

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2019

Second Progress Report

Q4 2019



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

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## Glossary of Acronyms

<b>ABR</b>	Annual Business Review
<b>AMETS</b>	Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site
<b>BEC</b>	Better Energy Communities
<b>CAP</b>	Common Agricultural Policy
<b>CAROs</b>	Climate Action Regional Offices
<b>CCAC</b>	Climate Change Advisory Council
<b>CCMA</b>	County and City Management Association
<b>CEP</b>	Circular Economy Package
<b>CIE</b>	Córas Iompair Éireann
<b>CIL</b>	Commissioners of Irish Lights
<b>CNG</b>	Compressed Natural Gas
<b>CO</b>	Carbon Dioxide
<b>CPPA</b>	Corporate Power Purchase Agreement
<b>CRU</b>	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
<b>DAFM</b>	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
<b>DBEI</b>	Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
<b>DCCAE</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>DOS</b>	Distribution System Operator
<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>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>EPD</b>	Environmental Product Declaration
<b>EPOs</b>	Energy Performance Officers
<b>ESB</b>	Electricity Supply Board
<b>ESBN</b>	Electricity Supply Board Networks
<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>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>GNI</b>	Gas Networks Ireland

<b>GW</b>	Gigawatt
<b>ha</b>	Hectare
<b>HEA</b>	Higher Education Authority
<b>HGVs</b>	HGVs Heavy Goods Vehicles
<b>HLI</b>	Heat Loss Indicator
<b>IBEC</b>	Irish Business and Employers Confederation
<b>IDA</b>	Industrial Development Agency
<b>IFA</b>	Irish Farmers Association
<b>IFMA</b>	Irish Fertiliser Manufacturers Association
<b>IGBC</b>	Irish Green Building Council
<b>IMDO</b>	Irish Maritime Development Office
<b>IMIN</b>	Irish Marine Industry Network
<b>IPA</b>	Institute of Public Administration
<b>IPC</b>	The International Co-operative Programme
<b>ISME</b>	Irish Representative Association for Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>Km</b>	Kilometre
<b>LAs</b>	Local Authorities
<b>LCA</b>	Life Cycle Assessment
<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>LIEN</b>	Large Industry Energy Network
<b>MACC</b>	Marginal Abatement Cost Curve
<b>M&amp;R</b>	Monitoring and Reporting
<b>MI</b>	Marine Institute
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPDB</b>	Marine Planning Development Bill
<b>NAF</b>	National Adaptation Framework
<b>NBCO</b>	National Building Control Office
<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>NWRA</b>	Northern and Western Regional Assembly
<b>NZEB</b>	Near Zero Energy Building
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OGP</b>	Office of Government Procurement
<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>ORE</b>	Offshore Renewable Energy
<b>OREDP</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>RD&amp;D</b>	Research Development and Demonstration
<b>RESS</b>	Renewable Electricity Support Scheme
<b>RSF</b>	Regional Skills Forum
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SEC</b>	Sustainable Energy Communities
<b>SFA</b>	Small Firms Association
<b>SFI</b>	Science Foundation Ireland
<b>SLA</b>	Service - Level Agreement
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
<b>SRA</b>	Social Research Association
<b>SSRH</b>	Support Scheme for Renewable Heat
<b>TII</b>	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
<b>TRLs</b>	Technology Readiness Levels
<b>TSO</b>	Transmission Operator
<b>WDC</b>	Western Development Commission
<b>WWETB</b>	Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board

## Headline measures progressed in Q4 2019

### 72% of measures completed in Q4 2019



#### Electricity

##### Ocean Energy technologies

now have access to expanded research and development fund



#### Transport

##### Park and Ride and Cycling

Project Offices established to progress sustainable transport modes



#### Enterprise and Services

##### New climate action related standards

developed for electrical wiring, building services and the energy performance of buildings



#### Buildings



##### Building regulations introduced

which encourage the use of renewable technologies rather than fossil fuels in homes



#### Just Transition

##### Policy recommendations

developed to manage the impact of economic transition on vulnerable workers



##### Medium and deep retrofit

##### delivered to 35 schools

through the

Energy Retrofit Pilot 2019



##### Establishment of a dedicated training centre for upskilling construction workers to

Near Zero Energy Building Standards



#### Agriculture



Progress on the use of State-owned land for afforestation including plans for native and mixed woodland on c.1,500 ha across three counties



#### Citizen Engagement

##### National Science Week

took place in November with Climate Action representing a key theme in many of the 1,350 events across the country.



### Overall Climate Action Plan delivery to date: 83%

## Executive Summary

The period from October to December 2019 saw the publication of ever more impactful climate science, as well as showcasing some of the most visible effects that the climate crisis is having on our planet. The wildfires in Australia throughout the end of 2019 have been particularly poignant, devastating communities, wildlife, local economies, businesses, housing and services in their wake.

Scientific consensus on climate change and the need for climate action was further bolstered throughout the quarter, with some landmark publications, including the [United Nations Emissions Gap Report](#). Published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the end of November, the report clearly stated that the world is off track in limiting global heating to the 1.5°C limit established by the Paris Agreement. At current emissions levels, we are instead on track for temperature increases of 3.2°C. This would result in mass extinctions and make many parts of the planet uninhabitable. Emissions reductions must now fall by 7.6% every year between now and 2030, according to the UNEP, to remain within temperature thresholds and mitigate the most harm. Countries will have to collectively increase their commitments more than fivefold to achieve this.

Meanwhile, political attention to the climate crisis has furthered in Europe with the appointment of Ursula von der Leyen as the new President of the European Commission (EC). President von der Leyen has set clear ambitions to establish a [Green New Deal for Europe](#) and support a [Just Transition](#). Pledges to make Europe carbon neutral by 2050 continue unabated, accompanied by calls to increase the ambition of interim emissions targets and introduce new governance structures so that the climate agenda infiltrates all EC activities. Transforming the European economy and society to put it on a more sustainable path is at the heart of the new Commission, with significant investment pledged to develop deeply transformative policies and support systems.

From an international perspective, the [United Nations Conference on Climate Change \(COP25\)](#) took place in Madrid in December 2019 under the Presidency of the Government of Chile, with support from the Government of Spain. Ireland joined the [Carbon Neutrality Coalition](#) at the event; a coalition that supports higher ambition in domestic climate policies. While the outcomes of the overall COP25 were not as ambitious as hoped for, the event hosted representatives from more than 200 countries and represented an important prelude to the Paris Agreement, which will enter into force in 2020.

Public momentum and citizen commitment on climate action also gathered speed this quarter, with further climate strikes held, including by Fridays For Future and Extinction Rebellion. The role of young people in framing, informing and delivering climate action was also furthered nationally, with two significant youth events taking place in the Dáil in November. This included the [Youth Assembly](#) which



was made up of more than 150 young people and delivered 10 climate action recommendations to Government. Elsewhere, [Dáil na nÓg voted](#) on the theme of Climate Action for their National Executive for the next two years, with priority attention to sustainable transport solutions for 2020 and 2021.

Domestically, the publication of the [EPA Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report](#) in October however showed that Ireland exceeded its annual emissions allocation for 2018 under the EU's Effort Sharing Decision. While national emissions have fallen for a second year in a row, the decrease is too small and largely driven by temporary occurrences. This outcome reinforces the importance of implementing the 617 measures outlined in the 2019 [Climate Action Plan](#).

### Overview of Q4 2019 and summary of Climate Action Plan delivery to date

- 113 out of the 157 measures due in Q4 were delivered on time giving a **delivery rate of 72% for Q4 2019**.
- 23 of the 27 measures which had been delayed in previous quarters were also delivered in Q4.
- There is no reporting of ongoing actions in this quarter; these will be reported upon again in the progress report for Q1 2020.

When combined with implementation of the Plan seen in previous quarters, this gives an **overall delivery rate of 83% for measures due** to date under the Climate Action Plan since its publication in June 2019. Full details of delivery rates across each quarter are provided in Appendix 1. This report meanwhile details specific progress made in Q4 2019 by responsible Departments and Agencies.

### Progress of delayed Q3 2019 measures

To maintain transparency and accountability, tracking the progress of the 27 measures that were reported as delayed in Q3 2019 continued throughout Q4 2019. Table 1 below provides a brief overview of the headline deliverables across sectors, which have now been achieved.

In total, there are 4 measures that remain delayed from Q3 2019 (Actions 43, 53, 140 and 183). While some progress has been made on these measures (e.g. 12 out of 16 Government Departments published their REAPs by the end of Q4 2019), issues of resourcing and capacity have largely prevented full completion. These issues are being reviewed and addressed by the system to continue building climate action delivery capacity. Progress will be tracked on outstanding measures in forthcoming quarters.

**Table 1- Example Q3 2019 Delayed Measures completed in Q4 2019**

Sector	Action/ Measure	Progress Update
<b>Governance</b>	<i>Actions 5 &amp; 9: Develop recommendations on a suitable approach for preparation of multi-annual carbon budgets and update the Public Spending Code</i>	Carbon budgets represent a pivotal governance mechanism for achieving emissions reductions and establishing new targets across sectors. The Climate Change Advisory Council <a href="#">recommendations on carbon budgeting</a> were submitted to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in December 2019. <a href="#">The Public Spending Code</a> was reformed in December to introduce more robust consideration of climate impacts in project appraisal.
<b>Electricity</b>	<i>Action 21: Publish Strategic Environmental Assessment consultation on Wind Energy Guidelines</i>	<a href="#">National Wind Energy Guidelines</a> issued for public consultation on 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2019. This is an important first step in an interconnected series of important measures aimed at ensuring maximum wind energy penetration on the grid.
<b>Electricity</b>	<i>Action 28: Key design features of first Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) auction approved by Government</i>	Government approved <a href="#">key design features of RESS-1 auction</a> , including a community and solar pot, on 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019. Eirgrid held an auction qualification briefing on 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 to this effect. The RESS is crucial to transition our energy supply from fossil fuels towards more renewable and community-based energy systems.
<b>Transport</b>	<i>Action 85 &amp; 94: Transition the urban PSO public bus fleet to LEVs and; Review public and sustainable transport policy and develop a roadmap to decarbonise public transport</i>	Several transport measures were delayed in Q3 2019 as a result of delays to a public consultation effort. In-depth stakeholder and public consultations on several aspects related to <a href="#">Sustainable Mobility Policy</a> instead took place in Q4 2019 allowing for the progression of these delayed measures. Transparent and inclusive consultation represents a cornerstone of more robust, implementable and actionable policies.
<b>International</b>	<i>Action 154: Seek to at least double the percentage of official development assistance (ODA) spending on climate finance by 2030</i>	The 2018 International Climate Finance Report shows a total expenditure of €80 million, and early achievement of the commitment of €175m by 2020. Minister Bruton <a href="#">announced Ireland's increased commitment to Green Climate Fund at COP25</a> (double that of 2018), and increased funding for Least Developed Countries Fund (triple that of 2018).

### Progress of Q4 2019 measures

113 climate action measures were delivered by Agencies and Departments in Q4 2019, as detailed throughout this report. Headline deliverables across sectors are outlined in Table 2, showcasing examples of the diversity and commitment to climate action across Government.

**Table 2- Example Q4 2019 Measures completed**

Sector	Action/ Measure	Progress Update
<b>Energy</b>	<i>Action 26: Re-open Prototype Development Fund (for ocean energy). Consider targeted/competition approach for access to test sites</i>	A review of the <a href="#">Prototype Development Fund</a> has been completed and ocean technologies including wave, tidal and floating wind now have access to expanded SEAI research, development and demonstration funding programme.
	<i>Action: 128: Support implementation and enforcement of Biomass Sustainability Criteria</i>	Strict sustainability criteria for solid biomass and biogas have now been included in the terms and conditions of the <a href="#">Support Scheme for Renewable Heat</a> .
<b>Transport</b>	<i>Actions 89 and 91: Establish a Park and Ride Development Office and a Cycling Project Office within the NTA and develop a 5 year strategy and implementation plan with specific timelines</i>	Having access to more sustainable transport modes is a prerequisite to behaviour change in the transport system. Two new offices have been established within the NTA to support this modal shift. This has been accompanied by strategies for change and associated implementation plans related to both Park & Ride facilities and cycling in Ireland. The plans identify priority projects and their expected delivery over the period 2020 to 2024.
	<i>Action 85: Medium Term Fleet Technology Pathway for the Public Bus Fleet adopted</i>	Setting clear trajectories for zero emission technologies is key to decarbonising transport. The NTA has developed a medium term fleet technology pathway for the Public Bus Fleet giving due consideration to ambition and flexibility.
<b>Agriculture</b>	<i>Action 110: Public Consultation launched on the roadmap on the future development of the agriculture and land-use sector</i>	While some delays were encountered in Q3 2019, a public consultation on ' <a href="#">Ag-Climatise' - A Draft National Climate &amp; Air Roadmap for the Agriculture Sector to 2030</a> ' was launched on 17 November 2019.
	<i>Action 127: Assessing the potential for State-owned land to be used for afforestation</i>	Increasing the amount of land under forest is critical for emissions reduction and carbon sequestration. The first phase of this <a href="#">Bord na Mona project will focus on the creation of native and mixed woodland on around 1,500 ha</a> in counties Offaly, Laois, Westmeath and Tipperary.
<b>Enterprise</b>	<i>Action 75: Finalised programme for development of an NSAI Standards programme to support climate action policy</i>	<a href="#">The NSAI</a> has developed a set of climate action related standards including regarding electrical wiring, building services and the energy performance of buildings. This is essential to match the quantity of services provided with quality assurance.
	<i>Action 36: New strategy for IDA Ireland to integrate decarbonisation objectives</i>	Leading by example, <a href="#">IDA Ireland is finalising a new strategy</a> , setting out the agency's goals and priorities for the period 2020-2024. The new strategy will have a significant focus on environmental sustainability and will include objectives on climate action and decarbonisation.

<b>Built Environment</b>	<i>Action 60: Effective ban on the installation of oil boilers from 2022 and the installation of gas boilers from 2025 in all new dwellings</i>	<a href="#">The NZEB regulations that were introduced in September 2019</a> make it more attractive for builders and homeowners to incorporate renewable technologies in their construction projects and move away from fossil fuels.
<b>Education</b>	<i>Action 50: NZEB training programme for existing construction workers delivered by Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board</i>	The <a href="#">National Skills Specifications developed by Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board</a> are now broadly available to convert into training programmes by Education and Training Boards. A dedicated NZEB Training centre is also now established and currently providing 10 NZEB training programmes in areas such as plumbing, electrical, bricklaying, carpentry and plastering.
	<i>Action 67: Energy Retrofit Pilot 2019 &amp; continued funding – medium and deep retrofit of 35 schools</i>	The 2019 phase of the pilot saw medium and deep retrofit delivered to 35 schools across Ireland. It also identified challenges and provided learnings to help develop the next phase of the energy pilot retrofit programme.
<b>Waste</b>	<i>Action 143: Scoping of a number of possible environmental levies, including a possible levy on single use plastics, as part of the review of the Environment Fund</i>	Changing how we view, use and discard resources is crucial to reducing emissions. Following a review of the Environment Fund, a <a href="#">three-phased programme of actions</a> relating to the introduction of new environmental levies is proposed and was announced on 6th November 2019.
<b>International</b>	<i>Action 156: Provide technical support to Missions to ensure climate action is included in their strategic plans</i>	Including climate as a core theme in all new Irish Aid Country Strategies represents a central pillar of Ireland's international efforts and support for climate action. In Q4 2019, support was provided to DFAT's Africa Division to reflect ambitious climate engagement in the <a href="#">Africa Regional Strategy</a> . This is now finalised and launched, with climate as a core theme.
<b>Engagement/ Outreach</b>	<i>Action 178: Development and delivery of Science Week 2019</i>	<a href="#">National Science Week</a> took place from 10 – 17 November, with over 1,350 events taking place across the country, with Climate Action representing a theme in many of the events. A large scale media and engagement effort was also delivered including podcasts, cartoons, articles, video content and segments on climate action across digital and radio outlets, as well as a full programme of climate activity with RTÉ.
	<i>Action 160 &amp; 161: Develop policy recommendations for the operation of Transition Teams to manage the impact of economic transition on vulnerable workers and sectors and establish Just Transition Review group</i>	The transition must be just to be economically, socially and environmentally successful. Vulnerable workers and sectors must be protected as we transition away from fossil fuel-based industries, employment and lifestyles. <a href="#">Transition Teams</a> and a Just Transition Review Group will help to ensure these ambitions and develop supportive policy in this vein.

### Measures delayed in Q4 2019

Some structural issues impeding delivery have been revealed by the Climate Action Plan implementation process. These include issues of capacity, resourcing and expertise across Government Departments and Agencies, as well as the speed of the legislative process and uncertainties created by this.

Other measures reported as delayed in Q4 2019 have arisen as a result of the need for wider, and more meaningful pieces of climate action delivery, revealed by the pursuit of a specific measure. In these instances, a decision has been taken to mark the measure as delayed while more comprehensive and far-reaching work is undertaken.

A list of priority delayed measures is outlined in Table 3. This includes measures that are considered central to carbon abatement and national GHG reductions. All 44 delayed measures from Q4 2019 will be progressed and reported on in forthcoming quarters as a matter of priority. The Climate Action Delivery Board will also work to identify challenges, find solutions, support progress development and unblock policy action. Government, and Departments, must reiterate commitment to climate action and improve delivery rates in the challenging periods that lie ahead. Citizens and politicians will demand nothing less.

Progress on all Q4 measures, including more detail related to their designated status and update, are explored in detail next.

**Table 3- Measures Delayed in Q4- Priority list**

Sector	Example Q4 Measure completed in Q4 2019	Progress Update
<b>Governance</b>	<i>Action 1: Evaluate in detail the changes required to adopt a more ambitious commitment of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as part of finalising Ireland's long-term climate strategy by the end of 2019</i>	Detailed work is underway in pursuit of this measure, including a <a href="#">public consultation</a> , to develop an approach to deliver a net zero GHG target by 2050. Ireland agreed with the European Commission that it would submit its Long Term Strategy early in Q1 2020. This 2050 target will also be incorporated in the Climate Action Bill being brought forward by Government.
	<i>Action 147: Issue a policy direction or equivalent to all public bodies requiring a public body to adopt mandate and notify Climate Action Delivery Board</i>	This measure is an important part of the public sector leading by example and for enacting climate action across the country. Finalisation of the Climate Action Mandate is still ongoing, including consultation with key stakeholders and the Climate Action Delivery Board. A Memo to Government with a final draft mandate is pending.

<b>Electricity</b>	<i>Action 25: Development of a transitional protocol to enable focus on Offshore Wind applications within scope of emerging policy</i>	Protocol issues are being dealt with as part of the ongoing discussions and drafting of the Marine Planning and Development Management (MPDM) Bill. The heads of the MPDM Bill were agreed by Government in December 2019 with consultation due to take place in early Q1 2020.
	<i>Action 30: Review current exemptions relating to solar panels...and implement amendments</i>	An assessment of exemptions related to solar panels is essential to clarify access and micro-generation roll-out (e.g. for solar panels on public buildings, farms, schools etc). A proposal for amendments to the current exemptions is substantially drafted and expected to be finalised imminently.
	<i>Action 30: Determination of appropriate grid connection policy to facilitate renewable self-consumers and access for microgeneration</i>	Delays in policy development around grid connection may have knock-on effects for incentivising micro-generation and bringing it into practice. This measure is being progressed by the <a href="#">Commission for the Regulation of Utilities</a> .
	<i>Action 26: Commission report to consider additional requirements to support floating wind sector 2020-2030</i>	Pursuing this individual measure revealed a need for a more comprehensive piece of work for meaningful climate action. A full review of the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) will now be completed in 2020, including the issue of additional supports for the floating wind sector to 2030.
<b>Built Environment</b>	<i>Action 62: Examine how and when fossil-fuel heating systems could be phased-out of public buildings</i>	Completion of this measure is crucial to provide clarity for decarbonising our public building stock. OPW are seeking nominations for an expert working group from the other larger public organisations who have an interest in this action to assist meaningful progress on this intensive action. Further research, including on the existing building stock, is also envisaged.
	<i>Action 43: Consolidate data on current retrofit volume and depth to get a full picture of energy efficiency and carbon savings funded</i>	All three measures related to this action were delayed in Q4 2019, including an overdue measure from Q3. This includes researching the potential to record work undertaken outside of Government schemes and develop measurement for impact. This work will be prioritised by the Retrofit Taskforce in Q1 2020.
	<i>Action 51: Assess the resources – both human and otherwise – that will be required to meet the new level of retrofit activity out to 2030</i>	The capacity of the construction industry to deliver ambitious retrofit targets is a fundamental issue and one that must be resolved if we are to succeed in retrofitting 500,000 homes by 2030. The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs will, during 2020, undertake research to assess the additional skills demands generated by the Plan.



<b>Agriculture</b>	<i>Action 110: Publication of the roadmap to ensure the future sustainable development of the agriculture and land-use sector</i>	As the public consultation on the roadmap was delayed in the previous quarter and a minimum of an eight week open consultation period is set, publication of the roadmap is delayed and further consultations are ongoing.
<b>Transport</b>	<i>Action 160: Develop a transport model to describe transport choices in detail and their interactions with policies</i>	Progress is continuing in developing a transport sub-model to the I3E model, including the completion of the freight component. Work on the passenger model will begin in 2020.
<b>Enterprise</b>	<i>Action 42: Work with all business representative groups, including IBEC, Business in the Community, ISME, SFA, Chambers Ireland, and others, to create partnerships of companies that sign up to a low carbon trajectory</i>	Both measures due in Q4 2019 under this action are delayed. This includes developing proposals for low carbon partnerships for industry and public sectors as well as for the extension of B2B mentor programmes for companies signing up to a low carbon trajectory. Both actions will be progressed in Q1 2020 and represent an important part of supporting businesses achieve decarbonisation objectives.
	<i>Action 164: Coordinate and support the development of tools and supports at regional and enterprise level which address just transition objectives</i>	Both measures due in Q4 2019 related to this action are delayed. This includes the development of a template for company Climate Change Action Plans and an online checklist for companies to measure their sustainability and provide an authorised sustainability quality mark.
<b>Adaptation</b>	<i>Action 177: Outline of possible response/future actions to the challenges associated with the availability of property insurance</i>	Developing robust and supportive insurance policies to accommodate this changing world is essential to protect homes, businesses and communities already suffering from the consequences of climate change (e.g. increased occurrence of storms and extreme weather events). This is a complex policy issue and requires detailed analysis and engagement with stakeholders as currently ongoing.
<b>Public Sector Lead</b>	<i>Action 145: Develop a strategy to achieve at least a 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>eq. emissions by 2030 and a 50% improvement in public sector energy efficiency</i>	Both measures related to this action are delayed in Q4 2019. This includes determining the potential for efficiency savings and carbon abatement in each sector, assessing the resources required to deliver these savings and publishing an annual progress report setting out overall and sectoral achievements. Progress is essential to prove that the public sector can, and will, lead by example.

## Q3 2019 Delayed Actions

### Q3 2019 Delayed Summary

Complete	Delayed	Total
23	4	27

### Governance of the Challenge

<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 Delayed measure:</b> Develop recommendations on suitable approach for preparation of multi-annual carbon budgets to inform preparation of drafting of legislation
	<b>Responsible body:</b> Climate Change Advisory Council
	<b>Status:</b> Complete
	<b>Update:</b> The Climate Change Advisory Council recommendations on carbon budgeting were submitted to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment on 5 December and subsequently published on the Council's website at <a href="http://www.climatecouncil.ie/">http://www.climatecouncil.ie/</a>

### Carbon Pricing and Cross Cutting Policies

<b>Action 9</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>Q3 2019 Delayed measure:</b> 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>Responsible body:</b> DPER
	<b>Status:</b> Complete
	<b>Update:</b> Reformed Public Spending Code was published on 11 December 2019 - <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/news/d8421f-minister-donohoe-publishes-the-public-spending-code-a-guide-to-evalu/">https://www.gov.ie/en/news/d8421f-minister-donohoe-publishes-the-public-spending-code-a-guide-to-evalu/</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 Delayed measure:</b>	<b>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:</b>	DPER
<b>Status:</b>	Complete
<b>Update:</b>	Supplementary Guidance was circulated to Finance Officers and published on 20 December 2019 - <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/public-spending-code/">https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/public-spending-code/</a>

## Electricity

### Regulatory Streamlining of Renewables and Grid Development

<b>Action 21</b>	<b>Ensure that updated planning guidelines for onshore wind are published in 2019</b>
<b>Q3 2019 Delayed measure:</b>	<b>Publish Strategic Environmental Assessment consultation on Wind Energy Guidelines</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	DHPLG
<b>Status:</b>	Complete
<b>Update:</b>	Guidelines issued for <a href="#">public consultation</a> on 12 December 2019. The consultation will run until 19 February 2020. It is available to view on the DHPLG website and has also been advertised in national newspapers.

<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 Delayed measure:</b>	<b>Publish Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2019 for Ireland</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	EirGrid
<b>Status:</b>	Complete
<b>Update:</b>	"Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2019 Ireland" is published and available on the EirGrid website: <a href="http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/EirGrid-TES-2019-Report.pdf">http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/EirGrid-TES-2019-Report.pdf</a> .

## Off-shore 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 Delayed measure: Finalise revised General Scheme of the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> The finalised <a href="#">General Scheme</a> was approved by Government on 17 December 2019.	

<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 Delayed 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:</b> DHPLG (dependent on input from DCCA, DAFM, DTTAS, DCHG, Defence, Marine Institute)	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> <a href="#">Draft National Marine Planning Framework</a> launched on 12 November 2019 by Minister English. Currently conducting regional roadshow. Public consultation ongoing.	

<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 Delayed measure: Expand Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site (AMETS) to accommodate floating wind: Commence Environmental Monitoring Requirements</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Environmental Monitoring contract has been approved by SEAI Board and work commenced including Bird Surveying Services for the AMETS test site. Tender closed on 20 December 2019. E tenders link: <a href="https://irl.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/157976/0/0?returnUrl=transactions.asp">https://irl.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/157976/0/0?returnUrl=transactions.asp</a> . <a href="#">Environmental</a>	

<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 Delayed measure: Review of impact of Prototype Development Fund and recommendations for enhanced scheme</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Report is complete and recommends consideration of whether or not it should be part of overall R,D&D, or stand alone. See Action 26k. The report will be published by SEAI on their website in Q1 2020.	

## 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 Delayed measure: Finalise the Detailed Design of the RESS including state aid notification</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Eirgrid held auction qualification briefing on 18 December 2019. Government approved key design features of <a href="#">RESS-1 auction</a> , including community and solar pot, on 26 November. State aid approval has been sought from European Commission.	

## Enterprise

<b>Action 39</b>	<b>Launch targeted call under Climate Action Fund</b>
<b>Q3 2019 Delayed measure: Development of the scope of proposed call</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> A call for expressions of interest for the next round of funding under the Climate Action Fund was launched on 31 December 2019. This call has a wide scope encompassing projects from across a range of sectors. An information session for potential applicants will be held in early February with the deadline for submitting potential projects at the end of February. See <a href="https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/topics/climate-action-fund/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/topics/climate-action-fund/Pages/default.aspx</a>	

## 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 Delayed 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>	DCCA
<b>Status:</b>	Delayed
<b>Update:</b>	Work has commenced on this action which will now be completed in Q1 2020.

### Funding and Finance Options

<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 Delayed measure:</b>	<b>Extend pilot salary incentive scheme for energy efficiency retrofits to 5 public sector bodies</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b>	SEAI
<b>Status:</b>	Delayed
<b>Update:</b>	Some funding will be available to support this initiative in 2020. DCCA and SEAI are engaging to progress a pilot scheme on a smaller scale.

## Transport

### 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 Delayed measure: Public Consultation on alternatively fuelled buses (part of a wider public transport policy consultation)</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DTTAS	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Public Consultation on a Review of Sustainable Mobility Policy (including a paper on alternatively fuelled buses) published 14 November 2019. See: <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f1b503-public-consultation-on-a-review-of-sustainable-mobility-policy/">https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f1b503-public-consultation-on-a-review-of-sustainable-mobility-policy/</a></p> <p>The public consultation on the Review of Sustainable Mobility Policy is open until the 24 January 2020. Individual papers are provided in PDF format at this address. It is likely that documents will still be available at this address once the consultation has ended; however, submissions will no longer be accepted.</p> <p>A public consultation submission report will also be published and accompany the Sustainable Mobility Policy once developed.</p>	
<b>Action 88</b>	<b>Increase public bus network capacity and usage (implementation of BusConnects services network)</b>
<b>Q3 2019 Delayed measure: Publish revised BusConnects Dublin network for public consultation</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> NTA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Dublin Area Revised Bus Network Public Consultation published on 22 October 2019 <a href="https://busconnects.ie/initiatives/dublin-area-bus-network-redesign/">https://busconnects.ie/initiatives/dublin-area-bus-network-redesign/</a></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 Delayed measure: Publish public consultation on public/sustainable transport policy, including rural transport</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DTTAS	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Public Consultation on a Review of Sustainable Mobility Policy (including a paper on rural transport) published 14 November 2019. <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f1b503-public-consultation-on-a-review-of-sustainable-mobility-policy/">https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f1b503-public-consultation-on-a-review-of-sustainable-mobility-policy/</a></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 Delayed measure: Review to include consideration of electrification of public transport</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DTTAS	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Public Consultation on a Review of Sustainable Mobility Policy published 14 November 2019. <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f1b503-public-consultation-on-a-review-of-sustainable-mobility-policy/">https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f1b503-public-consultation-on-a-review-of-sustainable-mobility-policy/</a>	

<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 Delayed measure: Publish a revised implementation plan for Smarter Travel</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DTTAS	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> A review of Sustainable Mobility policy was launched on 14 November 2019, with a stakeholder engagement event held on the 21 November 2019 with a wide range of stakeholders represented at that event. The public consultation period is scheduled to end on 24 January 2020.</p> <p>All relevant documentation is available to view at: <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f1b503-public-consultation-on-a-review-of-sustainable-mobility-policy/">https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f1b503-public-consultation-on-a-review-of-sustainable-mobility-policy/</a></p> <p>The purpose of this review, the first review of Sustainable Mobility policy in over 10 years, is to consider all aspects of our sustainable mobility policy, including reviewing the implementation status of the previous policy frameworks (Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future and the National Cycle Policy Framework), in order to provide an updated forward-looking policy framework for the years ahead, taking account of progress achieved, outstanding challenges and new/emerging developments.</p> <p>This new Sustainable Mobility policy framework will thus update and replace existing policy frameworks in the area.</p>	

## Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use

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

<b>Action 105</b> <b>Develop research and innovation infrastructure</b>
<b>Q3 2019 Delayed measure: Enhance the capability of the agricultural catchment programme to monitor emissions across farming systems</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM
<b>Status:</b> Complete
<p><b>Update:</b> 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.</p> <p>The current ACP is operational to the end of 2019 and works in partnership with over 300 farmers in six intensively farmed catchments. The continuation of the Agricultural Catchments Programme (ACP) for a further four-year period to 2023 was announced on 18 November 2019.</p> <p>Following three successful phases of the ACP, Phase 4 of the programme will now also collect data on greenhouse gases emissions, ammonia emissions and soil carbon sequestration, as well as extending the current baseline monitoring of water quality.</p> <p>These new developments will significantly enhance the monitoring of impacts of agriculture on our environment and aid the Department achieve our targets under the Climate Action Plan. Further details are available at: <a href="https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/pressreleases/2019/november/title,135781,en.html">https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/pressreleases/2019/november/title,135781,en.html</a></p>

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

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** [Ag-Climatise - A Draft National Climate & Air Roadmap](#) for the Agriculture Sector to 2030 sets out the unique climate and air challenges facing Irish agriculture, the opportunities that may arise from meeting our targets and ambitions, and how DAFM are proposing to address the issues through this draft roadmap.

The draft roadmap comprises three elements:

- Implementing Changes Now- Examples of proposed actions include: adoption of low emission slurry spreading equipment and changes in fertiliser type;
- Acting in Partnership: To be successful, all stakeholders, from farm to fork, will have to contribute in a spirit of partnership, bearing in mind a just transition for all sectors our industry; and
- Preparing for the Future: Using best available science to inform policy development and to help stakeholders make strategic choices for the future.

This draft roadmap was launched for [public consultation](#) on 17 November 2019 (see Action 110b for further detail).

## Waste and the Circular Economy

**Action 140** Maintain Government leadership in taking responsibility for own resource consumption, particularly single use plastics, energy, waste and water

**Q3 2019 Delayed measure: Government Departments to publish Resource Efficiency Action Plan**

**Responsible body:** DCCA

**Status:** Delayed

**Update:** 16 Government Departments have prepared a Resource Efficiency Action Plan, with 12 now published and available at <https://www.dcca.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/sustainable-development/green-government/resource-efficiency-action-plans/Pages/Resource-Efficiency-Action-Plans.aspx>. DCCA continues to monitor the publication of remaining plans.



## Public Sector Leading By Example

<b>Action 148</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>Q3 2019 Delayed measure: OGP to issue circular</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> OGP	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Circular was issued on 18 October 2019 - <a href="https://ogp.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/DPER-Circular-20-2019.pdf">https://ogp.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/DPER-Circular-20-2019.pdf</a>	

## Ireland's International Action on Climate Breakdown

<b>Action 154</b>	Seek to at least double the percentage of ODA spending on climate finance by 2030, and report on our expenditure each year
<b>Q3 2019 Delayed measure: Annual reports produced on ODA expenditure on climate</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DFAT	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> The 2018 International Climate Finance Report is complete and published on the Climate and Development Learning Platform website, see: <a href="https://www.climatelearningplatform.org/irelands-climate-finance-report-2018">https://www.climatelearningplatform.org/irelands-climate-finance-report-2018</a> .	
It reports a total expenditure of €80 million, and early achievement of the Programme for Government commitment of €175m by 2020. International Climate Finance data for 2019 will not be available until at least September 2020. Minister Bruton announced at COP25 Ireland's increased commitment to Green Climate Fund (double that of 2018), and increased funding for Least Developed Countries Fund (triple that of 2018).	

## 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 Delayed measure: Prepare the first annual report on the activities of the NDCA, in consultation with the Advisory Group</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Following a written consultation process with the NDCA Advisory Group during Q4 2019 on a draft report prepared by DCCA , the report has been finalised and submitted to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment.	

<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 Delayed measure: Examine ways existing programmes available from SEAI and accelerated capital allowances could be used to support a Just Transition</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> <a href="#">SEAI</a>'s programmes and supports, including the <a href="#">Warmer Homes Scheme</a>, <a href="#">Better Energy Communities</a> programme and <a href="#">Community Energy Network</a>, will continue to evolve to address the needs of communities, businesses, individual householders, and the vulnerable, in line with the Government's policy objectives. A full review of the Warmer Homes Scheme which has, to date, upgraded over 140,000 homes of those in, or at risk of, fuel poverty has commenced and will be completed in 2020. This will seek to identify opportunities to further target available funding in 2020 of almost €53 million, including allocated carbon tax revenues in 2020 of €13 million.</p> <p>SEAI is taking several actions to contribute to the development of the necessary skills and making the most of supply chain opportunities in the context of the transition to clean energy and a low carbon economy. This includes support for the development of a National Training Specification on Near Zero Energy Buildings, which will be rolled out from 2020 at a national level through Solas and the Department of Education. In 2020, SEAI will review its 2014 Supply Chain Opportunity report, highlighting opportunities for Irish businesses to capture growth in sectors facilitating the transition.</p> <p>On an ongoing basis, SEAI will work to promote these supply chain opportunities and will continue to support the development of Government policy in the areas of energy statistics and modelling, RD&amp;D, sustainable business and finance model development including One-Stop-Shops, aggregation models, skill needs identification and sustainable energy supply chain development.</p>	

## Adaptation

<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 Delayed measure: Prepare business case for implementation</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> A business case was developed in consultation with the EPA (Agency will host Climate Ireland as per the business case) and finalised following discussion at the Climate Ireland steering committee meeting of 20 November.	

<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 Delayed measure: Secure Government Approval for resources and proposal</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> A draft Memo for information was approved by Minister for consideration by Government.	

## Q4 2019 Actions

### Q4 Summary

Complete	Delayed	Total
113	44	157

### Where We Stand

<b>Action 1</b>	Evaluate in detail the changes required to adopt a more ambitious commitment of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as part of finalising Ireland's long-term climate strategy by the end of 2019 as per the advice of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the recommendation of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action
<b>Q4 2019 measure:</b> As per action	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Detailed work is underway, including a public consultation, to develop an approach to 2050 to deliver a net zero GHG target. Ireland agreed with the European Commission that it would submit its Long Term Strategy early in Q1 2020. This is to allow sufficient time for finalising an ambitious 2050 target that is to be incorporated into the Climate Action Bill being brought forward by Government.	

### Governance of the Challenge

<b>Action 3</b>	Update Cabinet procedures to ensure that all Government Memoranda are considered against their carbon impact and mitigation potential
<b>Q4 2019 measure:</b> As per action	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DTaoiseach	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Analysis undertaken in relation to this Action demonstrated the need to embark on a more ambitious endeavour to embed climate considerations into policy making. It was clear that delivering this Action as originally envisaged would not bring the meaningful impact required and therefore not reflect the spirit and ethos of the Climate Action Plan. Work is underway to develop a more comprehensive approach to climate consideration in public policy which will include identification of appropriate mechanisms and supports in relation to both implementation and monitoring.	

<b>Action 6</b>	<b>Require budgetary rules to show the Exchequer cost of the purchase of emissions allowances in the annual estimates process against the Vote of the Department who has responsibility for that sector, where there is a significant cost to the Exchequer</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Proposed arrangements to be set out as part of budgetary documentation</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DPER	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Subheads have been included in DCCAE's accounts for 2020 to account for the cost of compliance with greenhouse gas and renewable energy targets. C.8 Renewable Energy - Statistical Transfers & F.4 Carbon Fund. There were no other significant costs to the Exchequer.	

## Carbon Pricing and Cross Cutting Policies

<b>Action 12</b>	<b>We will consider how a new requirement could be placed on pension providers to disclose what portion of any fund is made up of fossil fuel assets, and to provide an option to pension-holders to opt for a fund which does not include fossil fuel</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: As per action</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DEASP	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> The delivery of Action 12 was led by the DEASP in conjunction with the Department of Finance and the Pensions Authority. A report for the consideration of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection was completed by Q4 2019.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Working Group was established, with representatives from the Department of Finance, the Pensions Authority and the Pension Policy Unit of DEASP. The group met in October and November and drafted and completed a report in December 2019.</li> <li>• A report prepared by Pensions Policy Unit DEASP has been submitted for the consideration of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection.</li> </ul>	

## Electricity

### Regulatory Streamlining of Renewables and Grid Development

<b>Action 17</b>	<b>Ensure that ESB Networks and EirGrid plan network and deliver on connecting renewable energy sources to meet the 2030 70% RES-E target</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Proposals on network development, operational and service delivery plans for 2021 - 2025 as part of Price Control 5 (PR5)</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> ESBN EirGrid (joint lead)	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> The EirGrid TSO Price Control (PR5) submission covering the period 1 January 2021 through 31 December 2025 was submitted to CRU on 29 November. This includes business cases for a number of initiatives required to deliver out on the Climate Action Plan 2019.	

<b>Action 18</b>	<b>Facilitate additional hybrid connections (e.g. solar/wind/batteries) operating in the electricity market to increase RES-E penetration</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Review of hybrid connection requirements and requirements of the market</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> CRU	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Distribution System Operator (DSO)/ Transmission System Operator (TSO) report submitted to Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) in December 2019 reviewing how hybrids can be facilitated on the market. Required changes to implement more hybrid connections in the market will be identified and progressed through Action 18b and 18c under the Climate Action Plan.	

<b>Action 19</b>	<b>Ensure that the next phase of renewable connection policy is fit for purpose to deliver on renewable energy targets and community projects, and report annually on the timeliness of grid connection</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop Enduring Connection Policy 2 Policy</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> CRU	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> ECP-2 consultation was published on 29 November 2019. It is available at: <a href="https://www.cru.ie/document_group/electricity-connection-policy-2/">https://www.cru.ie/document_group/electricity-connection-policy-2/</a>	

<b>Action 21</b>	<b>Ensure that updated planning guidelines for onshore wind are published in 2019</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Finalise Wind Energy Guidelines</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> DHPLG is currently undertaking a focused review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines in line with the “preferred draft approach” which was announced in June 2017 by the then Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, in conjunction with the then Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.</p> <p>As part of the review, the Guidelines are subject to a strategic environmental assessment further to the requirements of European Union Directive 2001/24/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, otherwise known as the SEA Directive.</p> <p>As part of the SEA process, a ten week public consultation on the draft revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines began on 12 December 2019. Full details of the consultation are available on DHPLG's website at: <a href="https://www.housing.gov.ie/guidelines/wind-energy/public-consultation-revised-wind-energy-development-guidelines">https://www.housing.gov.ie/guidelines/wind-energy/public-consultation-revised-wind-energy-development-guidelines</a></p> <p>Finalised Guidelines will be prepared following detailed analysis and consideration of the submissions received during the consultation phase, and the conclusion of the SEA process. When finalised, the revised Guidelines will be issued under section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Planning authorities and, where applicable, An Bord Pleanála, must have regard to guidelines issued under section 28 in the performance of their functions generally under the Planning Acts. In the meantime, the current 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines remain in force.</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) 2033</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Publish a System Needs Assessment report to identify areas of the electricity transmission network in Ireland which will require development to cater for the envelope of scenarios in Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2019</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> EirGrid	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> The System Needs Assessment report was published on 23 December 2019 and is available on the EirGrid website: <a href="http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/EirGrid-TES-2019-System-Needs-Assessment-Report_Final.pdf">http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/EirGrid-TES-2019-System-Needs-Assessment-Report_Final.pdf</a></p>	

## Off-shore 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>Q4 2019 measure: Development of a transitional protocol to enable focus on applications within scope of emerging policy including: • Near term policy objectives • Spatial certainty • An agreed structure for the sequencing and delivery of non-foreshore consents, approvals and state supports • Criteria for the assessment of site investigation applicants • Standard terms and conditions to ensure consistency with future ORE development • Dealing with historic ORE applications</b>
	<b>Responsible body: DCCAE</b>
	<b>Status: Delayed</b>
	<b>Update:</b> These issues are being dealt with as part of the ongoing discussions and drafting of the <a href="#">Marine Planning and Development Bill</a> (MPDB) with DHPLG. The heads of the MPDB Bill were agreed by Government in December and the Bill will be published for consultation in the next few weeks. The Protocol is expected to be finalised by end of January 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>Q4 2019 measure: Finalise drafting of a common planning procedure for all DCCAE policy area development within the scope of Marine Planning and Development Bill</b>
	<b>Responsible body: DCCAE</b>
	<b>Status: Complete</b>
	<b>Update:</b> Steering group in DCCAE set up to ensure that the <a href="#">Marine Planning and Development Bill</a> (MPDB) is co-ordinated across the Department. Heads in Bill reflect decisions made to date and have been signed off by Government in December 2019. Bill sets out a framework that will act as a template for all sectors.

<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>Q4 2019 measure: CRU policy decision on grid connection offers to be issued for offshore wind farms following the above assessment in line with Enduring Connection Policy 2 (subject to consenting)</b>
	<b>Responsible body: CRU</b>
	<b>Status: Delayed</b>
	<b>Update:</b> This Action is delayed until Q1 2020, pending issue of transition protocol for legacy projects.



<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>Q4 2019 measure: Provision of resourcing and interdepartmental structures to effectively progress the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill</b>
	<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG
	<b>Status:</b> Complete
	<b>Update:</b> DHPLG has agreed new co-ordination structures with DCCAE in relation to this legislation. There is also ongoing discussion and policy co-ordination through the Marine Legislation Steering Group, chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach.

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Publication of the Maritime Planning and Development Management Bill providing modern ORE State and development consent regimes for the maritime area</b>
	<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG
	<b>Status:</b> Delayed
	<b>Update:</b> Government approved the finalised <a href="#">General Scheme</a> on 17 December 2019. It is intended to initiate a public and stakeholder engagement process on the Scheme in early January. The complexity of policy issues arising and the necessity to undergo pre-legislative scrutiny and await the report of the Joint Committee, means that Q1 2020 is now a more appropriate timeframe for the submission of the legal text to Government for its consideration.

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Commission report to consider additional requirements to support floating wind sector 2020-2030</b>
	<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI
	<b>Status:</b> Delayed
	<b>Update:</b> Following the commissioning phase of this work, DCCAE and SEAI have decided to undertake a full review of the <a href="#">Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan</a> (OREDPP) in 2020, including the issue of additional supports for the floating wind sector to 2030.

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Exploration of new funding model (Pre-Commercial Fund) to leverage H2020 funding to roll out the scheme in Ireland</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> SEAI has withdrawn from H2020 JA3 bid with EU partners which was submitted by Scotland in Q3. The new funding model was explored and not a viable option currently. SEAI will explore other funding options including EU funding supports that may be suitable for the sector as part of the OREDP review in 2020.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Re-open Prototype Development Fund following review. Consider targeted/competition approach for access to test sites</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Review of Prototype Development Fund has been completed. Ocean technologies including wave, tidal and floating wind have access to expanded SEAI research, development and demonstration funding programme. Access to test sites has to be controlled by SEAI to ensure projects can get access to the site for times appropriate to their stage of development.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Review success of targeted approach of research support for lower Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Programme Grant Agreements have issued and a review is underway of offshore energy stakeholders.	

<b>Action 27</b>	<b>Support innovation enterprise hubs and the supply chain for offshore renewable energy</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Progress work of Irish Marine Industry Network (IMIN) and organise events targeted at ORE sector</b>	
<b>Responsible body: EI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> A new Steering Group was established for the Irish Marine Industry Network (IMIN). The Group, which includes a number of key players from the Offshore Wind Industry, aims to provide IMIN with a stronger industry focus. IMIN has funding from the <a href="#">Marine Institute</a> (MI) to develop a website, directory, social media presence, marketing material and events schedule in Q4. These elements will strengthen IMIN's ability to engage Marine industry players, both in Ireland and overseas.</p> <p><a href="#">Enterprise Ireland</a> has been involved in several events targeted at the ORE sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowestoft/ Great Yarmouth Market Study Visit. Enterprise Ireland organised a market study visit to the key UK Offshore Wind Industry centres of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth on 16 and 17 September. Seventeen Enterprise Ireland client companies attended the event and met with key stakeholders in both ports to get a better understanding of how the supply chain into the UK industry operates and how the Irish Companies' capabilities and technologies could fit with the major opportunity that currently exists in the UK. Engagement with the UK industry will facilitate building capability among the Irish companies, who will be able to bring this capability to bear on the projects in the Irish Sea.</li> <li>• Enterprise Ireland, working with <a href="#">SmartBay</a> and the Marine Institute ran an event in Galway Docks on the evening of 12th November. The event supported by the Marine Institute included a tour of the Research Vessel Celtic Explorer, a viewing of the vessel's associated equipment (ROV's, etc.), followed by a networking event, with a view to encouraging greater understanding of capabilities, products and services between members and encouraging subsequent collaborations. Details of the event were circulated to IMIN members in early October and the full event quota of 50 attendees was reached within a week.</li> <li>• EI continues to engage with the UK Offshore Wind Industry, speaking at Offshore Wind Industry events in Newcastle and London in November 2019. These presentations emphasise the capability of Irish SMEs in the Industry along with the emerging opportunity in Ireland. The aim is to raise awareness of Irish capability to engage with the UK Developers and Tier 1 contractors – these will be the same Developers and Tier 1 contractors who will be coming to Ireland to develop projects, in the Irish Sea, Celtic Sea and West Coast.</li> <li>• Enterprise Ireland is in the planning stages of a second UK Offshore Wind Industry Forum in Dublin in April 2020. The first of these events was held in Enterprise Ireland (Dublin) in March 2019 and attracted 120 attendees including many key players in the UK Offshore Wind Industry. It is anticipated that a larger number will attend the 2020 event, which will again facilitate exchange between key UK players and the emerging Irish Supply Chain.</li> </ul> <p>IMIN is currently being supported by a number of Agencies (primarily Enterprise Ireland and the Marine Institute) and this support will continue. Additional supports are being explored via a number of alternative funding mechanisms.</p>	

## 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>Q4 2019 measure: Establish the Community Framework to accompany the RESS and engage with the Standing Committee on Climate Action on this. Put measures in place to ensure that community benefit fund is equitable and there is strong citizen participation in renewable projects</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> <a href="#">Community Enabling Framework under RESS</a> includes a community pot in RESS 1 auction, Community Benefit Fund, Community supports & Renewable Electricity Participation Scheme. This Framework is part of the RESS which is subject to state aid approval by the European Commission. Detailed RESS auction design, including community elements was approved by Government on 26 November.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Begin Qualification Process for RESS 1 Auction</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> RESS Terms and Conditions published for consultation on 13 December: <a href="https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-the-Draft-RESS-Terms-and-Conditions.aspx">https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-the-Draft-RESS-Terms-and-Conditions.aspx</a> . EirGrid auction qualification briefing held on 18 December and auction timetable published: <a href="https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/topics/Renewable-Energy/electricity/renewable-electricity-supports/ress/Pages/Stakeholder-Briefing-November-2019.aspx">https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/topics/Renewable-Energy/electricity/renewable-electricity-supports/ress/Pages/Stakeholder-Briefing-November-2019.aspx</a>	

<b>Action 29</b>	<b>Ensure that 15% of electricity demand is met by renewable sources contracted under Corporate PPAs</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Complete consultancy report on Renewable Electricity Corporate PPAs including set of policy recommendations</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> High level report with recommended policy options delivered in December 2019. Further detailed recommendations expected in Q1/Q2 2020. DCCAE and the CPPA group will examine recommendations, as per action 29d.	

## 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>Q4 2019 measure: Determination of appropriate grid connection policy to facilitate renewable self-consumers and access for microgeneration</b>	
<b>Responsible body: CRU</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Key actions are being progressed by CRU including determining an appropriate grid connection policy for renewable self consumers.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Assess potential implications for distribution network of defined higher penetrations of distributed generators</b>	
<b>Responsible body: ESNB</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> ESNB technical assessment completed in December 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>Q4 2019 measure: Conclude review of the current exemptions relating to solar panels as provided for in the Planning and Development Regulations, in consultation with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment and implement amendments arising from review</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> A proposal for draft amendments to the current exemptions is substantially completed. DHPLG have been awaiting further information from DCCAE, and this was received in the days prior to Christmas. This is currently being reviewed and the proposal for draft amendments is expected to be finalised by DHPLG, in conjunction with DCCAE, imminently.</p> <p>Once finalised, DHPLG will engage the legislative process, with a view to completion by end of Q1 2020, subject to Oireachtas approval and environmental reporting considerations.</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Decision following review of pilot scheme</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Minister approved a submission in October following the pilot scheme review and various changes to the scheme are being implemented</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Allocation of appropriate budget</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Minister approved a submission in October following the pilot scheme review and various changes to the scheme are being implemented. Overall, SEAI Budget 2020 allocation was communicated to the Authority in late November, including a specific budget for Solar PV.</p>	

## Enterprise

<b>Action 34</b>	<b>Engage with the cement and food and drink industry sectors to identify measures to support the achievement of identified potential abatement in these sectors</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Convene working groups on cement and food and drink sector decarbonisation</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DBEI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> DBEI has convened working groups with regard the two sectors identified within the Climate Action Plan and is liaising with key stakeholders in advance of direct engagement with firms in the sectors.</p> <p>Regarding the Cement Sector - DBEI engaged with representatives of the cement sector and begun discussions on the opportunities and challenges of conversion to alternative fuel sources, such as waste materials, in their production processes. The Cement manufacturers have begun undertaking measures to use alternative fuel sources in the future and has identified some barriers in this regard.</p> <p>Regarding the food and drink sector - following engagement with the enterprise development agencies, as well as SEAI, the EPA, DCCAIE, DAFM and Bord Bia's Origin Green programme and Ibec representatives, the Department has identified sub-sectors and specific companies with significant energy usage and will commence direct engagement with these sectors. DBEI is in the process of acquiring data to understand the current heating processes of these companies in the food and drink industry with a view to identifying potential barriers to prioritise the conversion to lower carbon heating processes, and identify other means of decarbonisation, in the sector.</p> <p>From the underway engagement with stakeholders and enterprises, it is expected that DBEI can progress to Action 34b and identify key enabling factors to maximising the decarbonisation opportunities in both sectors as well as the development of future actions to address any identified barriers to implementation.</p>	

<b>Action 35</b>	<b>Drive innovation and efficiency in companies by promoting wider take-up of EXEED delivering efficiencies in at least 80 companies</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Expand EXEED programme availability to at least 80 companies through SEAI</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> <a href="#">EXEED</a> was supporting more than 80 beneficiaries to improve energy efficiency outcomes by end 2019.</p>	

<b>Action 36</b>	<b>Prioritise decarbonisation as part of enterprise agency strategies and drive the decarbonisation agenda across their respective client bases</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Review current environmental offering by EI and IDA with a view to promoting environmental schemes to a larger cohort of client companies</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DBEI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> DBEI has progressed this action with the two enterprise agencies and have ensured that the transition to a low carbon economy is central to their future strategies.</p> <p>As part of the development of its new strategy 2020-2024, <a href="#">IDA Ireland</a> has included, as a central pillar, an objective to address Climate Action. IDA Ireland is considering how to enhance the impact of their existing environmental programmes, as well as how other supports (such as training or R&amp;D) might be positioned to deliver greater capacity for decarbonisation in their client base.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland has prioritised Climate Change in its Corporate Plan 2020. This sets out high level actions to support clients to address the climate challenge and realise opportunities from the low carbon transition, and for Enterprise Ireland to become a leader itself in this area. As part of its review of its current environmental offering, Enterprise Ireland is engaging with SEAI and EPA, to share information on mandates, offers, gaps in supports and to commence a process of collaborative engagement on supporting enterprise. Enterprise Ireland is also engaging with IDA Ireland and SFI in the context of a wider discussion on greater enterprise agency collaboration.</p> <p>During 2020, Enterprise Ireland will promote its existing environmental schemes to a larger cohort of client companies, with a particular focus on building capability through its Green training programmes. Enterprise Ireland will be reviewing the appropriateness of the approach to offering supports on an on-going basis.</p> <p>Further, the DBEI Evaluations Unit is currently undertaking an overarching review of capital expenditure through the agencies, which will include an assessment of expenditure under a number of themes including "environmental". It is expected that this capital review will be completed by the end of Q1 2020.</p>	



**Action 36** Prioritise decarbonisation as part of enterprise agency strategies and drive the decarbonisation agenda across their respective client bases

**Q4 2019 measure:** Seek to grow the number of client companies engaging in supports for Environmental Product Declaration initiatives

**Responsible body:** EI

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) are a standardised way of providing data about the environmental impacts of a product through the product life cycle. In Europe, they must conform to the European Standard, EN 15804, which ensures that EPD for construction products use a common methodology, report a common set of environmental indicators and have a common reporting format. Seven Enterprise Ireland clients have developed the capability to provide Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for their products.

In addition, Enterprise Ireland recently supported a large construction company in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) training and the generation of an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) through the [Business Process Improvement “GreenPlus”](#) grant. The priority for Enterprise Ireland as it moves into 2020 is to raise awareness of its green supports offering, and in particular those available to Enterprise Ireland’s construction sector client companies to improve their environmental performance and capabilities in the area of Life Cycle Assessments and Environmental Product Declarations.

Earlier this year, Enterprise Ireland met with the [Irish Green Building Council](#) (IGBC) and Eco-review (green service provider) to discuss IGBC’s campaign to get major developers and architecture firms to pledge to demand EPD from manufacturers.

<b>Action 36</b>	<b>Prioritise decarbonisation as part of enterprise agency strategies and drive the decarbonisation agenda across their respective client bases</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Identify opportunities to engage with specific sectors to develop tailored supports for companies in those sectors</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DBEI	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> DBEI and its agencies are reviewing opportunities to engage with specific industry sectors in order to consider potential sector specific interventions required to deliver decarbonisation. These will include existing sectoral groups, networks or clusters (as required under Action 40). It is proposed that this action would be undertaken on an on-going basis by the Enterprise agencies, the SEAI and the Department with a view to identifying sectors that need targeted supports.</p> <p>For example, Enterprise Ireland are currently exploring the addition of questions in their Annual Business Review (ABR) to assess the engagement of their client base on the climate action/sustainability agenda. This ABR survey will be conducted in the first half of 2020, yielding results thereafter, and could provide further insights which would enable Enterprise Ireland to target client companies in particular sectors requiring support. Enterprise Ireland has developed a Smart Energy/Smart Grid cluster and will undertake further targeted initiatives in 2020 (e.g. client-buyer events, direct supports, cluster development) to strengthen existing client capability and develop market entry strategies in the cleantech, marine and off-shore sectors. Separately, research has been undertaken to initially scope the potential for the development of a Knowledge Development and Research facility for Timber in 2020.</p> <p>However, DBEI does not have the requisite technical expertise in sector specific carbon abatement opportunities or mechanics, and will need significant expertise and support from SEAI to "develop tailored supports" for companies in the sectors identified.</p>	

<b>Action 36</b>	<b>Prioritise decarbonisation as part of enterprise agency strategies and drive the decarbonisation agenda across their respective client bases</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Development of a new strategy for IDA Ireland to integrate decarbonisation objectives</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> IDA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> IDA Ireland is in the process of finalising a new strategy, a strategy that will set out the agency's goals and areas of priority for the period 2020-2024.</p> <p>The new strategy will have a significant focus on environmental sustainability and will include objectives on climate action and decarbonisation. The new strategy is due to be published in Q1 2020.</p>	

<b>Action 37</b>	<b>Develop networks in key industry sectors and a roadmap of actions to support decarbonisation of large industry</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Undertake preparatory work on menu of actions to support decarbonisation in large industry</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Large Industry member stakeholder engagement workshops were held on 27 &amp; 28 August. Barriers and a menu of potential actions have been produced from the workshop and sent to DCCAE. Large Insudtry Energy Network (LIEN) members are companies with annual energy bills of €1m or over, they operate in many sectors including pharma-chem, food &amp; drink, services including construction healthcare electronics and mining.</p>	

<b>Action 38</b>	<b>Promote enhanced networking approaches within SEAI Large Industry Energy Network and through the SME Programme</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Identify key success factors of existing Energy Networks (LIEN, Public Sector, SECs) and identify opportunities to apply across SME sector via EI networks, agricultural networks and Co-ops, LEOs, etc.</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> As programmes are being developed or enhanced, SEAI takes account of key success factors of existing SEAI programmes. There are some key tools/services/models in existing SEAI networks which the other programmes including the SME programme has replicated. The SME programme is extensively leveraging existing SME networks for communication and access to relevant sectors.</p> <p>SEAI have also identified opportunities to apply these across the SME sector – through a range of specific networks – which will inform development of future initiatives. In the agricultural sector these networks include Teagasc, the IFA and Co-operatives. Key success factors for existing energy networks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice sharing</li> <li>• Advice mentoring</li> <li>• Recognition of achievement through awards</li> <li>• Case studies and online content</li> </ul>	

<b>Action 38</b>	<b>Promote enhanced networking approaches within SEAI Large Industry Energy Network and through the SME Programme</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Actively develop links between large business (including public sector) and communities to assist in technical capacity building to deliver collaborative community projects and formalise business network and community partnerships by year end to then develop a replicable model</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> SEAI now have developed formal relationships with many business networks including IBEC, SFA, ISME, Chambers Ireland, Retail Excellence, Restaurants Association etc. Additionally SEAI are working with the enterprise agencies and DBEI to collaborate and provide a consistent support to business for decarbonisation. SEAI will leverage these networks via all their programmes including Communities (SEC/BEC) to develop deeper links between business and community initiatives. SEAI continue to develop and enhance opportunities for businesses to lead and support communities in delivering community projects. This will be developed further in 2020 to enhance the value of these networks.</p>	

<b>Action 38</b>	<b>Promote enhanced networking approaches within SEAI Large Industry Energy Network and through the SME Programme</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Identify targeted community clusters leveraging key organisational relationships in coastal communities, Gaeltacht communities Co-Ops, Tidy Towns and educational establishments</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> In 2019, SEAI identified key organisations and clusters that we need to build organisational relationships with, the main focus is on Coastal communities as a subset of the national <a href="#">Sustainable Energy Communities Network</a>. This is key to the development of offshore renewables and we have identified that Marine Institute (MI), Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) and Udaras Na Gaeltacht (UnG) as three organisations with links to specific groups that can be leveraged in the coastal regions.</p> <p>SEAI have an MOU/SLA with MI and CIL in place and are working on developing one with UnG. We have also worked with the CARO's and are working on a shared Community Energy Officer Model with Local Authorities.</p>	

<b>Action 39</b>	<b>Launch targeted call under Climate Action Fund</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Launch of call</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> A call for expressions of interest for the next round of funding under the Climate Action Fund was launched on 31 December 2019. This call has a wide scope encompassing projects from across a range of sectors. An information session for potential applicants will be held in early February with the deadline for submitting potential projects at the end of February. See <a href="https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/topics/climate-action-fund/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/topics/climate-action-fund/Pages/default.aspx</a>	

<b>Action 42</b>	<b>Work with all business representative groups, including IBEC, Business in the Community, ISME, SFA, Chambers Ireland, and others to create partnerships of companies that sign up to a low carbon trajectory</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop proposals for low carbon partnerships for specific industry sectors, as well as the public sector</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> This action will be completed in Q1 2020.	

<b>Action 42</b>	<b>Work with all business representative groups, including IBEC, Business in the Community, ISME, SFA, Chambers Ireland, and others to create partnerships of companies that sign up to a low carbon trajectory</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop proposals for extension of B2B mentor programmes within supply chains and industry peers for those companies signing up to a low carbon trajectory (implementation subject to allocation of funding)</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> This action will be completed in Q1 2020.	

## 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>Q4 2019 measure: Research potential to identify and record work undertaken outside of all Government schemes to address gaps in data and measure impact of works in energy targets</b>
	<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>
	<b>Status: Delayed</b>
	<b>Update: This will be prioritised by the Retrofit Taskforce in Q1 2020.</b>

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Measure the impact of these schemes or establish approaches to measure the impact in the future</b>
	<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>
	<b>Status: Delayed</b>
	<b>Update: This will be prioritised by the Retrofit Taskforce in Q1 2020.</b>

<b>Action 44</b>	<b>Increase the number of homes and businesses with BERs and DEC's</b>
	<b>Q4 2019 measure: Explore the potential for free/highly subsidised BER and Advisory Reports for buildings to incentivise uptake</b>
	<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>
	<b>Status: Complete</b>
	<b>Update: The Department and SEAI have identified opportunities for increased numbers of subsidised BERs being completed as part of SEAI retrofit schemes in 2020. This will be announced in Q1 2020.</b>

<b>Action 44</b>	<b>Increase the number of homes and businesses with BERs and DECs</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop plans to progressively expand the scope of the BER parameters</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> An update to the web-based tool for producing Building Energy Ratings (DEAP 4.2.0) was rolled-out on 1 November. The parameters encompassed within the software has been expanded to include additional detail on ventilation, water heating and lighting. <a href="https://www.seai.ie/home-energy/building-energy-rating-ber/support-for-ber-assessors/domestic-ber-resources/deap4-software/">https://www.seai.ie/home-energy/building-energy-rating-ber/support-for-ber-assessors/domestic-ber-resources/deap4-software/</a></p>	

<b>Action 44</b>	<b>Increase the number of homes and businesses with BERs and DECs</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Consider the potential to link various Government support/ incentive schemes to BER</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> The Department and SEAI have identified opportunities to expand linkages between BERs and Government retrofit. Support will be incorporated in schemes as appropriate in 2020. The opportunities will be announced as changes to the schemes and new schemes (e.g. Midlands) are to be announced in early 2020.</p>	

<b>Action 44</b>	<b>Increase the number of homes and businesses with BERs and DECs</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Review the enforcement mechanisms for BERs for rented sector, advertising and new dwellings</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> DHPLG have conducted this review with the National Building Control Office (NBCO) and the SEAI. A range of actions have been identified to support enforcement which will be progressed throughout 2020. For DHPLG these include engagement with Local Authorities, SEAI, the Law Society, and the PRTB. For the NBCO these include ongoing campaigns by building control in local authorities - a pilot has already run successfully in Cork. SEAI will undertake a review of how BER information can be shared with local authorities and will develop information for consumers so citizens are aware that dwellings for sale or rent are required to have a BER certificate and the multiple benefits of BER certificates.</p>	

<b>Action 45</b>	<b>Maximise the potential for BER and DEC data to help households and businesses decarbonise their buildings</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop a communication plan to inform the public on the link between building energy ratings and carbon emissions</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> This action will be completed in Q1 2020.	

<b>Action 45</b>	<b>Maximise the potential for BER and DEC data to help households and businesses decarbonise their buildings</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Review the BER certificate and introduce improvements to provide more guidance to home owners</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> The development of the BER Advisory Report is substantially complete. This includes the final design and the key aspects of IT Development.</p> <p>The BER Advisory Report will be reviewed in Q1 2020 to reflect recent DEAP 4 changes and new building regulations, and to ensure indicative energy projects costs and savings are aligned with SEAI grant schemes.</p> <p>It is anticipated that an advisory report will be launched Q1/Q2 2020 to the market subject to IT technical capacity and SEAI staffing capacity whilst managing the day to day BER programme priorities.</p>	

<b>Action 45</b>	<b>Maximise the potential for BER and DEC data to help households and businesses decarbonise their buildings</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Benchmark the energy performance of public buildings by using data from the Monitoring and Reporting system</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> The more extensive development of the system now envisaged requires the project to be phased and tendered. The new schedule also has regard to SEAI resource constraints. SEAI have a developed a plan for phased roll-out in 2020 and 2021.</p>	



## 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>Q4 2019 measure: Develop a centre of excellence for High Performing Buildings in WWETB (potentially part of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe initiative). Accredited training programmes developed in this centre to be delivered nationally through the ETB network.</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> A Steering Group is working on the development of the centre. Agreement has been reached that the Centre will be established, based in Enniscorthy. It will initially be a regional centre with the aim of it transitioning to a national centre at a later point. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is expected to be signed by Wexford County Council in Q2. A report with recommendations in relation to the future development and funding of the centre will be finalised in Q1 2020. The training programmes are underway and will be rolled out more widely at other ETB centres in 2020.	

<b>Action 50</b>	<b>Skill-up current contractors/other industry players in deep retrofit, NZEB and new technology installations</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Review process to encourage recruitment and retention strategies for BER Assessors</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</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 is in development. Assessor numbers are growing again as per the end of 2019. SEAI will continue to focus on retention in 2020.	

<b>Action 50</b>	<b>Skill-up current contractors/other industry players in deep retrofit, NZEB and new technology installations</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Deliver NZEB training programme for existing construction workers by Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board</b>	
<b>Responsible body: WWETB</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The <a href="#">National Skills Specifications</a> developed by Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board are now broadly available to convert into training programmes by Education and Training Boards. The specifications cover areas such as airtightness and fabric and ventilation for new builds and retrofitting of existing buildings.</p> <p>A dedicated NZEB Training centre is now established and is currently providing 10 NZEB training programmes in areas such as plumbing, electrical, bricklaying, carpentry and plastering. As of the end of October 2019, 322 people have received NZEB training.</p>	

<b>Action 51</b>	<b>Develop the supply chain for renewables and retrofitting through engagement with ETBs and SOLAS</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Assess the resources – both human and otherwise – that will be required to meet the new level of retrofit activity out to 2030</b>	
<b>Responsible body: SEAI</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> DBEI has indicated that the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs will, during 2020, undertake research to assess the additional skills demands generated by the Climate Action Plan.</p>	

## Funding and Finance Options

<b>Action 52</b>	<b>Develop and optimise Government funding and grant schemes to drive demand for energy efficiency retrofits that deliver value for money</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop proposals to increase participation by businesses in the EXEED initiative by 50%</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCAE</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> SEAI have engaged with businesses to develop a strong project pipeline of <a href="#">EXEED</a> participants and are confident that beneficiaries can be expanded by 50% by end 2020. Participation in the Programme will continue to be promoted to relevant potential beneficiaries, the programme is also being highlighted to public sector bodies to further promote uptake.</p>	

<b>Action 52</b>	<b>Develop and optimise Government funding and grant schemes to drive demand for energy efficiency retrofits that deliver value for money</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop proposals to phase out grants for “shallow” energy efficiency measures by 2022</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> The Department and SEAI have identified options to increase the proportion of funding spent on deeper measures while shallow measures are phased out. It is important to note that shallow measures will continue to be available until 2022.	

<b>Action 52</b>	<b>Develop and optimise Government funding and grant schemes to drive demand for energy efficiency retrofits that deliver value for money</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop a series of campaigns to target homes and businesses with the highest carbon abatement potential and highlight technologies such as heat pumps</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> A pilot mailshot to homes that are heat pump ready has been undertaken utilising BER data to target homes. Learnings being consolidated and will inform future pilots and strategies.	

<b>Action 52</b>	<b>Develop and optimise Government funding and grant schemes to drive demand for energy efficiency retrofits that deliver value for money</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Review the energy efficiency criteria required in order to qualify for heat pump supports (in particular the minimum required Heat Loss Indicator level)</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> HLI will remain in place for 2019 and 2020 unless new updated evidence becomes available. At a recent consultation event another request for data was made to influence any potential change. However, to date no new evidence is forthcoming. Review of HLI will be ongoing. For more details on the current criteria, see: <a href="https://www.seai.ie/publications/Technical_Advisor_Role.pdf">https://www.seai.ie/publications/Technical_Advisor_Role.pdf</a>	

## Regulation and Fiscal Measures

<b>Action 55</b>	<b>All buildings undergoing a major renovation (&gt;25% of building envelope) must bring the rest of the building up to minimum BER of B25 or cost optimal equivalent</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Implement campaign to inform homeowners/ builders/ contractors on the new Major Renovation building regulations</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> In advance of the publication of these regulations there was extensive engagement with industry stakeholders including representative bodies for construction professionals. A press conference was held in September followed by a press release which generated significant national coverage in print and on radio. Press release is at this link.  <a href="https://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/building-standards/energy-performance-buildings/nearly-zero-energy-buildings-nzeb-future">https://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/building-standards/energy-performance-buildings/nearly-zero-energy-buildings-nzeb-future</a></p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Ensure the supply chain for the installation of renewable heating systems is in place</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> The development of the supply chain for renewable heating systems will be carried out in parallel with the development of the new retrofit model. It is therefore expected this will be completed in line with the timeline for the retrofit plan which is due to be finalised and published in Q3 2020.</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: As per action</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> The NZEB requirements which were introduced in regulation in 2019 make it more attractive for builders and homeowners to further incorporate renewable technologies and move away from traditional fossil fuels. This strategy is working based on CSO statistics– the installation of oil boilers has dropped from 36% to 5% in new dwellings.</p> <p>Electrical heating systems which are primarily heat pumps has increased to 40% in recent years and continue to increase their market share every quarter. A roadmap is in place to support the phasing out of fossil fuel boilers in new dwellings. This includes the development by NSAI of national standards for the design and installation of heat pumps in new dwellings.</p>	

<b>Action 62</b>	<b>Examine how and when fossil-fuel heating systems could be phased-out of public buildings, including disallowing the installation of any new fossil-fuel heating systems</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: As per action</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> OPW	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> There is significant work to be done on this measure, with potentially far-reaching implications. OPW are currently seeking nominations for an expert working group from the other, larger, public organisations who have an interest in this action to assist meaningful progress. A discussion paper will shortly be circulated to the expert group and a detailed work programme established. Further research, particularly on the existing building stock, is also envisaged. OPW have advised that this action is to be completed in Q2 2020.</p>	

<b>Action 63</b>	<b>Address the split incentive issue in the rental market. A special advisory group will make recommendations</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Complete public consultation on the options for addressing the split incentive (as part of the Long Term Renovation Strategy consultation)</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> Advisory Group (DCCA, DHPLG, SEAI and other stakeholders as needed)	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> Consultation paper launched on 6 December. <a href="https://www.dcca.gov.ie/en/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-removing-barriers-to-energy-efficiency-in-the-rental-sector.aspx">https://www.dcca.gov.ie/en/energy/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-on-removing-barriers-to-energy-efficiency-in-the-rental-sector.aspx</a> Public Consultation schedule was extended 17 January 2020.</p>	

## Local Authorities

<b>Action 64</b>	<b>Introduce minimum BER standards in the Local Authority social housing stock as part of retrofit works being carried out on older stock or refurbishment of vacant dwellings</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Local Authorities to build capacity and lead deep retrofit of social housing stock to Cost Optimal performance of B2</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG, DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Phases 1 and 2 of the Departments' Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme continued rollout in 2019. Expenditure in excess of €20m to date in 2019 has seen over 3,000 units retrofitted. This brings the total number of units retrofitted under the programme since 2013 to over 71,000 with a total spend of some €148.9m</p> <p>The Departments' Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme is an ongoing programme since 2013 and both Phase 1 and Phase 2 will continue to be rolled out in all counties in 2020 with an exchequer budget of €25m allocated to the programme.</p>	

## Schools and Third Level Education

<b>Action 67</b>	<b>Set a trajectory for commencing and implementing the Department of Education and Skills deep energy retrofit programme</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Energy Retrofit Pilot 2019 &amp; continued funding</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DES	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> The 2019 phase of the pilot is completed, with medium and deep retrofit measures delivered to thirty five schools across Ireland while identifying challenges and providing knowledge and learning to help develop the next phases of the schools energy pilot retrofit programme.</p> <p>Subsequent phases of the pilot will continue up to 2022 expanding for different building ages, archetypes, retrofit requirements, market capacity and procurement routes, to help create an accurate model for energy efficient retrofits of schools across Ireland. Procurement of consultants for the 2020 pilot stage has commenced.</p>	

<b>Action 67</b>	<b>Set a trajectory for commencing and implementing the Department of Education and Skills' deep energy retrofit programme</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Consider removal of regulatory barriers for energy retrofits via broadening exempted development: Treating as exempted developments, temporary accommodation used solely for decanting schools so that their buildings can undergo an energy retrofit is exempted &amp; clarify if action is required to maximise existing exempted development regarding external wall insulation on refurbishment school projects by developing additional guidelines</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> Consider establishing Working Group comprising DES, DCCAE, DHPLG, SEAI, local authorities and other partners to explore potential in school sector	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> The responsible bodies have met and reviewed this action. They have considered that the establishment of a working group comprising DES, DCCAE, DHPLG, SEAI is beneficial and have scheduled a programme of work over the next six months to review and establish the potential for removal of regulatory barriers etc. in the school sector. As the group have met, considered the action and agreed to establish the working group this action as specified is now complete.	

## 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>Q4 2019 measure: Highlight more widely the potential of EPC and resources already in place to help PSBs to help public bodies identify opportunities for its appropriate use (e.g. guidance, standardised forms of contract and project assistance grants); examples of where EPC is being used effectively</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI, EPO	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<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. The EPO Network is governed through DCCAE. SEAI can provide information for dissemination to this network through email or a workshop on request. EPC is currently being used in some local authorities, for example, see: <a href="https://www.codema.ie/projects/local-projects/epc-in-leisure-centres/">https://www.codema.ie/projects/local-projects/epc-in-leisure-centres/</a>	

## Renewable Heat and District Heating

<b>Action 70</b>	<b>Develop a policy framework for the development of district heating in Ireland and support the delivery of two district heating projects under the Climate Action Fund</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Commence the South Dublin County Council Tallaght District Heating Scheme project, supported by the Climate Action Fund, which will provide low-carbon heat to buildings in Tallaght</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> The project validation phase, which is currently underway, is expected to complete in Q1 2020 at which point the project will proceed to delivery. This process is dependent on provision of information by the applicant.	

<b>Action 70</b>	<b>Develop a policy framework for the development of district heating in Ireland and support the delivery of two district heating projects under the Climate Action Fund</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Publish a draft Policy Framework for District Heating in Ireland, for public consultation. Framework to focus on the key areas of regulation, planning, funding and research</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> A public consultation was published on 18 December 2019: <a href="https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/District-Heating-Consultation-to-Inform-a-Policy-Framework-.aspx">https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/District-Heating-Consultation-to-Inform-a-Policy-Framework-.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>Q4 2019 measure: Include electric vehicle fast chargers as a category eligible for support in the next call for Expressions of Interest from Climate Action Fund</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> A call for expressions of interest for the next round of funding under the Climate Action Fund was launched on 31 December 2019. This call has a wide scope encompassing projects from across a range of sectors including electric vehicle fast chargers. An information session for potential applicants will be held in early February with the deadline for submitting potential projects at the end of February.</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Finalise programme</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> NSAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> The NSAI has developed a set of Climate Action related standards to be delivered and is progressing delivery of those standards in line with the timeframes set out in the Climate Action Plan. This programme of standards to be developed feeds into a number of Actions, such as Action 66b (The development of new standards for the design and installation of Heat Pumps in new Dwellings) which is due for completion by Q1 2021. A further update on progress on specific standards is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Electrical Wiring Rules (I.S. 10101) to include guidance for EV Chargers:</i> The NSAI Board approved the publication of I.S. 10101, at its meeting on 15 November 2019. The document is undergoing a final edit and expected to be published during January 2020.</li> <li>• <i>S.R. 50-4:20xx Building services – Code of practice – Part 4: Domestic Heat Pump Systems:</i> The work programme to develop S.R. 50-4 has been finalised.</li> <li>• <i>S.R. 50-5:20xx Building services – Code of practice – Part 5: Photovoltaic Systems:</i> The process of engaging a consultant is underway and has taken longer than envisaged, however there is flexibility within the project timeframe to deliver project as required.</li> <li>• <i>Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD):</i> A National Foreword has been added to standards: I.S. EN ISO 52000-1, I.S. EN ISO 52003-1, I.S. EN ISO 52010-1, I.S. EN ISO 52016-1, I.S. EN ISO 52018-1 which directs the user to the National Calculation Methodologies required for determining the energy performance of buildings.</li> </ul>	

## 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>Q4 2019 measure: As part of the National Energy and Climate Plan, set out the planned level of biofuel use in 2030, the trajectory from 2021 to that point, and planned changes to the Biofuels Obligation Scheme to support this</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> As part of the National Energy and Climate Plan process, a public consultation on the <a href="#">Biofuels Obligation Scheme</a> was published in September 2019. This consultation set out the planned increase in biofuel use to 12% by volume in diesel and 10% by volume in petrol by 2030 along with the trajectory for the period 2021 to 2030 and a wide range of other planned changes to the scheme. The National Energy and Climate Plan, when published, will include the planned levels of biofuels and the detailed trajectory to 2030.	

## Regulation and Fiscal Measures

<b>Action 81</b>	<b>Develop a regulatory framework on low emission zones and parking pricing policies, and provide local authorities with the power to restrict access to certain parts of a city or a town to zero emission vehicles only. Examine the role of demand management measures in Irish cities, including low emission zones and parking pricing policies</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Commission a Demand Management study to: – Consider key demand management drivers in an Irish context (e.g. congestion, air quality, climate considerations) – Review international best practices on measures such as congestion charges, LEZs, and parking policies – Recommend most appropriate responses for Dublin/Cork/ Galway/Limerick taking into account overall transport strategies in each case</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DTTAS</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Evaluation of tenders complete and tender awarded on 20 December 2019.	

## Empowering Modal Shift and Sharing Economy in Transport

<b>Action 85</b>	<b>Transition the urban PSO public bus fleet to LEVs</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Award framework contract for the purchase of double deck hybrid buses and place first orders</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> NTA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Preferred bidder identified and contract signed in December 2019	

<b>Action 85</b>	<b>Transition the urban PSO public bus fleet to LEVs</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Adoption of Medium Term Fleet Technology Pathway for the Public Bus Fleet</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> NTA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> The NTA have considered and developed a 'Medium Term Fleet Technology Pathway for the Public Bus Fleet'. This Pathway document was shared with DTTAS on 21 November 2019. It is not currently the intention of DTTAS/NTA to publish this document.</p> <p>The Pathway reiterates that it is premature to determine the zero emission technology for the longer term (particularly in light of the limited number of double deck electric buses in service and the lack of double deck hydrogen buses). Instead it is proposed to set out the technology pathway to be followed in relation to the evolving technologies for buses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the diesel-electric hybrids to be purchased from 2020 onwards comply with the definition of Clean Vehicles;</li> <li>• Undertake pilot studies in 2020/2021 on zero emission buses - both electric and hydrogen - to assess technology readiness level;</li> <li>• Assess infrastructure requirements for charging/refuelling at depot locations and determine lead-in times for bringing zero emission vehicles into full service;</li> <li>• Procure single deck electric buses for town services and commence operations in 2021, potentially in Athlone and Carlow as initial towns - these procurements will contribute towards achieving the 11.5% zero-emission vehicle target for 2025;</li> <li>• Continue to monitor developments in new technologies and develop pilots and trials as appropriate to determine technology readiness levels;</li> <li>• Following the above trials and pilots, make a determination in 2022 on the type of zero-emission double deck bus fleet to be procured, providing sufficient time to meet minimum target requirements by 2025;</li> <li>• Procure zero emission double deck bus fleet starting in 2023; and</li> <li>• Deliver fuelling/charging infrastructure at depots.</li> </ul> <p>The above represents a clear roadmap to the selection of the optimal zero-emission double deck bus fleet in the medium term. DTTAS is comfortable with this approach and believe it completely fulfils the action.</p>	

<b>Action 87</b>	All future procurement processes for public buses will include evaluation of procuring only fully electric buses. This evaluation will include review of how electric buses have been introduced into other cities in a cost effective way, including London, Paris and Manchester. It will also consider how smart finance could be used to overcome the higher upfront capital costs of electric buses. This will include consideration of paying a fixed charge for their use, instead of buying up front (as has been done in Chile) or using a commercial agreement to convert capex to opex (as is offered by US transport company Proterra)
<b>Q4 2019 measure: As per action</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DTTAS	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> This Action is being progressed as part of Action 85.</p> <p>Electrification is to the fore in immediate procurement with a commitment in the National Development Plan to "transition to low emission buses, including electric buses, for the urban bus fleet, with no diesel-only buses purchased from July 2019". This commitment is reinforced within the <a href="#">NTA Statement of Strategy 2018-2022</a> where a key milestone to delivery under Priority 3 is to "Acquire 300 low emission buses for the operation of subsidised bus service".</p> <p>As an interim solution the NTA made a decision earlier this year to purchase plug-in diesel-electric hybrid buses pending developments in relation to double deck electric fleet and other zero emission technologies.</p> <p>DTTAS has secured the assistance of JASPERS, an agency of the European Commission/European Investment Bank to provide its expertise, including consideration of international best practice in relation to both technology and financing options, to assist the NTA in their consideration of the transition to zero emission buses under BusConnects. Based on technology uncertainties the 'Medium Term Fleet Technology Pathway for the Public Bus Fleet', as outlined above in Action 85, is an appropriate, evidence based approach for the next 3-5 years.</p>	

<b>Action 89</b>	Establish a "Park and Ride Development Office" within NTA and develop overall Park and Ride Implementation Plan, including the provision of multimodal facilities (e.g. EV charging/bicycle parking)
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Establish a Park and Ride Development Office within NTA and develop a 5 year strategy and implementation plan with specific timelines</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> NTA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Park and Ride 5 Year Outline Strategy and Implementation Plan adopted by the NTA in November. Tender evaluations complete and tender awarded in Q4 2019. Contract signing anticipated w/c 6 January 2020.</p>	

<b>Action 91</b>	<b>Undertake an expansion of cycling infrastructure through the establishment of a “Cycling Project Office” within the National Transport Authority and develop an implementation plan</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Establish a Cycling Project Office within NTA and develop a 5 year strategy and implementation plan with specific timelines</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> NTA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Office established and draft 5-year strategy and implementation plan adopted by the NTA in December 2019. The draft plan identifies priority projects and their expected delivery over the period 2020 to 2024 and is currently being finalised.	

## Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use

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

<b>Action 102</b>	<b>Implement suite of measures to improve nitrogen use efficiency</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Establish an industry group to promote new “environmentally friendly” branding and standards on low emissions fertilisers to improve awareness</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> DAFM has actively been engaging with the Irish Fertiliser Manufacturers’ Association (IFMA) to discuss environmental issues relating to fertilisers. The first meeting of this group took place on 13 December 2019 and it was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for early in 2020.	

<b>Action 103</b>	<b>Support the maximum possible environment and climate ambition in the post-2020 CAP</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Public consultation on the SEA of the draft CAP Strategic Plan</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> The proposed Strategic Environment Assessment of the draft CAP Strategic has been delayed pending the successful conclusions of the CAP post 2020 negotiations. The Presidency have indicated their wish to conclude these negotiations by the summer of 2020 which will require Member States to submit their draft CAP Strategic Plan to the Commission by the 1 January 2021. Based on these current timelines the SEA consultation would commence in Q3/Q4 2020. These timelines will be reviewed again in Q2 2020, based on progress in the CAP negotiations.</p>	

<b>Action 106</b>	<b>Establish feed modification programme</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Establish research programme into feed additives, in grass based production systems</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> As an established priority funding area of DAFM's Research Stimulus Fund (RSF), the department provides funding, on a competitive basis, to Irish research institutions to support research on predicting how feed additives may affect GHG emissions and develop genetic/diet/prediction technologies to improve dietary efficiency whilst decreasing the environmental impact of ruminants in pasture-based systems.</p> <p>The RSF Programme provides supports through National Calls (occurring approximately every 18 months), and also acts as a mechanism through which DAFM participates in European Research Area Networks (ERA-NET's) and the US-IRL Research and Development Programme.</p> <p>As of Q4 2019, DAFM has committed over €1.5 Million to projects that will directly evaluate the abatement potential of feed additives in grass-based production systems. This includes contracts that are currently being awarded to successful applicants responding to Topic A.1.9 of DAFM's Competitive Call for Research Proposals 2019 ("Developing and validating new and novel technologies to reduce gaseous emissions") and the ERA-NETs FACCE ERA-GAS, SusAn and ICT-AGRI-2 2018 Joint Call on Novel Technologies, Solutions and Systems to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Animal Production Systems. Projects are expected to run until 2023 and consist of 11 separate academic and 5 individual industry partners.</p> <p>As part of the VistaMilk SFI Research Centre, jointly funded by SFI and DAFM, two targeted projects, led by Teagasc, will specifically look at feed additives for methane abatement. The main focus of this work will be to evaluate feed additives within a grazing setting and to gain an understanding of the impact within the rumen.</p>	

**Action 106    Establish feed modification programme**

**Q4 2019 measure: Establish an Animal Feed Network Stakeholder group to review the environmental standards in all livestock rations and to ensure industry wide engagement in role of feed supplements and altered crude protein and oil levels to reduce methane and ammonia emissions**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Animal Feed Stakeholder group to review environmental standards in animal feed has been established and a first meeting of the group was held on 18 November 2019. The draft terms of reference for the group was circulated for feedback and sign-off. The group is comprised of feed Industry representatives, relevant agency representatives, higher education institution representatives, and DAFM representatives.

**Action 109    Improve on-farm slurry management**

**Q4 2019 measure: Establish further research into slurry amendments, impact on GHG/ammonia emissions and potential impact on soil fertility and quality**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** As part of the 2019 Research Call, DAFM have included a number of topics which directly address measures aimed at establishing further research into slurry amendments, impact on GHG/ammonia emissions and potential impact on soil fertility and quality. These include;

- A.1.7 Assess the impact of Agro-Ecological Practices and Precision Agriculture technologies and emerging technologies on reducing GHG emissions and on reducing the impacts on water quality
- A.1.9 Developing and validating new and novel technologies to reduce gaseous emissions

Results of DAFM’s 2019 Research Call were formally announced on the 12 December 2019 with approximately €2.4M awarded between three projects in the two topic areas (A.1.7 and A.1.9). Projects will run for up to five years.

In addition, DAFM, in conjunction with Teagasc, have pledged to commit €575,000 and €176,000 respectively (a combined contribution of up to €751,000) to the European Joint Action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from animal production systems. Proposals are now at an advanced stage of contract negotiations, and a formal announcement of results will follow in late 2019/early 2020.

<b>Action 110</b>	<b>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</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Public consultation on the roadmap</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Ag-Climatise - A Draft National Climate &amp; Air Roadmap for the Agriculture Sector to 2030 and Beyond was published for public consultation on 17 November 2019. This consultation aims to ensure agriculture climate targets are fully understood by all stakeholders with a view to further informing the development of our next agri-food strategy to 2030 and the CAP strategic planning process, both of which have commenced. The closing date for receipt of submissions is 10 January 2020. The consultation is composed of two elements:</p> <p>i) The 'Ag-Climatise' roadmap- <a href="https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/ruralenvironment/climatechange/bioenergy/ClimateandAirRoadmapfortheAgriculturalSector141119.pdf">https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/ruralenvironment/climatechange/bioenergy/ClimateandAirRoadmapfortheAgriculturalSector141119.pdf</a></p> <p>ii) An online survey - <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AgClimatiseSurvey">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AgClimatiseSurvey</a></p>	

<b>Action 110</b>	<b>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</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Publication of the roadmap</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> As the public consultation on the roadmap has been delayed to a Q4 2019 deliverable (see Action 110c above) and a minimum of an eight week open consultation period is set, this action will be delayed and it is anticipated that the final roadmap will be complete by Q1 2020.</p>	



**Action 114** Undertake a review of nitrogen fertiliser management and imports on nitrates derogation farms in 2019 in view of impacts on soil fertility, as well as EU climate and nitrate obligations

**Q4 2019 measure: Review the conditionality of nitrate derogation terms including use of LESS, Nutrient Management Planning training, use of grass measurement tools**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** A review of Ireland's nitrates derogation has been conducted to examine further opportunities for derogation farmers to improve efficiencies and continue to reduce their environmental footprint with regard to water, climate and air quality.

It was conducted against the background of derogation farms being a very significant, intensive cohort and the increasing area being farmed under the derogation. Furthermore, recent EPA reports have highlighted deterioration in water quality and increasing green house gas and ammonia emissions. As part of this a public consultation was held and a total of 74 submissions were received from stakeholders.

A survey was also distributed to agricultural advisors. Following this consultation, the Nitrates Expert Group examined all submissions and provided recommendations in relation to how derogation farmers can improve their nutrient use efficiency and environmental footprint. The information gathered will assist in future policy and for the next Nitrates Action Programme review in 2021.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/ruralenvironment/environment/nitrates/2019/derogationforms/NitratesExpertGroupDerogationReviewReportMLU240719.pdf>

## 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>Q1-Q4 2019 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: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Measures promoted across a number of initiatives. A series of Teagasc public events in 2019 raised 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.</p>	

<b>Action 116</b>	<b>Implement the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 in line with Mid-Term Review recommendations and targets set</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Increase the number of new Knowledge Transfer Groups, which promote sustainable forest management, mobilisation of timber amongst forest owners</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DAFM</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> A total of 33 groups and 605 participants took part in the scheme in 2018. Under the 2019 Knowledge Transfer Group programme 35 groups have been approved, the exact number of participants won't be known until completion. Mandatory subjects that must be covered by KTGs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood mobilisation (including biomass), harvesting systems, markets/forest certification and potential value</li> <li>• Health and Safety in forest management</li> <li>• Overview of the Department's Felling Decision support tool.</li> </ul> <p>It is a requirement of the scheme that participants are given a folder which includes written material covering the subjects above. This information pack includes a draft timber sales contract and an overview of how timber should be transported securely from the forest. An important deliverable for each participant is the completion of a forest management action plan.</p>	

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

**Q4 2019 measure: Encourage existing forestry producer groups in timber mobilisation and forest management**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Department officials continue to meet with forestry groups through Teagasc's Forest owner group workshops, a meeting took place on the 21 November 2019. The KTG scheme encourages these groups to promote timber mobilisation and forest management amongst its members and other forest owners and receives funding for the provision of these services.

During 2019 the Department funded the Limerick and Tipperary Woodland owners' group to assist in the transfer of information to other broadleaf forest owners on the potential markets for small diameter hardwoods.

A joint proposal involving the IFA and Western Forestry Co-Operative to promote good forest management practices and increase understanding of the value of forest assets was also supported by the Department during 2019. Finally, the largest forestry producer group in the country with almost 800 members, is being provided with funds to supply forest owners with a series of factsheets and videos that will present management of forestry in a step by step process to include video clips of activity on site from planting, maintenance, harvesting, sawmills and chipping.

DAFM will continue to encourage mobilisation of timber from the private forest sector.

**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

**Q4 2019 measure: Ongoing monitoring and surveillance of the forest estate to identify and act on any potential forest health issues identified**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Ireland has Protected Zone status for 13 harmful forest pests and diseases present in other EU Member States but not present here. In accordance with Commission Regulation EC No 690/2008 to justify Ireland’s Protected Zone status, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) conducts annual national forest surveys and submits reports annually to the European Commission. No detections of the 13 harmful organisms were found in surveys conducted during 2016, 2017 and 2018. Surveys have been completed for 2019 and no detections for the 13 harmful forest pests found.

In surveys for the above regulated organisms and for general forest health monitoring purposes, a network of observation points, pheromone traps, bait logs and sampling points distributed around the country in public and private forests and forest nurseries is used. DAFM also deals with queries and reports from the industry and general public in relation to forest and tree health issues including reports submitted via the Tree Check App. This may involve site visits and taking of samples for laboratory analysis. This diagnostic and advisory service is part of the National Forest Protection Policy.

In late 2018, the UK Forestry Commission announced the first finding of the bark beetle *Ips typographus* in the wider environment in the UK at a woodland in Kent, England. This finding represents an increased threat of the introduction of this bark beetle to Ireland and has prompted additional risk-based surveys and monitoring in 2019, which included a collaborative training event with Coillte. No detections for *Ips typographus* found in Ireland in 2019.

This action will continue to be ongoing as part of DAFMs regulatory requirements.

**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

**Q4 2019 measure: Ongoing inspection and control of imported plants, wood and wood products in order to prevent the introduction (and spread) of potentially harmful forest pests and disease**

**Responsible body:** DAFM

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Surveying and monitoring of the International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests) completed in 2019 for all Level 1 plots. Plots will be reassessed in 2020 and data will also contribute to the national reporting requirements of the National Emissions Ceiling Directive.

Preparations are well advanced for the start of the 4th National Forest Inventory which will commence in January 2020. Data collected will also include forest health and vitality.

Import inspections of wood and wood products from Third Countries regulated under the EU Plant Health Directive are routinely conducted to ensure compliance with entry requirements as part of the Customs clearance process. DAFM operates two designated Border Inspection Posts in Dublin and Cork ports for import controls from Third countries.

In 2018, the special measures introduced in 2013 by the European Commission regarding inspections of wood packaging material associated with certain commodities imported into the EU from China were replaced by a new Commission Implementing Decision (2018/1127/EU) which expands the range of commodities to be inspected and includes goods from Belarus as well as China. In addition, DAFM carries out monitoring of Portuguese wood packaging material in relation to the threat of pine wood nematode (as required under Commission Implementing Decision 2012/535 as amended) and wood packaging from other countries. No detections of pine wood nematode occurred in 2019.

This action will continue to be ongoing as part of DAFMs regulatory requirements.

<b>Action 124</b>	<b>Support Regional Assemblies to identify areas of potential growth in the bioeconomy</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Regional Assemblies to complete their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> NWRA, EMRA, SRA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Preparation and finalisation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies by the Regional Assemblies is complete; the first of the three strategies (for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly) came into effect on 28 June 2019 and the remaining two are complete and have been formally agreed by their Regional Assemblies to take effect in January.</p> <p><a href="https://emra.ie/final-rses/">https://emra.ie/final-rses/</a> <a href="https://www.nwra.ie/rsesma/">https://www.nwra.ie/rsesma/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.southernassembly.ie/regional-planning/regional-spatial-and-economic-strategy">https://www.southernassembly.ie/regional-planning/regional-spatial-and-economic-strategy</a></p>	

<b>Action 125</b>	<b>A greater focus on research into land diversification in agricultural colleges, the EPA and Teagasc, to help educate farmers on the benefits of diversification</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Engagement with third level education institutes to review provision of course and module programmes related to agriculture and land use</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> HEA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> UCD and UCC provide undergraduate programmes in agricultural science or related disciplines as well as there being a wide range of courses provided across universities relating to environmental sciences more generally.</p> <p>UCD and NUIG provide post-graduate courses in biodiversity and land-use planning and environmental sustainability. Programmes and component modules undergo regular cyclical review, typically on a 5 yearly basis with ongoing internal review processes based on student and stakeholder feedback. In addition, there is research into land use diversification and climate change generally taking place across Irish universities.</p> <p>The majority of IoTs provide relevant programmes in relation to agriculture, agricultural science, farm management etc. at undergraduate and, in some cases postgraduate levels, or as specific programme modules. GMIT runs Level 7 and Level 8 agriculture and environmental programmes in collaboration with Mountbellew Agriculture College and in LyIT, for example, land use diversification is embedded in L7 and L8 programmes.</p>	

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

**Q1-Q4 2019 measure: Fund Knowledge Transfer Programme and include climate mitigation and adaptation practices**

**Responsible body: DAFM**

**Status: Complete**

**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 facilitator. 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>Q4 2019 measure: Desktop study to carry out a spatial assessment of the forest estate to determine the connectivity of the forest road network to the public road network with the purpose of increasing the mobilisation of timber. Assess the requirement for additional new forest roads to mobilise the forecasted increase forecast in timber supply</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM
<b>Status:</b> Complete
<p><b>Update:</b> Forest cover datasets and national road datasets currently being examined to update the requirement for forest road access to mobilise timber, particularly from the private grant aided estate. This desktop exercise is complete for 2019.</p> <p>In addition, the COFORD Roundwood Forecasting and Wood Mobilisation Group has been established which will update the All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2016-2035 to cover the period 2021-2040. This work will be completed over the next two years and published in 2021.</p> <p>Forest road access data will contribute to the forecast in determining the level of wood mobilisation. The continued provision of grant aid for the construction of forest roads will provide access to forests to facilitate increased harvesting as forecasted. This year, DAFM has funded the construction of 92 kilometres of forest roads.</p>

<b>Action 127</b> <b>Seek to bridge the short term supply gap in indigenous biomass</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Assess the potential for State-owned land to be used for afforestation</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM
<b>Status:</b> Complete
<p><b>Update:</b> The first phase of this <a href="#">Bord na Mona project</a> will focus on the creation of native woodland on around 1,500 ha over 3 years in counties Offaly, Laois, Westmeath and Tipperary. The initial design for the creation of these woodlands was developed by a team of internal and external experts from Bord na Móna, Coillte, UCD, UL, and Native Woodlands of Ireland. The proposed woodland types suggested by the initial study will see pioneer birch woodland or birch enriched with Scots Pine and other native broadleaves established.</p> <p>Primarily the plantings will comprise of Downy Birch, Scots Pine, Alder and other Broadleaves such as hazel and holly.</p> <p>Discussion will continue with other state-owned bodies to determine areas suitable for afforestation and this measure will continue in 2020.</p>



<b>Action 128</b>	<b>Support the use of biomass to increase the level of renewable energy in the heat sector</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Support implementation and enforcement of Biomass Sustainability Criteria. Support the development of a certification scheme for solid and gaseous biomass supply for Ireland</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> In order to support the implementation and enforcement of sustainability criteria, a range of measures have been implemented including:</p> <p>SEAI has published a <a href="#">biomass sustainability</a> report, strict sustainability criteria for solid biomass and biogas have been included in the terms and conditions of the <a href="#">Support Scheme for Renewable Heat</a>. This includes the requirement that solid biomass fuel must meet specific fuel quality criteria under a certification scheme.</p> <p>The Wood Fuel Quality Association has developed a certification scheme for solid biomass which has been accepted as meeting the requirements set out in the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat. Gas Networks Ireland, in their role as gas transmission system operator, is supporting the development of a system of certification for renewable gas (i.e. biomethane) use in the national grid.</p>	

<b>Action 128</b>	<b>Support the use of biomass to increase the level of renewable energy in the heat sector</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Consolidate evidence on current and expected supply of biomass within Ireland. Drawing upon existing reports from Government, Government Agencies and industry stakeholders</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Assessment of woodflows across a wide range of forest products, including wood energy completed and published in COFORD Woodflow 2018. Analysis indicates that in 2018, 40% of the wood fibre available for use in Ireland was used for energy purposes. The COFORD Roundwood Forecasting and Wood Mobilisation Group has been established which will update the All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2016-2035 to cover the period 2021-2040.</p>	

## Better Management of Peatlands and Soils

<b>Action 132</b>	<b>Deliver the full LULUCF flexibility available to Ireland in the context of the 2030 GHG targets</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Establish a project to identify areas of Carbon rich soils under agricultural management (at least 40,000ha)</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DAFM	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> A series of workshops have been held with Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) and within DAFM to explore synergies with OSI ongoing mapping work and scope out the necessary technical requirements. Following up on this consultative process, the project to develop our capability to support DAFM policy development and decisions in relation to land use has been approved and established by the Management Board. This includes as a priority the identification of areas of carbon rich soils under agricultural management.</p> <p>This project will now develop the appropriate level of land classification detail to support policy development in a range of areas, including strategic approaches to climate change issues. The first phase involves test and validation of the data gathered for usefulness and accuracy, essentially forming the test bed for extension to the rest of the country. The project includes the assignment of appropriately skilled staff dedicated to the project</p>	

## 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>Q4 2019 measure: Review of submissions for development of draft plan</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> Submissions received following the High Level Consultation Event in September 2019 have been reviewed and will inform the drafting of a new national waste action plan for a Circular Economy by mid 2020. An additional <a href="#">public phase of the consultation</a> process was launched in December which will further inform this process.</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Public Bodies to report on sustainability measures</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Public bodies were obliged to report to their respective ministers by end November 2019 regarding sustainability measures underway. All Public Bodies under the aegis of DCCA have reported on these measures as required.	

<b>Action 141</b>	<b>Identify opportunities to strengthen the regulatory and enforcement frameworks and structures for the waste collection and management system, to maximise the collection of clean, segregated materials for reuse and/or recycling from all households and businesses, and to incentivise consumers to reduce, reuse and recycle</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Review waste enforcement legislation as part of waste review</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Agreement has been reached with the <a href="#">County and City Managers Association</a> (CCMA) that the role, capacity and responsibilities of the <a href="#">Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities</a> (WERLA) will be enhanced in 2020.	
<p>The waste legislation was reviewed and the agreement reached, with the CCMA to enhance the WERLA structures, does not require any changes to existing waste legislation.</p> <p>The WERLA structure will be enhanced through the addition of the following functions: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and Enforcement of the Household Waste Kerbside Collectors in each region to include collection, recovery and disposal of the different household waste streams collected at kerbside.</li> <li>• Special Projects – these will be sites or operators of concern as they arise including issues of waste criminality.</li> <li>• Enforcement of Producer Responsibility Initiatives.</li> <li>• ICT strategy to include development and use of latest technology including mobile workforce systems and GIS to support above functions.</li> <li>• National approach to the delivery of legal services.</li> </ul> <p>The enhancement of the WERLA offices will position the local authority sector to better respond to emerging and priority enforcement challenges.</p>	

<b>Action 143</b>	<b>We will scope a number of possible environmental levies, including a possible levy on single use plastics, as part of the review of the Environment Fund. Further detailed research would be required prior to the introduction of any new levy</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: As per action</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCAE</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Scoping of levies and the review of the Environment Fund has been completed. Following this review, a three-phased programme of actions relating to the introduction of new environmental levies is proposed and was announced on 6 November 2019. A <a href="#">public consultation</a> on this programme and a targeted consultation with key stakeholders in relation to the proposals on the coffee cup and plastic bag levies have been undertaken. Both consultations are now closed. Over 120 submissions were received. The next step will be to analyse, and consider, the submissions received in the further development of the levies.</p>	

<b>Action 144</b>	<b>We will identify and commence delivery of measures to address the key regulatory barriers to the development of the bioeconomy, including exploring opportunities to establish “End of Waste” criteria for certain bio-wastes</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Identify and address the key regulatory barriers to development of the bioeconomy and commence delivery of measures to address these</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCAE</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> The key regulatory barriers to develop the bioeconomy have been identified and the delivery of measures to address these barriers has commenced, and will be accelerated through the establishment of the Bioeconomy Forum. While waste legislation has been cited as a significant regulatory barrier across all sectors of the bioeconomy, there is in fact significant potential for increased utilisation of feedstocks within existing waste/by-product categories (see 144c below).</p> <p>Guidance is being developed for stakeholders in this regard as a first response. Other potential barriers identified include requirements under the planning system, the import license regime, the requirements of the Marine Protection Agency, and multiplicity of competent authorities/agencies with which a new company within the bioeconomy sector must engage. It is intended to ask to Bioeconomy Forum to consider measure to address these potential barriers as a priority and report back to Government.</p>	

<b>Action 144</b>	<b>We will identify and commence delivery of measures to address the key regulatory barriers to the development of the bioeconomy, including exploring opportunities to establish “End of Waste” criteria for certain bio-wastes</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Assess the current legislative definition of waste</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAÉ	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Impacts of current legislative definition of waste (set at EU level) on bioeconomy sector have now been examined by DAFM and DCCAÉ, and scope of the definition, as well as existing possibilities for alternative categorisation of potential feedstocks as 'by-products' and/or 'animal by-products' has been clarified. A guidance note in relation to this issue will be finalised in January 2020 and will inform further discussions with stakeholders, particularly through the Bioeconomy Forum.</p>	

<b>Action 144</b>	<b>We will identify and commence delivery of measures to address the key regulatory barriers to the development of the bioeconomy, including exploring opportunities to establish “End of Waste” criteria for certain bio-wastes</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Recommend whether a redesignation is necessary for residual waste flows to be successfully managed for use in the bioeconomy</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAÉ	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Following on from progress on Action 144b, proposed initial focus will be on maximising the use of 'by-product' and/or 'animal by-product' categorisations for potential feedstocks which meet relevant criteria, and guidance will be developed in conjunction with stakeholders in this regard. Requirements for end-of-waste designations at national and/or EU level will be kept under review.</p>	

## Public Sector Leading By Example

<b>Action 145</b>	<b>Develop a strategy to achieve at least a 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>eq. emissions by 2030 and a 50% improvement in public sector energy efficiency</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Determine the potential for energy efficiency savings and carbon abatement in each sector and assess resources required to deliver</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Agreeing the fundamentals of the 30% CO <sub>2</sub> target is the key starting point for this. SEAI have submitted a number of papers on that matter to DCCAIE during 2019 and discussions are ongoing.	

<b>Action 145</b>	<b>Develop a strategy to achieve at least a 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>eq. emissions by 2030 and a 50% improvement in public sector energy efficiency</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Publish annual progress report setting out overall and sectoral achievements against energy efficiency targets</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Report has been completed and will be published on the SEAI website in January 2020.	

<b>Action 146</b>	<b>Strengthen incentives and supports to enable managers and Energy Performance Officers to deliver on targets for 2020 and new 2030 targets</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Deliver capacity development workshops for public sector bodies and their EPOs</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAIE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Workshops, led by DCCAIE and involving SEAI and the OPW have been provided during 2019 to all 19 Departmental Energy Performance Officer Groups. This should enable them to collectively optimise their performance to achieve the Group's 2020 and 2030 targets.	

<b>Action 146</b>	<b>Strengthen incentives and supports to enable managers and Energy Performance Officers to deliver on targets for 2020 and new 2030 targets</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Enhance the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&amp;R) system to track actions and measure performance</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Performance enhancements have been made to the system to improve its operational efficiency and new functionality provided to enable benchmarking reports in publicly available data. Further functionality enhancements are in development for introduction in early 2020 including a facility for public bodies to calculate their gaps to target.</p>	

<b>Action 146</b>	<b>Strengthen incentives and supports to enable managers and Energy Performance Officers to deliver on targets for 2020 and new 2030 targets</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Enhance accountability structures for delivery across the public sector by strengthening Energy Performance Officer and EPO Accountability in line with the proposed accountability measures outlined elsewhere in this Plan</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Enhanced Monitoring and Reporting system annual report submitted to Government and to be published in January. The publication of the M&amp;R report plays an important role in helping to enhance accountability by making transparent the results achieved by each PS body and group.</p> <p>A series of workshops for each of the EPO Groups concluded in Q4 2019. This helped ensure the pro-active engagement of all EPOs, provide clarity on their roles, outline approaches available to them to help deliver improved energy management as well as advisory and funding support available and how progress would be measured.</p> <p>The higher profile of Public Sector Energy Efficiency in the context of the CAP was also communicated – as well as the quarterly CAP reporting which increases prominence and transparency and thereby accountability.</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Issue a policy direction or equivalent to all public bodies requiring public body to adopt mandate and notify Climate Action Delivery Board</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Work on finalising the Climate Action Mandate is still on-going, including consultation with key stakeholders and the Climate Action Delivery Board. A Memo to Government with a final draft mandate will go to Government in Q1 2020, which will allow the policy direction to be issued.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Issue circular to all Local Authorities on adoption of Climate Action Charter</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Memorandum to seek Government approval on a draft Climate Action Charter for Local Government was approved by Government on 22 October. The charter was signed by Minister and sent out to all 31 local authorities for signature. Charter available at <a href="https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/news-and-media/press-releases/Pages/Ministers-Bruton--Canney-Introduce-Climate-Action-Charter-for-All-Local-Authorities.aspx">https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/news-and-media/press-releases/Pages/Ministers-Bruton--Canney-Introduce-Climate-Action-Charter-for-All-Local-Authorities.aspx</a>	



<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>Q4 2019 measure: Prioritise target areas</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAЕ	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> <a href="#">DPER Circular 20/2019</a> was published prioritising 8 target categories of goods and services - Road Transport Vehicles and Services; Construction; Electricity; Food/Catering Services; Cleaning Products/Services; Textiles &amp; Uniforms; IT Equipment and Paper.</p> <p>These were chosen based on the quantum of expenditure; scope for environmental improvement; leadership to market potential; relevance and accessibility of criteria; market availability and economic efficiency.</p> <p>DCCAЕ continues to work with OGP to include green criteria in various OGP frameworks as they arise for renewal. DCCAЕ are working with EPA/SEAI/OGP to facilitate update of GPP criteria for key target areas listed above.</p>	

<b>Action 151</b>	<b>Implement an enhanced approach to energy performance and renewable energy capability in school buildings</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Establish a Working Group to develop an engineering based accounting methodology with regard to the baselines used for annual reporting of Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<p><b>Update:</b> SEAI have advised DES on the route to achieving the benefit of the 2009 school insulation programme. SEAI will continue to offer support in this area.</p>	

<b>Action 152</b>	<b>Offset the climate effects of official air travel, through the travel agency contract for central Government Departments</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Review existing central Government agency travel contract</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DPER</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Minister Donohoe approved a new system to offset the climate effects of official air travel in mid-December 2019. Its' operation commenced on the 1st January 2020. A circular issued on the 12th January to all Departments making use of this system mandatory.	

## Ireland's International Action on Climate Breakdown

<b>Action 156</b>	<b>Include climate as a core theme in all new Irish Aid Country Strategies with first new strategy to be concluded in 2019</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Provide technical support to Missions to ensure climate action is included in their strategic plans</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DFAT</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Support was provided to DFAT's Africa Division to reflect ambitious climate engagement in the Africa Regional Strategy, which is now finalised and launched, with climate as a core theme. See <a href="https://www.irishaid.ie/about-us/our-policies/africa-strategy/">https://www.irishaid.ie/about-us/our-policies/africa-strategy/</a> . Ethiopia Country Strategy due Q1 2020.	

## 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>Q4 2019 measure: Further develop the NDCA communication tools and approaches, including online channels</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> The trialling of local meetings in conjunction with the Cork City Council on 6 September, Mayo County Council on 29 November and Dunlaoghaire Rathdown County Council on 7 December have played an important role in developing communication tools through a local dialogue process which will be important in terms of finalising a new work programme for the NDCA in 2020.</p> <p>In addition two EPA research projects (Imagining 2050 &amp; Citizens' Climate) have provided valuable information in 2019 on developing communication tools and approaches which again has been important in informing a new work programme for the NDCA for 2020. Some online resources available at EPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.epa.ie/climate/communicatingclimatescience/climatechangelectureseriesandpresentations/">https://www.epa.ie/climate/communicatingclimatescience/climatechangelectureseriesandpresentations/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://greenschoolsireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Green-Schools-Climate-Action-Teacher-Resource_2.pdf">https://greenschoolsireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Green-Schools-Climate-Action-Teacher-Resource_2.pdf</a></li> </ul>	

<b>Action 159</b>	<b>Enhance the effectiveness of climate-related communications, network building and deliberative capacity within and through the NDCA</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Implement enhanced Green Schools National Climate Change Action and Awareness Programme</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Implementation of the enhanced Green Schools climate programme for 2019 in primary, secondary and is now complete. Key deliverables included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Climate Action Week</a> from 14 to 20 October.</li> <li>• Participation of 38 secondary school teachers in climate action training.</li> <li>• Ongoing in-term teacher training seminars underway.</li> <li>• Design of new primary resource.</li> <li>• Climate Ambassador Programme uptake increased from 108 in 2018 to 132 for 2019.</li> <li>• Applications opened for 2020 climate ambassadors in October.</li> </ul>	

<b>Action 159</b>	<b>Enhance the effectiveness of climate-related communications, network building and deliberative capacity within and through the NDCA</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Complete first cycle of Regional Gatherings</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Two Regional Gatherings were held in 2018 in Tralee and Athlone, and following on from the launch of the All of Government Climate Action Plan on 17 June 2019, a series of road shows to promote the action plan took place. The events were aimed at a broad range of interests groups and everyday citizens. The key objective of the forums was to get citizens to buy in for the Action Plan, to share ideas and to discuss issues, problems and solutions on a community, local and regional level.</p> <p>7 regional roadshow events were organised following the launch of the Action Plan: UCC, Cork, 21 June; Semple Stadium, Thurles Co Tipperary, 5 July; Calasanctius College, secondary school, Oranmore, Co Galway, 12 July; Grange Woodbine Community Centre, Raheny, Dublin 5, 17 July; St John Bosco Community Centre Donegal town, 23 July; Tait house, Community Enterprise, Limerick, 6 September; Mount Temple, Malahide Rd. Dublin 3, 25 October.</p> <p>Participants were invited from the locality through the relevant Climate Action offices and Local Authorities, Public Participant Networks (PPNs) and Local Enterprise Offices, Tidy Towns (DRCD), national organisations such as the IFA, IDA, IBEC, ICTU, ESB, Environment Pillar, Green Schools, Eco UNESCO, IBEC and SEAI. Further regional gatherings in 2020 will be considered as part of the new work programme for the NDCA in 2020.</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>Q4 2019 measure: Commence trials of local meetings</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> EPA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> A trial 'pop up' local level event was held on 6 September in conjunction with the Cork City Council Climate Adaptation Strategy consultation process while two further two local meetings/ workshops were held on 29 November in Mayo and in Dublin on Saturday 7 December in collaboration with Mayo County Council and Dunlaoghaire Rathdown County Council respectively.</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>Q4 2019 measure: Prepare a plan for the NDCA to connect with and leverage local level youth and community activities</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> EPA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> EPA has facilitated meetings and workshops for both youth and communities during September/October/November and a plan has been prepared which is currently with the EPA for board approval. This plan will also inform the work programme being developed for the new NDCA work programme in 2020.	

<b>Action 160</b>	<b>Assess the economic and employment implications of the transition to a low-carbon economy</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Model the impacts, both in terms of the economy and in terms of emissions, of removing fossil fuel subsidies</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> ESRI has published an analysis, as part of the ESRI Research Series, of the impacts of removing eight fossil fuel subsidies on both the economy and carbon emissions. The report, entitled 'The impacts of removing fossil fuel subsidies and increasing carbon tax in Ireland.' is available at: <a href="https://www.esri.ie/publications/the-impacts-of-removing-fossil-fuel-subsidies-and-increasing-carbon-tax-in-ireland">https://www.esri.ie/publications/the-impacts-of-removing-fossil-fuel-subsidies-and-increasing-carbon-tax-in-ireland</a>	

<b>Action 160</b>	<b>Assess the economic and employment implications of the transition to a low-carbon economy</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Examine the impacts on unemployment of climate policies</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> An analysis of the regional employment implications using the ESRI I3E was published in December 2019 as part of the ESRI Research Series. The report, entitled 'Transitioning to a low-carbon Irish economy: An analysis of regional labour impacts,' is available at: <a href="https://www.esri.ie/publications/transitioning-to-a-low-carbon-irish-economy-an-analysis-of-regional-labour-impacts">https://www.esri.ie/publications/transitioning-to-a-low-carbon-irish-economy-an-analysis-of-regional-labour-impacts</a>	

<b>Action 160</b>	<b>Assess the economic and employment implications of the transition to a low-carbon economy</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Study of transition to a low carbon economy: impacts for the rural western region</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> WDC	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> WDC have informed DRCD that the initial draft scoping report is scheduled for completion by 29 January. This action is delayed due to internal capacity issues at the WDC.	

<b>Action 160</b>	<b>Assess the economic and employment implications of the transition to a low-carbon economy</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop a transport model to describe transport choices in detail and their interactions with policies</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DTTAS	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Progress is continuing in the transport sub-model to the I3E model being funded by SEAI. Work continues to complete the freight model component and the passenger model will begin in 2020. Both components need to be completed prior to integration into the I3E model as general equilibrium is needed to integrate the entire transport system.	

<b>Action 160</b>	<b>Assess the economic and employment implications of the transition to a low-carbon economy</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Commission NESC to develop policy recommendations for consideration by Government for the operation of Transition Teams to manage the impact of economic transition on vulnerable workers and sectors which might include: • Review of development al supports for enterprises and sectors faced with challenges; • career advice and training guidance to managers and workers; • accessible training to upskill and retrain workers; and, • potential financial supports for such a programme</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DTaoiseach	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> This Action is complete. The report was discussed by the Council on 19 December 2019. The report includes a suite of policy recommendations to manage the impact of economic transition on vulnerable workers and sectors.	

<b>Action 161</b>	<b>Establish a Just Transition Review Group under NESC working group structures to advise the Climate Action Delivery Board</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Define terms of reference and membership in consultation with the Climate Action Delivery Board</b>	
<b>Responsible body: NESC</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> This Action is complete. The terms of reference and approach to membership of the Just Transition Review Group was considered by the Council on 19 December 2019 and work is ongoing in the NESC Secretariat to establish the Group and its membership early in 2020.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Identify relevant sources and provide an assessment of the opportunity for funding at EU level across line Departments</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DCCA</b>	
<b>Status: Delayed</b>	
<b>Update:</b> Work is well advanced in identifying sources and providing an assessment of opportunities to support the low carbon transition, focusing initially on opportunities under current EU MFF programmes. It is anticipated it will be further updated once the 2021-2027 MFF is agreed. The initial report will be completed early in 2020.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Examine the scope to fund high impact climate initiatives through the ERDF</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DPER</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<b>Update:</b> The process to select new initiatives under the next round of the ERDF is underway. While negotiations on the regulations are still ongoing it is expected that in the region of 85% of the ERDF funding available for Ireland will be allocated to two priorities, a Smarter Europe and a greener, low Carbon Europe.	
DPER is already engaging with Departments regarding the selection of projects that meet these criteria. The final selection of projects will be a matter for Government and the EU Commission, with agreement likely in late 2020.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Provide support and guidelines to improve the quality of funding applications</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DPER	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> This is an ongoing action. Every project considered for support from the ERDF is subject to DPER approval and DPER works closely with any Departments who might want to submit applications for funding. Bi-lateral support and guidance is provided by DPER's EU Structural Funds and Cohesion Policy Division.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Review DRCD funding programme and award criteria to ensure greater compatibility with climate objectives</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DRCD	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> DRCD provides funding and supports to communities and rural Ireland through various schemes and programmes. In 2019 total funding amounted to €279.3m DRCD is focused on directing (where appropriate) funding to assist communities move to low carbon economy.	
<p>A cross unit group within DRCD has now been established to consider in advance of announcements how schemes can be designed with the above objective in mind. To date, criteria for rural regeneration funding (second round call) and town and village funding (2019 call) have incentivised applications in this regard. Future announcements will be examined in this way also by the group. Direct funding for proposals with a climate change objectives are also funded by LEADER sub theme called Rural Environment and total amount available is €28m. Indirect funding from DRCD is facilitating wider climate change plan objectives through Tidy Towns awards funding community energy projects, investment in recreational infrastructure and working hubs.</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Develop a template for company Climate Change Action Plans</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCA	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> This action will be completed in Q1 2020 in consultation with DBEI and Enterprise Ireland.	



<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>Q4 2019 measure: Develop an online checklist for companies to measure their sustainability and to provide an authorised sustainability quality mark</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> Local Authorities	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> This action will be completed in Q1 2020 in consultation with DBEI and Enterprise Ireland.	

<b>Action 165</b>	<b>Extend flagship low-carbon projects to other towns and villages</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Each local authority will identify and develop plans for one “Decarbonising Zone”</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DHPLG	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> DHPLG is currently liaising with the local government sector and SEAI to progress this matter through the local government system. Routes include the Development Plan system and already established SEAI programmes that would benefit from more Local Government support and co-ordination that may be more spatially focused into designated zones.	

<b>Action 167</b>	<b>Expand the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Programme from 256 members to 500 by 2025, and 1,500 by 2030</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Develop proposal to pilot community energy officer function in 4 Local Authorities (One role of the Energy Officers will be to support bootcamp activity in their area with a view to working up projects and identifying funding opportunities)</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SEAI	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> SEAI presented to CCMA and LGMA and commencing consultation on proposed model. SEAI propose to finalise the proposal in Q1 2020.	

<b>Action 167</b>	<b>Expand the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Programme from 256 members to 500 by 2025, and 1,500 by 2031</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Establish a National (and Regional) Sustainable Energy Communities Forum and National Steering Group with membership from the Network, SEAI, DCCAE and Relevant Supporting Departments and Organisations with the mandate to take learnings and ideas from the Network and recommend local and national actions that will assist in accelerating their rollout</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> Initial workshop held at National SEC event in June.	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Coordinate the provision of training and capacity building in relation to climate change to local development and community development organisations</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DRCD	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> DRCD hosted a LCDC networking event in Tullamore on 9 November. There were 100 attendees present from Local Community and Development Committees around the country. A key element of this event was a Climate Action Workshop, delivering training to LCDC members on climate change initiatives.</p> <p>DRCD intends to build on this initial work further in 2020 in conjunction with broader commitments to provide training and supports to communities featured in Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities, the new five-year strategy for the Community and Voluntary sector.</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Design climate action plan module for inclusion at national fora for Local Community Development Committees and Public Participation Networks</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DRCD	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> A Climate Action workshop was held at a national LCDC event in November (see 168a). This information has been made publicly available and will form the basis of a more detailed climate action module for use by community groups and organisations which is now being developed through engagement with DCCAIE and LCDCs and PPNs. This module is being prioritised as part of an overall and ongoing training programme that is being developed under commitments outlined in <a href="#">Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities</a>, the new five-year strategy for the Community and Voluntary sector.</p> <p>The vision for the training programme in the context of Climate Change is that it will provide communities with the information and support they need to facilitate the consideration and development of initiatives and interventions that will address climate change at both an individual and community level. The programme will also highlight best practice case studies to showcase partnerships between central government, local government and their communities.</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Formalise links between education system and National Dialogue on Climate Action, building on Green Schools Programme</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAIE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> The National Climate Change Action and Awareness Programme, a core component of the NDCA delivered by An Taisce as part of the <a href="#">Green Schools</a> programme, (see also Action 159f), is addressed to the education system, at primary, secondary and third level. An Taisce Green Schools is also a member of the Advisory Council for Education for Sustainable Development which was established by the Department of Education and Skills in response to the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>This programme's ongoing engagement in the education system will continue as part of the National Climate Change Action and Awareness Programme into 2020/2021.</p>	

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Double the number of participants on the EXPLORE programme over the 2018 figure</b>	
<b>Responsible body: ETB</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> A total of 254 participants took part in the pilot EXPLORE programme during 2018. Further iterations of the programme were rolled out across the country during 2019 with 488 employees, from over 80 manufacturing companies, participating in the programme. EXPLORE is coordinated by the Regional Skills Fora Managers, due to staff vacancies in a few regions during 2019 the managers did not quite meet the target of doubling the 2018 figure. Feedback from a recent evaluation of EXPLORE shows that employers participating in EXPLORE have commended the impact of the programme on both the participants and their companies.</p>	

<b>Action 171</b>	<b>Enhance the career advice service provided through the Public Employment Service to include offering support for those impacted by technological and other changes</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Target potential returners to the workforce as part of its communications campaign to advise them of case officer services which are available to help them progress to employment</b>	
<b>Responsible body: DEASP</b>	
<b>Status: Complete</b>	
<p><b>Update:</b> Meetings have been held with businesses and organisations in relation to developing 'Returnships', and enhancing the services that are provided for them. Proposals are being developed, informed by those meetings. Minister Doherty outlined her commitment to progressing initiatives on radio on 18 December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An event to target potential returners is planned as part of Jobs Week 2020 which will take place from 2 to 6 March.</li> <li>• In mid-October 2019, the Department commenced a public awareness campaign targeting two specific cohorts who may be interested in returning to the workforce: those returning to work after about 10 years out of the workforce (mainly those who took time out of work to raise families), and older people in their late 50s/early 60s who have retired but who may be interested in part-time or flexible work arrangements. Separate digital and social media ads were developed for each cohort.</li> <li>• The first phase of the campaign ran until the end of November 2019 and the second phase is live since 7 January 2020 and will run for a further 4 weeks. The campaign focuses in particular on the case officer service and training courses, whether refresher or upskilling that are available from Intreo. Campaign outcomes can be made available when the campaign is completed in February.</li> </ul>	

<b>Action 171</b>	<b>Enhance the career advice service provided through the Public Employment Service to include offering support for those impacted by technological and other changes</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: ETBs to address training challenges</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DES	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Protocols between ETBs and DEASP (Intreo offices) to support the transition of vulnerable groups into work have been updated and finalised.	

<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>Q1-Q4 2019 measure: Encourage enterprises to engage with Regional Skills Fora and other agencies for support in identifying their skills needs</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> RSF	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<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.	
<p>The Skills for Growth Initiative is increasing the quality and quantity of data available on skills needs. This includes the necessary skills to support the Just Transition, in individual enterprises, to allow for enhanced engagement between enterprise, education and training providers and other relevant members of the Regional Skills Fora.</p>	
<p>The Regional Skills Fora Managers will carry out further skills audits in Q1. The Midlands RSF provided key input to the recently published NESC report on Just Transitions.</p>	

**Action 172** 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

**Q1-Q4 2019 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

**Responsible body:** RSF

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** 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:

- Signposting to existing provision and services;
- Course creation – Higher and Further education;
- Apprenticeship/traineeship development;
- Course modification – Higher Education and Further Education; and
- Work placements.

The Regional Skills Fora Managers will carry out further skills audits in Q1. Once skills needs have been identified, the managers will link companies with the education and training providers best suited to respond to their identified skills needs.

**Action 172** 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

**Q4 2019 measure:** In partnership with the Regional Skills Forum promote the skills linking service to local enterprises

**Responsible body:** Local Authorities

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Regional Skills Fora Managers conducted over 150 skills needs assessments under the [Skills for Growth Project](#) in 2019. Údarás na Gaeltachta and DEASP have been signed up as project partners and it is expected that they will commence conducting skills needs assessments shortly.

The Regional Skills Fora also continue to play a key role by facilitating:

- Signposting to existing provision and services;
- Course creation - Higher and Further education;
- Apprenticeship/traineeship development;
- Course modification - Higher Education and Further Education and work placements.

The RSF managers promote their services by holding events in their relevant regions, via their websites and ezines, and through links with local further and higher education and training providers and with other Government Departments and agencies such as DEASP, EI, FI and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

**Action 172** 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

**Q4 2019 measure: Support all actions in the Just Transition Plan where linkages to Education and Training Providers are required**

**Responsible body:** RSF

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** During 2019, the Regional Skills Fora Managers engaged with 1,498 enterprises. Engagement was mostly with Manufacturing (38%) and ICT (18%) other sectors that feature at <10% include, Financial & Insurance, Construction, Professional Scientific & Technical, Accommodation & Food Services and Arts Entertainment and Recreation. 75% of engagement was with Small, Medium and Micro enterprises. This is considered a key achievement as it empowers smaller companies to think strategically about their skills needs and how best to address them.

The Regional Skills Fora Manager in the Midlands was very involved with the Just Transition Plan. He was involved in heading up the skills/retraining subgroup for the Transition Team. This involved working with all providers from ETB's, AIT and private trainers in arranging upskilling briefings for staff. These events were held at the various Bord Na Mona plants and also involved DEASP and Citizens information.

As a result of this, the local ETB's met with staff to conduct a 1:1 discussion to ascertain their skills/qualifications and likely progression to further Education/Training. Take up on this was approximately 60%. He was also involved in discussions with BNM Management on skills for the future business needs and as a result Laois & Offaly ETB are drafting plans for a course on Bog Rehabilitation. It is envisaged this will give employment to approx. 100 people over the next 4-5 years.

**Action 173** Review ways to improve how current energy poverty schemes target those most in need

**Q4 2019 measure: Review ways to improve how current energy poverty schemes target those most in need**

**Responsible body:** DCCAE

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Initial review of aspects of the Warmer Homes Scheme completed and approved in November 2019. DCCAE is working with SEAI to review further aspects of the scheme and further recommendations will be submitted in Q1 2020. An announcement of any changes approved from both aspects of the review will follow.

<b>Action 173</b>	<b>Review ways to improve how current energy poverty schemes target those most in need</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Analyse means of increasing depth of retrofits delivered</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Review of relevant schemes complete. The Department and SEAI have identified approaches to increase the depth of retrofit to be introduced to existing schemes in 2020.	

<b>Action 173</b>	<b>Review ways to improve how current energy poverty schemes target those most in need</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Examine options to increase funding streams for current energy poverty schemes</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> Options considered and additional funding of €13m provided for Warmer Homes Scheme from revenues accruing from carbon price increase.	



**Action 175 Promote greater awareness of, and access to, network services available in the case of severe weather events by ESB Networks**

**Q4 2019 measure: Finalise customer research and identify specific nature of services**

**Responsible body:** ESBN

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** ESBN does considerable customer and market research to understand how satisfied customers are with service delivery and communications and to listen to their suggestions for improvements. Advertising effectiveness is continuously monitored, along with customer satisfaction, social media content effectiveness and engagement to track performance and provide insights for improvement. Post storms, ESBN review the effectiveness and impact of its engagement.

In 2019 customer focus groups increasingly indicated their preference for digital channels such as the PowerCheck application to check the status of an outage or report an outage. And for this digitally-native segment they have invested in search advertising so that customers who search power outage on Google will be directed to digital channels and an emergency phone number. ESBN has also invested in paid social content to deliver these messages. Geo-target messaging where necessary if storms only effect certain parts of the country.

ESBN is developing a new version of PowerCheck application and undertook specific customer focus groups in 2019 that showed that customers want to log faults on PowerCheck and receive digital notifications on outage information and estimated restoration times. This project is currently underway and will be launched later in 2020.

Not all customers want to use digital channels and ESBN's dedicated contact centre service receives over 1.6 million contacts (calls/emails) annually. The contact centre's performance is world-class achieving global awards and maintaining above 90% overall satisfaction rating which is independently managed by Research Perspective and reported to the Commission of Regulation for Utilities.

ESBN carries out its own analysis and monitors the volume of contact centre calls during major outages, which has dropped from 34% (2012) to 15% (2019). This fall is a result of customers using self-serve digital channels (PowerCheck and Interactive Voice Response) to get information on outages and to self-report outages instead of calling the call centre. Media outlets also use these channels to update their audiences.

<b>Action 175</b> Promote greater awareness of, and access to, network services available in the case of severe weather events by ESB Networks
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Support Age Action in communicating with their members about how to register (via their supplier) as vulnerable customers, and about how to prepare in advance of storms</b>
<b>Responsible body:</b> ESBN
<b>Status:</b> Complete
<p><b>Update:</b> Customers can self register as vulnerable with ESBN. If an outage is planned which affects vulnerable customers, they will receive 3 days advance notice but in practice often receive 6 days notice. Various age action groups follow ESBN on social media where ESBN provide safety messaging for the elderly. Priority given to vulnerable groups where appropriate authority is informed and appropriate action is taken. Safety messages on Social Media of Age Action Groups to pass on to vulnerable groups. Link sent out on a regular basis in relation to vulnerability and how to register.</p> <p>ESBN has consulted with Age Action regarding ESBN’s communications strategy around storm events. ESBN has advised Age Action of this strategy and the various communications tools that are available. ESBN understand that Age Action in turn have briefed their constituency regarding the Winter Ready Programme and the PowerCheck service and the information that it provides. ESBN are confident that given its widespread campaign online and offline that their messages are heard.</p>

<b>Action 176</b>	<b>Engage with all utility providers to improve the resilience of services in the face of severe weather events</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Identify, communicate and promote services which help mitigate the impacts of severe weather events</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Existing structures in place facilitated by the Office of Emergency Planning to respond and plan for national emergency events including severe weather emergencies, for which DHPLG is the designated Lead Government Department. Gas Networks: GNI's Severe Weather Contingency Plan is a key part of its Business Continuity Plan and the routing of the gas network is designed to take account of flood plains with additional precautions taken to ensure the network is not adversely affected by flooding. While ESBN has detailed structures in place to mitigate the impacts of severe weather events, most of its focus is on recovery after the event. Crews are deployed as soon as it is safe, and records show ESBN's successes in reconnecting affected customers is improving at every event.</p> <p>Severe weather implications for service delivery are central considerations within Irish Water's Business Continuity Plans. For day to day delivery of water services, there are comprehensive resilience plans and processes in place. Detailed crisis and incident management procedures, as well as a stand-alone Severe Weather Plans, are in place and tested regularly across the business. In addition, assets are being designed for climate resilience (flooding, storm water, climate vulnerability and management standard).</p> <p>DCCAE has ongoing engagement with GNI and ESB in relation to emergency planning matters, including participation in the "Gas and Electricity Emergency Planning (GEEP)" forum which is chaired by the Commission Regulation of Utilities.</p>	

<b>Action 177</b>	<b>Review challenges associated with the availability of property (home and business) insurance, and possible responses to this issue</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Engage with relevant stakeholders (including OPW and Ireland Flood Insurance MoU WG) to identify key issues</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DFin	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> Action 177a is complete. D/Fin pursued Action 177a through the <a href="#">public consultation on climate change and insurance</a>. The public consultation closed in mid-October and 12 submissions were received from stakeholder groups and members of the public. Some of the responses to the consultation along with a summary document of views received will be published on the Department's website shortly. In summary, a range of views were received in support of Government policy, opinions for and against compulsory insurance, and some suggestions were put forward including a recommendation regarding improvement in the transparency of data.</p> <p>In December, the Department held a series of meetings with some groups and members of the public to further explore the themes highlighted in the public consultation responses. The Department met with the Irish National Flood Forum, Society of Actuaries and the Climate Change Advisory Council to gain an insight into the different perspectives.</p> <p>On the 12 December, the Department attended the OPW and Ireland Flood Insurance MoU Working Group where the Department updated the stakeholders on the interest in the public consultation, the key issues flagged to date and the next steps as part of the climate action plan.</p>	

<b>Action 177</b>	<b>Review challenges associated with the availability of property (home and business) insurance, and possible responses to this issue</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Carry out international comparisons</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DFin	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> In the context of the Climate Action Plan, the Department of Finance launched a <a href="#">Public Consultation on Climate Change and Insurance</a> in July 2019. The Department sought responses from stakeholders on this issue and a public consultation paper was prepared to assist this goal. The paper provides an overview of what the Government is doing to mitigate flood risk, the current insurance model in Ireland, the Flood Insurance Bill 2016, the risk posed by climate change, and lessons from other countries.</p> <p>In the paper we examined case studies from other countries which were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood relief in the UK</li> <li>• The National Flood Insurance Program in the US</li> <li>• Individual Property Protection measures in the UK.</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, an examination of flood insurance in France took place in November 2019 on foot of the Irish National Flood Forum's response to the public consultation on climate change and insurance, which listed the French scheme as a possible alternative to follow.</p>	

<b>Action 177</b>	<b>Review challenges associated with the availability of property (home and business) insurance, and possible responses to this issue</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure: Outline of possible response/future actions</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DFin	
<b>Status:</b> Delayed	
<b>Update:</b> D/Fin continues to explore possible responses and future actions in relation to the challenges of flood insurance. It is important to note that this a complex policy issue and requires detailed analysis and engagement with stakeholders. It is unlikely that a report setting out the findings of the public consultation and possible next steps will be completed by the end of 2019.	

<b>Action 178</b>	<b>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</b>
<b>Q4 2019 measure:</b> Development and delivery of Science Week 2019	
<b>Responsible body:</b> SFI	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<p><b>Update:</b> <a href="#">National Science Week</a> took place from the 10– 17 November, with a range of events still occurring into the following week nationwide. Over 1,350 events took place across the country, including 13 Regional Science Week Festivals and 14 event programmes in other locations, supported through the SFI Discover Science Week funding programme.</p> <p>Programmes included Climate Action as a theme in many of the events available to the public. A large scale media and engagement effort was delivered, addressing the Climate Action theme for Science Week 2019. This included podcasts with Blindboy (with 700,000 listens) and Dubland; a series of climate action cartoons with comedian Colm O’Regan and cartoonist Twisted Doodles; and a series of articles and video content with experts on digital media outlet such as Independent.ie, The Irish Times, thejournal.ie, Joe.ie and Her.ie with a combined 255,296 views. This was supported through radio content across regional youth stations and national programmes including the Moncrieff Show, with a combined reach of 435,000.</p> <p>SFI, in association with Coillte, supported the national effort to plant 440 million trees by 2040. Coillte provided 30,000 trees to SFI that were planted during Science Week. In conjunction with many partners including the Tree Council of Ireland, Easy Treesie, the OPW and DAFM, tree planting events took place across the country where the public found out what trees do for our environment and carbon footprint, which trees suit the Irish ecosystem best and how they can plant trees at home.</p> <p>A full programme of activity took place across Science Week on RTÉ, through the SFI – RTÉ Joint Agreement 2019. This included the SFI supported programme ‘What Planet Are You On’ which screened on RTÉ1 from the 12 – 1<sup>h</sup> November to strong television audiences each night. The programme featured Irish families working with experts to address climate action by adapting their daily lives. The series had an average viewership of 342,000, a 26.9% share. This was a significant increase for the timeslot with strong gains for children and adults 35+ implying family appeal for the programme. Other activity included regular climate features on the RTÉ weather, children’s programming, RTÉ news and across RTÉ digital and radio platforms. Further analysis of participant reach is being compiled and will be completed in the new year.</p>	

## Adaptation

<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>Q4 2019 measure: Ensure implementation of 2019 CARO work programme and develop 2020 work programme</b>	
<b>Responsible body:</b> DCCAE	
<b>Status:</b> Complete	
<b>Update:</b> DCCAE worked closely with CAROs with respect to implementation of 2019 work programme; the CAROs have reported on implementation through the year. A revised work programme for 2020 has been developed in consultation with the sector so as to align with stated objectives within the plan.	

## Appendix 1 – Overall delivery rates to date: Climate Action Plan 2019

### Delivery Table for Q2/ Q3 2019

	Measures Completed/ On Schedule in the Quarter	Measures still delayed	Delivery Rate
Ongoing	53/53	0	100%
Q2/Q3 2019	96/123	27	78%
<b>Total Climate Action Plan Delivery to date</b>	<b>149/176</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>85%<sup>1</sup></b>

### Delivery Table for Q4 2019

	Measures Completed/ On Schedule in Quarter	Measures Subsequently Delivered	Total Measures Delivered to date	Measures still delayed	Delivery Rate
Q2/Q3 2019	96/123	23/27	119/123	4	97%
Q4 2019	113/157	N/A	113/157	44	72%
<b>Total Climate Action Plan Delivery to date</b>	<b>209/280</b>	<b>23/27</b>	<b>232/280</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>83%</b>

<sup>1</sup> In the published Q2/Q3 progress report, the total delivery rate was derived by combining the ongoing measures with those due for delivery in the quarters. In order to maximise transparency in subsequent quarters, progress in relation to ongoing measures is now reported separately.