

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2019

First Progress Report



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

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## Glossary of Acronyms

<b>ABP</b>	An Bord Pleanála
<b>AD</b>	Anaerobic Digestion
<b>AGO</b>	Office of the Attorney General
<b>AIEA</b>	Association of Irish Energy Agencies
<b>AMETA</b>	Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site
<b>BDGP</b>	Beef Data and Genomics Programme
<b>BEEP</b>	Beef Environmental Efficiency Pilot
<b>BER</b>	Building Energy Rating
<b>BIK</b>	Benefit-in-kind
<b>BIM</b>	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
<b>BITC</b>	Business in the Community Ireland
<b>CAP</b>	Common Agricultural Policy
<b>CAROs</b>	Climate Action Regional Offices
<b>CCMA</b>	County and City Management Association
<b>CCS</b>	Carbon Capture and Storage
<b>CEP</b>	Circular Economy Package
<b>CIE</b>	Córas Iompair Éireann
<b>CIL</b>	Centre for Independent Living
<b>CMI</b>	Cement Manufacturers Ireland
<b>CNG</b>	Compressed Natural Gas
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	Carbon Dioxide
<b>CPPA</b>	Corporate Power Purchase Agreement
<b>CRU</b>	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility
<b>DAFM</b>	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
<b>DBEI</b>	Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
<b>DCCA</b>	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
<b>DCHG</b>	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
<b>DEASP</b>	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
<b>DEC</b>	Display Energy Certificate
<b>DES</b>	Department of Education and Skills
<b>DFAT</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>DFin</b>	Department of Finance
<b>DG</b>	Director General
<b>DHPLG</b>	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
<b>DoH</b>	Department of Health
<b>DoT</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
<b>DPER</b>	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
<b>DRCD</b>	Department of Rural and Community Development
<b>DTTAS</b>	Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport
<b>EBI</b>	Economic Breeding Index
<b>EI</b>	Enterprise Ireland
<b>EMRA</b>	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency

<b>EPC</b>	Energy Performance Contracting
<b>EPOs</b>	Energy Performance Officers
<b>ESB</b>	Electricity Supply Board
<b>ESBN</b>	Electricity Supply Board Networks
<b>ESCO</b>	Energy Service Companies
<b>ETBs</b>	Education and Training Boards
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EVs</b>	Electric Vehicles
<b>EXEED</b>	Excellence in Energy Efficient Design
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>GNI</b>	Gas Networks Ireland
<b>GRAZE</b>	Green Renewable Agricultural Zero Emissions
<b>GSI</b>	Geological Survey Ireland
<b>GW</b>	Gigawatt ha hectare
<b>HEA</b>	Higher Education Authority
<b>HEIs</b>	Higher Education Institutions HGVs Heavy Goods Vehicles
<b>IFA</b>	Irish Farmers Association
<b>IMDO</b>	Irish Maritime Development Office
<b>IMIN</b>	Irish Marine Industry Network
<b>IPA</b>	Institute of Public Administration
<b>ISME</b>	Irish Representative Association for Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>Km</b>	kilometre
<b>Las</b>	Local Authorities
<b>LED</b>	Light Emitting Diode
<b>LEOs</b>	Local Enterprise Offices
<b>LESS</b>	Low Emission Slurry Spreading
<b>LEVs</b>	Low-Emission Vehicles
<b>LGMA</b>	Local Government Management Agency
<b>LGV</b>	Light Goods Vehicle
<b>LIEN</b>	Large Industry Energy Network
<b>MACC</b>	Marginal Abatement Cost Curve
<b>MSO</b>	Marine Survey Office
<b>MWh</b>	Megawatt Hour
<b>N<sub>2</sub>O</b>	Nitrous Oxide
<b>NAF</b>	National Adaptation Framework
<b>NDCA</b>	National Dialogue on Climate Action
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan
<b>NESC</b>	National Economic and Social Council
<b>NFS</b>	National Farm Survey
<b>NMPF</b>	National Marine Planning Framework
<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>NSAI</b>	National Standards Authority of Ireland
<b>NTA</b>	National Transport Authority
<b>NTMA</b>	National Treasury Management Agency
<b>NZEB</b>	Near Zero Energy Building
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance

<b>OGP</b>	Office of Government Procurement
<b>OPC</b>	Office of the Parliamentary Counsel
<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>ORE</b>	Offshore Renewable Energy
<b>ORED</b>	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan
<b>PPAs</b>	Power Purchase Agreements
<b>PSBs</b>	Public Service Bodies
<b>PSO</b>	Public Service Obligation
<b>RESS</b>	Renewable Electricity Support Scheme
<b>RSF</b>	Regional Skills Forum
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SEAI</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
<b>SECs</b>	Sustainable Energy Communities
<b>SFA</b>	Small Firms Association
<b>SFI</b>	Science Foundation Ireland
<b>SME</b>	Small and medium-sized enterprise
<b>SNSP</b>	System Non-Synchronous Penetration
<b>SONI</b>	System Operator for Northern Ireland
<b>SPSVs</b>	Small Public Service Vehicles
<b>SSRH</b>	Support Scheme for Renewable Heat
<b>SWOT</b>	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats analysis
<b>TII</b>	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
<b>TRLs</b>	Technology Readiness Levels
<b>TSG</b>	Tax Strategy Group
<b>VFM</b>	Value For Money
<b>VRT</b>	Vehicle Registration Tax
<b>WEEE</b>	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
<b>WWETB</b>	Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board

## Executive Summary

With increasing political and public pressure for climate action, Ireland is responding to the climate crisis. In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the risks involved in exceeding 1.5 degrees of global heating. These risks include food and water insecurity, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, biodiversity loss, increased occurrences of flooding and drought, disease and the potential for mass migration. The climate crisis is without doubt the defining challenge of our generation. Global greenhouse gas emissions must reach net zero by 2050 to remain within the IPCC temperature thresholds established and mitigate most harm.

To date, Ireland has been a climate laggard, and repeatedly ranked as the worst performing EU member state in the annual Climate Change Performance Index. Progress towards decarbonisation has been slow, though evidence of the climate crisis has never been more pressing or well received. This includes a critical rally from the bottom-up for change, including from the next generation that will be impacted most by climate action or inaction taken today.

Against this backdrop, the *Climate Action Plan 2019 To Tackle Climate Breakdown* was published by Government on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The Plan contains 183 actions, broken down into 619 individual measures, which Ireland needs to implement to meet our EU 2030 targets and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The climate actions identified will be implemented by 13 Government Departments and 40 agencies under the remit of those Departments. Delivering such an integrated set of actions and policies will require a deep level of collaboration across Government.

Some key governance actions outlined in the Plan include the establishment of a Climate Action Delivery Board within the Department of An Taoiseach to hold designated bodies to account. In support of the Delivery Board, a new Climate Action Unit has also been established to monitor and drive implementation and assist with the preparation of a progress report each quarter.

A year on since the publication of the IPCC Special Report, this report outlines progress made on the 176 measures due for completion in the second and third quarters of 2019 as well as ongoing measures in the national Climate Action Plan. Of the 176 measures, 149 are complete or on schedule and 27 are delayed. This gives an overall completion rate of **85%** for the first progress report of the Climate Action Plan 2019.

### Measures due in Quarter 2 2019

In the second quarter of 2019, Departments and agencies delivered all 7 measures that were due under the Climate Action Plan. Headline measures implemented in Q2 are highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1 Examples of progress made in Q2 under the Climate Action Plan

Sector	Action	Measure completed in Q2	Progress Update
<b>Electricity</b>	33	<i>Establishment of a Steering Group to examine and oversee the feasibility of the utilisation of CCS in Ireland, and report to the Standing Committee on Climate Action as appropriate</i>	Establishing a designated steering committee in Q2 was essential to begin examining the feasibility of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in Ireland. While reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a priority for climate action, the potential for capturing created carbon dioxide is also mooted globally to prevent further carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. Technology is rapidly developing in this area and it is essential that Ireland remains abreast of relevant developments.
<b>Built Environment</b>	66	<i>Introduce Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) Dwellings in Building Regulations to facilitate phasing out the installation of oil boilers in new dwellings where practical</i>	SI 183 of 2019 and SI 292 of 2019 transposed the NZEB requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive in Q2 2019. Introducing such regulatory measures is key to support the phasing out of fossil fuel boilers and develop a more sustainable housing supply.

### Measures due in Quarter 3 2019

In the third quarter of 2019, Departments and agencies were to deliver 116 measures under the Action Plan. To date, 89 measures have been completed and 27 are delayed. Headline measures implemented are detailed for illustrative purposes in Table 2.



Table 2 Examples of progress made in Q3 under the Climate Action Plan

Sector	Action	Measure completed in Q3	Progress Update
<b>Carbon Pricing/ Governance</b>	7	<i>Implement a rolling strategy to reform environmental taxation measures across all relevant tax heads</i>	The Climate Action Plan contains a suite of taxation measures to initiate sustainable behavioural changes and provide certainty to markets. A Tax Strategy Group paper on Climate Action was prepared in Q3 and included proposals across a number of headings related to climate related fiscal measures. Policy options were considered in the context of the Budget 2020 which contained a strong climate focus. Measures introduced in 2020 included an increased carbon tax (with supports for more vulnerable members of society), a nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions-based charge, changes to BIK for vehicles and extended VRT reliefs, as appropriate.
<b>Carbon Pricing/ Governance</b>	8	<i>Implement a carbon tax rate of at least €80 per tonne by 2030 and carry out a full assessment of a trajectory of increases over successive annual Budgets</i>	The main step necessary for delivery in Q3 was to assess a carbon tax trajectory of at least €80/tonne by 2030, having regard to considerations on the social and economic impacts. The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) completed research on this matter in Q3 and published their final report on the day of the Budget 2020. Instead of a larger increase in any one year, the Minister for Finance committed to a €6 increase in Budget 2020 as a first step towards the 2030 target. The Minister also stated the Government's intention to increase this tax steadily in forthcoming years.
<b>Carbon Pricing/ Governance</b>	9	<i>Publish a Decision Paper and Revised Circular requiring the use of a new, much higher, shadow price of carbon and lower discount rate in cost-benefit appraisal, ensuring all major public investment projects take account of the climate impacts of these investments</i>	A circular confirming the revised shadow price of carbon and lower discount rate was issued in July 2019. The introduction of a Revised Circular requiring the use of a new, much higher, shadow price of carbon is essential to reform the Public Spending Code in a way that introduces more robust consideration of climate impacts in project appraisals. This will impact investment and infrastructure decisions thereafter.

<b>Electricity</b>	30	<i>Establish a working group on micro-generation and renewable self-consumption and agree terms of reference; and</i>	The establishment of a working group is an important first step in the development of micro-generation in the Plan. Supports for increased micro-generation of electricity by citizens, households and communities represented a central facet of the Citizens' Assembly's energy recommendations. Facilitating citizens to become involved in the energy transition is key for enhanced public engagement and empowerment on climate action, including removing blockages experienced to date as these measures aim to address.
	30	<i>Begin review of requirements for resolving market settlement issues for renewable self-consumers exporting to the grid</i>	
<b>Built Environment</b>	48	<i>Develop a plan to establish a new delivery body to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery system for retrofits, including examining how to deliver a major house retrofit programme in the Midlands. We will also look at easy pay-back models, for example through your electricity bill; and</i>	Built environment actions are critical to achieve the ambitious targets for retrofitting the existing building stock across Ireland. Retrofitting is essential to enhance the environmental performance of the national housing supply, including enhancing insulation and installing new heating technologies. The measures achieved in Q3 began the important analytical work required to deliver a retrofit programme as efficiently and effectively as possible. A new Task Force on the National Retrofit Delivery Programme has now been established to this end.
	49	<i>Develop a plan to ensure that the grant schemes, new finance models and the delivery system are effectively integrated</i>	
<b>Transport</b>	72	<i>Develop the EV charging network necessary to support the growth of EVs to at least 800,000 by 2030 and set a target for the supply of infrastructure to stay sufficiently ahead of demand</i>	The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) is a core element of the Climate Action Plan to help decarbonise the transport sector. Developing sufficient infrastructure to meet projected increased demand is central to delivery. The key measure due in Q3 included the introduction of a capital support to Local Authorities for the development of up to 200 on-street public chargers per annum. This measure is essential to improve the public charging network, and mitigate citizen concerns regarding range anxiety. SEAI have now opened the scheme for applications.

<b>Transport</b>	85	<i>Transition the urban public service obligation (PSO) public bus fleet to low emissions vehicles (LEVs)</i>	The key measure for delivery in Q3 was to initiate the tender process for the framework contract for the purchase of double deck hybrid buses. This has been completed and award of the tender is expected in Q4. Shifting passenger journeys from the private car to public transport is essential for a low carbon transport future. It is imperative that this public transport fleet is thus also decarbonised when facilitating increased demand.
<b>Transport</b>	90	<i>The delivery of the first Luas tram extension (extends 42m tram to 54m) for testing and commissioning</i>	Adding additional capacity to the Luas network represents a central action to improve the public transport network. Efficient, reliable and comfortable public transport is essential to encourage modal shift, particularly from the private car, to reduce emissions in this sector.
<b>International</b>	158	<i>Lead preparations for the United Nations (UN) Climate Summit on youth engagement and public mobilisation</i>	Ireland was actively involved in the preparation of the UN Climate Action Summit, which took place in New York in September 2019. The Summit aimed to demonstrate a leap in political ambition towards bolstering national and international climate action. Together with the Marshall Islands, Ireland led the track on Youth Engagement and Public Mobilisation. This focused on maximising the engagement and amplifying the voices of citizens, especially young people, in long-lasting climate solutions. The initiative was a great success with over 40 UN member states signing up to the youth pledge initiative ('Kwon Gesh').

Of the 27 measures that have been delayed, resource constraints (often human rather than financial) and lengthy procedural issues were most commonly cited as the reasons for delay. Several measures are also on track for completion by the end of October according to the most recent Departmental updates. Delayed items will be reported upon in future progress reports.

In forthcoming quarters, the Climate Action Delivery Board will also work to identify potential challenges, pre-empt potential delays, support progress development and unblock policy action, where possible. Examples of measures delayed in this first progress report are detailed in Table 3.

Table 3 Examples of delayed measures due for completion in Q3 under the Climate Action Plan

Sector	Action	Measure delayed in Q3	Progress Update
<b>Governance</b>	5	<i>Commence the process of forming carbon budgets for 2021 to 2025, 2026 to 2030 and 2031 to 2035 ahead of a new Climate Action (Amendment) Bill 2019 being enacted</i>	Robust and evidence-based carbon budgets represent a central facet of the Climate Action Plan to govern and enforce emissions reductions across sectors. Work has begun by the Climate Change Advisory Council in this respect, with an expert workshop due to take place in October. The Council plans to agree recommendations to the Department at its meeting in November 2019.
<b>Electricity</b>	21	<i>Ensure that updated planning guidelines for onshore wind are published in 2019</i>	The commitment in this quarter was to finalise the wind energy guidelines. This is an important first step in an interconnected series of important measures aimed at ensuring maximum onshore wind penetration on the grid. DHPLG in consultation with DCCA have completed substantial work to date in preparing the draft guidelines for public consultation. One element remains to be concluded and it is expected that public consultation will commence by the end of October 2019.
<b>Electricity</b>	28	<i>Increase the volumes and frequencies of Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) auctions to deliver on the 70% renewable electricity target by 2030, ensuring an appropriate community/enterprise mix to achieve an efficient delivery of renewables</i>	The measure for delivery in Q3 was to finalise the design of the RESS including state aid notification. This process is at an advanced stage but has not been completed. Detailed RESS auction design is underway with a plan to begin qualification process for first auction by end Q4. Pre-notification was submitted in June 2019. Legal review of responses to DG Competition queries are close to finalisation ahead of formal state aid notification which will happen in Q4. The RESS is crucial to transition our energy supply out of fossil fuels and towards more renewable and community-based energy systems. This will not only decrease GHG emissions but also help to build community resilience and energy security nationally.

<b>Transport</b>	85	<i>Transition the urban PSO public bus fleet to LEVs</i>	A number of transport measures have been delayed as a result of delays to a public consultation effort due to take place as part of a wider public and active transport policy review. This includes Q3 measures related to a consultation on alternatively fuelled buses (Action 85), a consultation on public/sustainable transport policy (Action 94), consideration of the electrification of public transport (Action 94) and the publication of a revised implementation plan for Smarter Travel (Action 96). All of these aspects are intended to be addressed within the forthcoming public consultation. The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport plans to launch this consultation in October.
	94	<i>Review public and sustainable transport policy and develop a roadmap to decarbonise all PSO public transport</i>	
	96	<i>Review and bring forward a revised implementation plan for the outstanding policies and actions in the 2009-2020 policy Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future</i>	
<b>Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use</b>	110	<i>Actively engage all stakeholders to develop a roadmap to ensure the future development of the agriculture and land-use (including forestry) sector will be built on environmental sustainability, and contribute fairly to Ireland's climate, air and energy targets</i>	The preparation of this roadmap is at an advanced stage and stakeholder engagement has commenced. The roadmap is expected to be published by the end of Q4, with a public consultation also to be held by the end of October 2019.
<b>International</b>	154	<i>Seek to at least double the percentage of official development assistance (ODA) spending on climate finance by 2030, and report on our expenditure each year</i>	Annual reports on ODA expenditure on climate were due for publication by DFAT in Q3. Work is ongoing and at an advanced stage, with the report now expected by the end of October.

### Ongoing Measures

Progress regarding ongoing measures are also outlined in this report. Departments and agencies were due to progress 53 ongoing measures under the Climate Action Plan. All measures are currently on schedule, including:

- Implementing a rolling strategy to reform environmental taxation measures across all relevant tax heads (Action 7);
- Considering the merits of equalising electricity tax rates for business and electricity consumers to €1/MWh (Action 7);

- Monitoring of sustainable finance measures within a new Strategy for international financial services to promote the development of the sustainable finance sector in Ireland (Action 11);
- Prioritising public funding for energy, climate action and sustainability, aligned with the refreshed national Research Priority Areas 2018 to 2023 (Action 14);
- Delivering NPF objectives for regional development, urban growth and compact growth (Action 15);
- Developing interactive tools using BER database for industry to identify potential markets and allow for aggregated delivery models (Action 45);
- Developing Retrofit Standard/Guidance for traditionally built buildings (Action 50);
- Supporting capital investment in the higher education sector, both in the upgrade and retrofit of existing buildings, which will incorporate energy efficiency improvements, and new buildings which are built to NZEB standards (Action 67);
- Restoration of 22,107 hectares of raised bog habitat which will directly reduce/halt carbon loss (Action 134);
- Providing support for the development of relevant media content, including in the independent production sector (Action 159);
- Ensuring that the school curriculum is reviewed against climate action on an ongoing basis (Action 180).

Progress on all Q2, Q3 and Ongoing measures, including more detail related to their designated status and update, are explored in turn next.

## Q2 2019 Actions

### Q2 Summary

Complete	Delayed	Total Q2
7	0	7

#### Carbon Pricing and Cross-cutting policies

<b>Action 14</b>	<b>Strengthen our delivery of public funding for basic and applied research to underpin government policy, meet our decarbonisation objectives and open up new economic opportunities</b>
<b>Q2 2019 measure: Publish the first annual report of the National Climate Research Coordination Group</b>	
<b>Responsible body: EPA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Published May 2019.	

#### Electricity

##### Regulatory Streamlining of Renewables and Grid Development

<b>Action 23</b>	<b>Assess the network development required to integrate higher levels of RES-E and develop a high-level network development plan to (and beyond) 2031</b>
<b>Q2 2019 measure: Launch public consultation on Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2019 in Ireland</b>	
<b>Responsible body: EirGrid</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The consultation was launched on 28 June and closed on 9 August.	

##### Route to Market for Renewable Electricity Generation

<b>Action 29</b>	<b>Ensure that 15% of electricity demand is met by renewable sources contracted under Corporate PPAs</b>
<b>Q2 2019 measure: Initial scoping work on Corporate PPAs including identification of barriers and policy options</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The initial scoping work has been completed. This project scope formed the basis of the terms of reference for the procurement of consultants to support this Action. Procurement process in train with successful tenderer due to be appointed shortly.	

## Carbon Capture and Storage

<b>Action 33</b>	<b>Establishment of a Steering Group to examine and oversee the feasibility of the utilisation of CCS in Ireland, and report to the Standing Committee on Climate Action as appropriate</b>
<b>Q2 2019 measure:</b>	Establish Steering Group
<b>Responsible body:</b>	DCCAIE
<b>Status:</b>	Complete
<b>Update:</b>	The Steering Group was established in April 2019 and comprises membership from DCCAIE, DHPLG, DPER, NewERA and Ervia.

## Built Environment

### Building the Supply Chain

<b>Action 50</b>	<b>Skill-up current contractors/other industry players in deep retrofit, NZEB and new technology installations</b>
<b>Q2 2019 measure:</b>	Through engagement with the Regional Skills Fora, the identified skill needs for NZEB, deep retrofit, heat pumps and new technology installations along with other identified skills needs in other sectors will be supported across the education and training system, including through relevant apprenticeship programmes
<b>Responsible body:</b>	DES
<b>Status:</b>	Complete
<b>Update:</b>	Through engagement with the Regional Skills Fora, the identified skill needs for NZEB, deep retrofit, heat pumps and new technology installations along with other identified skills needs are currently being planned on and worked and is on schedule for Q4 2019.
	<p>To assist local enterprises, The Regional Skills Fora continues to roll out the 'Skills for Growth Initiative which makes it easier for employers to identify their skill needs and receive guidance on which education and training providers are best suited to their requirements. The RSF also continue to play a key role by facilitating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Signposting to existing provision and services;</li> <li>○ Course creation – Higher and Further education;</li> <li>○ Apprenticeship/traineeship development;</li> <li>○ Course modification – Higher Education and Further Education;</li> <li>○ Work placements.</li> </ul> <p>A Stakeholder Group has been formed, supported from DHPLG and DCCAIE. WWETB have developed skills specifications for existing construction workers in areas including electrical, plumbing, bricklaying, carpentry and joinery and plastering as well as NZEB Fundamentals and a specification for site supervisors. These have been developed in consultation with industry, the SEAI and DHPLG. Training programmes based on these specifications are being delivered in a centre in Enniscorthy and DES will be engaging with SOLAS and the ETBs on rolling them out more widely in the ETB network.</p> <p>In relation to moving towards a centre of excellence, Wexford County Council are developing proposals. There is also engagement with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to enable the centre be designated as part of a network developed through the UN High Performing Buildings Initiative.</p>



## Regulation and Fiscal Measures

<b>Action 66</b>	<b>Roadmap to develop supply chain to support the phase out of fossil fuel boilers in new dwellings</b>
<b>Q2 2019 measure:</b> Introduce NZEB Dwellings in Building Regulations to facilitate the phasing out the installation of oil boilers in new dwellings where practical	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> SI 183 of 2019 and SI 292 of 2019 transposed the NZEB requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive in Q2 2019.	

<b>Action 68</b>	<b>Support the wider deployment and use of EPCs by building capacity and expertise in the public sector</b>
<b>Q2 measure:</b> Instigate analysis of the further potential for EPC to deliver energy efficiency projects in the Irish Public Sector as part of the EU structural fund (SRSS) support study	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DPER	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> A RFT for consultants to undertake this work has been agreed by DPER, DCCAIE and SEAI. This tender has now been issued by the structural reform support service. A service provider will be appointed in October 2019.	

## Q3 2019 Actions

### Q3 Summary

Complete	Delayed	Total Q3
89	27	116

### Governance of the Challenge

<b>Action 2</b>	Establish a Climate Action Delivery Board in the Department of An Taoiseach, jointly chaired by the Taoiseach's Department and Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, to oversee the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. A progress report will be submitted to Cabinet and published each quarter
<b>Q3 2019 measure: As per action</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DTaoiseach</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The Climate Action Delivery Board has been established within the Department of the Taoiseach. The Board is co-chaired by the Taoiseach's Department and Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and comprises of Secretaries General from Departments responsible for the actions outlined in the Plan. There have been two meetings of the Delivery Board to date, in July and September.	

<b>Action 5</b>	Commence the process of forming carbon budgets for 2021 to 2025, 2026 to 2030 and 2031 to 2035 ahead of a new Climate Action (Amendment) Bill 2019 being enacted
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Develop recommendations on suitable approach for preparation of multi-annual carbon budgets to inform preparation of drafting of legislation</b>	
<b>Responsible body: Climate Change Advisory Council</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Work has begun. Council will have first consideration at its meeting in September. A Workshop will take place in October. Council will agree recommendations to the Department at its November meeting.	

## Carbon Pricing and Cross-cutting policies

<b>Action 9</b>	<b>Reform the Public Spending Code to increase the shadow price of carbon and introduce more robust consideration of climate impacts in project appraisal</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Publish a Decision Paper and Revised Circular requiring the use of a new, much higher, shadow price of carbon and lower discount rate in cost-benefit appraisal, ensuring all major public investment projects take account of the climate impacts of these investments</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DPER</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A circular confirming the revised shadow price of carbon and lower discount rate was issued in July 2019 - <a href="https://assets.gov.ie/21966/670ed38afc8d4f86ac18bda43b877ba6.pdf">https://assets.gov.ie/21966/670ed38afc8d4f86ac18bda43b877ba6.pdf</a>	

<b>Action 9</b>	<b>Reform the Public Spending Code to increase the shadow price of carbon and introduce more robust consideration of climate impacts in project appraisal</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Introduce a new step in the Public Spending Code project lifecycle on strategic assessment. This will see an earlier consideration of the rationale for policy interventions and ensure the strategic fit of potential projects and programmes with Government policy. It will ensure earlier consideration of potential approaches to deal with a policy issue before the selection of a preferred option and the undertaking of an appropriate appraisal. Climate considerations will be incorporated in this new step.</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DPER</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A Memorandum for Decision is necessary to introduce the change to the Public Spending Code. This Memorandum is scheduled for the Government meeting in October. Assuming approval at that meeting, the revisions will be published immediately thereafter.	

<b>Action 9</b>	<b>Reform the Public Spending Code to increase the shadow price of carbon and introduce more robust consideration of climate impacts in project appraisal</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Publish supplementary guidance to assist Departments and Agencies to calculate GHG emissions attributable to investment decisions and on practical application of the shadow price of carbon, ensuring consistency and comparability of sectoral measures</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DPER</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The supplementary guidance has been completed but could not be published due to Budgetary pressures. It will now be published in the week beginning October 14 <sup>th</sup> .	

<b>Action 10</b>	<b>Develop a strategy on mobilisation of private sector investment to meet our climate targets</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Finalise report on options for non-Exchequer sources of financing climate action and green investments</b>	
<b>Responsible body: NewERA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> NewERA has prepared a draft report on options for non-Exchequer sources of financing for climate measures, and discussed it with DCCAIE as part of the work underpinning the Climate Action Plan. The draft Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considers the fundability of measures presented in the National Mitigation Plan and National Development Plan for non-Exchequer sources of funding;</li> <li>• assesses the international green finance and policy environments; and</li> <li>• summarises the responses from a market soundings exercise conducted by NewERA in 2018 with funders and market participants to assess the feasibility of the climate measures being funded on commercial terms.</li> </ul> <p>NewERA updated the report to reflect the Climate Action Plan and recent market developments. The report has been approved within the NTMA and was sent to DCCAIE in Q3.</p>	

<b>Action 13</b>	<b>Ensure that, within their mandates, the selection criteria for each of the Project Ireland 2040 Funds will operate to promote low-carbon investments. Review the selection criteria for each capital funding scheme to ensure that low carbon designs and investments are prioritised</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Review the selection criteria for all the Project Ireland funds to ensure low carbon investments are prioritised for funding</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DPER</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> This review has been completed. All relevant Departments have confirmed with PER that the NDP funds they are responsible for promote low-carbon investments. Climate research is one of the “pillars” of the Disruptive Technologies Fund, the objective of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund is to support smart, compact developments which are, by their nature, inherently climate-friendly. Finally, the transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy is one of the two key policy priorities (the other being Brexit) which were included in the appraisal scheme for the second round of funding for the Rural Development Fund.</p>	

<b>Action 14</b>	<b>Strengthen our delivery of public funding for basic and applied research to underpin government policy, meet our decarbonisation objectives and open up new economic opportunities</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Develop proposals for mission-oriented funding to address complex and long-term challenges. Such proposals will also consider future research and funding opportunities available under the EU’s Framework Programmes for Research &amp; Innovation</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SFI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SFI Zero Emissions Challenge programme is currently open with the deadline for submission of applications on 23 September 2019. Applications will be accepted from teams seeking to address significant challenges in achieving net-zero economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Approximately 10 teams will receive up to €220k in concept and seed funding during 2020 and will compete to receive a prize award in 2021 of up to €3M.</li> <li>• Under a partnership between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and SFI, it is planned that additional teams under the Zero Emissions Challenge (or the AI for Societal Good Challenge) will be funded which are focused on delivering impact in countries where Ireland’s official development assistance is directed.</li> <li>• SFI is currently developing targeted challenge programmes that will address areas of strategic importance for Ireland and where STEM-led solutions can deliver transformative impact in the area of climate action. To this end, the SFI Challenge Team is engaging nationally and internationally to identify and refine these challenges. The challenge-based approach is likely to feature as a key element in SFI’s new strategy for the period to 2025 which is currently under development.</li> </ul>	

## Electricity

### Regulatory Streamlining of Renewables and Grid Development

<b>Action 20</b>	<b>Implement energy actions under the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland’s Enterprise Strategy to ensure that large demand connections are regionally balanced to minimise grid reinforcements</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Develop and implement flexible demand and other innovative solutions for data centres</b>	
<b>Responsible body: EirGrid</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A flexible demand solution and other innovative measures for data centres have been implemented as part of EirGrid’s Data Centre Connection Offer Process and Policy paper, issued to data centre customers on 12 June. This will be kept under review, and will remain open to accepting feedback from customers. Discussions are underway between CRU and EirGrid on longer term measures to facilitate data centres and minimise grid reinforcement.	

<b>Action 21</b>	<b>Ensure that updated planning guidelines for onshore wind are published in 2019</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Publish Strategic Environmental Assessment consultation on Wind Energy Guidelines</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DHPLG</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in consultation with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment have completed substantial work to date in preparing the draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines for public consultation. One element remains to be concluded. Once complete the environmental reports which will accompany the draft revised Guidelines for public consultation will be finalised. It is expected that the public consultation will commence by end Oct 2019.</p>	
<b>Action 23</b>	<b>Assess the network development required to integrate higher levels of RES-E and develop a high-level network development plan to (and beyond) 2032</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Publish Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2019 for Ireland</b>	
<b>Responsible body: EirGrid</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Significant changes are required to the final report based on industry feedback, and electricity targets set out under Climate Action Plan mean that Q4 (October) is the revised delivery date. EirGrid have been told to expedite publication as a priority but ongoing modelling work likely to mean report is not ready until October.</p>	
<b>Action 24</b>	<b>Facilitate very high penetration of variable renewable electricity by 2030 (both SNSP and average) through system services and market arrangements</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Expansion of the DS3 Qualifier Trial Programme (the trialling of new technologies on the system) into a new programme known as 'FlexTech Integration Initiative</b>	
<b>Responsible body: EirGrid</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The Flex Tech Initiative has commenced. The Initiative commenced with an Industry Forum in Q2 and a Consultation was published on 30 September 2019.  <a href="http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/FlexTech-Consultation_30092019.pdf">http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/FlexTech-Consultation_30092019.pdf</a></p>	

## Offshore Renewables

<b>Action 25</b>	<b>Facilitate the development of Offshore Wind, including the connection of at least 3.5 GW of offshore wind, based on competitive auctions, to the grid by 2030. We will establish a top team to drive this ambition</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Early resolution of potential spatial conflicts for emerging ORE policy Link with National Marine Planning Framework</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Discussions have taken place with foreshore and spatial planning units in DHPLG in relation to the development of the NMPF and the maritime spatial plan.	

<b>Action 25</b>	<b>Facilitate the development of Offshore Wind, including the connection of at least 3.5 GW of offshore wind, based on competitive auctions, to the grid by 2030. We will establish a top team to drive this ambition</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Commence review of the licence charging regime common to ORE consenting under the Foreshore Act and Marine Planning and Development Management Bill in the context of all charges and state supports</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Early discussions have taken place with DHPLG. This will need to be progressed further as part of the ongoing work in drafting the MPDM Bill.	

<b>Action 25</b>	<b>Facilitate the development of Offshore Wind, including the connection of at least 3.5 GW of offshore wind, based on competitive auctions, to the grid by 2030. We will establish a top team to drive this ambition</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Publication of Maritime Jurisdiction Legislation</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFAT</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> General Scheme of the Maritime Jurisdiction Bill 2019 approved by Government May 2019 and published on DFAT website at the following link: <a href="https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/ourrolepolicies/internationallaw/lawofthesea/General-Scheme-of-the-Maritime-Jurisdiction-Bill-2019.pdf">https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/ourrolepolicies/internationallaw/lawofthesea/General-Scheme-of-the-Maritime-Jurisdiction-Bill-2019.pdf</a> .	
Bill currently with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for drafting.	

<b>Action 25</b>	<b>Facilitate the development of Offshore Wind, including the connection of at least 3.5 GW of offshore wind, based on competitive auctions, to the grid by 2030. We will establish a top team to drive this ambition</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Finalise revised General Scheme of the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DHPLG</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in consultation with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment are working towards finalising the General Scheme of the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill. Delivery is delayed until mid-October.	

<b>Action 25</b>	<b>Facilitate the development of Offshore Wind, including the connection of at least 3.5 GW of offshore wind, based on competitive auctions, to the grid by 2030. We will establish a top team to drive this ambition</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Completion of the National Marine Planning Framework in a manner to give priority to key national policies such as the overall decarbonisation of the economy and Ireland's renewable energy ambitions • Full engagement by all marine consenting agencies with the NMPF process to provide certainty to developers and the public, avoiding potential spatial conflicts and identifying synergies with other activities • Use NMPF and associated processes to resolve conflicts between competing sectoral objectives (e.g. including renewable energy and others) • All Departments feed into the central resource of marine spatial data and evidence being developed by the Marine Institute as part of the NMPF process</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DHPLG (dependent on input from DCCA, DAFM, DTTAS, DCHG, Defence, Marine Institute)</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The draft NMPF and associated environmental reports will be published on 2 <sup>nd</sup> October for a 3 month public consultation process. The NMPF and associated environmental reports are scheduled to be finalised and adopted by end 2020.	

<b>Action 25</b>	<b>Facilitate the development of Offshore Wind, including the connection of at least 3.5 GW of offshore wind, based on competitive auctions, to the grid by 2030. We will establish a top team to drive this ambition</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Finalise State Aid Notification to include Offshore Wind as a category in RESS Auctions (Date subject to DG Competition timing)</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> RESS auction pre notification process underway by DCCA.	



<b>Action 25</b>	<b>Facilitate the development of Offshore Wind, including the connection of at least 3.5 GW of offshore wind, based on competitive auctions, to the grid by 2030. We will establish a top team to drive this ambition</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Establishment of Working Group on Framework for Offshore Electricity Grid, chaired by DCCA</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCA</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	Working group has been established by DCCA with EirGrid and CRU looking at offshore grid connection policy, two meetings held to date.

<b>Action 26</b>	<b>Support the ocean energy research, development and demonstration pathway for emerging marine technologies (wave, tidal, floating wind) and associated test infrastructure</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Expand Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site (AMETS) to accommodate floating wind: Commence Environmental Monitoring Requirements</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>SEI</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Delayed</b>
<b>Update:</b>	Bids have been reviewed and successful bidders selected. Some clarifications on costs are required to ensure VFM. SEI Board sign-off is required in advance of award. Successful bidders will be notified following the SEI Board meeting scheduled for 6 November 2019.

<b>Action 26</b>	<b>Support the ocean energy research, development and demonstration pathway for emerging marine technologies (wave, tidal, floating wind) and associated test infrastructure</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Review of impact of Prototype Development Fund and recommendations for enhanced scheme</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>SEI</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Delayed</b>
<b>Update:</b>	Options for new scheme have been drafted during review period for consideration by SEI Senior Management Team. These options will be converted into recommendations to shape development of new scheme by end of Q4.

<b>Action 27</b>	<b>Support innovation enterprise hubs and the supply chain for offshore renewable energy</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Roll out the Ocean Power Innovation Network (OPIN) project to provide cross sectoral Enterprise supports from across EU to the ORE sector</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> OPIN project kicked has formally commenced and is being co-ordinated by SEAI. First workshop on 02/07/19 in DEMC, Netherlands. First Annual Symposium planned for September 2019. Further events planned to coincide with Ocean Energy Europe Conference in Dublin on 30/09/19. Workshop on 23/10/19 in Blyth, UK.	

### Route to Market for Renewable Electricity Generation

<b>Action 28</b>	<b>Design and implement the RESS. Increase the volumes and frequencies of RESS auctions to deliver on the 70% renewable electricity target by 2030 ensuring an appropriate community/enterprise mix to achieve an efficient delivery of renewables.</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Finalise the Detailed Design of the RESS including state aid notification</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Detailed RESS auction design underway with plan to begin qualification process for first auction by end Q4 2019. Pre-notification submitted in June '19. Legal review of responses to DG Competition queries in progress ahead of formal state aid notification which will not now happen until Q4.	

<b>Action 29</b>	<b>Ensure that 15% of electricity demand is met by renewable sources contracted under Corporate PPAs</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Consultation workshop(s) with industry and relevant government or state agencies (CRU, DFin, Revenue, IDA etc.)</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The first consultation workshop with industry and relevant Government Departments/State Agencies was held on 26 September 2019.	

## Micro-generation

<b>Action 30</b>	<b>Develop an enabling framework for micro-generation which tackles existing barriers and establishes suitable supports within relevant market segments</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Establish a working group on micro-generation and renewable self-consumption and agree terms of reference e.g. appropriate definitions, policy objectives, engage with the CEP transposition project etc.</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCAIE</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The Microgeneration Working Group has been established with Terms of Reference circulated and invitations issued for a first meeting of the group which will take place on 23 September 2019.	

<b>Action 30</b>	<b>Develop an enabling framework for micro-generation which tackles existing barriers and establishes suitable supports within relevant market segments</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Begin review of requirements for resolving market settlement issues for renewable self-consumers exporting to the grid</b>	
<b>Responsible body: CRU</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Discussions are taking place with ESBN to establish barriers to microgeneration and potential solutions.	

<b>Action 31</b>	<b>Deliver pilot solar PV micro-generation scheme with a view to commencement of enduring support scheme by 2021 to ensure that people can sell excess electricity they produce back to the grid</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Review of scheme (incl. budget) and potential for new technologies and sectors to be included in broadened scope</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The initial review of solar PV has been drafted and Authority is working on the new technologies and sectors for the broadened scope.	

<b>Action 32</b>	<b>Deliver Smart Metering Programme in line with current planned timelines that will support the market for micro-generation</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Commence review of requirements for resolving market settlement issues for renewables self-consumers</b>	
<b>Responsible body: CRU</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The CRU has commenced the review described under this Action. The review of market settlement issues and related regulatory decisions will continue in tandem with the roll-out of smart meters under the National Smart Metering Programme.	

<b>Action 32</b>	<b>Deliver Smart Metering Programme in line with current planned timelines that will support the market for micro-generation</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Support research and demonstration projects with a focus on enabling the 'smart home' (e.g. demand side management, storage, communication protocols, automated control, etc.)</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The 2019 SEAI National Energy Research Development and Demonstration Funding Programme included a specific strand of projects supporting smart home enablement. Successful award of funding subject to call evaluation process.	

## Carbon Capture and Storage

<b>Action 33</b>	<b>Establishment of a Steering Group to examine and oversee the feasibility of the utilisation of CCS in Ireland, and report to the Standing Committee on Climate Action as appropriate</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Agree appropriate research investment by Ervia/Gas Networks Ireland in CCS feasibility</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCAE</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Research investment of €3.37m up to the end of Q1 2020 has been agreed at the CCS Steering Group, which includes representatives from DCCAE and DHPLG. DPER and NewERA also attend (EPA and SEAI to be included in Steering Group). Ervia is currently preparing options and costs for the next phase of the feasibility study, post Q1 2020. These will be presented to the CCS Steering Group for agreement.	

## Enterprise

<b>Action 39</b>	<b>Launch targeted call under Climate Action Fund</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Development of the scope of proposed call</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The development of the next call for applications under the Climate Action Fund is dependent on the relevant legislation being in place to repurpose part of the NORA levy. This is expected to be published for consideration by the Oireachtas in the coming months.</p>	

<b>Action 40</b>	<b>Leverage and mobilise business cluster initiatives under the Regional Enterprise Plans and Future Jobs Ireland 2019</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Identification of all business cluster initiatives in Regional Enterprise Plans and in Future Jobs Ireland 2019</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DBEI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officials have identified the different sectoral clusters and groups within Future Jobs Ireland 2019 and the Regional Enterprise Plans. Work is ongoing to better understand the activities of these clusters in order to inform which are suitable for engagement on a decarbonisation agenda.</li> <li>• When all suitable clusters have been identified DBEI will work with SEAI to develop an approach for interaction with specific clusters and begin to develop an engagement plan for sector groups.</li> </ul>	

## Built Environment

### Consolidating the Evidence Base and Driving Demand

<b>Action 43</b>	<b>Consolidate data on current retrofit volume and depth to get a full picture of energy efficiency and carbon savings funded by public bodies and those supported by the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme across the residential, commercial and public sectors</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Identify schemes and supports outside of the SEAI schemes where energy efficiency retrofit is already happening (both domestic and non-domestic buildings)</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCA</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Delayed</b>
<b>Update:</b>	Work will commence shortly. This action will be completed in the next quarter – Q4 2019.

<b>Action 46</b>	<b>Examine feasibility for commercial rates to be linked to BER</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>The Local Government (Rates) Bill 2018, which is currently before the Oireachtas, includes a provision to enable Local Authorities to introduce rates alleviation measures to support local and national policy objectives. It is noted that the specific nature of any such schemes at local level will be a matter for the Local Authority concerned and thus may include measures to support climate action.</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DHPLG</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	The Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 passed all stages of the Oireachtas in July 2019. The process for commencement of relevant sections of the Act is currently underway. Secondary legislation and/or Departmental circulars will be required as part of the commencement process.

### New Delivery Model

<b>Action 48</b>	<b>Develop a plan to establish a new delivery body to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery system for retrofits, including examining how to deliver a major house retrofitting programme in the Midlands. We will also look at easy pay-back models, for example through your electricity bill</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Group to be formed to consider approaches to area based clustering/aggregation and standardisation etc.</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCA</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	Being progressed as part of the work of the Task Force on the new National Retrofit Delivery Programme. First meeting took place on 30 September 2019.

<b>Action 49</b>	<b>Develop a plan to ensure that the grant schemes, new finance models and the delivery system are effectively integrated</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Group to be formed to consider how the new retrofit model can best be delivered</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> First meeting of the Taskforce to take place on 30 September 2019.	

### Building the Supply Chain

<b>Action 51</b>	<b>Develop the supply chain for renewables and retrofitting through engagement with ETBs and SOLAS</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: SEAI to consider updating the 2014 report 'Ireland's Sustainable Energy Supply Chain Opportunity'</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Development of an updated supply chain opportunity is currently under consideration by SEAI.	

### Funding and Financing Projects

<b>Action 53</b>	<b>Identify additional options for targeted financing for energy efficiency retrofits in the domestic and commercial sectors</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Develop proposals for an expansion of the pilot salary incentive scheme for energy efficiency retrofits</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI and partners within existing programmes</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> SEAI have prepared proposals which have been received by DCCA. These proposals will be considered and taken forward as part of the work programme of the Retrofit Taskforce established.	

<b>Action 53</b>	<b>Identify additional options for targeted financing for energy efficiency retrofits in the domestic and commercial sectors</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Extend pilot salary incentive scheme for energy efficiency retrofits to 5 public sector bodies</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Exploratory work underway, including some preliminary discussion with targeted public sector entities indicating interest.	

<b>Action 53</b>	<b>Identify additional options for targeted financing for energy efficiency retrofits in the domestic and commercial sectors</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Identify and assess other options for the financing of energy efficiency projects (e.g. green mortgages)</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCAE</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	SEAI research paper that identifies and assesses options for the financing of energy efficiency projects has been completed. This will inform a key input into the established Retrofit Taskforce deliberations.

<b>Action 54</b>	<b>Provide easier to access tailored finance for SME and residential energy efficiency investment utilising the EIB Smart Finance for Smart Buildings loan scheme</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Establish a Steering Committee and Working Group to design a new financing scheme</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCAE</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	This group has been established. DCCAE engaging with SBCI, EIB, NewERA and SEAI. Work will progress as part of the Task Force established on retrofitting.

<b>Action 54</b>	<b>Provide easier to access tailored finance for SME and residential energy efficiency investment utilising the EIB Smart Finance for Smart Buildings loan scheme</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Develop a project plan with associated timelines for delivery of the new Scheme</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCAE</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	Project plan has been developed and will be progressed as part of the work of the Task Force on the new National Retrofit Delivery Programme.



## Regulation and Fiscal Measures

<b>Action 56</b>	<b>All new buildings (public and private) to be NZEB</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Publish methodology for compliance with NZEB in all new buildings</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Methodology has been published on SEAI website. Software to be released by the end of Q3 2019.	

<b>Action 56</b>	<b>All new buildings (public and private) to be NZEB</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Implementation of tighter regulations on major renovations - Transpose EPBD Legislation into law for Major Renovations and Nearly Zero Energy Buildings</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DHPLG</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> SI 538 of 2017 introduced NZEB for Major Renovations for all Buildings other than Dwellings. It applies to buildings commencing construction from the 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2019 subject to transition arrangements.	

<b>Action 56</b>	<b>All new buildings (public and private) to be NZEB</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Advance performance requirements of building regulations to NZEB standards to facilitate phasing out the installation of oil boilers in new dwellings where feasible</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DHPLG</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> CSO data shows oil boilers are currently installed in 5% of new dwellings. With the new NZEB requirements it is expected that oil boilers will effectively be eliminated in new dwellings by 2022. These regulations require a 70% improvement in energy and carbon dioxide emissions performance over 2005 standards for all new dwellings. They also require mandatory renewables on all new dwellings to meet 20% of the regulated energy use of the dwelling.	

<b>Action 58</b>	<b>Examine climate related fiscal measures across various sectors</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Roll out of measures will be subject to the normal budgetary process</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Budget 2020 announced that the carbon tax rate would increase from €20 per tonne to €26 per tonne of CO <sub>2</sub> and the business and non-business rates of electricity would be equalised.	

<b>Action 60</b>	<b>Effectively Ban the installation of oil boilers from 2022 and the installation of gas boilers from 2025 in all new dwellings through the introduction of new regulatory standards for home heating systems, and ensure the supply chain for the installation of renewable heating systems is in place. Enact the NZEB performance requirements in regulation in 2019 to facilitate the effective banning of oil boilers</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Enact the NZEB performance regulations to facilitate the effective banning of oil boilers</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DHPLG</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> SI 183 of 2019 and SI 292 of 2019 transposed the NZEB requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive in Q2 2019. These will take effect for Dwellings commencing construction from 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2019 subject to transition arrangements. CSO data shows oil boilers are currently installed in 5% of new dwellings. With the new NZEB requirements it is expected that oil boilers will effectively be eliminated in new dwellings by 2022. Heat pumps powered by electricity are currently installed in 39% of new dwellings. As a result of new NZEB regulations it is expected that this penetration rate will significantly increase to effectively eliminate gas boilers in new dwellings by 2025.	

<b>Action 63</b>	<b>Address the split incentive issue in the rental market. A special advisory group will make recommendations</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Complete a review of relevant policies in other EU Member States and identify potential policy options for Ireland</b>	
<b>Responsible body: Advisory Group (DCCA, DHPLG, SEAI and other stakeholders as needed)</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Review complete and relevant measures have been incorporated into a draft consultation paper.	

## Renewable Heat and District Heating

<b>Action 69</b>	<b>Complete the rollout of the SSRH, including support for biomass and anaerobic digestion heating systems</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Open the second phase of the SSRH providing multi-annual support payments to anaerobic digestion and biomass heating systems and review tariffs on an annual basis</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCAIE</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	The second phase of the SSRH opened for applications in June 2019.

## Biogas and Biomethane

<b>Action 71</b>	<b>Set a target for the level of energy to be supplied by biomethane injection in 2030</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Carry out a public consultation on the development of the Biofuels Obligation Scheme, including the addition of an advanced biofuel obligation which could increase the supply of biomethane to the transport sector</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCAIE</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	A public consultation on the Biofuels Obligation Scheme was published on 30 September 2019. <a href="https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-Biofuels-Obligation-Scheme.aspx">https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-Biofuels-Obligation-Scheme.aspx</a>

## Transport

### EV and CNG Station Network

<b>Action 72</b>	<b>Develop the EV charging network necessary to support the growth of EVs to at least 800,000 by 2030 and set a target for the supply of infrastructure to stay sufficiently ahead of demand</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Introduce a capital support that will be provided to Local Authorities for the development of up to 200 on-street public chargers per annum</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCAIE</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	A new support for the provision of on-street charge points by Local Authorities opened for applications on 30 September 2019.

<b>Action 72</b>	<b>Develop the EV charging network necessary to support the growth of EVs to at least 800,000 by 2030 and set a target for the supply of infrastructure to stay sufficiently ahead of demand</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Commence the ESB Electric Vehicle High Power Charging Infrastructure Development Project, supported by the Climate Action Fund, which will support growth to at least 40,000 electric vehicles</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCAIE</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	The ESB Electric Vehicle High Power Charging Infrastructure Development Project has commenced. The validation stage is complete and the project has proceeded to the delivery stage.

<b>Action 75</b>	<b>Develop an NSAI Standards programme to support climate action policy, focusing initially on supporting the supply chain for renewables, retrofitting and climate adaptation, including standard for electrical wiring rules to include guidance for EV chargers</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Agree scope and resources</b>	
<b>Responsible body: NSAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSAI have agreed an approach to fulfilling this action and are working with SEAI on the development of a number of relevant standards. The following are workstreams underway:</li> </ul> <p><u>Standard for electrical wiring rules (I.S. 10101)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft standard is in the process of being edited.</li> <li>Anticipated that I.S. 10101 will be published by end of Q.4.</li> </ul> <p><u>Standard Recommendation for use of heat pumps in domestic dwellings (S.R. 50-4)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAI tendering process for a Technical Expert/Secretary, who will provide technical input to the development of S.R. 50-4, is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.</li> <li>Technical Expert/Secretary and a newly established NSAI Technical Committee will start work on drafting S.R. 50-4 in Q.4.</li> </ul> <p><u>Standard Recommendation for domestic solar photovoltaic systems (S.R. 50-5)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAI tendering process for a Technical Expert/Secretary, who will provide technical input to S.R. 50-5, is being finalised.</li> <li>Intended to have a Technical Expert/Secretary in place during Q.4. The Technical Expert/Secretary with input from a newly established NSAI Technical Committee will commence work on drafting S.R. 50-5 during Q.4.</li> </ul>	

<b>Action 76</b>	<b>Develop the CNG fuelling network to support the uptake of CNG vehicles</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Carry out a public consultation on the Biofuels Obligation Scheme to include the development of an advance biofuel obligation to increase the supply of renewable gas (i.e. biomethane) to the transport sector via CNG fuelling stations</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCAE</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> A public consultation on the Biofuels Obligation Scheme was published on 30 September 2019. <a href="https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-Biofuels-Obligation-Scheme.aspx">https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-Biofuels-Obligation-Scheme.aspx</a></p>	

## Biofuels

<b>Action 77</b>	<b>Increase the use of biofuels to contribute to the growth of renewable energy and reduction of GHG emissions in the transport sector</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Carry out a public consultation on the development of the Biofuels Obligation Scheme in the period 2021-2030</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A public consultation on the Biofuels Obligation Scheme was published on 30 September 2019. <a href="https://www.dcca.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-Biofuels-Obligation-Scheme.aspx">https://www.dcca.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-Biofuels-Obligation-Scheme.aspx</a>	

## Regulation and Fiscal Measures

<b>Action 84</b>	<b>Consider updating and applying the CO2 based taxation for vehicle BIK regime</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Consider updating the CO2 based taxation bands for BIK</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> CO2 based BIK structure announced in Budget 2020, to commence with effect from 1 January 2023.	

## Empowering Modal Shift and Sharing Economy in Transport

<b>Action 85</b>	<b>Transition the urban PSO public bus fleet to LEVs</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Initiate tender process for a framework contract for the purchase of double-decker hybrid buses (diesel/electric)</b>	
<b>Responsible body: NTA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Pre-qualification complete. Tender documents for a framework contract for the purchase of double-decker hybrid buses (diesel/electric) have been completed and award of the tender is expected in Q4. NTA has commenced the procurement process for up to 600 double-deck hybrid buses, as a key element of the <i>BusConnects</i> Programme. NTA intends to enter into a Single Supplier Framework Agreement for the buses for a period of about five years. The first delivery could take place before the end of 2020.</p> <p>While the EU's revised Directive on the Promotion of Clean and Energy-Efficient Road Transport Vehicles is not expected to enter into force until 2021, the NTA's aim is to ensure compliance with the Directive for all new city buses delivered from next year onwards. As such, any bus proposed by a manufacturer for inclusion in the tender will be expected to meet the definition of a 'clean vehicle' provided for in the revised Directive.</p>	

<b>Action 85</b>	<b>Transition the urban PSO public bus fleet to LEVs</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Complete Low Emission Bus Trial</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DTTAS</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The Low Emission Bus Trial was established to examine the suitability of a range of technologies and fuels for the urban bus fleet. Full electric, hybrid-electric, and compressed natural gas buses were tested alongside exhaust-retrofitted diesel buses. The buses were assessed under a number of headings including CO<sub>2</sub> and air quality pollutant emissions, energy efficiency, costs, and infrastructural requirements.</p> <p>The buses were tested under real-driving conditions on selected routes in both Dublin and Cork between December 2018 and May 2019. A comprehensive report outlining the findings of the trial was produced and sent to the NTA to further inform bus procurement policies. A high-level executive summary of the findings of the trial is available on the DTTAS website (<a href="#">link</a>). It is expected that a non-commercially sensitive version of the full report will be available by year end.</p>	

<b>Action 85</b>	<b>Transition the urban PSO public bus fleet to LEVs</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Public Consultation on alternatively fuelled buses (part of a wider public transport policy consultation)</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DTTAS</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport will launch a public consultation in October on a review of Ireland's public transport and active travel policy. Documents are ready for publication but the delay relates to producing audio and HTML files that are accessible to maximise the reach of the public consultation process. The policy review is considering all aspects of public transport (bus, rail, and tram) and active travel (cycling and walking) policy.</p> <p>The following documents will be published as part of the public consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 9 thematic background papers looking at the most important areas of public transport and active travel policy – including a paper on alternatively fuelled buses in the urban PSO fleet;</li> <li>○ A Report of an initial Round Table Discussion with stakeholders in 2018;</li> <li>○ An <i>Ex Post</i> Evaluation of the Smarter Travel Areas programme 2012-2016; and</li> <li>○ A high-level assessment of the implementation status of the actions under the existing policies, <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> and the <i>National Cycle Policy Framework</i>.</li> </ul>	

<b>Action 88</b>	<b>Increase public bus network capacity and usage (implementation of BusConnects services network)</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Publish revised BusConnects Dublin network for public consultation</b>	
<b>Responsible body: NTA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Public consultation on the revised <i>BusConnects</i> Dublin network to commence in October. This will be a further interim step in the planning process - it will take another 12 months of technical, environmental, and transport impact assessment work before any final plans are complete for presentation to <i>An Bord Pleanála</i> for statutory approval in second half of 2020.</p>	

<b>Action 90</b>	<b>Add additional capacity to Luas network</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Delivery of first tram extension (extends 42m tram to 54m) for testing and commissioning</b>	
<b>Responsible body: NTA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The Luas Green Line Capacity Enhancement project will provide additional capacity on the Luas Green Line over the coming years, to cater for the growing demand on the line in the short to medium term. It includes lengthening the existing green line trams to 55m length, plus the purchase of 8 additional 55m long trams. A major expansion of Sandyford Depot is underway to facilitate the growth in the green line fleet. An order has been placed with Alstom to lengthen the existing tram fleet. Power system upgrades are also required along the green line to facilitate the additional and longer trams.</p> <p>The first tram extension has been completed including the testing and commissioning processes. It is expected that the tram will enter passenger service in Q3.</p>	



<b>Action 92</b>	<b>Commence the transition to hybrid trains to allow extended electrification of rail services</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Complete rail fleet technology assessment, adopt rail fleet strategy and initiate tender process for bi-mode/electric fleet</b>	
<b>Responsible body: NTA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Pre-qualification submissions for the tender process for fleet supply received and being assessed.</p> <p>DART Expansion, a €2 billion investment under <i>Project Ireland 2040</i>, will see the capacity of the rail network transformed through investment in up to 300 new carriages, electrification of lines to Maynooth, M3 Parkway, Hazelhatch and Drogheda, and key infrastructure works to allow more trains to operate in the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>An ambitious tender for up to 600 carriages allows for the planned fleet expansion, replacement of the original DART fleet (the 76-carriage fleet will be almost 45 years old at the end of the current <i>National Development Plan</i> in 2027) and other carriages, and ensure that the framework is in place for more carriages to be ordered if further growth in demand occurs.</p>	

<b>Action 94</b>	<b>Review public and sustainable transport policy and develop a roadmap to decarbonise all PSO public transport</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Publish public consultation on public/sustainable transport policy, including rural transport</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DTTAS</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> As per update under Action 85, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport will launch a public consultation in October on a review of Ireland’s public transport and active travel policy. The policy review is considering all aspects of public transport (bus, rail, and tram) and active travel (cycling and walking) policy.</p>	

<b>Action 94</b>	<b>Review public and sustainable transport policy and develop a roadmap to decarbonise all PSO public transport</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Review to include consideration of electrification of public transport</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DTTAS</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> As per update under Action 85, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport will launch a public consultation in October on a review of Ireland’s public transport and active travel policy. The policy review is considering all aspects of public transport (bus, rail, and tram) and active travel (cycling and walking) policy. The Consultation will include a high-level assessment of the implementation status of the actions under the existing policies, <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> and the <i>National Cycle Policy Framework</i>.</p>	

<b>Action 96</b>	<b>Review and bring forward a revised implementation plan for the outstanding policies and actions in the 2009-2020 policy Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Publish a revised implementation plan for Smarter Travel</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DTTAS</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> As per update under Action 85, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport will launch a public consultation in the coming weeks on a review of Ireland's public transport and active travel policy. The policy review is considering all aspects of public transport (bus, rail, and tram) and active travel (cycling and walking) policy. The Consultation will include a high-level assessment of the implementation status of the actions under the existing policies, <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> and the <i>National Cycle Policy Framework</i>.</p>	

## Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use

Irish Agriculture Vigorously Adopting Carbon Abatement Opportunities and the Food Industry Encouraging this Transformation

<b>Action 103</b>	<b>Support the maximum possible environment and climate ambition in the post-2020 CAP</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Consultation on draft interventions</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DAFM</b>	
<b>Status: Complete (overall EU CAP process delayed and hence timelines to be pushed out)</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Draft SWOT analysis (and needs assessment) published for public consultation on 9<sup>th</sup> September and will remain open until 4<sup>th</sup> October. Stakeholder workshop scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> October. The preparation of the draft CAP Strategic Plan has commenced. The draft interventions will be based on the findings from the SWOT and needs assessment. Consultations on the CAP negotiations will continue via the CAP Consultative Committee, which comprises representatives of the main stakeholders including DCCA. The Committee has met on three occasions with two further meetings planned by end of the year. Presentations focussing on the environment and the climate were made at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>The draft SWOT analysis for the CAP Strategic Plan post 2020 focusses on 9 specific objectives, including 3 objectives that are directly related to climate and the environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;</li> <li>2. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;</li> <li>3. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.</li> </ol>	

**Action 105    Develop research and innovation infrastructure**

**Q3 2019 measure: Enhance the capability of the agricultural catchment programme to monitor emissions across farming systems**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Delayed**

**Update:** The Agricultural Catchments Programme (ACP) was established to monitor the effectiveness of measures to protect and review water quality under the implementation of the Nitrates regulations and contribute to meeting monitoring requirements in the Nitrates derogation. The current ACP is operational to the end of 2019 and works in partnership with over 300 farmers in six intensively farmed catchments.

This expansion of the ACP programme has required additional time and resources to develop a detailed proposal and identification of the associated financial commitment so as to ensure the enhanced requirements will be achieved. A new ACP will be in place by 1st January 2020.

**Action 110    Actively engage all stakeholders to develop a roadmap to ensure the future development of the agriculture and land-use (including forestry) sector will be built on environmental sustainability, and contribute fairly to Ireland’s climate, air and energy targets**

**Q3 2019 measure: Develop roadmap building blocks: vision, mission, principles and targets**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Delayed**

**Update:** The building blocks, vision, mission, principles and targets have been developed and agreed at the Management Board of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. In addition, presentations have been made to both the Food Wise 2025 High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC) and the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) as part of the wider stakeholder engagement. Further consultation has been held with Teagasc, Bord Bia and DCCAE in advance of publication. It is planned that this roadmap will be published for public consultation by the end of October 2019.

**Action 110** Actively engage all stakeholders to develop a roadmap to ensure the future development of the agriculture and land-use (including forestry) sector will be built on environmental sustainability, and contribute fairly to Ireland’s climate, air and energy targets

**Q3 2019 measure: Establishment of workstreams to develop actions to deliver targets**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** A series of work stream have been identified and developed internally – these work streams and actions will form part of the overall public consultation of the roadmap and will be revised accordingly following received submissions. In addition, the workstreams are assisting in contribution to the overall governance of climate change within DAFM. An internal governance structure has been established with DAFM to oversee delivery of the actions for the agriculture, land use and forestry sector within the All-of-Government Climate Action Plan.

### Promoting Diversification of Land Use, Part of Gradual Transition

**Action 115** Implement and review roadmap for achieving afforestation rates as outlined in the Programme for Government and Forestry Programme Mid-Term Review

**Q3 2019 measure: Initiate a review of recommendations outlined in the 2018 COFORD Forest Land Availability Implementation Group Report to identify measures required to remove barriers and increase levels of afforestation. Address potential for additional afforestation on state-owned land and forest estate access requirements**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** Implementation of the COFORD Forest Land Availability Implementation Group is continuing and specific milestones completed in Q3 2019 include:

- A DAFM high-level team undertook a study visit to Scotland at end-August to review Scottish forestry policy. DAFM also engaged a Scottish consultant to review our forestry approval procedures similar to an exercise undertaken for the Scottish authorities in 2018.
- Work to carry out Attitudinal Surveys was actioned through the report analysing the socio-economic effects of forestry in Co. Leitrim which was published in Wk 1 September;
- A Review of the UK Woodland carbon code to investigate a similar model for Ireland was further developed and progress made as a result of a DAFM bilateral with UK carbon code staff in Edinburgh.
- The inclusion of forestry in the calculation of the on-farm Carbon Navigator was well advanced in Q3 2019.

**Action 116 Implement the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 in line with Mid-Term Review recommendations and targets set**

**Q3 2019 measure: Progress the measures introduced under the government's Mid-Term Review of the Forestry Programme 2014-2020, including the promotion of the Woodland Environmental Fund**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** Measures being implemented as outlined in the Mid-Term Review, including:

- Increases in grant and premiums have now been made across all relevant schemes e.g. increase in broadleaved and diverse conifer categories, 2<sup>nd</sup> thinning for woodland in place, continuous cover pilot scheme now operational, trees shelter and hare fencing introduced.
- Forestry promotion Group held its quarterly meeting in July chaired by Minister to review public and private promotion of forestry in Ireland.
- Promotional campaign of forestry continues – first of 15 DAFM-funded promotional projects across Ireland held in Counties Kerry and Leitrim in Q3 2019. The Woodland Festival in Leitrim (one of the DAFM funded projects), which gave a broad overview of forestry and its benefits, was particularly well attended, while the Forest-Connections event in Kerry highlighted recreational and education use of forests by all age-groups. Very positive feedback particularly in local media for these events.
- Similar promotion was held at National Ploughing Championships by both DAFM and Teagasc with a forest harvester simulator available on the DAFM stand for use by public plus merchandise highlighting forestry role in climate change mitigation.
- 37 new knowledge transfer groups were approved at end Q2 2019, the majority of which are now operational in Q3 2019. Two new companies signed up for Woodland Environment Fund. Promotion day planned for Q4 for Irish businesses to highlight benefits of CSR and WEF.
- The Department will be holding an internal Forestry Communications Workshop in Q4 to refine promotional message and determine most effective means to promote afforestation and all of the forestry schemes.

**Action 116** Implement the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 in line with Mid-Term Review recommendations and targets set

**Q3 2019 measure: Consider options for incentivising appropriate forestry measures, including agroforestry, as a complementary land use for farmers under the CAP post 2020**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:**

- An Open Day on a Co. Kildare farm for agro-forestry was hosted by DAFM in Q3 (28 August 2019). A detailed media and promotion campaign was launched to coincide with it.
- 150k ha's of potential new agro-forestry land were brought into play through a bilateral agreement between DAFM and EPA at end-September 2019.
- The draft SWOT analysis on CAP out for public consultation specifically considers forestry under objective 8; "Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry. This public consultation closes on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and submissions received will inform the CAP strategic plan post 2020.

**Action 119** Increase productivity and resilience of the national forest estate and tree species to improve adaptation to climate change to deliver cumulative additional sequestration potential

**Q3 2019 measure: Continue to implement tree breeding programmes for key species to increase productivity and resilience and increase species diversity in the national forest estate**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** Selection and breeding programmes in progress. Significant work ongoing in developing a Forest Genetic Resources strategy through the COFORD Council with key species identified. Building resilience and species diversity is important and the mid-term review resulted in increased premiums to increase the planting of a range of species.

**Action 119** Increase productivity and resilience of the national forest estate and tree species to improve adaptation to climate change to deliver cumulative additional sequestration potential

**Q3 2019 measure: Continue to implement Forest Genetic Resources Seed Stand and Seed Orchard scheme to increase supply of selected and improved forest reproductive material**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** The Forest Genetic Resources Seed Stand and Seed Orchard Scheme are open and applications assessed. Significant work achieved in the continued assessment of existing seed stands to ensure that the best material is available for planting in all afforestation measures.

**Action 120      Develop tools for communicating productivity and climate benefits of forests for landowners**

**Q3 2019 measure: Promote the DAFM felling decision tool and other forest management tools  
Incorporate use of the tool into relevant advisory Services**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** The DAFM felling tool continues to be promoted on the DAFM website and public events. A demonstration event was held at National Ploughing Championships in September 2019 and was also promoted at Energy in Agriculture in August 2019. This tool is freely available and allows for forest owners to determine the impact of felling crops at different rotation lengths. It is rolled out as part of the curriculum for the 37 new Knowledge Transfer Groups which were approved by DAFM at end Q2 2019. Other tools are available on the DAFM website to examine the indicative impact of wind on trees in a number of wind hazard zones. These and other tools will continue to be promoted by DAFM and Teagasc at forest public events in Q4 2019.

**Action 121      Work with other public bodies and community groups exploring opportunities to increase public access in forests on publicly owned lands**

**Q3 2019 measure: DAFM to follow up on feedback from recent promotion campaign to explore opportunities for new amenity forests**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** DAFM is working with Coillte on their proposal, as announced in Q3 2019, of their intention to re-design nine existing forests in the Dublin mountains for greater recreation and biodiversity use. 4 new applications for native woodland establishment have been received under the Neighbourwood scheme since Q1 as a direct result of the DAFM promotional campaign.

**Action 123      Continuation and strengthening of activity in forest health, including monitoring and surveillance of the health and vitality of Ireland's forest estate and implementation of import controls on a range of plants, wood and wood products**

**Q3 2019 measure: Promote policies and information to reduce risks of damage to the forest estate e.g. fire, wind, flooding. Prepare Agriculture Adaptation Plan**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** DAFM continue to carrying monitoring and surveillance within the National Forest Estate and carry out a range of import controls. The DAFM sectoral adaptation plan public consultation process is now complete, taking place from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019. DAFM received 49 submissions within the deadline. The DAFM Sectoral Adaptation Plan will outline the importance of adaptation in the land, seafood and forest sector. The statutory plan is on target for submission to Government within the statutory deadline.

### Cost-effective Energy Substitute

<b>Action 130</b>	<b>Set a target for the level of energy to be supplied by indigenous biomethane injection in 2030, taking account of the domestic supplies of sustainable feedstock and consider how the supports necessary to reach such a target would be funded</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Carry out a public consultation on the Biofuels Obligation Scheme to include the development of an advanced biofuel obligation to increase the supply of renewable gas (i.e. biomethane) to the transport sector via CNG fuelling stations</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>DCCAIE</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	A public consultation on the Biofuels Obligation Scheme was published on 30 September 2019. <a href="https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-Biofuels-Obligation-Scheme.aspx">https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-Biofuels-Obligation-Scheme.aspx</a>

### Better Management of Peatlands and Soils

<b>Action 133</b>	<b>Assess and implement mitigation options on post-production, peat extraction sites</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Assess the optimum post production after-use across all Bord na Móna peat extraction sites</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>BnM</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	Draft rehabilitation plans have been prepared on a bog by bog basis across the entire estate and Bord na Móna is currently engaging with stakeholders to update and further detail those plans. The IDEEA Group are developing Natural Capital accounts for Bord na Móna, which will assess the rehabilitation plans against a suite of criteria, including carbon mitigation possibilities. The intention would be to utilise this assessment as part of optimising the overall after use of the bog lands. Bord na Móna is currently revising its strategic land use framework to reflect its revised strategy for publication in Q4 2019.

<b>Action 133</b>	<b>Assess and implement mitigation options on post-production, peat extraction sites</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure:</b>	<b>Timely implementation optimum management practices on extraction sites as they retire from production</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	<b>BnM</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Update:</b>	Bord na Móna Management have started an internal and external stakeholder dialogue process in respect of the optimum management practices on extraction sites as they retire from production.



## Waste and the Circular Economy

<b>Action 135</b>	<b>Lead the transformation from waste management to circular economy practice through delivery of a new national policy</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Commence public consultation on waste policy</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A High Level Consultation Event on Waste Policy and the Circular Economy took place on 16 September, 2019.	

<b>Action 138</b>	<b>Support the development of eco-design and circular economy opportunities for Irish enterprises to reduce waste over the full lifecycle of products</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Consultation with DBEI on input to Circular Economy Action Plan</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> DCCA has been liaising with DBEI, with a meeting on 23 September discussing proposals for embedding circular economy principles in Irish manufacturing. Engagement will continue throughout the consultation process, including further engagement with DBEI's CSR forum and further Circular Economy presentation at a CSR Stakeholder event.	

<b>Action 140</b>	<b>Maintain Government leadership in taking responsibility for own resource consumption, particularly single use plastics, energy, waste and water</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Government Departments to publish Resource Efficiency Action Plan</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> DCCA is monitoring the publication of all REAPs, eight Departments have confirmed they have published reports, waiting on confirmation of remaining plans.	

<b>Action 142</b>	<b>Regulate and incentivise producers of waste, particularly packaging, to ensure the prevention of waste and the use of recycled materials in packaging products</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Pilot eco-modulation fees for packaging</b>	
<b>Responsible body: Repak</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Guidance from the EU Commission on how to ensure effective modulation of fees for packaging is due by year end. In the interim, Repak continue to work on a fee modulation system. The initial phase of the programme is focusing on gathering data which will be integral to the future development of eco-modulation fees for packaging. The pilot is gathering data on what the level of fees should be and what impact they will have, and has been introduced. The data will allow Ireland to move in 2020 to dual billing for the top producers showing their current fees and what the fees would look like under an eco-modulated fee structure with the intention to have a full roll out in 2021. A lot of work is needed to deliver this change and we are starting the work now rather than waiting for the EU guidance but the guidance will assist in delivery.</p>	

### Public Sector Leading By Example

<b>Action 147</b>	<b>Introduce a Climate Action Mandate for every public body and a Climate Action Charter for each Local Authority through the use of Ministerial policy directions, or equivalent power</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Seek Government approval for public sector mandate requirements for all non-commercial public bodies and for a Climate Action Charter for Local Authorities</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The process of seeking Government approval commenced, the Memo on public sector mandate arrangements and the Local Authority Charter has been approved by the Minister and circulated to Government Departments. Final decision by Government expected in early October.</p>	

<b>Action 148</b>	<b>Mandate the inclusion of green criteria in all procurements using public funds, introducing requirements on a phased basis and provide support to procurers as required</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: OGP to issue circular</b>	
<b>Responsible body: OGP</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> A final circular has been agreed between DPER/OGP and DCCA. To give maximum impact to this circular it has been delayed until post-Budget. It will be published and become mandatory in the week beginning October 14<sup>th</sup>.</p>	

**Action 148** Mandate the inclusion of green criteria in all procurements using public funds, introducing requirements on a phased basis and provide support to procurers as required

**Q3 2019 measure: Upskill programme for procurers and specifiers**

**Responsible body: EPA**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** Upskilling work is underway with the following supports already being provided by DCCAE

- Direct engagement with OGP sourcing teams as frameworks arise for renewal
- National GPP training event took place in Dublin on 26 September
- GPP4Growth Interreg Europe project in year 3 of delivery providing education and awareness training to national, regional and local bodies
- Formal training course being developed by SEAI and DCCAE/EPA for delivery in 2020.

**Action 149** Enable the deployment of electric vehicles in public sector fleets

**Q3 2019 measure: Consider extending the incentive for wheelchair accessible electric SPSVs in the 2019 grant scheme**

**Responsible body: DTTAS**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** A purchase grant scheme aimed at encouraging a transition to electric vehicles (EVs) in the Taxi/Limousine/Hackney (SPSV) sector was launched in February 2018. SPSV drivers can avail of a grant of up to €7,000 towards the purchase of an EV. The grant plays a fundamental role in developing public awareness of EVs and EV taxis provide a great opportunity for members of the public to experience an EV themselves.

The electric SPSV grant scheme can currently be used in conjunction with the NTA's 'Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle' grant scheme; however, to date only one EV WAV has been purchased. Administrative steps, including redrafting of the Schemes terms and conditions, application forms, and contracts, has been undertaken by the NTA to place the operation of the electric SPSV grant scheme on a footing which would allow its scope to be extended to further incentivise wheelchair accessible vehicles, such extension and level of grant funding available for EV WAVs being dependent on capital allocations post Budget 2020.

<b>Action 150</b>	<b>Support the development of Local Authority climate action leadership and capacities</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Formulate and deliver technical training to LA staff through CAROs</b>	
<b>Responsible body: CAROS</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The training plan has been formulated and delivery has commenced. Training objective across all of the sector will be on-going from next year and during the period 2021-23.	
<b>Action 150</b>	<b>Support the development of Local Authority climate action leadership and capacities</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Formulate and deliver behavioural change training programme to LA staff through IPA and SEAI</b>	
<b>Responsible body: CCMA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Through the establishment of the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs), technical training has been carried out for Local Authority (LA) staff. LAs have also formulated and delivered training on climate action, to elected members, across the country on a regional basis. A further technical and behavioural training programme, which will run for the next 4/5 year period, has been formulated and will enable LAs to carry out their additional obligations arising from the Climate Action Plan. It is envisaged delivery of this training will commence before year end.	
<b>Action 150</b>	<b>Support the development of Local Authority climate action leadership and capacities</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Survey Local Authorities to establish baseline of current climate change activities and establish best practices</b>	
<b>Responsible body: CCMA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> As a key public sector body, the local government sector has been proactive in many areas, providing a range of services to the public, including critical infrastructure, water resources and flood risk management, nature-based solutions and public engagement, each of which have the potential to deliver positive climate actions, therefore reducing the impact of climate change. The research carried out by the sector reflects the critical role to be played by local government in delivering ambitious targets under the government's <i>Climate Action Plan</i> and in that regard the research also fulfils the obligation under Action 150, namely to survey Local Authorities to establish baseline of current climate change activities and establish best practices. A questionnaire capturing the broad range of local authority climate actions between 2014-2018 was circulated to all local authorities and was supplemented with a more in-depth quantitative study examining energy efficiencies across local authorities between 2011-2017. Case studies across the local authorities' main functional areas were collected to highlight areas of climate action best practice in the sector. The results demonstrate that local authorities have delivered extensive climate actions between 2011-2018 across critical infrastructure, water resources and flood risk management, nature-based solutions and public engagement. Copies of the report are available through the offices of the LGMA who carried out the research on behalf of local government.	

**Action 150 Support the development of Local Authority climate action leadership and capacities**

**Q3 2019 measure: Develop a list of priority interventions and identify funding sources and collaboration opportunities with other agencies**

**Responsible body: CCMA**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:**

National Level: Work is ongoing within the CCMA to identify interventions in collaboration with agencies such as Coillte, Electric Ireland, Sustainable Authority of Ireland (SEAI), EPA, Met Eireann and others. These interventions will likely include delivery of projects such as re-forestation, provision of electric vehicle charge points, use of local authority leisure centres as energy sinks, increasing the number of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) as per Action 167 of the Climate Action Plan, roll out of the National Dialogue through existing local government networks etc.

Regional Level: The Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) have developed a number of strategic partnerships with other agencies since their establishment. This has resulted in a number of opportunities for climate action related activity in the areas of research, training, leadership development, specialism development, community interaction, funding opportunities (at European, national and local levels), spatial planning etc. Other agencies currently working with the CAROs at a regional level include 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions such as MaREI, Maynooth University, DCU etc., OPW, Met Eireann, DCCA, Regional Assemblies, SEAI, EPA, AILG, Climate Ireland, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Irish Water, Arts Council of Ireland, Waterford Walls etc.

Local Authority Level: A number of local authorities, with the support of their relevant CARO, have developed local climate action related interventions and projects, many on a pilot basis, to support behavioural change and community capacity building. These projects highlight the unique role that the local government sector, in collaboration with others, can play in the development of climate capacity at a local level.

**Action 151 Implement an enhanced approach to energy performance and renewable energy capability in school buildings**

**Q3 2019 measure: Use the recently announced Summer Works Scheme for 2020 onwards to increase the engagement of schools on monitoring energy usage**

**Responsible body: DES**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** Payment of all grants to be allocated under the Summer Works Scheme for 2020 onwards will be subject to schools registering on the SEAI website “Energy-in-Business, Monitoring and Reporting for Schools” and must do so before grant aid is paid. Schools can register by using the following link: <https://www.seai.ie/energy-in-business/monitoring-and-reporting-for-schools/>

## Ireland's International Action on Climate Breakdown

<b>Action 154</b>	<b>Seek to at least double the percentage of ODA spending on climate finance by 2030, and report on our expenditure each year</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Annual reports produced on ODA expenditure on climate</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFAT</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> DPER have now finalised the compilation of Ireland's 2018 climate finance expenditure from across Departments. The total figure is €75m, with €64.3m coming from DFAT. The DPER figures now enable the production of Irish Climate Action Report, to be published on the DFAT's dedicated climate learning platform website<sup>1</sup>, and shared with the UN. The 2018 figures indicate that the Programme for Government target of €175m by 2020 has now been met and exceeded. The publication of the report has been slightly delayed in Q3 but is expected by the end of October.</p>	

<b>Action 157</b>	<b>Launch a Strategy for Partnerships with Small Island Development States in recognition of the specific challenges presented by climate change to them, accompanied by a package of support and partnerships</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Develop and launch a new strategy for partnerships with SIDS and advance core support and partnerships</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFAT</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Ireland's Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States was launched by the Tánaiste in June, during the Our Ocean Wealth Summit in Cork. The strategy was well-received, including by 30 senior SIDS representatives from New York, and the President of the Seychelles. Work is ongoing to advance the partnerships, including the dedication of a specific SIDS team within DFAT in Q3 2019. The May launch of the Irish Trust Fund at the Asia Development Bank in Fiji was attended by Minister Ciarán Cannon, and was well-received. It provides a framework for continued discussion and engagement on climate action, both in the Asia-Pacific Region and among key Multilateral Development Bank partners.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> [www.climatelearningplatform.org](http://www.climatelearningplatform.org)

<b>Action 158</b>	<b>Play a leadership role at the September 2019 UN Secretary General Summit on Climate Action, championing Youth Engagement and Public Mobilisation</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Lead preparations for Climate Summit on youth engagement and public mobilisation</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFAT</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The action track for Youth Engagement and Public Mobilisation was a great success, with over 40 UN member states signing up to the youth pledge initiative ('Kwon Gesh'). The innovative Youth Summit, held just before the main Summit, was attended by 500 people. Many of the participants were young climate activists, who had an opportunity for dialogue with the UN Secretary General. Irish support of €100,000 enabled the participation of young climate activists from LDCs and SIDS. Greta Thunberg's electrifying speech at the opening high-level segment set the scene for the whole Summit, and An Taoiseach was given a keynote speech slot, during which he was able to announce key Irish initiatives in climate action. Ireland was also able to announce €1m in support to a major LDC initiative for adaptation, which was well-received. The Government was represented by An Taoiseach, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Richard Bruton, and Minister for Youth and Children Katherine Zappone, all of whom had high-profile speaking slots throughout the Summit. The Summit and Ireland's role in the Youth and Public Mobilisation track provided visibility in a leadership role in New York, specifically for the first time on climate change.</p>	

### Citizen Engagement, Community Leadership and Just Transition

<b>Action 159</b>	<b>Enhance the effectiveness of climate-related communications, network building and deliberative capacity within and through the NDCA</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Launch Tidy Towns' 'Climate Action and Air Quality' Award</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Judging complete for 'Climate Action and Air Quality' Tidy Towns award, winners will be announced on September 30<sup>th</sup> as part of the overall annual prize giving ceremony in the Helix organised by DRCD.</p>	

<b>Action 159</b>	<b>Enhance the effectiveness of climate-related communications, network building and deliberative capacity within and through the NDCA</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Prepare the first annual report on the activities of the NDCA, in consultation with the Advisory Group</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Draft report on activities carried out under the initial phase of the NDCA has been finalised by DCCA. Following consultation with NDCA Advisory Group, report will be submitted to the Minister in October.</p>	

<b>Action 160</b>	<b>Assess the economic and employment implications of the transition to a low-carbon economy</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Examine the distributional aspects of an increase in the carbon tax trajectory</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The distributional aspects of increases in the carbon tax trajectory were examined by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). Their final report, entitled “The economic and distributional impacts of an increased carbon tax with different revenue recycling schemes”, was published on the day of the Budget 2020 (8<sup>th</sup> October 2019) and is available at: <a href="https://www.esri.ie/publications/the-economic-and-distributional-impacts-of-an-increased-carbon-tax-with-different">https://www.esri.ie/publications/the-economic-and-distributional-impacts-of-an-increased-carbon-tax-with-different</a></p> <p>The study found that a carbon tax could have some adverse impacts on GDP, inequality and household income. However, the impact is limited and could be reduced by using a well-designed revenue recycling scheme. These results emanate from research that used the ESRI’s environment, energy and economy (I3E) model for Ireland.</p>	

<b>Action 160</b>	<b>Assess the economic and employment implications of the transition to a low-carbon economy</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Examine the distributional aspects of an increase in the carbon tax trajectory on labour types</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The distributional aspects of increases in the carbon tax trajectory on production sectors was examined by the ESRI as part of their research process on “The economic and distributional impacts of an increased carbon tax with different revenue recycling schemes” (<a href="https://www.esri.ie/publications/the-economic-and-distributional-impacts-of-an-increased-carbon-tax-with-different">https://www.esri.ie/publications/the-economic-and-distributional-impacts-of-an-increased-carbon-tax-with-different</a>)</p> <p>The study used the ESRI’s environment, energy and economy (I3E) model for Ireland which included three labour types based on skill level (low, medium, high). Each labour type has a market, where the equilibrium wage is determined. This allowed for insights into diverse impacts across labour types as well as labour income effects across households, where each RHG has a different composition of labour types. The I3E, however, assumes an exogenous labour supply and does not include unemployment.</p> <p>The study found that a carbon tax could have some adverse impacts on GDP, inequality and household income. However, the impact is limited and could be reduced by using a well-designed revenue recycling scheme.</p>	



<b>Action 160</b>	<b>Assess the economic and employment implications of the transition to a low-carbon economy</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Examine the possibility of using models to identify the impacts of specific policies</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Paper being prepared in DCCA on modelling infrastructure currently available to policy system to identify capacities and any gaps for potential further development.	

<b>Action 163</b>	<b>Examine national and international sources of funding that could be used to support the transition to a low-carbon economy and society</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Examine ways existing programmes available from SEAI and accelerated capital allowances could be used to support a Just Transition</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> This action will commence shortly. SEAI reviews all its programmes within the context of employment benefits across the supply chain and of the need to be mindful of Just Transition opportunities.	

<b>Action 164</b>	<b>Coordinate and support the development of tools and supports at regional and enterprise level which address just transition objectives</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Include a Just Transition standing item on the agenda of each of the nine regional areas</b>	
<b>Responsible body: Regional Steering Committees</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The agendas of each of the nine regional areas will include a standing item on Just Transition when the next meetings are scheduled for Oct/Nov 2019.	

**Action 169** Create a framework in which social enterprises can be formed and grow

**Q3 2019 measure: Finalise Ireland’s first National Policy on Social Enterprise**

**Responsible body: DRCD**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:**

On 18 July 2019, Minister Ring launched Ireland’s first [National Policy on Social Enterprise](#) (2019 – 2022). This followed a public consultation in April 2019 which received well over 100 submissions.

The Policy is focused on three main objectives:

1. Creating Awareness of Social Enterprise
2. Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise
3. Achieving Better Policy Alignment

The implementation of the Policy will open new opportunities for social enterprises to address social and environmental challenges.

**Action 174** Review infrastructure sizing and design standards to reflect the demand of domestic scale low-carbon technologies

**Q3 2019 measure: Review urban and rural domestic connection design standards**

**Responsible body: ESNB**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** ESNB has submitted completed review to CRU on 20 September 2019.

**Action 174** Review infrastructure sizing and design standards to reflect the demand of domestic scale low-carbon technologies

**Q3 2019 measure: Approve urban and rural domestic connection design standards (updated)**

**Responsible body: CRU**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** Urban and rural domestic designs have been approved. The review of infrastructure sizing and design standards will facilitate greater uptake of domestic scale low carbon technologies. This sets the standard required for the connection of, for example, Heat Pumps and Electric vehicles in new builds essentially addressing the higher load standards required by these new technologies.

<b>Action 174</b>	<b>Review infrastructure sizing and design standards to reflect the demand of domestic scale low-carbon technologies</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Introduce new urban and rural domestic connection design standards</b>	
<b>Responsible body: ESNB</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> ESNB have introduced new urban and rural connection design standards. The review of infrastructure sizing and design standards will facilitate greater uptake of domestic scale low carbon technologies. This sets the standard required for the connection of, for example, Heat Pumps and Electric vehicles in new builds essentially addressing the higher load standards required by these new technologies.	

<b>Action 175</b>	<b>Promote greater awareness of, and access to, network services available in the case of severe weather events by ESB Networks</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Deliver targeted promotion via social media to the friends and family of the elderly and those with medical needs, advising how they can support their elderly family or neighbours in case they lose power</b>	
<b>Responsible body: ESNB</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> This is ready to go and is triggered by an actual event such as a storm.	

<b>Action 175</b>	<b>Promote greater awareness of, and access to, network services available in the case of severe weather events by ESB Networks</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Engage with the Irish Deaf Society, to improve their stakeholders' access to ESB Networks services</b>	
<b>Responsible body: ESNB</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> ESB Networks has engaged with the Deaf Society, Ireland. ESNB has provided a dedicated emergency number for their members to contact and the Deaf Society Ireland has published this to their members via video, posters and across social media channels.	

**Action 176** Engage with all utility providers to improve the resilience of services in the face of severe weather events

**Q3 2019 measure: Ensure that each of the main utilities review infrastructure sizing requirements associated with transition to low carbon**

**Responsible body: DCCA**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** Gas Networks: Hydrogen: GNI is liaising with several European gas organisations evaluating the suitability of existing gas transmission and distribution networks to accommodate both hydrogen blends and 100% hydrogen.

Biomethane: The existing network has capacity to accommodate substantial new loads of biomethane through construction of biomethane injection facilities.

Electricity Networks: ESN continues to review its network requirements in relation to the transition to a low-carbon economy.

**Action 178** Science Foundation Ireland, with engagement of DCCA, will create national awareness amongst the Irish public of key actions that need to be taken at an individual and national level to ensure Climate Action adaptation and mitigation

**Q3 2019 measure: Development and delivery of Regional Festivals Funding programme**

**Responsible body: SFI**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** National Science Week will take place from the 10th – 17th November 2019. The theme for the week is aligned to climate mitigation and adaptation, with a goal to help people understand the changes that can and need to be adopted to ensure Climate Action. As part of Science Week, 13 Regional Science Week Festivals across the country have been supported through the SFI Discover Science Week funding programme and 14 event programmes in other locations. SFI is working closely with the DCCA and relevant national agencies and interest groups to deliver the national Science Week public engagement campaign.

SFI is working closely with RTÉ, under its joint agreement, to support climate on RTÉ during Science Week. In particular, SFI and RTÉ are jointly supporting an event series of 3 hourly programmes across Science Week during the peak schedule. This series will look at how Irish families are addressing climate change at an individual level. The programme is continuing to develop in advance of November.

<b>Action 179</b>	<b>Undertake public consultation to inform future Rural Development Strategy</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Undertake public consultation process on new rural policy</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DRCD</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The Department of Rural and Community Development held a series of stakeholder workshop events during Q2 2019 as part of the consultation process on the development of the new rural policy. In considering the locations the Department endeavoured to have as comprehensive a geographic spread of the country as possible in order to maximise participation at regional/local level. Discussions at the events focused on the challenges and opportunities for rural Ireland, in a forward-looking manner, for the coming 5 years. The events were well attended by a wide range of stakeholders including local communities, State Agencies, local government, and central Government Departments.</p> <p>In addition to the eight regional stakeholder events, two events were held to obtain the views of young people living in rural Ireland, including an event attended by almost 50 young people, between the ages of 14 and 18, who live in rural Ireland, and are members of the Foróige network countrywide.</p> <p>A small number of public consultation town hall events are being planned for September/October 2019 to obtain input from individuals living and working in rural Ireland. It is also intended to undertake an online consultation process during the Autumn, inviting views from members of the public and interested stakeholders, which will further inform the development of the new rural policy.</p>	

## Adaptation

<b>Action 181</b>	<b>Build sectoral resilience to the impacts of climate change through delivery of sectoral plans as required under the NAF</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Preparation of sectoral plans required under NAF and submission to Government for approval</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCAE</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The 12 sectoral plans have been finalised and submitted to Government for approval.	

<b>Action 182</b>	<b>Build local/regional resilience to the impacts of climate change through delivery of Local Authority Adaptation Strategies as required under the NAF</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Development of local adaptation strategies by each local authority in Ireland</b>	
<b>Responsible body: Local Authorities</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> All local authorities have now completed strategies which have been adopted at local level.	

<b>Action 183</b>	<b>Put in place arrangements to ensure Climate Ireland is developed to its full potential as an operational support for climate adaptation and climate action in Ireland</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Prepare business case for implementation</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A draft business case has been prepared by DCCA. EPA will be consulted on the business case.	

<b>Action 183</b>	<b>Put in place arrangements to ensure Climate Ireland is developed to its full potential as an operational support for climate adaptation and climate action in Ireland</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Secure Government Approval for resources and proposal</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A Memo is being prepared to secure approval for resources to support a permanent solution for the Climate Ireland platform. Some issues remain to be determined in respect of the business case being prepared. The Memo will be brought in Q4.	

## Ongoing Actions

### Summary

On Schedule	Delayed	Total Ongoing
53	0	53

### Carbon Pricing and Cross-cutting policies

<b>Action 7</b>	<b>Implement a rolling strategy to reform environmental taxation measures across all relevant tax heads</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Equalise diesel and petrol excise rates over an appropriate period of time</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The Tax Strategy Group (TSG) Paper set out options for equalising the rates over a 5 year period. This proposal was considered in the context of Budget 2020 and will be reviewed again in the context of the annual budgetary process.	

<b>Action 7</b>	<b>Implement a rolling strategy to reform environmental taxation measures across all relevant tax heads</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Recalibrate VRT and motor tax regimes for passenger cars in light of recent progress on emissions standards</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The TSG Paper set out options to recalibrate the VRT and motor tax regimes, including through the incorporation of the WLTP emissions test into these regimes. This proposal was considered in the context of Budget 2020 and will be reviewed again in the context of the annual budgetary process, having regard to the fact that only WLTP CO2 values will be recorded on vehicle documentation from January 2021.	

<b>Action 7</b>	<b>Implement a rolling strategy to reform environmental taxation measures across all relevant tax heads</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Consider the introduction of an emissions-based motor tax for Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs)</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Policy options under consideration in context of the Budget. Proposal included in TSG paper on Climate Action.	

<b>Action 7</b>	<b>Implement a rolling strategy to reform environmental taxation measures across all relevant tax heads</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Consider the merits of equalising electricity tax rates for business and electricity consumers to €1/MWh</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Preliminary work included in TSG paper on Climate Action. Budget 2020 announced that the business and non-business rates of electricity would be equalised.	

<b>Action 7</b>	<b>Implement a rolling strategy to reform environmental taxation measures across all relevant tax heads</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Consider the introduction of an environmental rationale into the vehicle BIK regime</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A proposal to revise the vehicle BIK regime was included in the TSG paper on Climate Action. This proposal was considered in the context of Budget 2020. In keeping with Action 84, Budget 2020 included measures for a CO <sub>2</sub> based BIK structure, to commence with effect from 1 January 2023.	

<b>Action 8</b>	<b>Implement a carbon tax rate of at least €80 per tonne by 2030 and carry out a full assessment of a trajectory of increases over successive annual Budgets</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Assess a carbon tax trajectory of at least €80/tonne by 2030, having regard to considerations on the social and economic impacts</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Following examination of the distributional impacts of increases in the carbon tax, the rate of carbon tax for petrol and diesel was increased from €20 to €26 per tonne of CO <sub>2</sub> on budget night, and will be increased for other fuels from 1 May 2020. The Minister of Finance announced his intention to steadily increase the rate to meet €80 by 2030.	

<b>Action 10</b>	<b>Develop a strategy on mobilisation of private sector investment to meet our climate targets</b>
<b>Ongoing measure:</b> NewERA will work with the commercial state companies, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund, the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland and other public bodies, to identify priority opportunities in key sectors to mobilise private investment towards assisting in meeting our climate objectives. The Ireland Strategic Investment Fund will work with the Food and Agriculture sectors to evaluate the role Agriculture can play in achieving our climate change targets, including new technologies, farming practices and assessment of solutions that are proven in other countries such as anaerobic digesters.	
<b>Responsible body: NewERA</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	



**Action 11 Implement new strategy for international financial services to promote the development of the sustainable finance sector in Ireland**

**Ongoing measure: Monitoring of sustainable finance measures within the new Strategy**

**Responsible body: DFin**

**Status: On Schedule**

**Update: Ireland for Finance Measures**

**Measure 23: Continue to raise awareness of the responsible investment agenda**

On schedule: via the Sustainable & Responsible Investment Forum (SIF Ireland). Experts are developing an annual report which will be launched on ESG Day, 5<sup>th</sup> November as part of Climate Finance Week Ireland.

**Measure 24: International collaboration to mobilise global financial centres in support of the sustainability agenda**

On schedule: A Sustainable Nation Ireland staff member has been seconded to the role of Managing Director of Financial Centres for Sustainability (FC4S) for Europe. The FC4S network is now 26 members with Tokyo and Beijing financial centres being the latest members to join the group.

**Measure 37: Deliver training programmes in sustainable finance and responsible investment supported by Sustainability Skillnet (SS)**

On schedule: Several programmes have been delivered by Sustainability Skillnet and a calendar of events for H2 has been finalised. Following widespread consultation with relevant stakeholders, a *Sustainable Finance Day* event was held on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Measure 38: Undertake a deep sector analysis of future sustainable finance and responsible investment skills and talent requirements**

On schedule: A Working Group has been formed by Sustainability Skillnet and this group has finalised the Terms of Reference of this analysis.

**Measure 47: Co-host the European Climate Finance Innovation Summit in Dublin, May 2019**

Complete: The 'Catalysing Global Savings to Advance our Sustainability Goals' event was held on 16<sup>th</sup> May which brought together leading international financial institutions and asset managers. Among them were the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, BlackRock, BNP Paribas, KPMG, SEB, S&P Global Ratings and the European Commission.

This event coincided with the decision by the World Bank to list a €1.5bn Sustainable Development Bond on the Irish Stock Exchange (Euronext Dublin), its first 10-year bond since 2009. The bond, raising €1.5bn from institutional investors around the globe, will finance sustainable development activities and engage investors with their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Measures for Q3:** All sustainable finance measures due for Q3 as part of the '*Ireland for Finance*' strategy are on schedule. Detailed updates on these measures will be provided in the next Climate Action Plan update.

<b>Action 14</b>	<b>Strengthen our delivery of public funding for basic and applied research to underpin government policy, meet our decarbonisation objectives and open up new economic opportunities</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Prioritise public funding for energy, climate action and sustainability, aligned with the refreshed national Research Priority Areas 2018 to 2023</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SFI (and all other public research funders)</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update: SFI is developing targeted challenge programmes that will address areas of strategic importance for Ireland and where STEM-led solutions can deliver transformative impact in the area of climate action. To this end, the SFI Challenge Team is engaging nationally and internationally to identify and refine these challenges. The challenge-based approach is likely to feature as a key element in SFI's new strategy for the period to 2025 which is currently under development.</li> <li>SFI is currently revising the Spokes programme to particularly facilitate cross-centre collaborations in areas of strategic need. It is envisaged that this programme will re-launch in Q4 2019 and will be open for an application by relevant Research Centres/SFI Partnerships in the area of climate action.</li> </ul>	

<b>Action 14</b>	<b>Strengthen our delivery of public funding for basic and applied research to underpin government policy, meet our decarbonisation objectives and open up new economic opportunities</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: In the context of Innovation 2020 and its successor, a strategic approach to investment in research infrastructure for climate action relevant research will be pursued</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SFI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach to investment in research infrastructure (including in the area of climate action) will feature as an important part of SFI's new strategy for the period to 2025 which is currently under development. It is also likely to be included in the successor to Innovation 2020 as the need to invest in research infrastructure featured strongly as an issue in the Mid-term Review of Innovation 2020.</li> <li>Pending this, the SFI Infrastructure 2018 Call has a reserve list of awards that were recommended for funding but for which sufficient funding was not available. This includes a number of awards relevant to climate action. The reserve list will remain active until the end of 2019.</li> </ul>	

<b>Action 15</b>	<b>Implement National Planning Framework</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Deliver NPF objectives for regional development and urban growth, in particular NPF National Policy Objectives 1a and 2a with regard to the development of the regions and growth within the cities</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DHPLG</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Work on implementing NPF objectives for regional development and urban growth is progressing well. The development of necessary regional structures is well advanced and the three Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies (RSES) are expected to be made by the Regional Assemblies by the end of 2019; the EMRA RSES was made on 28<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>In addition, building on previous work by the ESRI in formulating long-term demographic and econometric projections which underpinned the NPF, a collaborative approach has been agreed between DHPLG and the ESRI to undertake further planning related research.</p>	

<b>Action 15</b>	<b>Implement National Planning Framework</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Deliver NPF objectives for compact growth, in particular NPF National Policy Objectives 3a, 3b and 3c, with regard to targets for development within the existing built footprint of settlements</b>	
<b>Responsible body: Local Authorities</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Work continues in respect of the implementation of National Strategic Outcome 1 of the NPF, i.e. Compact Growth. This has manifested through the launch of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund in 2018, which supports sustainable growth in Ireland's five cities and larger towns, with a total budget of €2 billion to 2027.</p> <p>Further, DHPLG's publication in 2018 of new <i>Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments</i> and <i>Urban Development and Building Heights</i> guidelines for planning authorities commits to a shift towards securing more compact and sustainable urban and rural development, which requires significantly more effective land management in key development areas, as well as use of underutilised areas for sustainable residential delivery.</p> <p>The Land Development (LDA) was established by DHPLG through secondary legislation in 2018. The LDA was established to ensure optimal use of State land, with the over-riding strategic objective to coordinate sites for regeneration and development, especially for home delivery, while focusing on the overall public interest in determining land use. The work of the Agency will progress the compact growth objectives of the NPF.</p>	

**Action 15      Implement National Planning Framework**

**Ongoing measure: Continue to deliver all other National Policy Objectives set out in the NPF, to work towards achieving the ten shared National Outcomes as part of Project Ireland 2040**

**Responsible body: Whole of Govt**

**Status: On Schedule**

**Update:** Implementation of the broad range of objectives of the NPF, beyond those wholly specific to regional and urban development, is being overseen across Government by the PI2040 Delivery Board and supported by the Investment Projects and Programmes office in DPER and the National and Regional Planning Policy section in DHPLG. Work is progressing on a national strategic projects and programmes tracker and an update of the public spending code, led by DPER. DHPLG is overseeing the implementation of broader policy objectives through the statutory planning system, which includes preparation of the three Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs), the first of which was approved in Q2 2019, with provisions for monitoring now being put in place.

**Action 15      Implement National Planning Framework**

**Ongoing measure: Continue to deliver the urban (DHPLG) and rural (DRCD) regeneration and development funds on a competitive bid basis, to include specific evaluation criteria in relation to potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

**Responsible body: DRCD and DHPLG in collaboration with Local Authorities**

**Status: On Schedule**

**Update:** First call for both funds concluded with an initial set of projects approved for both the urban fund (87 projects) and rural fund (84) combining projects in both categories of *ready to go* and *project development* stages. Second rural fund call (2019) now closed and development of a second urban fund call currently in progress for launch in Q4 2019.

Both funds evaluation criteria continue to be developed jointly between DHPLG/DRCD in response to the National Planning Framework (NPF) high level objectives on transitioning to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.

## Electricity

### Regulatory Streamlining of Renewables and Grid Development

<b>Action 20</b>	<b>Implement energy actions under the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy to ensure that large demand connections are regionally balanced to minimise grid reinforcements</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Develop longer term measures to facilitate data centres and minimise grid reinforcement</b>	
<b>Responsible body: CRU</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Discussions are underway with EirGrid on longer term measures to facilitate data centres and minimise grid.	

<b>Action 23</b>	<b>Assess the network development required to integrate higher levels of RES-E and develop a high-level network development plan to (and beyond) 2030</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Annual publication of the Transmission Development Plan, Generation Capacity Statement and Transmission Forecast Statement with input from ESBN as appropriate</b>	
<b>Responsible body: EirGrid</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The latest Transmission Development Plan (2018-2027) was approved by the CRU on 2 August 2019. A copy is available on the EirGrid webpage at: <a href="http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/Transmission-Development-Plan-2018-2027.pdf">http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/Transmission-Development-Plan-2018-2027.pdf</a>	
The Generation Capacity Statement published on 24 September 2019. Copy available at: <a href="http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/EirGrid-Group-All-Island-Generation-Capacity-Statement-2019-2028.pdf">http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/EirGrid-Group-All-Island-Generation-Capacity-Statement-2019-2028.pdf</a>	
The latest Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement (2018-2027) was published on 24 September 2019. Copy available at: <a href="http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/TYTFS-2018-FINAL-HI-RES.pdf">http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/TYTFS-2018-FINAL-HI-RES.pdf</a>	

### Offshore Renewables

<b>Action 25</b>	<b>Facilitate the development of Offshore Wind, including the connection of at least 3.5 GW of offshore wind, based on competitive auctions, to the grid by 2030. We will establish a top team to drive this ambition</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Monitoring of projects to ensure they abide by Terms and Conditions of the auction including construction deadlines</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Auction due to be held in Q2 2021.	

<b>Action 26</b>	<b>Support the ocean energy research, development and demonstration pathway for emerging marine technologies (wave, tidal, floating wind) and associated test infrastructure</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Complete the mapping of all Irish offshore waters through the INFOMAR Programme to support site selection for offshore energy</b>	
<b>Responsible body: GSI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> While INFOMAR, the national programme, will complete by end 2026, the areas appropriate to offshore renewables are being prioritised, including Irish Sea and test Sites on west coast. Q2&3 2019 saw focus on mapping of south coast, centred on Baltimore. GSI/MI will now meet or exceed the target of 8,700 km.sq mapping for 2019.	

## Enterprise

<b>Action 41</b>	<b>Promote the integration of climate considerations into business operations through the work of the Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Forum</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Encourage businesses to implement resource efficiencies</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DBEI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Forum is actively engaging with enterprises and is promoting climate considerations on a regular basis amongst its members.</li> <li>• The second CEO/Leaders' Breakfast was held on the 27th June 2019 in Smock Alley Theatre. The theme was 'CSR in Ireland Today' which focused on CSR from a business/organisation perspective and its impact in wider society. The event was attended by over 130 leaders from across business, Government, and civil society, along with the Minister. The two keynote speakers were Dr Rory Sullivan, London School of Economics and Politics, who spoke about responsible investment and Tomás Sercovich, CEO, BITCI who spoke about meaningful CSR for business and society.</li> </ul>	

<b>Action 41</b>	<b>Promote the integration of climate considerations into business operations through the work of the Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Forum</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: SEAI to engage with the DBEI Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Forum to highlight supports available to businesses to improve their energy efficiency</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> SEAI have engaged with DBEI. SEAI have been established as a stakeholder in the grouping.	

## Built Environment

### Consolidating the Evidence Base and Driving Demand

<b>Action 45</b>	<b>Maximise the potential for BER and DEC data to help households and businesses decarbonise their buildings</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Develop interactive tools and a system of reports for homeowners to identify the impact of energy upgrades on their homes</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Development of a new tool has commenced to provide BER data for supply-chain operator use in the form of an API (Application Program Interface) and Open Data. This will support the supply chain to innovate in delivery models (e.g. One-Stop-Shop, Obligated Parties, Finance Products).	

<b>Action 45</b>	<b>Maximise the potential for BER and DEC data to help households and businesses decarbonise their buildings</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Develop interactive tools using BER database for industry to identify potential market and allow for aggregated delivery models</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Development of a new tool has commenced to provide BER data for supply-chain operator use in the form of an API (Application Program Interface) and OpenData. This will support the supply chain to innovate in delivery models (e.g. One-Stop-Shop, Obligated Parties, Finance Products).	

## Building the Supply Chain

<b>Action 50</b>	<b>Skill-up current contractors/other industry players in deep retrofit, NZEB and new technology installations</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Develop Retrofit Standard/Guidance for traditionally built buildings (i.e. generally pre-1940 construction)</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCHG</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Initial discussions have taken place with D/HPLG and D/CCAIE on the formation of a steering group to advance this action. Tender process for contractor to prepare standard/guidance to commence in Q4 2019.	

<b>Action 50</b>	<b>Skill-up current contractors/other industry players in deep retrofit, NZEB and new technology installations</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Support relevant professional bodies in the development of training specifications/courses for the design of NZEB and Deep Retrofit buildings</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A number of workshops have been held (e.g. at RIAI, CIBSE, Engineers Ireland & CIF). Additional workshops planned for Q3 2019.	

<b>Action 50</b>	<b>Skill-up current contractors/other industry players in deep retrofit, NZEB and new technology installations</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Review process to encourage recruitment and retention strategies for BER Assessors</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> SEAI has surveyed all BER assessors to identify key challenges to assessor retention. A position paper and engagement workshops to identify next steps in development supporting assessors through the launch of DEAP 4 software is a more immediate priority.	



## Funding and Financing Projects

<b>Action 53</b>	<b>Identify additional options for targeted financing for energy efficiency retrofits in the domestic and commercial sectors</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Assess the potential for energy suppliers to pilot a Pay-As-YouSave mechanism and on-bill finance scheme</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> This is due for delivery in 2020. No significant work started. This will be considered as part of the development process of new Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS), pursuant to EED (Recast) Article 7 by 1H2020. This broader EEOS development has commenced but resource challenged within both SEAI and DCCA.	

## Schools and Third Level Institutions

<b>Action 67</b>	<b>Set a trajectory for commencing and implementing the Department of Education and Skills deep energy retrofit programme</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Supporting capital investment in the higher education sector, both in the upgrade and retrofit of existing buildings, which will incorporate energy efficiency improvements, and new buildings which are built to NZEB standards</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DES</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Progress is being made on approving a pipeline of strategic projects for the HE sector which will incorporate energy efficiency improvements. These projects include new buildings and major upgrades of existing buildings. Allocations to five projects (UCD, UCC, MU, NUI Galway and IT Sligo) under the Higher Education Strategic Infrastructure Fund were announced in Q3 2019. Significant refurb/upgrade projects announced in Q1/2 2019 include projects in IT Sligo, LYIT and NCAD.	

## Energy Performance Contracting

<b>Action 68</b>	<b>Support the wider deployment and use of EPCs by building capacity and expertise in the public sector</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: SEAI will continue to promote awareness and understanding of EPC, and provide Project Assistance Grants, training and other supports to public and private sector organisations to implement EPC projects</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> SEAI continue to offer a suite of supports for public and private bodies to promote EPC including project assistance grants for audits and EPC facilitation, guidance and model contract templates.	

## Regulation and Fiscal Measures

<b>Action 82</b>	<b>Consider the recalibration of VRT and motor tax regimes for passenger cars in light of recent progress on emissions standards and to further incentivise LEVs</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Recalibrate VRT and motor tax regimes for passenger cars in light of recent progress on emissions standards</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The TSG Paper set out options to recalibrate the VRT and motor tax regimes, including through the incorporation of the WLTP emissions test into these regimes. This proposal was considered in the context of Budget 2020 and will be reviewed again in the context of the annual budgetary process.	

<b>Action 83</b>	<b>Consider the introduction of an emissions-based VRT and motor tax for LGVs and HGVs</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Introduce an emissions-based VRT and motor tax for Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Preliminary work in respect of light commercial vehicles carried out in earlier TSG papers. Nothing as yet on HGVs.	

<b>Action 84</b>	<b>Consider updating and applying the CO2 based taxation for vehicle BIK regime</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Introduce CO2 based taxation for vehicle BIK regime</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFin</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Proposal included in TSG paper on climate Action Plan, with Co2 based BIK structure announced in Budget 2020.	

## Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use

### Irish Agriculture Vigorously Adopting Carbon Abatement Opportunities and the Food Industry Encouraging this Transformation

<b>Action 103</b>	<b>Support the maximum possible environment and climate ambition in the post-2020 CAP</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Engage in negotiation of CAP regulations</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DAFM</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule (overall EU CAP process delayed and hence timelines to be pushed out)</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The CAP negotiation process is ongoing at EU level. Ireland's response to the negotiations is co-ordinated through regular and ongoing meetings of the Department's CAP Response Committee, the MB Steering Group on the CAP, and extensive consultations taking place in parallel with stakeholders. Since the negotiation process started in June 2018, DAFM has fully engaged in the process, putting forward Ireland's position on the draft regulations at Working Group and Special Committee of Agriculture meetings at official level and at Ministerial level at each Agri-Fish Council of Ministers meeting. In addition, DAFM officials are engaging with their EU counterparts both on a bilateral and multilateral basis to find common ground on the CAP proposals. DAFM has also submitted written comments outlining Ireland's position on the key issues of most concern to us. Ireland has outlined its support for the increased environmental and climate ambition as set out in the Commission's proposals.</p>	
<b>Action 103</b>	<b>Support the maximum possible environment and climate ambition in the post-2020 CAP</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Preparation of SWOT analysis on basis of internal, external ex ante evaluation and SEA for input to the development of the CAP Strategic Plan</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DAFM</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The preparation of the draft CAP Strategic Plan has commenced. The draft interventions will be based on the findings from the SWOT and needs assessment. Consultation on the draft SWOT has commenced with an open call for submissions from 9<sup>th</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019, and a stakeholder workshop scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> October. The draft SWOT analysis for the CAP Strategic Plan post 2020 focusses on 9 specific objectives, including 3 objectives that are directly related to climate and the environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;</li> <li>2. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;</li> <li>3. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;</li> </ol> <p>Consultations on the CAP negotiations will continue via the CAP Consultative Committee, which comprises representatives of the main stakeholders including DCCA. The Committee has met on three occasions with two further meetings planned by end of the year. Presentations focussing on the environment and the climate were made at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Committee.</p>	

Promoting Diversification of Land Use, Part of Gradual Transition

<b>Action 116</b>	<b>Implement the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 in line with Mid-Term Review recommendations and targets set</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Promote forestry generally through Teagasc and DAFM initiatives, under the aegis of the Forestry Promotion Working Group, chaired by DAFM Minister of State</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DAFM</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Measures being promoted across a number of initiatives. A series of Teagasc public events in 2019 continue to raise awareness on the importance of forestry. The increases in grant and premiums outlined in the Mid-term review continue to be publicised on the DAFM website, public forestry events and a range of media outlets. The successful roll out of knowledge transfer groups will continue to raise awareness of managing the existing forest estate among forest owners.	

<b>Action 124</b>	<b>Support Regional Assemblies to identify areas of potential growth in the bioeconomy</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Understanding of market opportunities and development of sustainable value chains and evaluation of technologies based on the bioresources available in each regional area including innovation support and training required to facilitate scale-up</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DAFM/Teagasc</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> DAFM & SEAI have co-funded two research projects Agri Bio Circular Economy and BioCircle that are focused on regional bioeconomy development. The ABC Economy project held two workshops with key industry, regional and rural stakeholders in Tipperary & Monaghan in Q2 2019 to assess value chain development and the sustainability of regional biomass supply chains.	

**Action 126** Upskill farmers and foresters to ensure they have the knowledge and tools required to implement climate mitigation practices

**Ongoing measure: Fund Knowledge Transfer Programme and include climate mitigation and adaptation practices**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: On Schedule**

**Update:**

The Knowledge Transfer (KT) Programme concluded in Q3 of 2019. The programme was delivered on the basis of KT Groups across 6 sectors – beef, dairy equine, tillage, poultry and sheep. There were two strands to the programme:

1. Participation in group meetings. These were focused on shared learning and discussion around key issues. These meetings were run by KT approved facilitators (Advisors).
2. The completion of a mandatory Farm Improvement Plan, on a 1 to 1 basis with a KT approved facilitators. A number of elements of this plan provide the participants (Farmers) with the knowledge and skills to implement climate migration practices. Elements such as:
  - A Carbon Navigator for Dairy Participants. The Carbon Navigator is an online tool to encourage best practice and reduce emissions.
  - Sustainability assessments for the Sheep and Poultry Programmes.
  - Integrated Pest Management Survey for the Tillage Programme,
  - Nutrient Management Plans
  - Grassland Management Plans
  - Breeding Plans.

## Cost-effective Energy Substitutes

<b>Action 127</b> <b>Seek to bridge the short term supply gap in indigenous biomass</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Increase forest road construction to facilitate increased mobilisation of timber from existing private forests that are suitable for thinning. Step up required action in kilometres of road constructed from 2018 levels (72 km) to at least 125 km per year by 2020</b>
<b>Responsible body: DAFM</b>
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>
<b>Update:</b> To date in 2019, 51kms of new forest roads have been constructed (40kms at the same date in 2018). The Department is working closely with colleagues in DHPLG with regard to commencing an amendment to the Planning and Development Amendment Act 2018, providing for this Department as the sole consenting authority for forest roads, where a new entrance onto a public road is to be opened or there is material widening of an existing entrance. Currently, in such situations, planning permission is required from the local authority. The required legislation is expected to be in place shortly.

## Better Management of Peatlands and Soils

<b>Action 134</b> <b>Implement measures for peatlands conservation</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Restoration of 22,107 hectares of raised bog habitat which will directly reduce/halt carbon loss</b>
<b>Responsible body: NPWS</b>
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>
<b>Update:</b> The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is prioritising restoration measures on land in State ownership within designated raised bog sites. Restoration measures on State owned land have been completed in two raised bog Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Restoration work is near completion within State owned land in another raised bog SAC, with measures to be undertaken on State owned land in another raised bog designated site by the end of 2019. Preparatory work, with regard to future restoration measures on State owned land, is also ongoing for further priority designated raised bog sites. Hydrological monitoring is on-going in a raised bog designated site, with a view to future restoration measures, under an EU INTEREG project Care-Peat involving 9 partners.

**Action 134 Implement measures for peatlands conservation**

**Ongoing measure: Establish a number of priority peatland sites as part of a network of climate change related indicators as EU and global monitoring sites**

**Responsible body: NPWS**

**Status: On Schedule**

**Update:** An eddy covariance (EC) tower has been set up at Clara Bog raised bog Special Area of Conservation by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin, enabling long-term monitoring of CO<sub>2</sub> exchange from the bog. An EC tower has also been set up at Lullymore, a former production peat-bog, by University College Cork. An EC tower will be installed in an upland blanket bog catchment in 2020 and will measure CH<sub>4</sub> in addition to CO<sub>2</sub>. Collectively, these sites will form a peatland-climate monitoring network across Ireland.

**Action 134 Implement measures for peatlands conservation**

**Ongoing measure: Assess the vulnerability of Ireland's functioning peatlands to the impacts of climate change**

**Responsible body: DCCA**

**Status: On Schedule**

**Update:** This is an on-going measure. Expected that initial work will comprise review of existing studies/research in this area to assess data gaps.

**Ireland's International Action on Climate Breakdown**

**Action 155 Place climate action, especially for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, at the heart of all development cooperation and policy partnerships, as well as our engagement in multilateral processes**

**Ongoing measure: As per action**

**Responsible body: DFAT**

**Status: On Schedule**

**Update:** Work is ongoing about how to strengthen emphasis on climate across all of DFAT's development cooperation and multilateral engagement. This builds on the prioritisation given to climate action in *A Better World*, Ireland's International Development Policy. Work includes planning to strengthen staff awareness of climate issues, outreach to individual teams on climate relevance of their work, and specific dialogue with multilateral partners on how to improve their climate focus. In May, Ireland launched a SIDS Trust Fund at the Asia Development Bank to ensure more effective investments in the area of climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, worth €12m. Emphasis on climate vulnerability of LDCs and SIDS is a major focus of work at the UN in New York in particular.

## Citizen Engagement, Community Leadership and Just Transition

<b>Action 159</b>	<b>Enhance the effectiveness of climate-related communications, network building and deliberative capacity within and through the NDCA</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Provide support for the development of relevant media content, including in the independent production sector</b>	
<b>Responsible body: EPA</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> EPA supported DCCAE in relation to the building of a public information resource on Climate Action – What you can do. EPA is also supporting the 2020 Eco Eye series which includes Climate Action related content. An opinion piece is in preparation for national newspapers.	
<b>Action 159</b>	<b>Enhance the effectiveness of climate-related communications, network building and deliberative capacity within and through the NDCA</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Continue EPA climate lecture series</b>	
<b>Responsible body: EPA</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The second lecture is set for Wednesday 20th November in the Mansion House (6:30pm to 8:30pm). The speaker is Dame Professor Julia Slingo from the UK, who will be talking about meteorology, climate change and impact.	
<b>Action 168</b>	<b>Provide improved training and support initiatives for community and voluntary stakeholders to support community, local and national low-carbon development, incorporating community outreach elements</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Continued support for strengthening the role and input of the Environmental Pillar in Public Participation Networks</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DRCD</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The task of continued support to strengthen the input of the environmental pillar to PPNs is an ongoing initiative so the designations of complete or delayed do not apply. The 2018 PPN Annual Report has shown a 19% increase in Environmental Pillar membership of PPNs at the end of 2018 over 2017. Environmental Pillar as a percentage of the overall total PPN membership is unchanged at 3%.	
The Environmental Pillar have put forward proposals for strengthening the Pillar - these include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- an outreach initiative to environmental groups to persuade as many environmental groups as possible to join their PPN,</li> <li>- the development of a dedicated national website focused on the Environmental Pillar and its members, to act as a valuable resource for local groups and a touchstone for those who wish to become involved in environmental activities</li> <li>- an initial approach to Tidy Towns organisations in order to see how they might qualify as members</li> </ul>	
The Department welcomes these initiatives by the Environmental Pillar and will review progress in this regard in due course.	



<b>Action 170</b>	<b>Support, through the education system, the required initiatives in the Just Transition through existing and new strategies being developed, and through ongoing collaboration with relevant Government Departments and Agencies</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Implement 'Skills to Advance' 'Upskilling Pathways' and 'Explore Programme'</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DES</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The Regional Skills Fora Managers continue to roll-out the EXPLORE Programme which is aimed at upskilling the existing workforce and improving Ireland's Lifelong Learning rates.	

<b>Action 170</b>	<b>Support, through the education system, the required initiatives in the Just Transition through existing and new strategies being developed, and through ongoing collaboration with relevant Government Departments and Agencies</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Develop Springboard+ 2019 training in emerging new technologies and use flexible provision to suit those in employment</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DES</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Springboard+ will provide for over 9,000 places on a broad range of courses in areas where there are identified skills needs and/or employment opportunities. 1,136 of these places are in emerging new technologies. Springboard+ courses are open to people irrespective of their employment status. Given the emphasis on upskilling people in employment the majority of courses are delivered on a blended learning basis. This approach combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional place-based classroom methods in the evening and/or at weekends.	

<b>Action 170</b>	<b>Support, through the education system, the required initiatives in the Just Transition through existing and new strategies being developed, and through ongoing collaboration with relevant Government Departments and Agencies</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: Make employers aware of opportunities to upskill, as they arise</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DBEI</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<b>Update:</b> DBEI's agencies, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, engage with the Regional Skills Fora on an ongoing basis to highlight skills shortfalls and requirements in specific sectors relevant to the region, and promote training opportunities for staff to client companies. When detailed analysis completed by NESC on Just Transition requirements, and by EGFSN on 'the current and future skills needs of enterprises associated with the transition to green growth and low carbon economy', DBEI will request the enterprise development agencies to promote findings to HEIs through the Regional Skills Fora and to promote relevant training opportunities to their client companies.	

<b>Action 170</b>	<b>Support, through the education system, the required initiatives in the Just Transition through existing and new strategies being developed, and through ongoing collaboration with relevant Government Departments and Agencies</b>
	<b>Ongoing measure: Engage with Higher Education Institutions to promote adaptation of courses, in consultation with stakeholders as appropriate, so that graduates have the necessary training and skills on the impacts of climate change</b>
	<b>Responsible body: DES</b>
	<b>Status: On Schedule</b>
	<b>Update:</b> Springboard+ 2019 offers a range of courses connected to climate change developed in collaboration with industry including: Climate Resilience for Business, Greening Enterprise Skills, Near Zero Energy Buildings, Low Energy Building Construction etc.
	As part of the System Performance Framework 2018 -2020, the HEA has sought case studies of HEI actions in national policy areas including <i>Sustainable Development (National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development 2014–2020)</i> and <i>Climate Action (Climate Action Plan 2019)</i> which are due for return to, and review by, the HEA in late 2019.

<b>Action 172</b>	<b>Assist local enterprises, through the Regional Skills Forum, to identify their skills' needs through a variety of audit tools to ensure that the Region has effective skills capacity to support the Just Transition</b>
	<b>Ongoing measure: Encourage enterprises to engage with Regional Skills Fora and other agencies for support in identifying their skills needs</b>
	<b>Responsible body: RSF</b>
	<b>Status: On Schedule</b>
	<b>Update:</b> The Regional Skills Fora continues to roll out the 'Skills for Growth Initiative which makes it easier for employers to identify their skill needs and receive guidance on which education and training providers are best suited to their requirements.

<b>Action 172</b>	<b>Assist local enterprises, through the Regional Skills Forum, to identify their skills' needs through a variety of audit tools to ensure that the Region has effective skills capacity to support the Just Transition</b>
	<b>Ongoing measure: Once skill needs have been identified, Regional Skills Fora will link companies with the education and training providers best suited to responding to identified skills need</b>
	<b>Responsible body: RSF</b>
	<b>Status: On Schedule</b>
	<b>Update:</b> Apart from the essential work of building collaborative relationships between Enterprise and Education and Training the RSF continue to play a key role by facilitating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Signposting to existing provision and services;</li> <li>○ Course creation – Higher and Further education;</li> <li>○ Apprenticeship/traineeship development;</li> <li>○ Course modification – Higher Education and Further Education;</li> <li>○ Work placements</li> </ul>

<b>Action 180</b>	<b>Ensure that the school curriculum is reviewed against climate action on an ongoing basis</b>
<b>Ongoing measure: As per action</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DES</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The NCCA carried out an audit of the curriculum on Education for Sustainable Development – A study of opportunities and linkages in the primary and post-primary curriculum which is published on their website:  <a href="https://www.ncca.ie/media/3573/esdreport_final_june2018.pdf">https://www.ncca.ie/media/3573/esdreport_final_june2018.pdf</a>  This review sets out the areas of the curriculum with linkages to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) including SDG 13 – Climate Action.</p> <p><i>The NCCA's study identified existing good practice at the level of curriculum frameworks and syllabus/subject specifications. In addition, the study set out a number of recommendations for ongoing and future curriculum development to ensure students have comprehensive opportunities to encounter ESD skills and content as part of their early childhood, primary and post-primary education. These recommendations inform the NCCA's work on an ongoing basis.</i></p>	
<b>Action 181</b>	<b>Build sectoral resilience to the impacts of climate change through delivery of sectoral plans as required under the NAF</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Implementation of sectoral adaptation plans prepared under NAF</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> All 12 sectoral plans have been prepared and will be presented to Government for approval shortly. Following approval, plans will be implemented.</p>	
<b>Action 182</b>	<b>Build local/regional resilience to the impacts of climate change through delivery of Local Authority Adaptation Strategies as required under the NAF</b>
<b>Q3 2019 measure: Implementation of Local Authority Adaptation Strategies prepared under National Adaptation Framework</b>	
<b>Responsible body: CAROS</b>	
<b>Status: On Schedule</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Local Authority strategies have been completed in line with the deadline of 30 September 2019, and will now continue to implementation.</p>	