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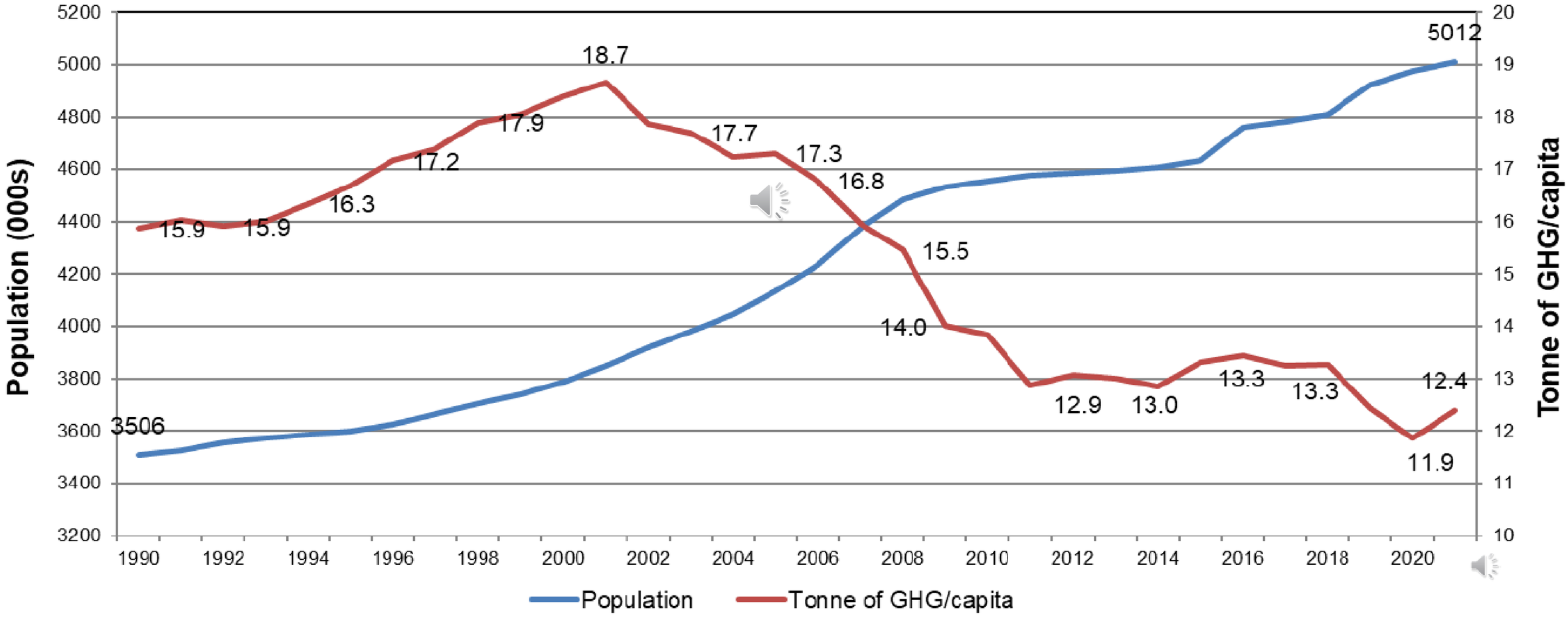
Facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress Ireland

Kevin O’Donoghue, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment

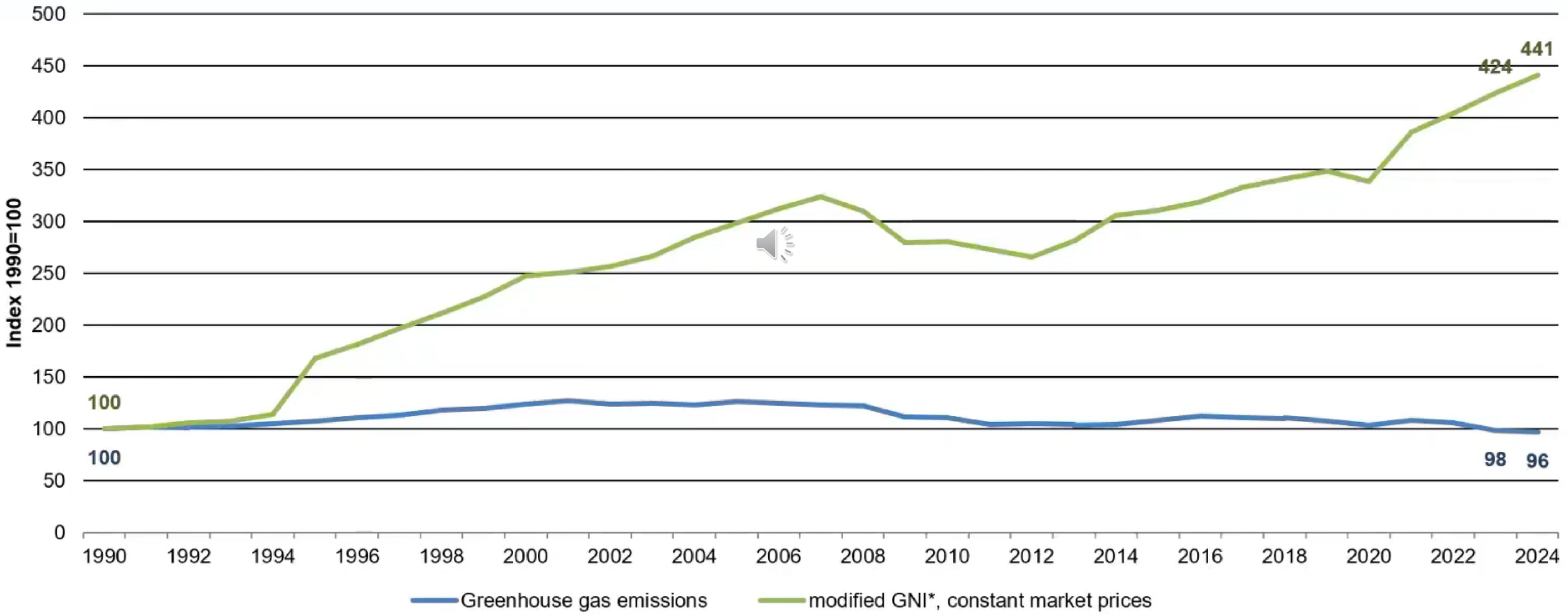
May 2026

Ireland’s Emissions Trends

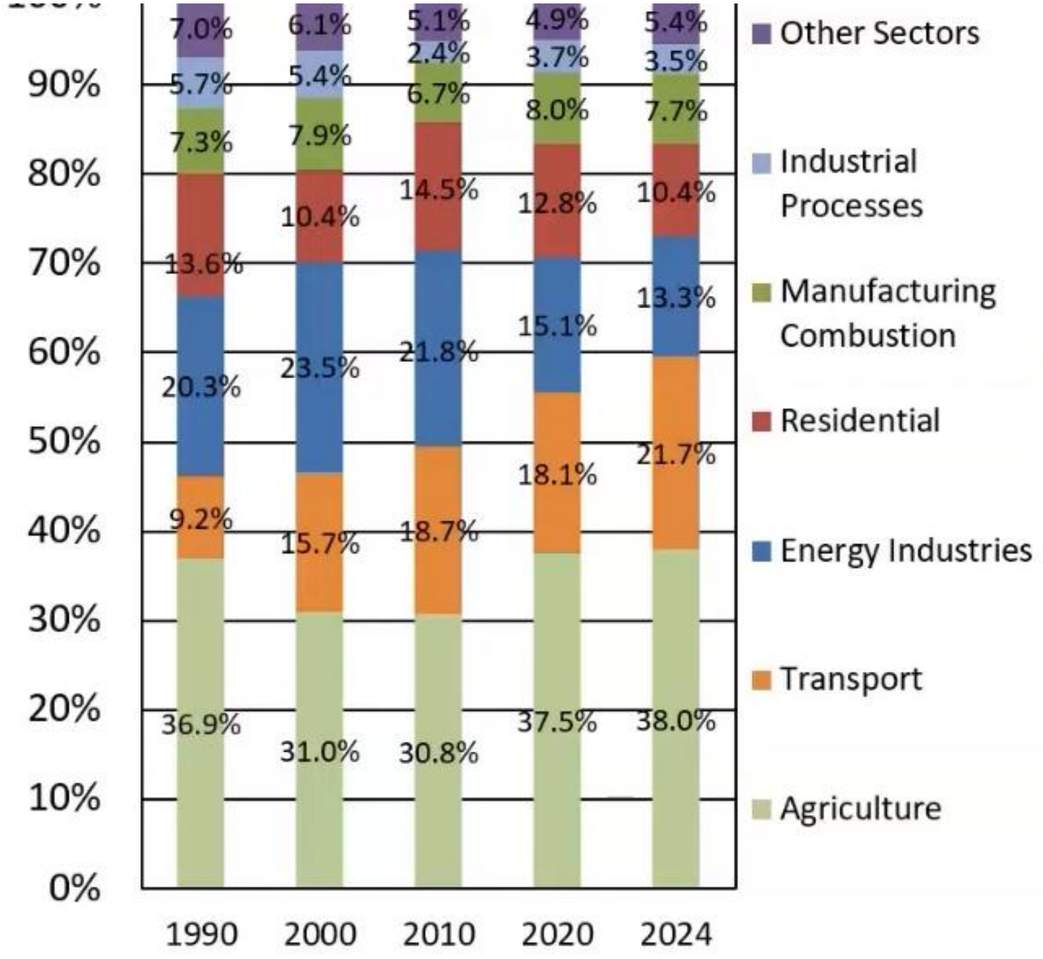
Emissions drivers - population

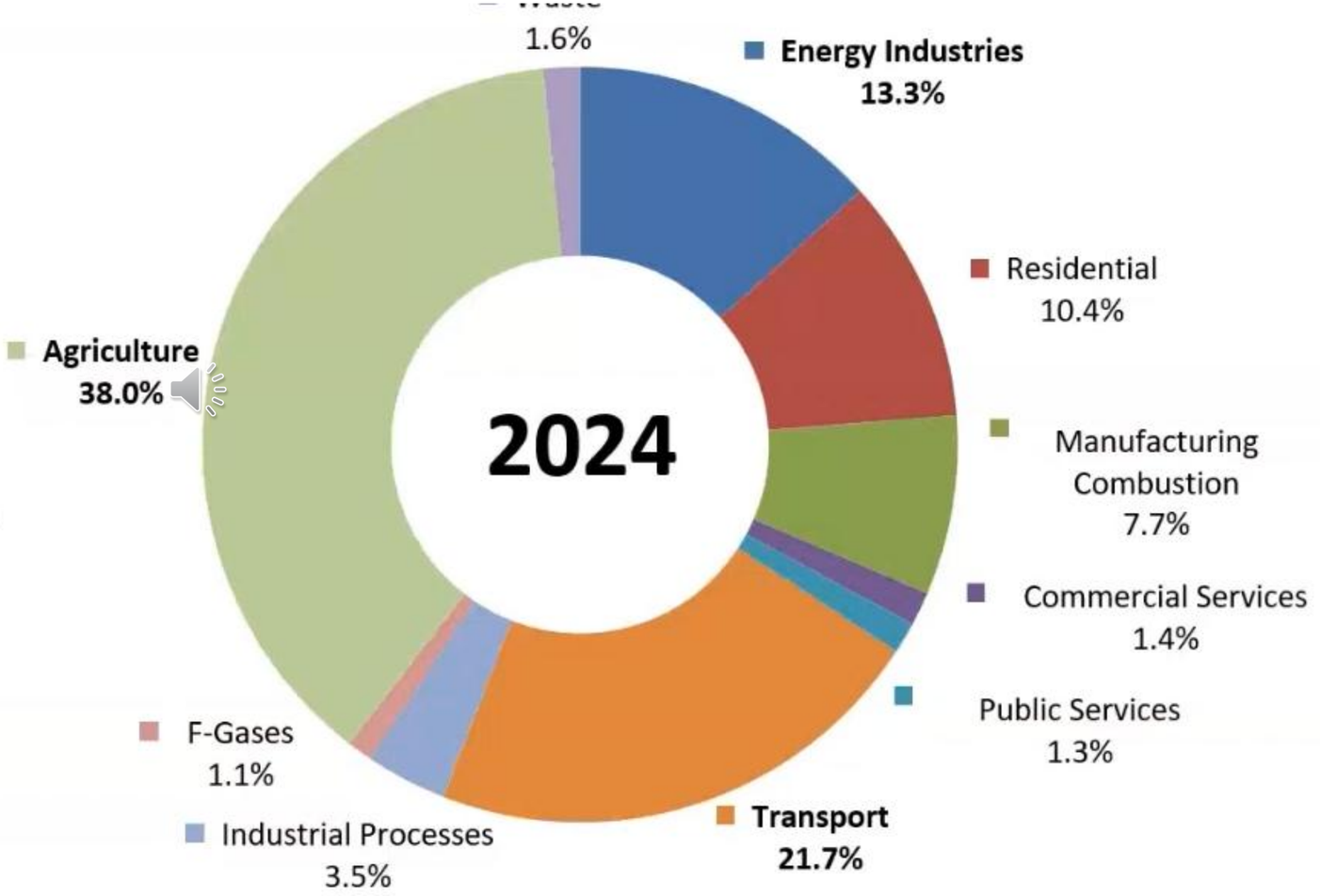


GHG Emissions and mGNI (relative trend)

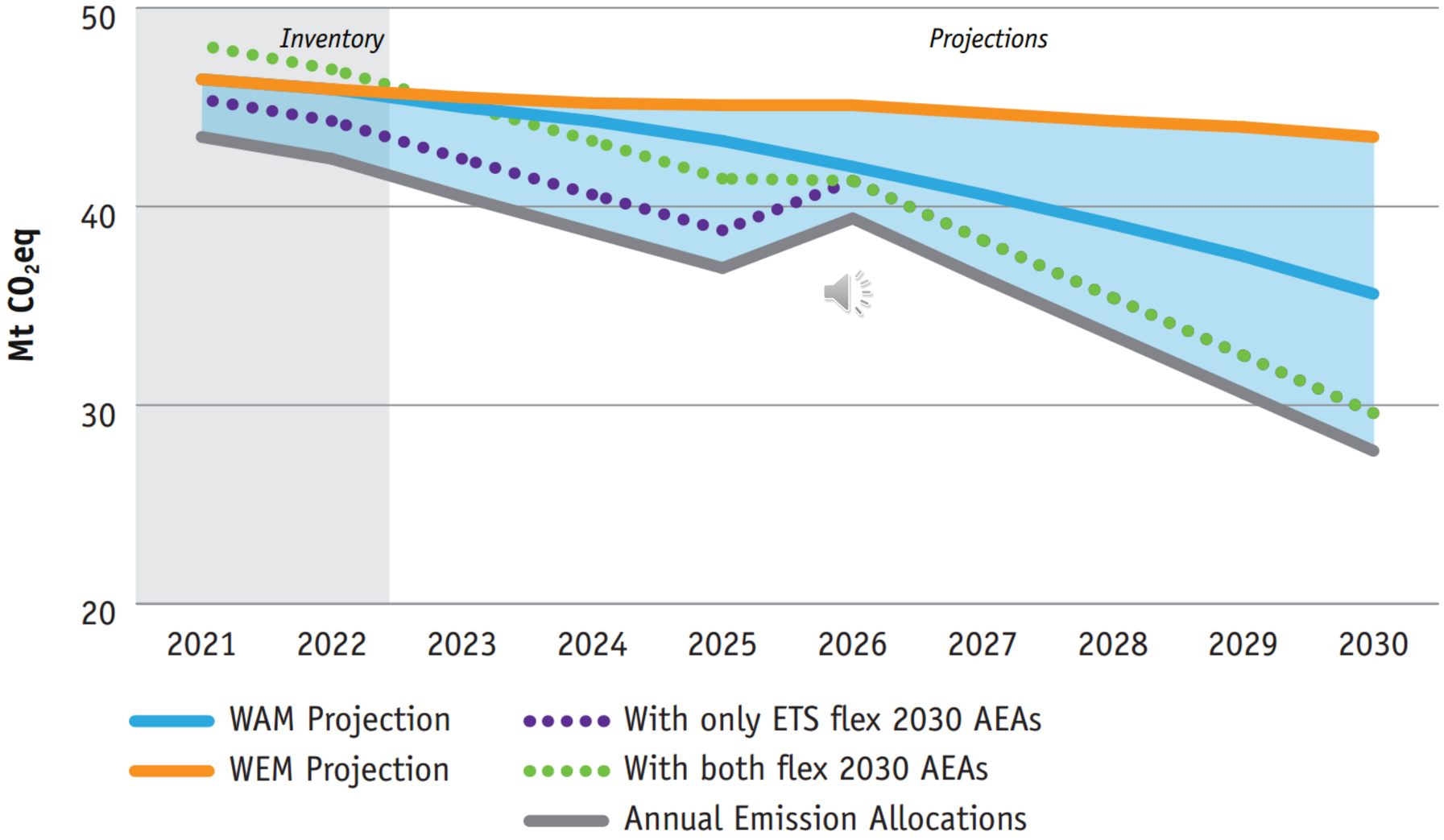


Sectoral Share of GHG Emissions



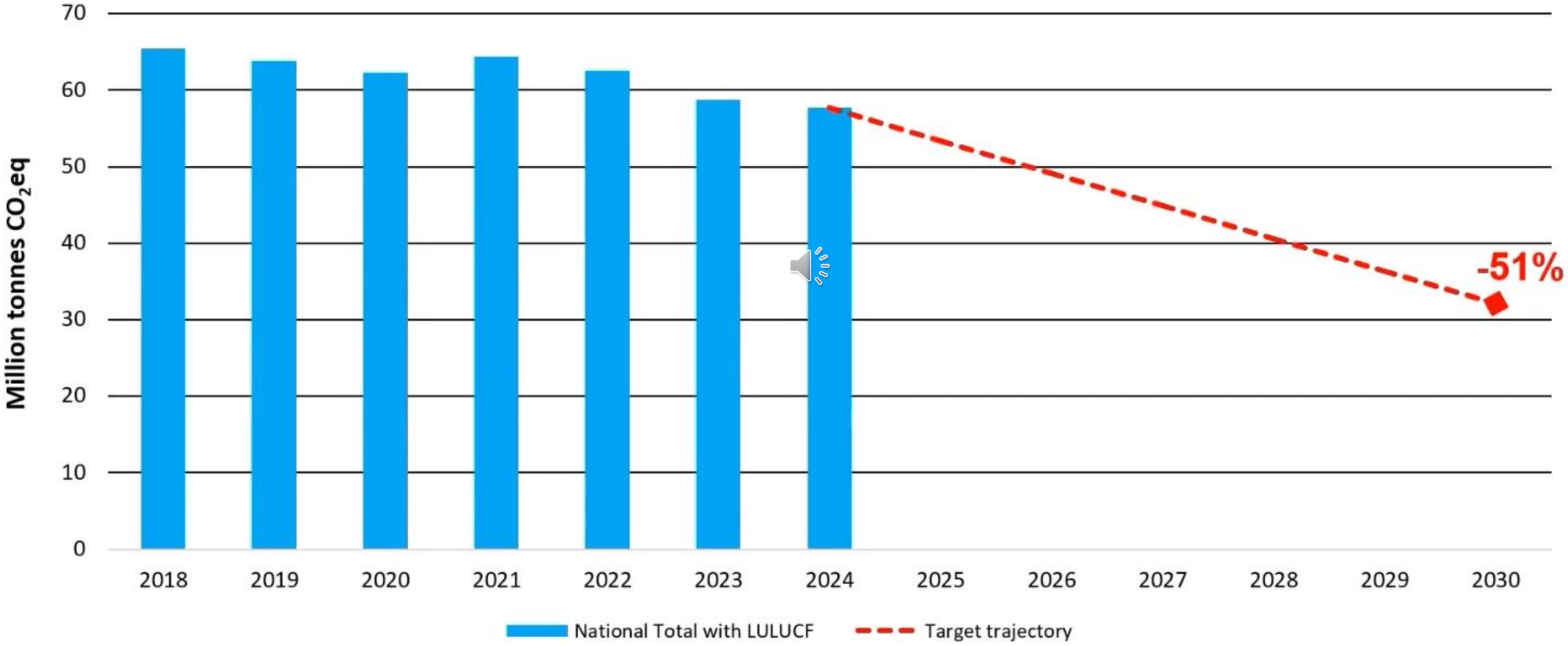


Projected Non-ETS Emissions to 2030



Mitigation actions, policies and measures

2018 – 2030: Climate Act Targets



Domestic Climate Policy

Climate Action & Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act in 2021

First Annual Climate Action Plan in 2021

Latest Climate Action Plan in 2025

Sectoral Emissions Ceilings (July 2022)

	2018 Baseline (MtCO2eq.)[2]	Sectoral Emission Ceilings for each 5-year carbon budget period (MtCO2eq.)		Indicative Emissions in Final Year of 2021-2025 carbon budget period (MtCO2eq)	Indicative Reduction in Emissions in Final Year of 2021-2025 budget period compared to 2018	Emissions in final year of 2026-20230 carbon budget period (MtCO2eq)	Reduction in Emissions final year of 2026-2030 carbon budget period compared to 2018	Agreed CAP21 Ranges
Sector	**2018**	**2021-2025**	**2026-2030**	**2025**	**2025**	**2030**	**2030**	**2030**
Electricity	10	40	20	6	~40%	3	~75%	60 – 80%
Transport	12	54	37	10	~20%	6	~50%	40 – 50%
Built Environment - Residential	7	29	23	5	~20%	4	~40%	45 – 55%[3]
Built Environment - Commercial	2	7	5	1	~20%	1	~45%	
Industry	7	30	24	6	~20%	4	~35%	30 – 40%
Agriculture	23	106	96	20	~10%	17.25	~25%	20 – 30%
LULUCF[4]	5	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	40 – 60%
Other (F-Gases, Waste & Petroleum refining)	2	9	8	2	~25%	1	~50%	N/A
Unallocated Savings[5]			*-26*			*-5.25*		
TOTAL[6]	***68***	***XXX***	***XXX***	***XXX***	***XXX***	***XXX***	***XXX***	***N/A***
Legally binding Carbon Budgets and 2030 Emission Reduction Targets[7]	-	295	200	-	-	34	**51%**	-

1 Table reflects what was agreed by Government on 28 July 2022.

[2] Million Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

[3] CAP21 outlined 45-55% range for all buildings i.e. it did not split out residential and commercial buildings.

[4] Finalising the Sectoral Emissions Ceiling for the Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector has been deferred for 18 months to allow for the completion of the Land-Use Strategy.

[5] Unallocated savings on an economy-wide basis in the second 5-year carbon budget period from 2026-2030, before factoring in net LULUCF sector emissions.

[6] Following finalisation of the Sectoral Emissions Ceiling for the Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector, total figures will be available.

[7] As provided by section 6A(5) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

Climate Action Plan 2025

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WE'RE TAKING CLIMATE ACTION

- Published April 2025
- Third Action Plan delivered under provisions of 2021 Climate Act requiring:
  - ***Roadmap of actions*** *for each sector to ensure compliance with SECs in remainder of CB1 (2023-2025)*
  - *Actions to address failure or potential failure in meeting the SECs*
  - *Potential actions and measures for CB2 (2026-2030)*
  - *Overview of potential policies to consider for CB3 (2031-2035)*
- Builds upon the processes and ambition set out in previous iterations
- Reflects the increased specificity of emission reductions provided by the Carbon Budgets and SECs

Powering renewables

75%

reduction in emissions by 2030

We will facilitate a large-scale deployment of renewables that will be critical to decarbonising the power sector as well as enabling the electrification of other technologies.

- Accelerate the delivery of onshore wind, offshore wind, and solar.
- Dial up to 9 GW onshore wind, 8 GW solar, and at least 7 GW of offshore wind by 2030 (with 2 GW earmarked for green hydrogen production).
- Support at least 500 MW of local community-based renewable energy projects and increased levels of new micro-generation and small-scale generation.
- Phase out and end the use of coal and peat in electricity generation.
- New, dynamic Green Electricity Tariff will be developed by 2025 to incentivise people to use lower cost renewable electricity at times of high wind and solar generation.

Building better

commercial/public **45%** | residential **40%**

reduction in emissions by 2030

We will increase the energy efficiency of existing buildings, put in place policies to deliver zero-emissions new builds and continue to ramp up our retrofitting programme.

- Ramp up retrofitting to 120,000 dwellings to BER B2 by 2025, jumping to 500,000 by 2030.
- Put heat pumps into 45,000 existing and 170,000 new dwellings by 2025, up to 400,000 existing and 280,000 new dwellings by 2030.
- Generation up to 0.8 TWh of district heating by 2025 and up to 2.5 TWh by 2030.

Transforming how we travel

50%

reduction in emissions by 2030

We will drive policies to reduce transport emissions by improving our town, cities and rural planning, and by adopting the Avoid-Shift-Improve approach: reducing or avoiding the need for travel, shifting to public transport, walking and cycling and improving the energy efficiency of vehicles.

- Change the way we use our road space.
- Reduce the total distance driven across all car journeys by 20%.
- Walking, cycling and public transport to account for 50% of our journeys.
- Nearly 1 in 3 private cars will be an Electric Vehicle.
- Increase walking and cycling networks.
- 70% of people in rural Ireland will have buses that provide at least 3 trips to the nearby town daily by 2030.

Making family farms more sustainable

25%

reduction in emissions by 2030

We will support farmers to continue to produce world-class, safe and nutritious food while also seeking to diversify income through tillage, energy generation and forestry.

- Significantly reduce our use of chemical nitrogen as a fertilizer.
- Increase uptake of protected urea on grassland farms to 90-100%.
- Increase organic farming to up to 450,000 hectares, the area of tillage to up to 400,000 ha.
- Expand the indigenous biomethane sector through anaerobic digestion, reaching up to 5.7TWh of biomethane.
- Contribute to delivery of the land use targets for afforestation and reduced management intensity of organic soils.

Greening business and enterprise

35%

reduction in emissions by 2030

We're changing how we produce, consume, and design our goods and services by breaking the link between fossil fuels and economic progress. Decarbonising industry and enterprise is key to Ireland's economy and future competitiveness.

- Decrease embodied carbon in construction materials produced and used in Ireland by at least 30%.
- Reduce fossil fuel use from 64% of final consumption (2021) to 45% by 2025 and further by 2030.
- Increase total share of heating to carbon neutral to 50-55% by 2025, up to 70-75% by 2030.
- Significantly grow the circular economy and bioeconomy.

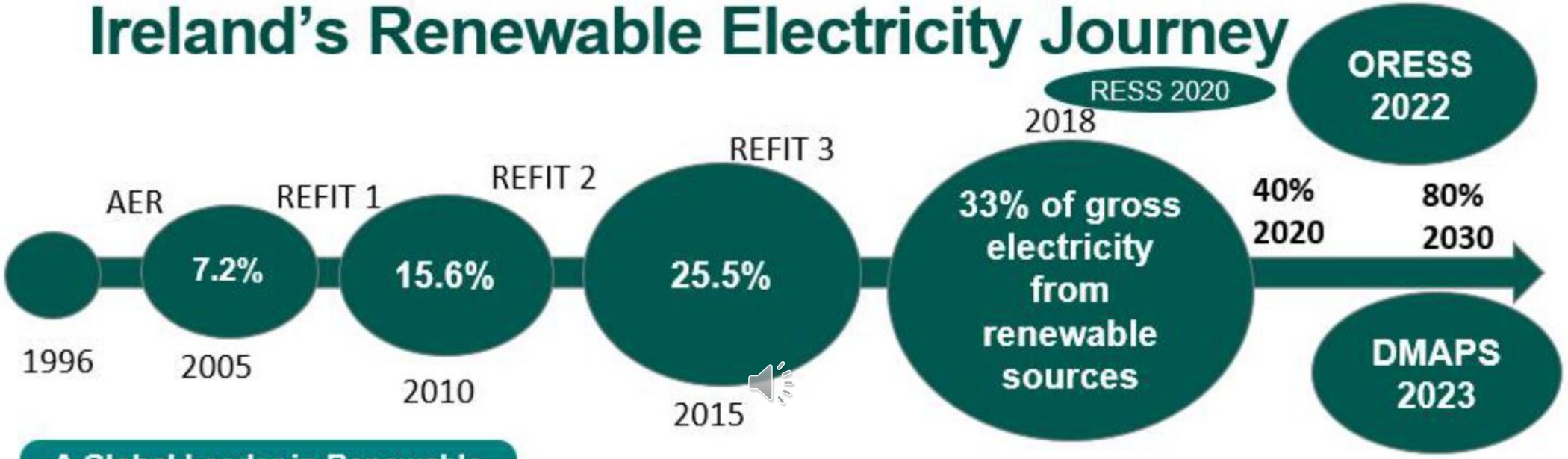
Changing our land use

Exact reduction target for this sector is yet to be determined.

The first phase of the land use review will tell us how we are using our land now. Then, we can map, with evidence, how it can be used most effectively to capture and store carbon and to produce better, greener food and energy.

- Increase our annual afforestation rates to 8,000 hectares per annum from 2023 onwards.
- Rethink our Forestry Programme and Vision. Promote forest management initiatives in both public and private forests to increase carbon sinks and stores.
- Improve carbon sequestration of 450,000 ha of grasslands on mineral soils and reduce the management intensity of grasslands on 80,000 ha of drained organic soils.
- Rehabilitate 77,600 hectares of peatlands.

Ireland's Renewable Electricity Journey



A Global Leader in Renewable Penetration

Renewable Auctions

Technology Diversity

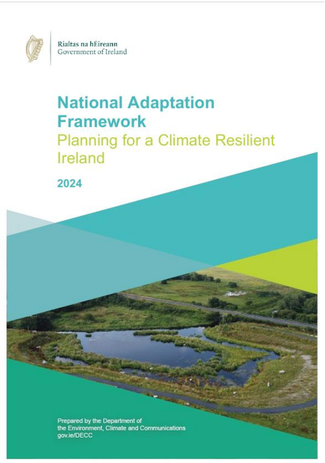
Renewable energy production 1990 - 2024

Source: Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Highcharts.com

Adaptation

- A new National Adaptation Framework **(NAF)**
- Ireland's first National Climate Change Risk Assessment **(NCCRA)**.
- The NAF also required the submission of new Sectoral Adaptation Plans **(SAPs)**
- All 31 local authorities approved their first statutory **Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs)** in early 2024. Each plan aligns with the CAP and the NAF, and specifies mitigation and adaptation measures to be adopted from 2024-2029.
- New senior-level **Climate Adaptation Taskforce (CAT)** has been established to monitor the overall delivery of actions, address cross-cutting issues and risk ownership, and ultimately accelerate progress on adaptation.



Just Transition Commission

- *Monitoring implementation*
- *Commissioning research*
- *Exploring solutions to mitigate against challenges*
- *Advising the Minister and Government in relation to social dialogue*
- *Examining specific just transition challenges as requested by the Minister*

Climate Finance

Climate Finance

- Ireland's policy for international development, ***A Better World*****,** has the overarching objective of reaching the furthest behind first and sets climate action as a core priority.

- Ireland prioritises support to those **most vulnerable to climate change**, recognising that the poorest, conflict-affected and most marginalised communities are often the most impacted.

- At COP26 in Glasgow in 2021 Ireland committed to deliver at least **€225 million per year in climate finance to developing countries by 2025.**

- Ireland has **more than doubled our international climate finance since 2020**, reaching €207.7 million in 2024.

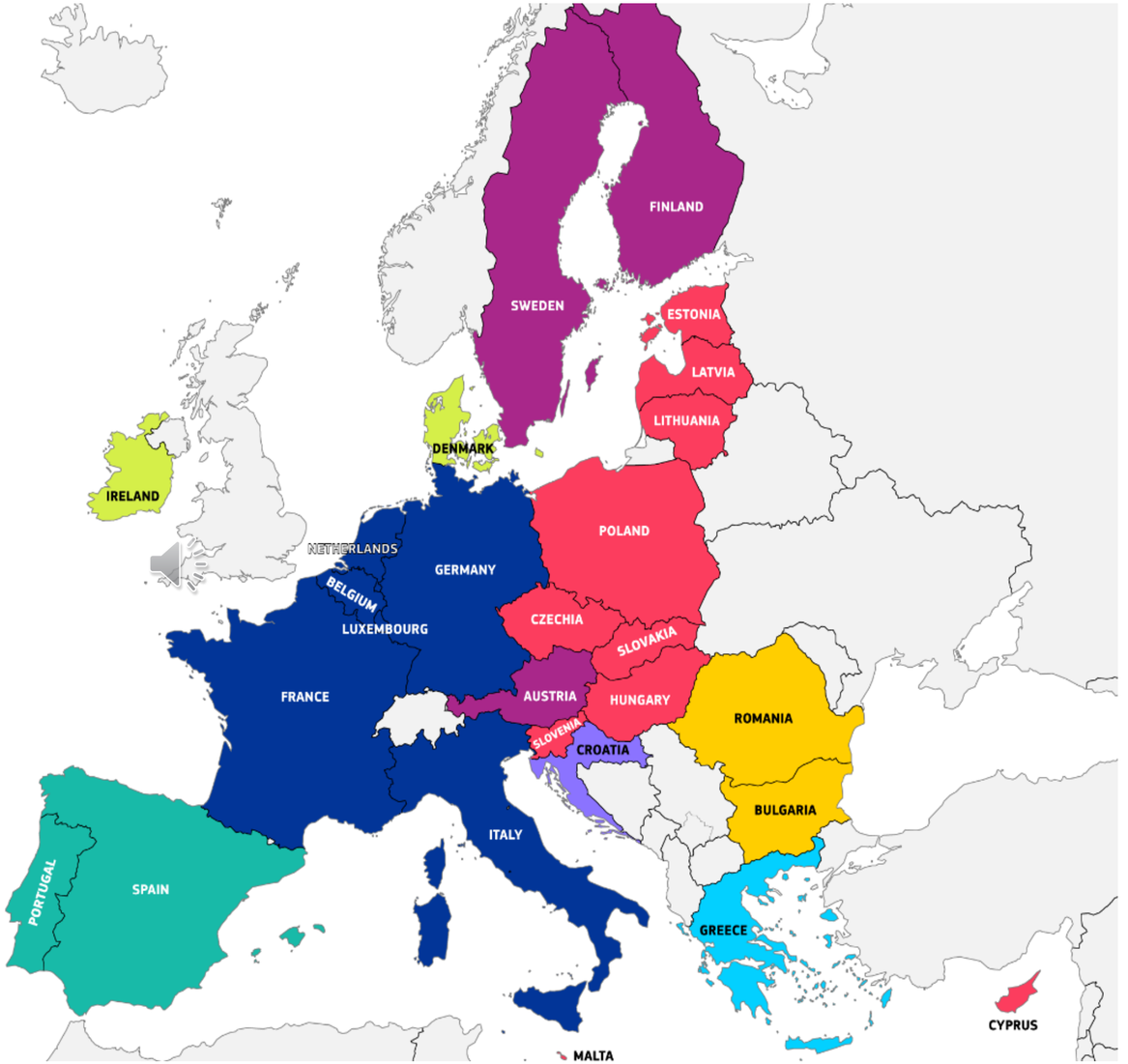
Climate Finance Priorities

- Ireland prioritises **adaptation and resilience**, particularly in **Least Developed Countries**, **Small Island Developing States**, and **fragile and conflict-affected contexts.**
- Ireland is expanding support to **ocean protection, biodiversity, and Loss and Damage.**
- In 2024, 89% of Ireland's total climate finance supported initiatives focused on **adaptation**, either as a whole or one component.
- 80% of Ireland's bilateral climate finance went to **Least Developed Countries.**
- 17% of total climate finance carried **biodiversity** co-benefits.
- €25 million to the Fund for Responding to **Loss and Damage**.

The EU’s NDC

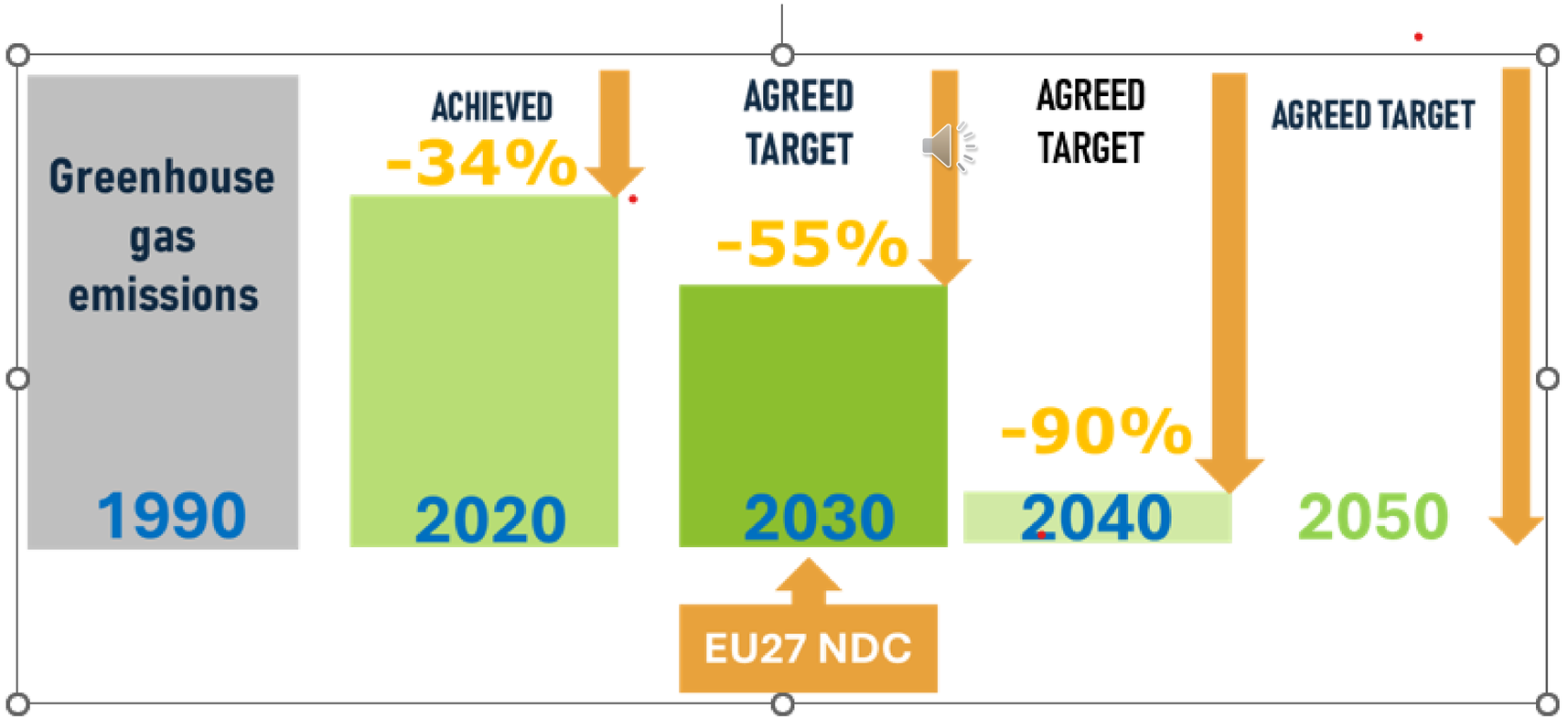
The EU and Member States national circumstances

- 27 countries
- 450 million people
- 24 languages
- 1 NDC
- 28 BTRs



EU’s pathway to Climate Neutrality

The European Climate Law sets binding targets for the EU to **reduce net GHG emissions by at least 55% by 2030** compared to 1990 levels and reach **net zero emissions by 2050**.



Understanding the EU Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Information	Description
Target and description	**Economy-wide net domestic reduction** of at least 55% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990.
Target type	Economy-wide absolute emission reduction.
Target year	2030 **single-year target**
Base year	1990
Implementation period	2021-2030
Geographical scope	**EU 27** including EU nine outermost regions
Gases	CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, PFCs, $SF_{6,}$ NF_3

The EU key legislative package to meet the 2030 targets

Carbon pricing

EU ETS : The European Union's Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) is a cornerstone of its climate policy, designed to bring down emissions cost-effectively.

ETS2 : Building , transport and small industries.

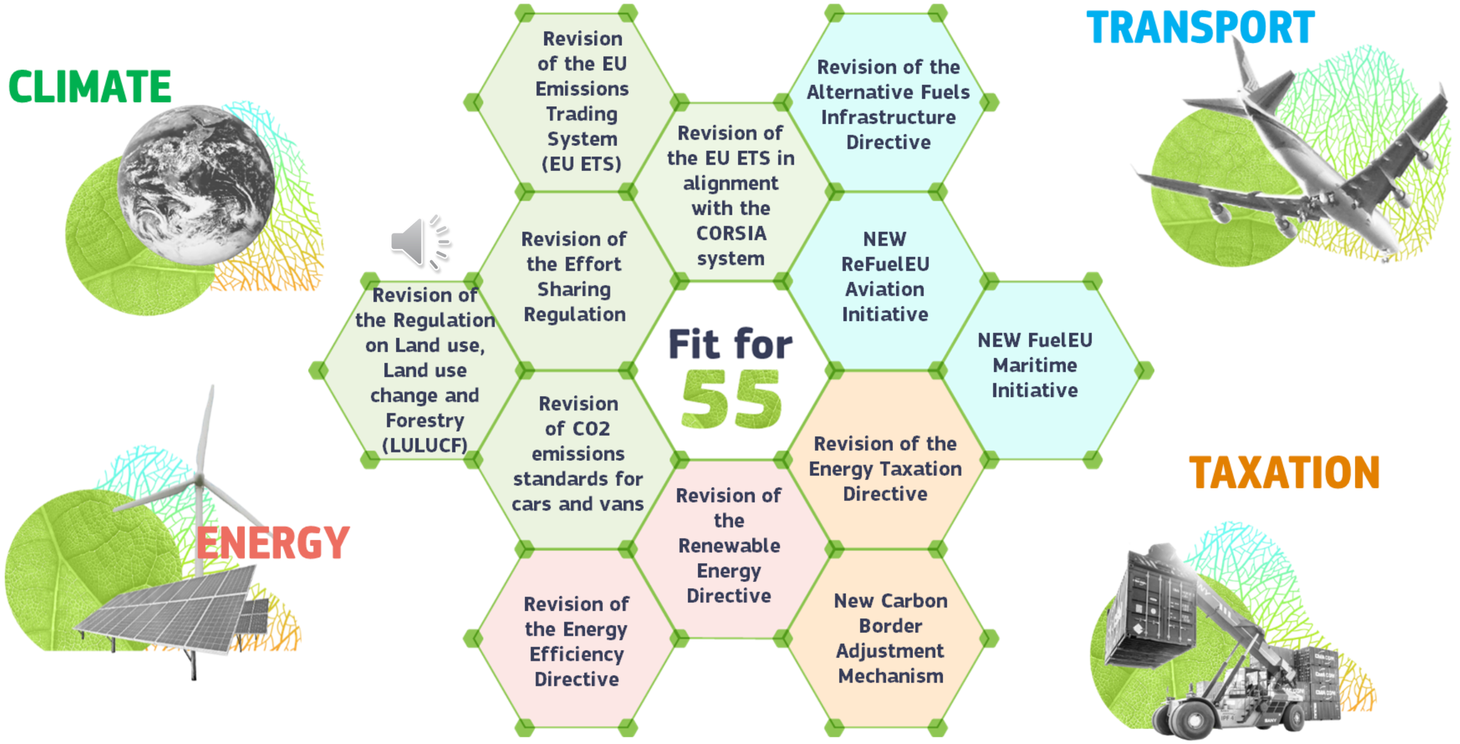
Higher ambition

- ETS -62% up from -43% compared to 2005 (inclusion of Maritime)
- ESR - ESR 40% up from – 29% compared to 2005
- LULUCF: 42 MtCO2e removals in addition

Stricter emissions regulations

- Evs
- Heavy-duty vehicles
- Renewable energy directive

The 'Fit for 55' package



Main policy instruments

EU ETS

Emissions Trading System

Scope:power and heat, industrial installations, aviation, maritime

Target: - 62% by 2030 vs 2005

ESR

Effort sharing Regulation

Scope: road, transport, building, agriculture, small industries and waste

Target: - 40% by 2030 vs 2005

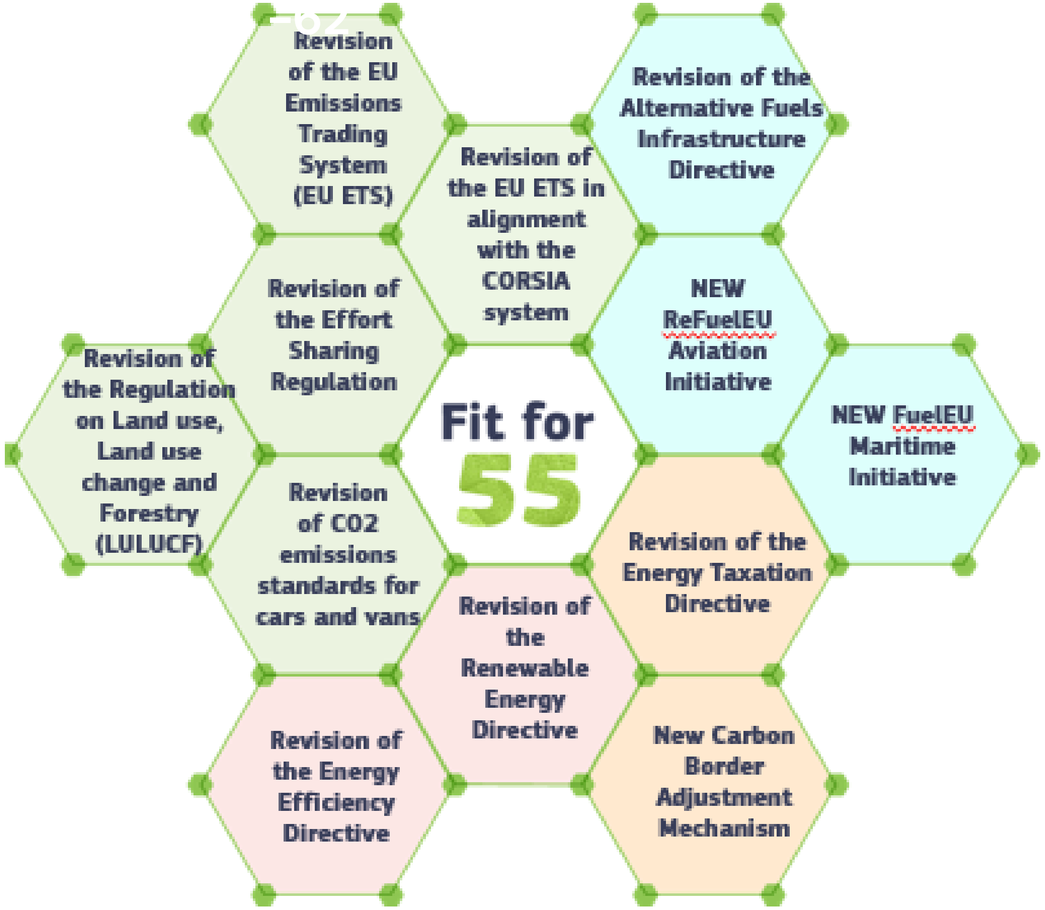
MS binding targets

LULUCF

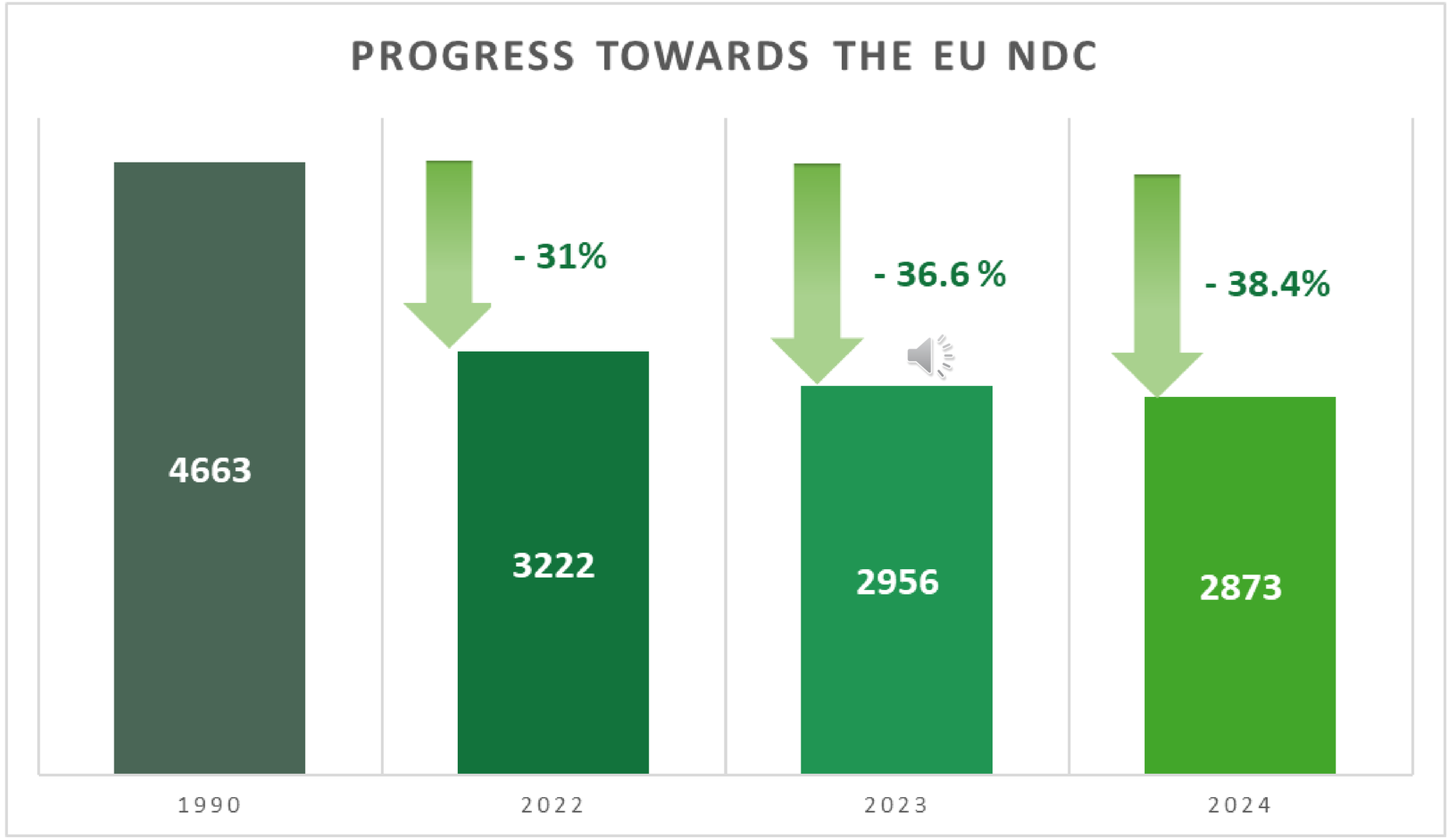
Land Use Land Change and Forestry

Scope: Target: 42 MtCO2eq additional removals by 2030

MS binding targets

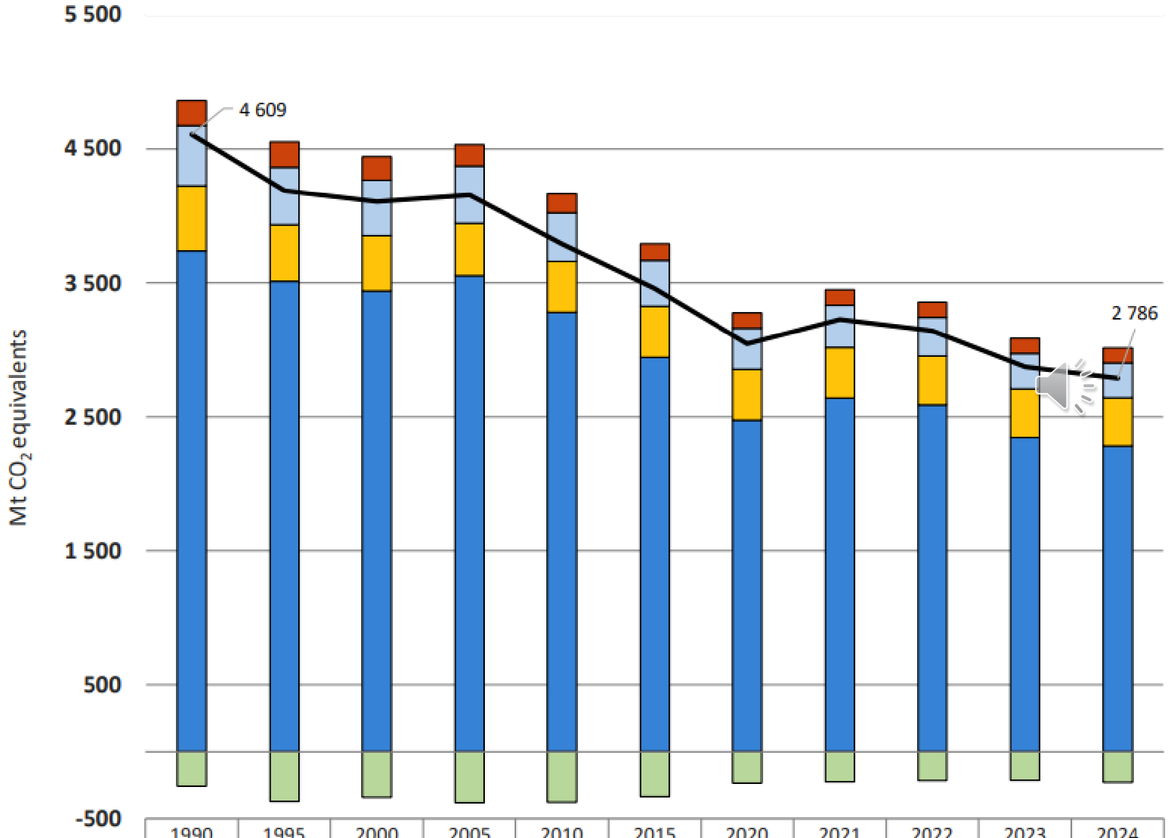


The EU and Member States are progressing towards their 2030 NDC



Source: EU NID 2026

Overall trend in EU GHG emissions1990-2024

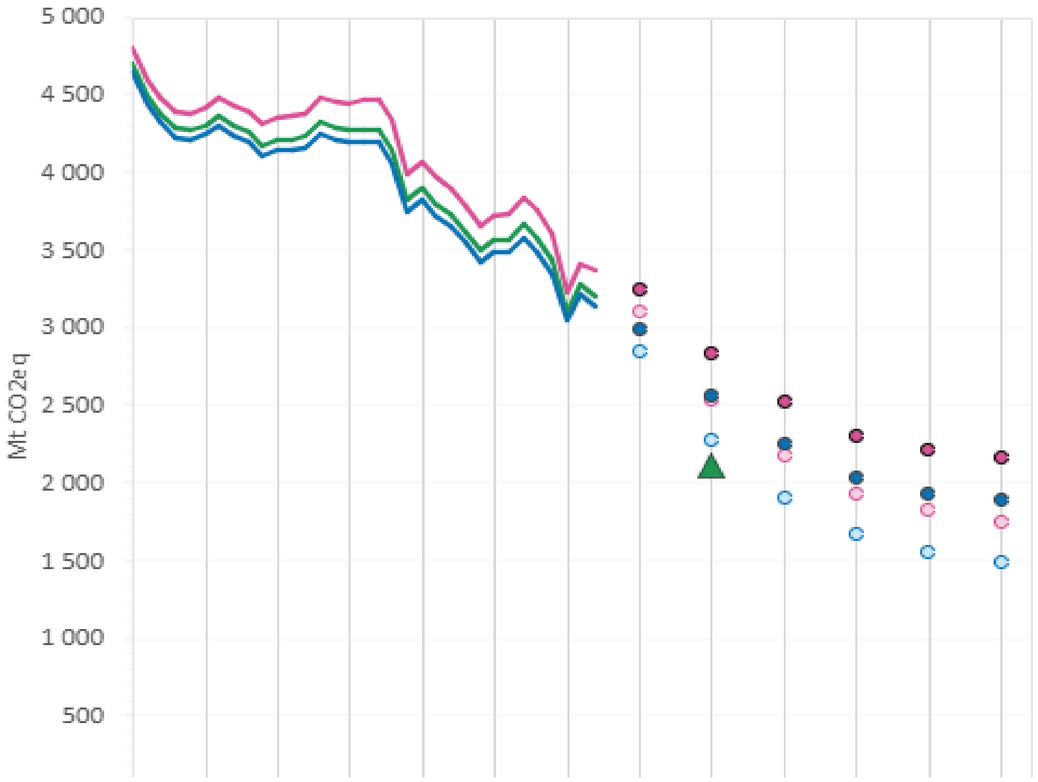


	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
LULUCF	-258	-372	-342	-383	-378	-337	-237	-226	-218	-216	-231
Waste	185	189	177	159	141	122	116	115	114	113	111
IPPU	450	430	414	429	364	342	306	316	290	263	260
Agriculture	487	422	411	389	379	382	381	378	364	363	359
Energy	3 737	3 511	3 441	3 554	3 280	2 944	2 474	2 639	2 588	2 345	2 283
Total net GHG emissions (including indirect CO2)	4 609	4 187	4 107	4 154	3 790	3 458	3 044	3 227	3 142	2 873	2 786

Highlights:

- Sustained emission reductions between 1990-2024: 1.8 Bt CO_2e (-39.5%)
- GDP increased by over 70%
- EU currently accounts for about 6% of global GHG emissions

EU27 Projected emissions and challenge



EU net GHG emissions including int'l. bunkers

EU net GHG emissions in NDC scope

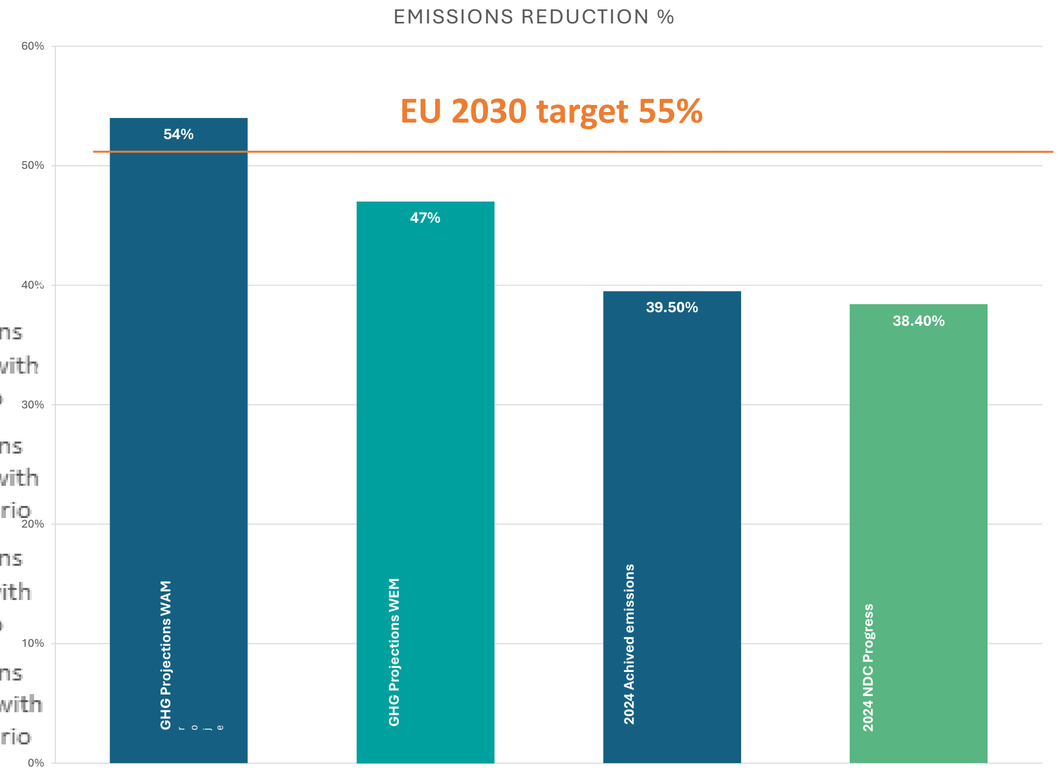
EU net GHG emissions excluding int'l. bunkers

Projected net GHG emissions including int'l. bunkers in 'with existing measures' scenario

Projected net GHG emissions including int'l. bunkers in 'with additional measures' scenario

Projected net GHG emissions exluding int'l. bunkers in 'with existing measures' scenario

Projected net GHG emissions excluding int'l. bunkers in 'with additional measures' scenario



Recent developments - The EU 2035 NDC

- **On 5 November 2025,** the Council of the EU agreed on the European Commission proposal of a **legally binding net emissions reduction target for 2040 of 90%** compared to 1990 levels

- The agreement on the legally binding 2040 target of -90% has been enshrined in the amended European Climate Law. The amendment entered into force in April 2026.

- **EU27 2035 NDC is an indicative contribution between 66.25% and 72.5%** net GHG emissions reduction compared to 1990 levels

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Thank You

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