

Update on Climate Change Policies



The Signpost Programme is a collaborative partnership of farmers, industry and state agencies working together for climate action. For further details please refer to www.teagasc.ie/signpost



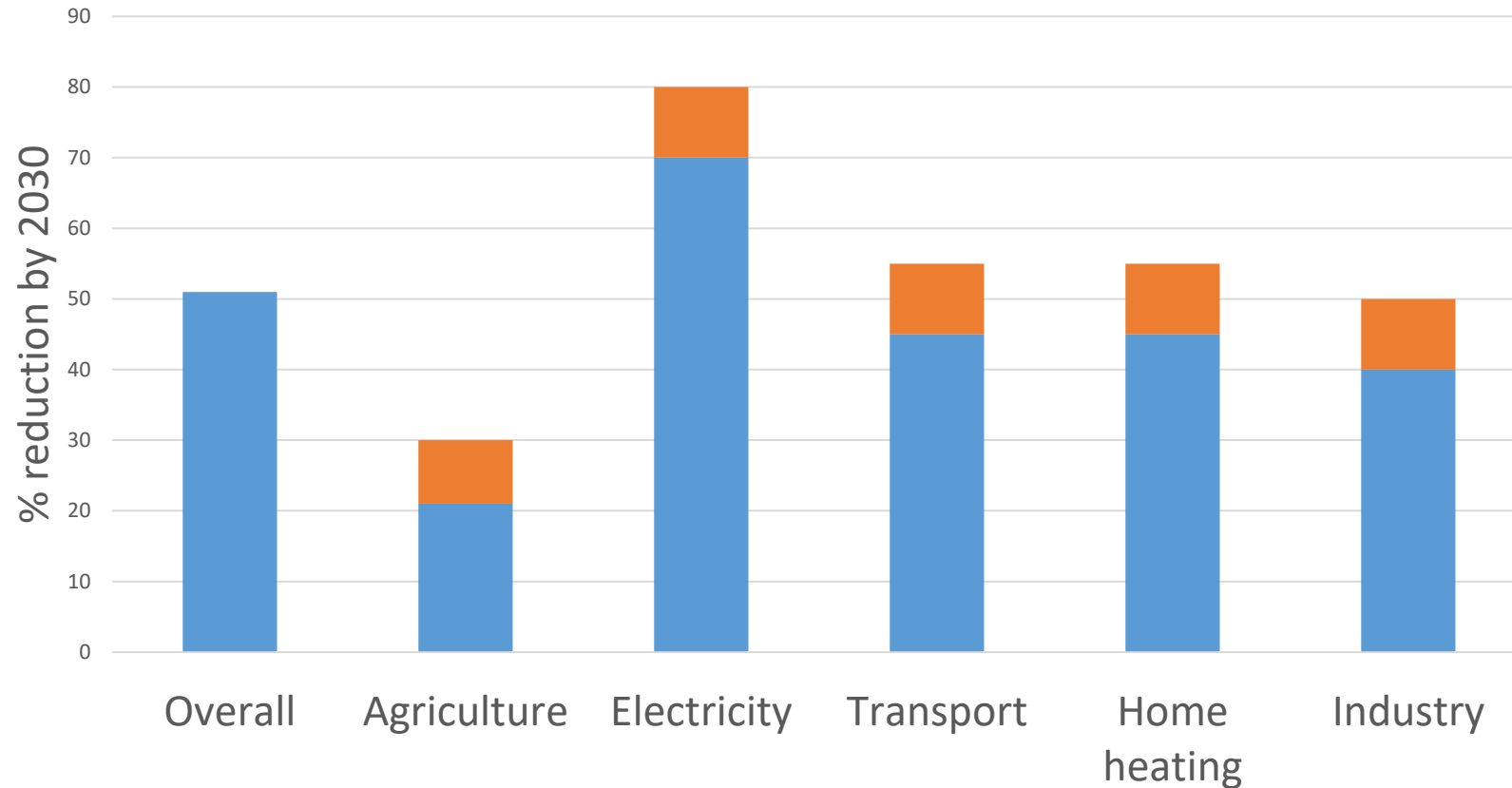
COP21, Paris Agreement

- A **legally binding, international treaty on climate change**
- Adopted by 196 Parties (incl. Ireland) at COP 21 in Paris (on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016)
- Its goal is to **limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C**, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Govt. and EU policy targets

- 2019 Climate Action Plan
 - National emissions to reduce by 30% by 2030
 - Agriculture to reduce by 10-15%
- New 2021 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act
 - National emissions to reduce by 51% by 2030
 - Signed into law by President Higgins on 23rd July
 - “Leaked” target for agriculture of 21 – 30% reduction by 2030
- EU has also increased its targets
 - “Fit for 55” targets a 55% reduction by 2030 (up from 40%, and versus 1990 baseline)

Climate Action Plan 2021 Sectoral Targets*



* Leaked report, 17/10/21

LULUCF

(Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry)

- Separate sector, currently emitting 4.8Mt
 - Change to Gross-Net from Net-Net is significant
- Emissions will increase as forestry sequestration decreases over this decade
- LULUCF will have its own target to cut emissions by 51%
- Policy challenge to enable additional forestry, improved forest management, hedgerows, rewetting, straw incorporation, etc.
- Very important for post 2030

	LULUCF 2018
Emissions	9.6
Removals	4.8
Net LULUCF	4.8

CCAC Carbon Budgets (25/10/21)

- Base year is 2018 (68.3 MtCO_{2e}/year)
- 2021 – 2025: 295 MtCO_{2e} (59 MtCO_{2e}/year)
 - 4.8% reduction per year
- 2026 – 2030: 200 MtCO_{2e} (40 MtCO_{2e}/year...but 33.5 MtCO_{2e} by 2030)
 - 8.3% reduction per year
- The first two budgets will allow Ireland meet its 51% GHG reduction target
- 2031 – 2035 (provisional): 151 MtCO_{2e} (30.2 MtCO_{2e}/year)
- “Transformational changes required”
- Budgets presented to Minister Ryan, who will bring it to Government and Oireachtas for approval
- Once approved, the overall budget will be divided between the various sectors
 - Agriculture will have a budget for the amount of GHG emissions it can produce each year

Proposed Carbon Budgets (CCAC)

	2021-2025 CB1	2026-2030 CB2	2031- 2035 (Provisional) CB3
	All Gases		
Carbon Budget (Mt CO₂eq)	295	200	151
Annual Average Percentage Change in Emissions	-4.8%	-8.3%	-3.5%
The figures are consistent with emissions in 2018 of 68.3Mt CO ₂ eq reducing to 33.5Mt CO ₂ eq in 2030 thus allowing compliance with the 51% emission reduction target.			

Agriculture GHG Emissions, 2020 (EPA)

- Total Agriculture GHG Emissions, 2020 = 21.4 MtCO_{2e}
- 37.1% of total GHG emissions
- + 1.4% v 2019, due to increased fertiliser use and dairy cow numbers

Total and Agricultural GHG Emissions, 2020 (EPA)

