

Meeting our 2008-2012 Commitment

The Strategy sets out on a sectoral basis that a combination of existing and additional measures will reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by over 17 million tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent in the period 2008-2012. Additional measures for the purposes of this Strategy encompass policies

and measures adopted since the last projections were completed for the Government in March 2006.

	Mt CO2 equivalent)
Reduction from existing measures	8.66
Reduction from additional measures	4.953
Use of flexible mechanisms	3.607
TOTAL	17.22

Table 1: 2008-2012 emission reductions

The quantified reductions include 13.6 Mt (or 79%) resulting from domestic action and 3.6 Mt (or 21%) credited to the Government in return for investing in emission-reduction projects in developing economies. These credits arise under the flexible mechanisms which are an integral part of the Kyoto Protocol since the environmental benefit of a given emission reduction is the same irrespective of where on the planet it is achieved. The Protocol therefore allows countries determine the most cost-effective balance between domestic reductions and investing in reductions elsewhere.

Table 2 shows that the combined effect of all quantified measures will be more than adequate to meet Ireland's Kyoto commitment.

	Mt CO2 equivalent
Emissions without any measures	79.829
Existing measures	8.66
Projected emissions after existing measures	71.169
Less: Kyoto target	63.032
Distance to target	8.137
Additional measures	4.953
Flexible mechanisms	3.607
Total additional effect	8.56

Table 2: Achievement of the distance to target

There will be further reductions, not included in these calculations, as a result of measures that cannot be separately quantified, such as awareness campaigns, and measures planned but not yet finalised, such as the rebalancing in 2008 of motor tax and VRT in favour of low-emission vehicles.

Key Additional Measures

The following are the principal measures in this Strategy, over and above those already in place when the review of the first National Climate Change Strategy was published in 2006. As the Strategy draws together the Government's collective effort across all sectors to tackle climate change, some of these measures are also included in recent policy statements such as the Energy White Paper and Budget 2007.

Energy (Ch 3)

- 15% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2010 and 33% by 2020

- Biomass to contribute up to 30% of energy input at peat stations by 2015
- Support for Combined Heat and Power projects
- National Ocean Energy Strategy

Transport (Ch 4)

- Modal shift to public transport as a result of *Transport 21* investment
- Rebalancing of VRT and motor tax, supported by improved mandatory labelling
- Introduction of biofuels obligation scheme in 2009
- CIE to be required to move to biodiesel blend
- National efficient driving awareness campaign
- Sustainable Transport Action Plan to be published in late 2007
- Support for inclusion of aviation in EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Residential Sector (Chapter 5)

- Revised Building Regulations in 2008 to aim for 40% improvement on current thermal performance standards
- Building Energy Rating certification introduced from 2007
- Grants for renewable energy heating under Greener Homes Scheme
- Levy on incandescent bulbs to encourage shift to low-energy bulbs
- Smart meters to be supplied to all electricity customers
- Energy efficiency measures to be funded in social housing programmes

Business (Chapter 6)

- Building Regulations and Building Energy Rating
- Energy Agreements Programme
- Bioheat and CHP programmes
- Support for eco-efficient technology and practices

Agriculture, Land-use and Forestry Sectors (Chapter 7)

- REPS 4 scheme will support carbon sequestration and reduction of emissions from fertilisers
- Support for improved manure management
- Feasibility of anaerobic digestion to be explored
- Top-up to EU premium for energy crops
- New supports for afforestation
- Biomass Harvesting Scheme

Waste Sector (Chapter 8)

- Use of waste biomass in energy production
- Support for waste-to-energy projects under REFIT scheme

Public Sector (Chapter 9)

- Energy Efficiency Programme with target of 33% energy savings across public sector by 2020
- Biomass heating in schools
- All street lighting and traffic lights required to be energy efficient
- All public sector fleets to be required to move to biofuel blend
- Carbon offsetting of all official air travel

Cross-sectoral (Chapter 10)

- €15m multi-annual Climate Change Awareness campaign
- Examination of incentives and disincentives
- Assessment of potential for domestic offset schemes
- Major funding for research programmes

Adaptation (Chapter 11)

- Flood risk strategy being developed
- Overall national adaptation strategy to be developed by 2009

Implementation and review (Chapter 12)

- Commission on Climate Change to provide high-level advice to Government on progress and to increase awareness in all sectors
- High Level Group on Climate Change to coordinate implementation
- Guidance on cost-benefit appraisal of emission reductions
- Implementation Status Report, including further measures, to be published each year and presented to Joint Oireachtas Committee
- Periodic review by Cabinet Committee
- Third National Climate Change Strategy to focus on post-Kyoto commitments