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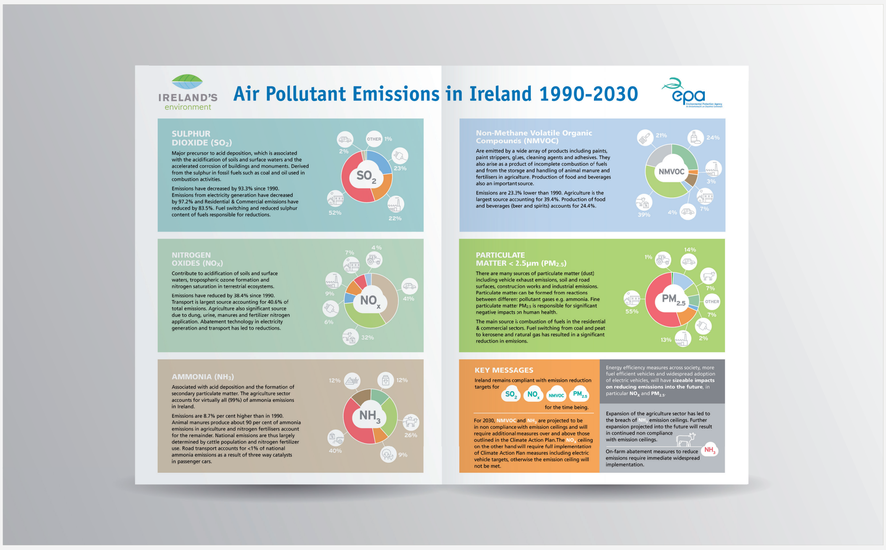
Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections
2019-2040
July 2020

PM2.5
NH3
SO2
NMVOC
NOx


IRELAND'S environment
Air Pollutant Emissions in Ireland 1990-2030
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SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO2)
Major precursor to acid deposition, which is associated with the acidification of soils and surface waters and the accelerated corrosion of buildings and monuments. Derived from the sulphur in fossil fuels such as coal and oil used in combustion activities.
Emissions have decreased by 93.3% since 1990. Emissions from electricity generation have decreased by 97.2% and Residential & Commercial emissions have reduced by 83.5%. Fuel switching and reduced sulphur content of fuels responsible for reductions.
Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds (NMVOC)
Are emitted by a wide array of products including paints, paint strippers, glues, cleaning agents and adhesives. They also arise as a product of incomplete combustion of fuels and from the storage and handling of animal manure and fertilisers in agriculture. Production of food and beverages also an important source.
Emissions are 23.3% lower than 1990. Agriculture is the largest source accounting for 39.4%. Production of food and beverages (beer and spirits) accounts for 24.4%.
NITROGEN OXIDES (NOx)
Contribute to acidification of soils and surface waters, tropospheric ozone formation and nitrogen saturation in terrestrial ecosystems.
Emissions have reduced by 38.4% since 1990. Transport is largest source accounting for 40.8% of total emissions. Agriculture also significant source due to dung, urine, manures and fertilizer nitrogen application. Abatement technology in electricity generation and transport has led to reductions.
PARTICULATE MATTER < 2.5µm (PM2.5)
There are many sources of particulate matter (dust) including vehicle exhaust emissions, soil and road surfaces, construction works and industrial emissions. Particulate matter can be formed from reactions between different pollutant gases e.g. ammonia. Fine particulate matter PM2.5 is responsible for significant negative impacts on human health.
The main source is combustion of fuels in the residential & commercial sectors. Fuel switching from coal and peat to kerosene and natural gas has resulted in a significant reduction in emissions.
AMMONIA (NH3)
Associated with acid deposition and the formation of secondary particulate matter. The agriculture sector accounts for virtually all (99%) of ammonia emissions in Ireland.
Emissions are 8.7% per cent higher than in 1990. Animal manures produce about 90 per cent of ammonia emissions in agriculture and nitrogen fertilisers account for the remainder. National emissions are thus largely determined by cattle population and nitrogen fertilizer use. Road transport accounts for <1% of national ammonia emissions as a result of three way catalysts in passenger cars.
KEY MESSAGES
Ireland remains compliant with emission reduction targets for SO2, NOx, NMVOC, PM2.5 for the time being.
For 2030, NMVOC and NH3 are projected to be in non compliance with emission ceilings and will require additional measures over and above those outlined in the Climate Action Plan.The NH3 ceiling on the other hand will require full implementation of Climate Action Plan measures including electric vehicle targets, otherwise the emission ceiling will not be met.
Energy efficiency measures across society, more fuel efficient vehicles and widespread adoption of electric vehicles, will have sizeable impacts on reducing emissions into the future, in particular NOx and PM2.5
Expansion of the agriculture sector has led to the breach of NH3 emission ceilings. Further expansion projected into the future will result in continued non compliance with emission ceilings.
On-farm abatement measures to reduce NH3 emissions require immediate widespread implementation.

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Packaging Waste in Ireland in 2018
Packaging accounts for ONE-THIRD of all waste collected at kerbside
Just over 1 MILLION TONNES of packaging waste was generated in 2018 by households and businesses
Recycling & recovery
Overall, 64% OF IRELAND'S packaging waste was recycled in 2018
New EU recycling targets will be challenging for Ireland
Only 31% of plastic packaging waste was recycled in 2018 Ireland's 2025 target is 55%
Key actions for government and industry
PREVENT WASTE at source by reducing the amount of packaging placed on the market in the first place
INCENTIVISE REUSABLE OVER SINGLE-USE PACKAGING
DESIGN FOR REUSE & RECYCLABILITY
EXPAND IRELAND'S RECYCLING LIST
OPPOSE SEPARATE COLLECTION OF WASTE
CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE ACTION
What can you do?
Separate your waste and use the correct bin. Check what is and isn't recycling bin are clean, dry and loose
SUPPORT BUSINESSES that are moving towards more sustainable packaging practices
mywaste
Check out www.mywaste.ie for tips and advice on managing & preventing waste
For more information www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics
WASTE MANAGEMENT