



## 2025 Highlights

# Introduction

2025 was a strong year for the EPA, with increased regulatory activity and delivery across our remit. Our teams monitored air and water quality nationwide, analysed greenhouse gas emissions and assessed Ireland's progress toward climate targets. The EPA delivered significant environmental authorisations while enforcement teams ensured compliance with licence conditions, including taking cases to court where necessary. Our activities have always been wide-ranging and continue to expand – from oversight of industry and local authorities, to supporting Irish researchers, leading on emergency preparedness, engaging the public and more.

Momentum is growing in knowledge and action to address environmental challenges. Yet we are still facing a major shortfall in meeting Ireland's legally binding climate targets. We continue to generate and export far too much waste. Long-term projects, such as upgrades to urban wastewater treatment plants, are progressing too slowly, while quick wins like Green Public Procurement still need better uptake.

EPA experts monitor and assess this progress, highlighting where Government, businesses and individuals need to step up and take action. But we are also on the ground year-round – inspecting industrial sites, sampling lakes, rivers and drinking water supplies and providing 24-hour air quality monitoring across our cities, towns and villages.

I firmly believe that people in Ireland care more than ever about having a clean and healthy environment. Some of the environmental challenges we face as a country are complex, while others are straightforward. But in every case, the solutions require ambition, prioritisation, and decisive implementation. Taking action to protect our environment benefits our wellbeing, our economy and our livelihoods.

In my 14th and final year as Director General of the EPA, I remain inspired by the dedication of the EPA's 550 staff. It is their knowledge and expertise that makes our work possible, and drives our mission to secure a healthy, clean, and resilient environment for everyone in Ireland.

**Laura Burke**  
Director General EPA



# Highlights

KEY FIGURES  
EPA Activity

## 1,681

Inspections of licensed  
Industrial and Waste facilities



## 484

Urban wastewater  
and drinking water  
inspections



## 2,500+

Lakes, rivers,  
estuaries, and other  
waterbodies  
monitored by the EPA

## 7

Counties with  
ongoing illegal  
peat extraction

## 15,194

Water chemistry  
samples analysed

## 1.31 Million

Visits to [epa.ie](https://epa.ie)



## 209

Environmental  
Authorisations  
issued

## 12

Prosecutions  
concluded

## 10

Poor-performing industrial and  
waste licensed facilities featured on  
National Priority Sites List in 2024

# Highlights

## KEY FIGURES EPA Activity

**76,314**

Social media followers



**1033**

Samples measured  
for radioactivity



**Over €1bn**

Financial provision set aside for  
clean-up in the case of abandonment  
or incidents at licensed sites



**487**

EPA datasets on  
[data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie)



**300+**

Citizen scientists helped  
measure air quality in  
Waterford City

**€17m+**

Awarded for new  
environmental research

# Highlights

## KEY FIGURES EPA Activity

# 2%

Drop in Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions in 2024



# 23%

Projected 2030 emissions reduction under Climate Action Plan 2024 (51% target)



# 42%

Of municipal waste exported

# 81%

Of bathing waters had excellent water quality in 2024

# 30%

Of plastic packaging waste recycled (2023 data)

# 40%

Number of in-scope government department contracts incorporating green criteria in 2023 (compared to 24% in 2021)

# 35%

Reduction in EPA's yearly operational carbon emissions in 2024 compared to baseline period (2016-2018)



# 4

(from 16 in 2024 to 12 in 2025)

Reduction in number of towns and villages discharging raw sewage daily in 2025



# 1,000+

Householders taking part in a national survey to update the number of radon related lung cancers in Ireland

# A3

(up from C3)

New BER rating at EPA's regional inspectorate in Monaghan following upgrades & refurbishments

# Dates for the Diary

## February

Clean Air Together Waterford Results

Announcement of 2024 EPA Research Grant Awards

## March

National Stop Food Waste Day (March 1st)

Industrial and Waste Enforcement Report

## April

EU Emissions Trading Scheme Report

Launch of 2026 EPA Research Call

Green Public Procurement Report

Forum on Food Waste

Ireland's Air Pollutant Emissions Report

## May

Bathing Water Quality Report

EPA Climate Change Conference

GHG Emissions Projections Reports

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Report

## June

National Water Conference

Public Drinking Water Supplies Report

Water Quality in 2025: An Indicators Report

## July

Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report

Local Authority Enforcement Performance Report

Private Drinking Water Supplies Report

## September

Air Quality in Ireland Report

EPA Circular Economy Conference

## October

Urban Wastewater Treatment Report

National Air Quality Report

## November

EPA ICEL Law Conference



Environmental Protection Agency  
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