

Environment, Health & Wellbeing Virtual Conference

Learning from the Pandemic
29 November 2021
#EHWC2021



Environment, Health and Wellbeing Conference 2021

Learning from the Pandemic

29 November 2021, 9:15 to 13:15

09:00 Log-in

Session 1: The Bigger Picture: health and the environment

Chairperson:

Professor Alan Barrett, *CEO, ESRI*

09:15 Opening from Laura Burke
Director General, EPA

09:30 EU zero pollution action plan
*Veronica Manfredi, Director, Quality of Life,
DG Environment European Commission*

**09:50 Nature, biodiversity and health: An
overview of interconnections**
*Dr. Ben Wheeler, European Centre for Environment
and Human Health, University of Exeter Medical
School/ WHO Collaborating Centre on Natural
Environments and Health*

10:10 One health: A systems approach
*Professor Martin Cormican, National Clinical Lead
for HCAI and AMR. Professor of Bacteriology at
NUI Galway & Consultant Microbiologist & Clinical
lead for Covid-19 Vaccination roll out.*

10:30 Q&A / Panel Discussion

10:55 Closing commentary
*Dr. Philip Crowley,
National Director of Strategy and Research, HSE*

11.05 Break

Session 2: Lessons for Health: people and planet

Chairperson:

*Emeritus Professor Michael Depledge,
University of Exeter Medical School, UK*

**11:25 Covid19: Public attitudes, public trust
and public behaviours – what can we learn?**
*Dr. Shane Timmons, Research Officer,
Behavioural Research Unit, ESRI*

**11:40 Proper planning and sustainable
development: Implementation priorities**
*Niall Cussen, Chief Executive and Planning
Regulator at the Office of the Planning Regulator*

11:55 Health, environment and the small business
*Angela Ruttledge, Co-Owner Olive's Room and
Monck's Green, Policy Officer with VOICE Ireland*

12:10 An Post and a sustainable future
*David McRedmond,
Chief Executive Officer, An Post*

12.25 Q&A / Panel Discussion

12.50 Reflection on the day
Emeritus Professor Michael Depledge

13.00 Closing commentary
*Dr. Stephanie O'Keeffe, National Director,
Integrated Operations – Planning, HSE*

Register: ti.to/environment-health-wellbeing/2021

Email: envhealth@gowest.ie

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A Government of Ireland Funded Event

Speakers

Professor Alan Barrett

Professor Alan Barrett is the Chief Executive Officer of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Ireland's leading centre for social science research. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin. Professor Barrett received his Ph.D. in Economics from Michigan State University in 1994 and joined the ESRI that year. Most of his research has been in the areas of labour economics, population economics and macroeconomics. His academic work has been published in journals such as Labour Economics, the Journal of Population Economics, the Oxford Review of Economic Policy, the Industrial and Labor Relations Review, the British Journal of Industrial Relations, the International Migration Review, Population Research and Policy Review, the Economic and Social Review, the National Institute Economic Review and Economics Letters. He was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2019 and is also an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Actuaries of Ireland. He was a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council from 2011 to 2015. He has chaired each National Economic Dialogue from 2015 to 2021. He is a Research Fellow with the Institute for Labour Economics (IZA) in Germany. He is a frequent contributor to radio and television discussions on economic matters and has been quoted in newspapers such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Economist.



Laura Burke

Laura Burke is the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), appointed in 2011 and served as a Director within the EPA since 2004. As Director General she has the responsibility to lead and strategically manage the EPA. Laura is the Chair of the European Environment Agency (EEA) Management Board. Prior to joining the EPA, she worked in the private sector. Laura is a graduate chemical engineer of University College Dublin (UCD), holds an MSc from Trinity College, Dublin, is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Ireland and is a Chartered Director. In 2016 Laura was awarded the UCD Engineering Graduates Association (EGA) Distinguished Graduate Award.



Veronica Manfredi

Veronica Manfredi is the Director for Quality of Life in DG Environment since February 2018. Her Directorate plays a pivotal role in leading Europe towards Zero-Pollution and securing an effective management of Water – it thus significantly contributes to tackle the Climate, Biodiversity and Circular Economy challenges. It is indeed responsible for EU policies on Clean and Well-Managed Water (including the protection all EU Freshwater and Marine environments, water reuse, prevention from Floods, compliance with high health standards for Drinking Water), Clean Air, control on Industrial Emissions and prevention of Industrial Accidents. Internationally, her team leads the EU negotiations within the UN Minamata Convention on Mercury and the UN Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. It also provides steady support to the work of the four Regional Sea Conventions (notably the HELCOM – Baltic Sea, OSPAR – North Atlantic Sea, Barcelona – Mediterranean Sea, and the Bucharest Conventions – Black Sea) and the International Commissions for the Protection of the Rhine and Danube rivers. In particular, until 2022, Veronica is the Chair of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine. A lawyer by background, Veronica deepened her knowledge of International and EU law in Rome, Turin, Kiel, Bruges and Brussels.



Dr. Ben Wheeler

Dr Ben Wheeler is a quantitative health geographer and environmental epidemiologist at the European Centre for Environment and Human Health at the University of Exeter. His research focuses on: 1. adverse and beneficial impacts of the environment on public health and wellbeing, especially physical activity and mental health at population scale; 2. applications of GIS and spatial analysis to link and analyse large-scale health and environmental datasets; 3. environmental and socio-spatial health inequalities. He works extensively with large, collaborative interdisciplinary research project teams addressing these issues, in projects funded by ESRC, NERC, NIHR, Wellcome Trust and the European Commission. Ben works with a wide range of partners to translate evidence, especially on links between natural environments and health, to inform public health and environmental policy at local, national and international scales. He co-leads the Exeter MSc in Environment and Human Health and is a leading member of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Natural Environments and Health at the University of Exeter. http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/people/profile/index.php?web_id=Benedict_W_Wheeler



Speakers

Professor Martin Cormican

Graduated – NUI Galway 1986. Trained in Ireland, UK and USA. Appointed Consultant Microbiologist GUH and Professor of Bacteriology NUI Galway in 1999. Since May 2017 – National Lead for Healthcare Associated Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance. February 2021 – Clinical lead for COVID-19 Vaccination roll out. Research interests are antimicrobial resistance, foodborne infection and the links between environment and human health.



Dr. Philip Crowley

Dr Philip Crowley is the National Director for Strategy and Research in the Health Services Executive (The national organisation that delivers public health services in Ireland). In his previous national health service roles over the last 10 year's he was national lead for quality and patient safety and national lead for quality improvement.

He leads on strategic planning, research, population health and wellbeing, global health, human rights and performance reporting to the HDE Board

He is a graduate of the Advanced Training Programme in Healthcare Delivery Improvement, Intermountain Healthcare Salt Lake City Utah.

He is a doctor who works part-time as a General Practitioner. He worked for five years in Nicaragua, trained in public health in Newcastle Upon Tyne and worked for 6 years as Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health.



Emeritus Professor Michael Depledge CBE

Michael Depledge is Emeritus Professor of Environment and Human Health at the University of Exeter Medical School, Devon, UK. He is also an Honorary Professor of Public Policy at University College, London and an Honorary Visiting Professor at Chiba University Medical School, Tokyo, Japan. He was formerly a Commissioner of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and Chief Scientist of the UK Government's Environment Agency. Depledge has conducted both medical and ecotoxicological research in Europe, Asia, South and Central America, Australia and New Zealand resulting in more than 400 publications in the peer reviewed international literature. His work has addressed diverse topics within the sphere of environment and human health, ranging from being a member of the team that performed the first bone marrow transplants in Europe for the treatment of leukaemia, to oceans and human health research, detection of chemical pollution and its effects, climate change impacts, pharmaceuticals in the environment as well as pioneering studies on the use of the natural environment to foster improvements in human health and wellbeing. Depledge is an advisor on environment and health issues to the UK Government, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the European Environment Agency as well as many other organisations. He has been an Honorary Visiting Professor at Harvard School of Public Health, USA; Imperial College, London; and Department of Zoology, Oxford University, among others. He is currently a non-executive Director of Eden International and Chief Scientific Advisor of the Eden Project (www.edenproject.com). He is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Mediterranean Institute for Environmental Transition, University of Aix Marseille, France.

He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth II in 2017 for services to environment and human health science. In 2020 Prof Depledge along with three colleagues, was awarded the Edouard Delcroix Prize for pioneering research on the "Blue Gym".



Dr. Shane Timmons

Dr Shane Timmons is a cognitive psychologist working at the intersection of science and policy with the ESRI's Behavioural Research Unit (BRU). Before joining the BRU, Shane completed his PhD in moral psychology at Trinity College Dublin. He currently leads the BRU's environmental research programmes, on topics such as the public's understanding of climate change, interventions to improve household waste management and experimental tests of ways to communicate environmental risks. His research has been published in leading psychology and public policy journals and has been featured in international media, including CNN, the Wall Street Journal and Science News.



Speakers

Niall Cussen

Niall is the Chief Executive and Planning Regulator at the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) established by Government in April 2019. The OPR's functions are to oversee the effective delivery of planning services of Ireland's 31 local authorities and An Bord Pleanála, including implementation of national and regional policies and to conduct research and public awareness programmes in relation to planning. Prior to his appointment Niall was Chief Planner at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government from July 2014 and he worked in the Department from January 2000 prior to that.

Niall was responsible for leading the Department's Forward Planning Section and its professional and multi-disciplinary planning team in the development of legislation and all Government policy relating to planning and related matters, including the National Planning Framework as part of Project Ireland 2040 alongside the National Development Plan. Prior to joining the Department in 2000, Niall had an extensive planning career working for local authorities in Clare, Meath and Dublin City Council and An Bord Pleanála.

Niall holds qualifications in economics and geography, regional and urban planning and environmental engineering from Maynooth University, University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin respectively and is both a member and a past President of the Irish Planning Institute.



Angela Rutledge

Angela Rutledge is the co-owner of Dublin restaurants Monck's Green and Olive's Room, and an environmental policy officer with the NGO, VOICE, the Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment. She is an Irish qualified solicitor with a background in financial, corporate and commercial law. Angela is a member of the boards of the Restaurants Association of Ireland and the community organisation Phizzfest.



David McRedmond

David McRedmond was appointed Chief Executive Officer of An Post in October 2016. He has led the Company's Transformation programme and return to financial stability, revenue growth and profit by taking big steps to fix the Company's economics and by restructuring the Mails & Parcels and Retail business in line with a rapidly changing, digital marketplace. David is personally driving An Post's Sustainability Charter, having positioned Climate Action; Decent Work & Economic Growth; Sustainable Cities & Communities; Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure; and Responsible Consumption & Production – five of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals most pertinent to the global postal industry – at the centre of An Post's business transformation strategy. An Post published its first Gender Pay Gap Report and Action Plan in October 2019, just one of its Decent Work initiatives, and published its 2020 Sustainability Report earlier this year. David was previously CEO of TV3 which he transformed into a major Irish broadcaster, concluding with its sale to Liberty Global in December 2015. He was previously Commercial Director of Eircom and Managing Director of Eircom Enterprises. During his early career as a retail industry executive in the UK and USA, he held roles such as Operations Director of Waterstones and CEO of WH Smith Inc. David was appointed chairman of Eir in 2018; he is a director of Premier Lotteries Ireland (the National Lottery) and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. A native of Dublin, he holds a Master's Degree in Modern Irish History from University College Dublin.



Speakers

Dr. Stephanie O’Keeffe

Dr. Stephanie O’Keeffe is the National Director Integrated Operations Planning in the HSE. Stephanie is a social psychologist and has worked for 20 years in the health sector in roles requiring significant cross-sectoral working and partnership building. Stephanie has significant experience in developing and implementing national strategies and managing critical transitions and change in complex large scale environments. Stephanie’s earlier career focused on sexual health, education, research and communications in the former Crisis Pregnancy Agency, where she was the Director. She moved to lead on population health and wellbeing policy and strategy in the Department of Health, where she was the first Director of the Health and Wellbeing Unit and responsible for the development of the cross governmental Healthy Ireland Framework. In 2013, Stephanie became the first National Director of Health and Wellbeing in the HSE. In this role she was responsible for public health, emergency management, screening services, environmental health services and health promotion and improvement services. In 2018 Stephanie became responsible for corporate and national strategic planning in the HSE and healthcare transformation.

During the health service response to the COVID-19 pandemic Stephanie was assigned to lead on the HSE’s modelling and forecasting capability to enhance decision making and planning. She also led on putting in place an improved service model for the national Covid-19 Testing and Tracing service. In December 2020 she was appointed to lead the HSE’s Contact Management Programme, putting in place preparations for Covid surge response and ensuring service capacity and stability, prior to moving to her new role in Healthcare Operations Planning in June 2021. In this new role Stephanie is responsible for augmenting and improving the HSE’s overall planning approach, ensuring that its plans are ambitious, evidence-based, and integrated from a population and whole-service perspective.

Stephanie has a BA (Hons) in Psychology, an MSc (distinction) in Psychological Research Methods and Assessment, a PhD in Psychology and a Certificate and Diploma from the Chartered Director’s Programme in Ireland.

