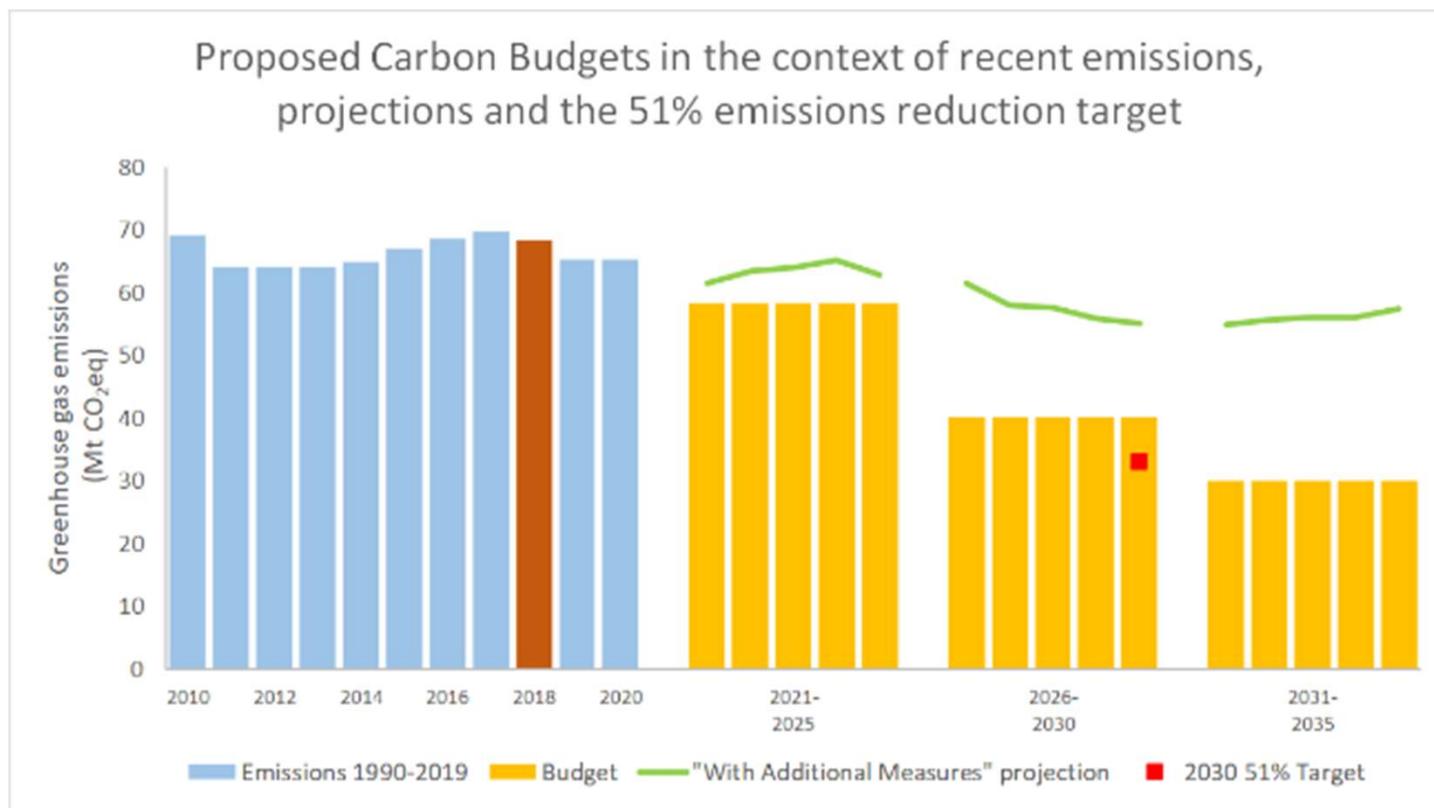
# Bringing whole-of- government climate action to the health sector

Colin O'Hehir  
September 2025

# Ireland's domestic climate policy



# Mitigation - The Carbon Budgets



# Sectoral Emissions Ceilings

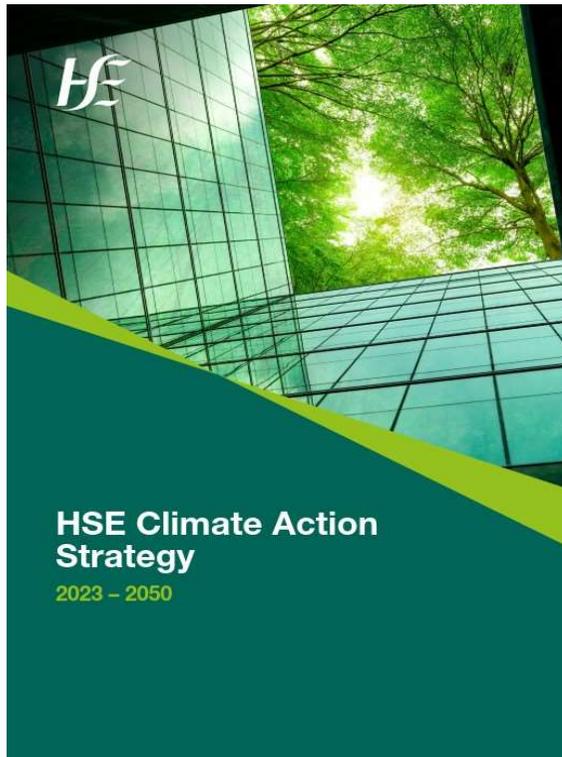


- Key emitting sectors
- Approved in 2022
- Public Sector Ceiling

	(MtCO <sub>2</sub> eq.) <sup>4</sup>		
Sector	2018	2021-2025	2026-2030
Electricity	10	40	20
Transport	12	54	37
Built Environment - Residential	7	29	23
Built Environment - Commercial	2	7	5
Industry	7	30	24
Agriculture	23	106	96
LULUCF <sup>6</sup>	5	XXX	XXX
Other (F-Gases, Waste & Petroleum refining)	2	9	8
<i>Unallocated Savings</i> <sup>7</sup>			-26
<b>TOTAL<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>68</b>	<b>XXX</b>	<b>XXX</b>
Legally binding Carbon Budgets and 2030 Emission Reduction Targets <sup>9</sup>	-	295	200



# The HSE Climate Action Strategy 2023-2050



## Six priority areas of focus (10 strategic objectives) to help deliver the Strategy

Six working groups feeding into strategy implementation

Staff Communication and Training

Developing baselines

Defining ambition

Regular reporting structure



# Adaptation –2019 Health Sectoral Plan



## Action areas:

- Clear, whole-of-organisation leadership by Dept & HSE
- Severe weather events – preparedness, research
- UV – current and potential demands
- Zoonotic disease spread; AMR; One Health

## Lessons learned:

- Need for a common approach

# The NCCRA

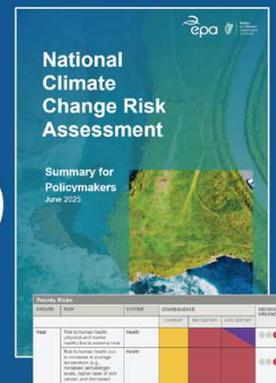


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Ireland's first **National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA)** provides a comprehensive national overview of potential climate change impacts for Ireland.

- **Identifies, ranks, and prioritises** national climate change risks.
- Identifies areas where **action needs to be prioritised** to make Ireland more resilient.
- Supports the **prioritisation of adaptation-related investments** in infrastructure and improve the robustness of policy development
- **Consistent evidence base** for National Adaptation Framework.
- **National reference** for conducting and updating sectoral, local, and other stakeholder adaptation plans in Ireland.

**NCCRA Framework: 3 Stages; 2 emissions scenarios: RCP 4.5 (medium emissions) & RCP 8.5 (high emissions); 3 time horizons: present (up to 2030), medium term (2050), long term (2100)**



# Climate Change in Ireland



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Ireland's climate is projected to get warmer with average temperature increasing across all seasons and on an annual basis, while the **number of heatwaves** is also projected to increase.



Ireland is projected to become wetter overall with an increase in average annual rainfall.



Increased seasonality in rainfall is projected with wetter winters and drier summers, with **more frequent droughts** projected for Summer and Spring months.



Sea levels are projected to continue to rise around Ireland's coastal areas with an average increase of 0.26 m by mid-century and 0.65 by the end of the century, increase exposure to coastal flood risks.



A minor decrease in average windspeeds is projected for Ireland. While northern Europe could be affected by **fewer by stronger windstorms**, projections are uncertain.



Ireland's oceans are projected to become more acidic.



# Preparing the next Sectoral Adaptation Plan



The risks:

- Extreme Wind
- Coastal Erosion and Flooding
- Extreme Rainfall and Flooding
- Extreme Heat

The health system:

- 17 Specific Risks; Many other risks cascade into health

# What is the health sector prioritising?



Public Consultation on Draft Plan at present

- The knowledge gap!
  - Extreme weather events
  - Heatwaves
  - Supply chain vulnerabilities
- The capacity gap!
  - Climate expertise within health sectors
  - Health expertise in other adaptation sectors



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- What now?
- Watch this space – all Sectoral Adaptation Plans to be developed by end September 2025
- Coherent approach by all sectors
- International collaboration – learning from our European peers about the impacts of climate change



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# Questions?