

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND IRELAND

The Irish Government has set clear and ambitious targets that will move Ireland from falling short of renewable targets to playing its part in achieving our European and international climate objectives. The time to act on climate change is now. Ireland is committed to carbon neutrality by 2050. These targets are based on, amongst other things, 5GW of offshore wind by 2030.

The cost of continuing to ignore our targets will be significant. Estimates place the cost of fines relating to emissions and renewable energy at over €150 million per annum. Beyond this financial penalty, our failure to act is contributing to the irreversible damage being done to our planet.

The impact of climate change is already being felt in Ireland. Recent years have seen extreme weather events of flooding, drought and lock down by extreme snow fall. Rising seas are already impacting on our coastal communities and recent studies indicate that in the years ahead they will pose a threat to low lying areas.



## IRELAND'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Ireland's proposed response to climate change is the National Climate Action Plan. This plan contains the solutions which will help Ireland decarbonise our society and move away from being what An Taoiseach described as "a climate laggard".



**70%**  
electricity generated from renewable sources by 2030

Ireland's Climate Action Plan has set a target that 70% of our electricity will come from renewable energy by 2030, including a target to have 5GW of offshore wind installed. This will allow us to generate clean energy which can displace fossil fuels, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow down climate disruption. The Oriel project can play a vital role in delivering these goals.

## IRELAND'S ENERGY REPORT CARD

SEAI RENEWABLE ENERGY IN IRELAND 2019 REPORT

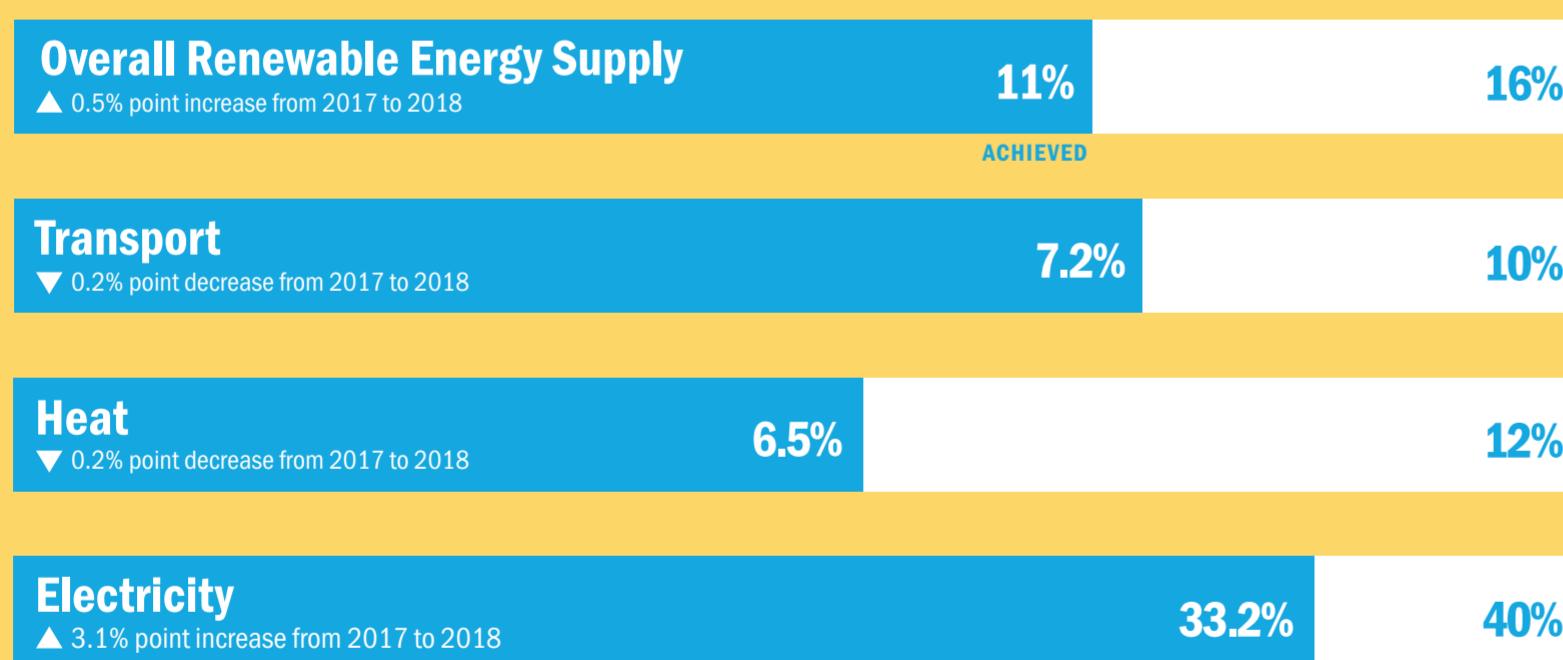
Ireland was ranked  
**27** out of the EU-28  
on Progress towards  
meeting 2020 targets

Ireland was ranked  
**27** out of the EU-28  
on Renewable Heat

Ireland was ranked  
**13th** out of the EU  
– 28 on Renewable  
Transport

Ireland was ranked  
**12th** out of the EU  
– 28 on Renewable  
Electricity

## RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS



Renewable Energy in Ireland 2020 Update, SEAI (2019)

It is estimated to achieve our 70% target for renewable electricity by 2030, Ireland will require approximately 10,000 MW of wind of which at least 3,500 MW is offshore and 2,900 MW of solar energy\*

\*Climate Action Plan



## PHASE-OUT COAL & PEAT

Ireland is set to close its coal and peat burning power plants in the coming years. The four power plants that are closing, Moneypoint, Lough Ree, West Offaly and Edenderry, have a combined output of 1.2GW of electricity. That is enough electricity to power over one million homes. Oriel will help to replace these fuel burning stations with a clean, renewable indigenous energy source.