



# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES





# Introduction to the clean energy transition & latest developments in Ireland

Statement of Strategy

**2017–2021**



# About SEAI

# SEAI's Vision

- Ireland's energy will be sustainable, secure, affordable and clean

**1. Use Less** - Energy Efficiency = most economical & immediate opportunities to reduce import dependence & emissions and bring social & economic benefits



**2. Use Clean**  
Fully exploit all local renewable energy sources in a socially & environmentally sustainable way



**3. Innovate** - develop new technological, economic & social approaches to sustainable energy transition.  
SEAI mandate to lead & coordinate energy research & innovation, support policy evidence-base





# SEAI's Mission & Goals

*“SEAI will be central to bringing about a low carbon economy through measures and activities focused on the transition to a smarter and more sustainable energy future.”*

- Empowering citizens and communities to be at the centre of this transition
- Increasing awareness and confidence in sustainable energy technologies, practices and behaviours
- Increasing the impact from existing grant programmes, and development of new platforms to support the transition

# EU Targets and Ireland

**30.1%**

Electricity



**40%**

2020 Target

**6.9%**

Heat



**12%**

2020 Target

**7.4%**

Transport



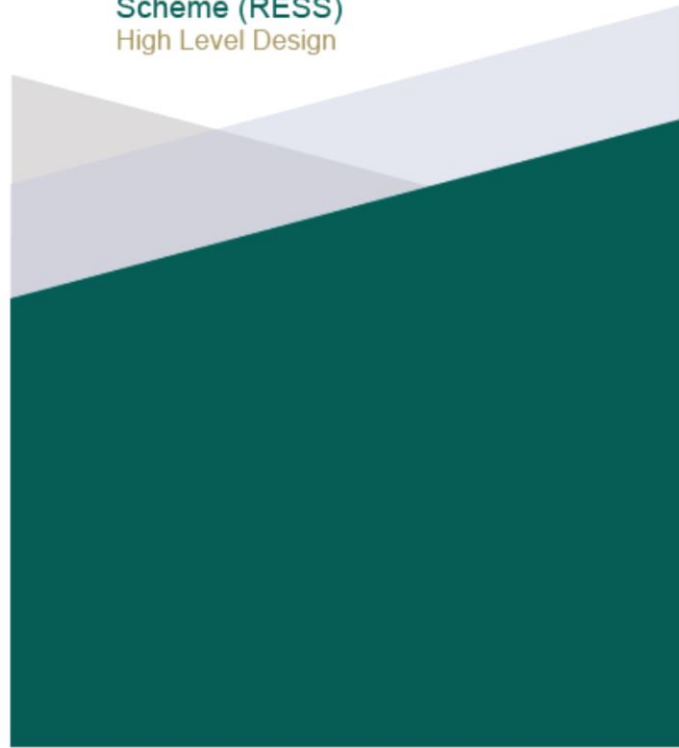
**10%**

2020 Target



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Renewable Electricity Support  
Scheme (RESS)  
High Level Design



# Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)



# What is RESS?



The proposed new Renewable Electricity Support Scheme will provide support to renewable electricity projects in Ireland. With a primary focus on cost effectiveness, the RESS will deliver a **broader range of policy objectives.**







# What is RESS?

- An Enabling Framework for **Community Participation** through the provision of pathways and supports for communities to participate in renewable energy projects
- Increasing Technology Diversity by broadening the renewable electricity technology mix (the diversity of technologies)
- Delivering an ambitious renewable electricity policy to 2030
- Increasing energy security, energy sustainability and ensuring the cost effectiveness of energy policy



# Communities and renewables

Communities are being designed into the fabric of the new Renewable Electricity Support Scheme. The RESS will be characterised by increased community participation in, and ownership of, renewable electricity projects.



# Communities and renewables



- Community Benefit Schemes
  - Mandatory Community Benefit Fund and Register standardised across the sector. It is proposed that this contribution is set at €2/MWh.
- Community Participation
  - Mandatory investment opportunities for communities and citizens in all RESS projects. To qualify for RESS auctions, projects will have to meet community investment criteria.
- Community-led Projects
  - Financial support for community-led projects across early phases of project development including feasibility and development studies (grants, legal and technical assistance).



Tithe an  
Oireachtais  
Houses of the  
Oireachtas

Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide  
An tAthru Aeráide: Comhdhearcadh Traspháirtí don Ghníomhú  
Márta 2019

Report of the Joint Committee on Climate Action  
Climate Change: A Cross-Party Consensus for Action  
March 2019

# Joint Committee Report on Climate Change



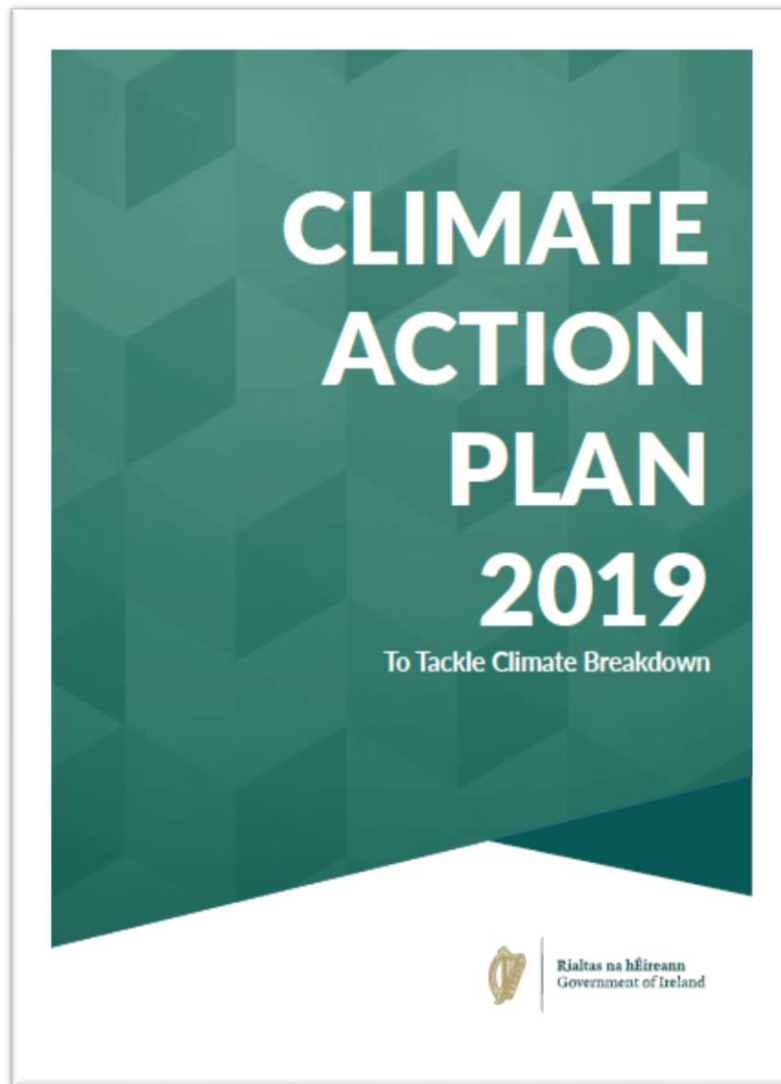
# Overview

- The 2017 **Citizens' Assembly** report and recommendations have provided a new impetus in climate policy.
- The report highlighted a **strong desire on the part of citizens** for the State to take far more ambitious actions **to make Ireland a leader** in tackling climate change.
- The Committee was established to consider the third report and recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly entitled "How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change"

# Relevance to Sustainable Energy Communities

## Energy:

- Community Energy: a community energy ownership **target ‘which may be at least 500MW’** (TBD by Climate Action Council) by 2025. RESS should also include **mandatory community benefits** and measures to allow for **community ownership** of renewable energy projects.
- Feed-in-Tariff for microgeneration to be set at **at least the wholesale price of electricity**.
- **Removal of planning restrictions** for rooftop solar PV by March 2020
- **Further support for Sustainable Energy Communities Programme** to (quote) *“build on the excellent work that has been done to date”*



# Climate Action Plan 2019



# 183 Actions Including.....



## Citizens and Communities

Engage Communities across the country through:

- Establishing a **Community Outreach Programme**
- Driving action through the **National Dialogue on Climate Action**
- Increase the number of Sustainable Energy Communities to **1,500**
- Develop **flagship low-carbon projects** in all Local Authorities



Establish a Just



## Buildings



**500,000**

existing homes to upgrade to 'B2' equivalent BER by 2030

**600,000**

heat pumps installed by 2030

(of which 400,000 will be in existing buildings)



New retrofitting delivery model,



## To be Enshrined in Law

**Carbon proofing** all government decisions and major investments



**Climate Action Delivery Board** overseen by the **Taoiseach** to monitor delivery

Strong accountability to an **Oireachtas Climate Action Committee**

## 5 Year Carbon Budget

**Independent Climate Action Council** to recommend the **Carbon Budget** and evaluate policy



## Carbon Pricing

Trajectory of Carbon Pricing to create **behaviour changing incentives** and avoid locking in carbon intensive technologies



## Electricity

**70%**

Electricity generated from renewable sources by 2030



**Phase-out Coal and Peat** electricity generation



Homeowners to generate their own electricity and sell back to the grid under scheme for **micro-generation**



## Transport

Increase the number of EVs by 2030 to circa



**1 million**

**Build EV charging network** to stay ahead of demand

Expand our network of cycle paths and 'Park and Ride' facilities, helping ease congestion

**No diesel-only purchases** for public buses in our cities from 1 July 2019



**seai** SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND



# Community and Climate Action Plan

*'..big step-up in our engagement with citizens and communities..'*

*'.. more coherent mobilisation of existing structures and initiatives inform, engage, motivate, and empower people to take climate action.'*

*'..individuals and communities will be at the heart of the low-carbon transition..'*

*'..positive choices can be made for the future that will ultimately bring long-term benefits to communities across Ireland..'*

# Government Climate Action Plan

## Citizen Engagement, Community Leadership & Just Transition

Expand the SEAI SEC programme to **500 members by 2020** and **1,500 by 2030** – this can only happen through collaboration

“change must happen in every home, in every workplace and in every network which supports our lifestyle. This will require a very high level of engagement, buy-in and motivation.”



# Government Climate Action Plan

## Action 167: Expand the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Programme from 256 members to 500 by 2025, and 1,500 by 2030

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	Q4 2019	DCCAE	SEAI, LGMA,
Research and Pilot 3 new mechanisms and models for community energy action at local level which includes ideas received from the SEAI Community Network, this includes the potential for a Community Renewable Energy Pilot scheme to assist Communities to invest in renewable energy projects and/or opening new streams of community energy funding	Q4 2020	DCCAE	SEAI











**Thank you**



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