



IRELAND'S DRAFT UPDATED NATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLAN





An important step towards the more ambitious 2030 energy and climate objectives under the European Green Deal and REPowerEU



Highlights of the Commission's assessment

The European Green Deal, the fast-evolving geopolitical context and the energy crisis have led the EU and its Member States to **accelerate the energy transition and set more ambitious energy and climate objectives**. These developments are reflected in the legislative and policy framework adopted under both the 'Fit for 55' package and the REPowerEU Plan. Taking this new context into account, **Member States are updating their National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) for the first time since 2019**. The European Commission has assessed Ireland's draft updated NECP, submitted on 8 December 2023.

Ireland's key objectives, targets and contributions

	2030 target submitted in the draft updated NECP	2030 target under EU legislation	Assessment of 2030 ambition level
 GHG emissions in ESR sectors (compared with 2005)	-10.2%	-42%	Ireland does not reach its target based on projections.
 GHG net removals in LULUCF (Mt CO ₂ eq. net greenhouse gas removals)	+9.7	-0.626 (additional net removal target) +3.728 (total net value)**	Ireland is not reaching its target based on projections. However, there is a positive outlook based on revised inventory.
 Energy Efficiency (Final energy consumption)	12.9 Mtoe	9.858 Mtoe***	Ireland's final energy consumption is above the indicated target resulting from EU legislation.
 Renewable Energy (Share of renewable energy in gross final consumption)	31.4%	43%****	Ireland's submitted contribution to the EU target is significantly below the one resulting from EU legislation.

* under the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR).

** under the Regulation on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).

*** according to the formula set out in Annex I of the Directive (EU) 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 ('EED recast').

**** according to the formula set out in Annex II of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance Regulation of the Energy Union and Climate Action.



Ireland's main positive elements and areas for improvement

- ✓ On **renewable electricity**, Ireland sets out the objective to reach an 80% share of renewable electricity generation by 2030, driven by auctions under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme.
- ✓ On **energy poverty**, the draft updated NECP recognizes energy poverty as a multidimensional challenge and outlines various measures aimed at addressing energy poverty comprehensively.
- ✓ On **sustainable transport**, Ireland's draft updated NECP includes objectives for an increased share of zero- and low-emission vehicles: 845,000 electric passenger cars; 95,000 electric vans and trucks; 1,500 electric buses; and 3,500 low-emission trucks.
- ✓ On **Just Transition**, the plan provides information on the most impacted areas concerned by the transition away from peat and carbon intensive industries.

- ✗ On **energy efficiency**, the plan is missing several key elements such as the national contributions to the 2030 energy efficiency targets, an assessment of the financing and the expected impact of the planned measures in terms of energy savings.
- ✗ On **energy security**, fossil fuels comprise a very significant share of Ireland's energy mix and domestic extraction is decreasing, resulting in a high dependence on energy imports from third countries, with few detailed measures in the plan, e.g. to reduce gas demand.
- ✗ On the **internal energy market**, the plan does not indicate specific measures to accelerate the deployment of electricity storage, nor to engage the system operators in facilitating the penetration of flexibility services.
- ✗ On **adaptation to climate change**, the plan does not consider relevant climate vulnerabilities and risks, and this may put the achievement of energy and climate mitigation objectives at risk.
- ✗ On **fossil fuel subsidies**, no date, timeline, or commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies are given in the plan.

Moving forward...

Based on this assessment, the Commission has published country-specific recommendations for each Member State. These recommendations should be taken into account by the Member States when preparing their final updated NECPs, which are due by 30 June 2024.

Full Commission's assessment and recommendations on Ireland's draft updated NECP: [here](#)

More information about the National Energy & Climate Plans: [NECP website](#)