



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

# The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications Research and Innovation Survey — Public Consultation

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.



**An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide**  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

## **Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Research and Innovation Strategy — Public Consultation**

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has set out a vision of a climate neutral, sustainable, and digitally connected Ireland. This will involve leading ambitious climate and environment action across Government and society together with a fundamental shift in sustainable resource use and a transformation of our energy system while at the same time delivering world-class connectivity and cyber security. The Department has identified research and innovation as important enablers of its goals, and is one of a group of five Government Departments which invest significantly in research and innovation. Impact 2030, the national research and innovation strategy, outlines a strong role for the Department in delivering on Strategic Objectives in Climate, Environment and Sustainability (including Energy), and in Digital Transformation (including cyber security). During 2023, the Department is now developing its inaugural Research and Innovation Strategy.

Please complete this survey by 5:30 pm on Friday 11th August.

**Note 1: There are no mandatory consultation questions. Fields can be left blank if you do not wish to answer a particular question.**

**Note 2: Responses to each of the consultation questions is limited to 2000 characters.**

**Note 3: Copying and pasting text into the boxes directly from Microsoft Word may cause user experience issues. To avoid this, it is recommended to 'paste as plain text'.**

**Note 4: You can download a PDF copy of your completed survey after you have submitted it.**

\* Please enter your name

*Text of 5 to 200 characters will be accepted*

\* Please enter your email address

\* Please enter your occupation

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please enter the name of that organisation.

*200 character(s) maximum*

Job Title (if applicable)

What gaps do you see in the Department's current research and innovation activities? How should we address those gaps in the Department Research and Innovation Strategy?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

Gaps seem to be coordination and integration. There's lots of piecemeal work going on but no clear coordination into policy and evaluation.

There should be a clear cross institutional collaborative body connecting all research work across the country so it can feed into policy and be publicly available ...a website where all public funded research is shared and accessible. - a network where all climate research in all disciplines can connect.

If climate change is a wicked multi-dimensional problem then we need to find collaborative ways to bring different mind-sets together. what is concerning is the silo mentality of research so we see singular focus on say engineering with no regard to sociology/communications/ policy etc - we need to create a networked approach and make all data public so we can bring digital technologies to it and use it to innovate. As someone who has spent last year in Climate research in DCU the biggest issue seems silo mentality - bring together all the key agencies and institutions ( universities and colleges) working in climate research and create an open network with a website showcasing and sharing working and collaborating with similar research networks in EU ( for example GALLANT in Glasgow)

What actions can the Department take to identify future trends in the areas under our remit?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

- \* create a network as defined above
- \* look at best practice within Europe
- \* fund research that is outcome directed - problem solving - GALLANT initiative brings together multi-disciplines with city council to explore key questions that are facing the city ( water/ waste / transport/ built environment etc)
- make all public funded research publicly available and accessible - so we can leverage from it using digital - data and digital are key. in innovation
- \* create city lab model for big cities like Dublin \* bring research and society into collaborative relationship

Are there specific thematic areas relevant to the Department's remit which you would like to see more research and innovation activity in? How can this be achieved?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

\*cross-disciplinary themes \_ how cities meet housing needs while achieving their climate goals

Have you views on the impact of disruptive technologies such as AI, Quantum and 6G as part of the digital transformation agenda and the implications of these technologies for the Department?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

we should be using digital as part of the climate transformation  
 if data is open - and married to digital apps can be transformative  
 cities like Vienna have brought the smart city and climate resilient city together  
 Apps are being used in many cities to develop local action and create local ownership of climate action ( Paris)  
 Copenhagen and Amsterdam have used digital to further circular society  
 Unless we can measure what happens in a society, a city, we can manage it and digital allow us - through public participation - to create a very strong data base of knowledge and understanding  
 we need to harness AI for positive benefits in transition

How can the Department better communicate its research and innovation needs?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

A website of research - all public research available and sharable - create outcomes by people being able to access and interact with knowledge

all public funded research should be in one place and accessible

all climate research centres should be multi disciplined and include communication and sociologists as well as earth scientists geographers etc

Create partnerships between the research network ( see above) and society - Dublin City Council should have a Climate Council - scientists and stakeholders - similar in other cities \* mainstream both climate science and research.

set up scholarships for the DCUMasters for working journalists who could then afford to take a year off and develop. Small spend, potentially big outcome.

How can the Department work more effectively to source evidence from the national research and innovation community to support its work in policy development, policy implementation, and the uptake of new technologies?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

see above 1/2/3/

How can the Department engage more effectively with all stakeholders in the national research and innovation system? If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please state how the Department could more effectively engage with your organisation.

*2000 character(s) maximum*

see above 1/2/3

Should the Department seek to grow its capacity to carry out in-house research? If yes, how can this be achieved?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

No partner - partnership is key - the department should be connecting and harvesting research not diverting into - be a connector and look at how it feeds policy.

Are there examples internationally of Government strategies on research and innovation in climate, communications / digital, circular economy, cyber security, energy or environment that we should examine? If so, can you provide details?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

GALLANT - in Glasgow

Are there any other matters you wish to raise in relation to the development of the research and innovation strategy?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

## Contact

[evan.argue@decc.gov.ie](mailto:evan.argue@decc.gov.ie)