

## Solar energy policy ireland

In accordance with the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation, Ireland's draft National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 was submitted to the European Commission in December 2018. The draft NECP took into account energy and climate policies developed up to that point, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the Project 2040 process and included all of the climate and energy measures set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.

The 2019 NECP was prepared to incorporate all planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019 and which collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-ETS greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels).

As required by the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications submitted an updated NECP in July 2024. This document is available [here](#). A public consultation was held on the updated NECP, which can be accessed [here](#).

An earlier draft of the updated NECP was submitted to the Commission in December 2023, available [here](#), and a public consultation was held on that document in February 2024. A findings report, summarising the issues raised by submissions to the February consultation, is available [here](#).

The updated NECP has been drafted to reflect Ireland and the European Union's increased ambition on energy and climate following the Fit for 55 legislative package, which has set more ambitious targets at the National and European level in a range of areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency and land-use, to enable the EU to meet its target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030. Feedback received from the European Commission and submissions received during the public consultation process have informed the development of the updated NECP.

Ireland's first Draft National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 was submitted to the European Commission 31 December 2018. It outlines Ireland's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP is a consolidated plan which brings together energy and climate planning into a single process for the first time.

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Renewable electricity plays a crucial role in Ireland's efforts to combat climate change. Under the Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23), Government has set an ambitious target of having an 80% share of electricity generation capacity coming from renewable sources by 2030 to create a more sustainable and resilient energy system for the future.

This CAP23 was launched on 21 December 2022. It is the first plan to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, following the introduction of economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.

Ireland has traditionally imported a significant amount of its energy, mainly from fossil fuel sources. By investing in renewable electricity, Ireland will reduce its reliance on imported fuels which will enhance our countries energy security and independence. Reducing reliance on fossil fuels will also improve air quality and mitigate the negative health impacts associated with pollution, such as respiratory diseases.

The development and expansion of renewable energy infrastructure creates jobs across various sectors, including engineering, construction, maintenance, and research. It also attracts investment, stimulates local economies, and encourages innovation in clean technologies.

Ireland is making significant progress in increasing its renewable electricity capacity. Wind energy has been the primary driver, through substantial investments in onshore and offshore wind farms. Ireland has abundant wind resources and is one of the leading countries in wind energy per capita.

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