



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



National Air Event 2023

Clean Air – Vital for our Health

15 November 2023 / Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel
#cleanairforhealth



National Air Event 2023

Clean Air – Vital for our Health

Register: www.ti.to/EPA-Events/epa-air-conference-2023
Email: epaair@gowest.ie
Tweet: [#cleanairforhealth](https://twitter.com/cleanairforhealth)

Wednesday, 15 Nov 2023

08:30
In person registration

Session 1 Policy perspective

Chairperson

Patrick Byrne, Programme Manager, EPA

09:30
Welcome and Introduction

Patrick Byrne, Programme Manager, EPA

09:35
Welcome

Micheál Lehane, Director, Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring, EPA

09:45
Ministerial address

Eamon Ryan, Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications

10:05
Healthy air for a healthy heart

Emma Balmaine, CEO, Irish Heart Foundation

10:20
Q & A / Panel discussion

10:45
Tea and Coffee

Session 2 Communicating air quality

Chairperson

Niall McLoughlin, Principal Officer, Air Quality Unit, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

11:15
LIFE Emerald – an air quality forecast for Ireland
Dermot Burke, Air Quality Specialist, EPA

11:30
AEROSOURCE: Science and Communication
Jurgita Ovadnevaite, Associate Professor, School of Natural Sciences, Physics, University of Galway

11:45
Communicating with and engaging the public on air quality
John Wenger, Professor of Chemistry, Centre for Research into Atmospheric Chemistry, UCC

12:00 – 12:20
Q & A / Panel discussion

Session 3 Emerging Irish research

Chairperson

Irene Cadogan, Assistant Principal, Air Quality Unit, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

12.20
STATION-AIR: Investigating the impacts of urban railway STATION hubs on AIR quality in its environs

John Gallagher, Assistant Professor in Environmental Systems Modelling, TCD, UoD

12.30
Impact of agricultural emissions on rural and urban air quality (IMAGE)

Vivien Pohl, Post-Doctoral Researcher, TUD

12.40
Dublin Port air quality (PortAIR)
Stig Hellebust, Lecturer in Physical Chemistry, School of Chemistry & Environmental Research Institute, UCC

12.50
Monitoring and modelling pollen
David O'Connor, Assistant Professor, School of Chemical Sciences, DCU

13:00
Q & A / Panel discussion

13:15
Lunch and Networking

Session 4 Change is in the Air

Chairperson

Patrick Kenny, Senior Manager, Ambient Air Quality Unit, EPA

14.30
The clean air strategy
Irene Cadogan, DECC

14.45
Ireland's air pollutant emissions inventory 1990–2021
Ann Marie Ryan, Emissions Statistics Team, EPA

15.00
The co-benefits of climate actions for our air quality
Kevin Motherway, A/Senior Scientist, Atlantic Seaboard South, Climate Action Regional Office, led by Cork County Council

15:15
Q & A / Panel discussion

15:40
Wrap up
Micheál Lehane, EPA

Speakers

Patrick Byrne

Patrick Byrne is a Programme Manager in the Environmental Protection Agency with responsibility for Environmental Monitoring and Surveillance. In relation to air this includes ambient air quality monitoring undertaken at more than 110 stations in the National Ambient Air Monitoring Network. The network of stations are located across the country and data is available at airquality.ie. In relation to air the programme also supports citizen science and citizen engagement projects, air modelling and forecasting under LIFE Emerald. Air quality forecasting has recently been launched by the team and is available on airquality.ie. In addition, Patrick is responsible for chemical water monitoring and radiation monitoring. Patrick has previously worked in the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement and Office of Environmental Sustainability (Licensing).



Micheál Lehane

Micheál Lehane was appointed Director with the Environmental Protection Agency in 2016 and is currently the Director for the EPA's Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring. Prior to being appointed Director, Micheál served in a range of senior leadership roles in the EPA and in environmental protection & regulation in the UK. Micheál is also the Chair of the Irish National Accreditation Board and is a Director of the National Biodiversity Data Centre CLG. Micheál is a graduate of University College Cork with a PhD in Geology, holds an MBA from the University of Limerick and is a Chartered Director.



Eamon Ryan

Eamon Ryan TD is the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Minister for Transport. He was appointed to this role in June 2020. Eamon Ryan was elected to represent Dublin Bay South in the 2020 general election. He was born in Dublin and raised in Dundrum and Dartry. He studied commerce in UCD before taking a job managing a marketing course in the university's School of Business. He went on to found a cycling tourism company – Irish Cycling Safaris – in the late 1980s and in 1996 won the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award. He was the founding chairperson of the Dublin Cycling Campaign and began his political career as a Dublin City Councillor for the Rathgar-Rathmines ward. He then went on to serve both as a TD for Dublin South and as a Government Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. In recent years he has worked for a European climate organisation and chaired the digital policy group in the Institute of International and European Affairs. He is currently leader of the Green Party/Comhaontas Glas.



Emma Balmaine

Emma Balmaine was appointed CEO of the Irish Heart Foundation in August 2023. Emma was CEO of Saint John of God Hospital from 2011, where she led the mental health service, specialist dementia service and Mental Health First Aid Ireland. Prior to this she was General Manager of Blackrock Hospice with Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services. Emma is a very experienced chief executive with over 20 years' experience in the healthcare, education, and social care sectors.



Niall McLoughlin

Niall McLoughlin is the Principal Officer of the Air Quality, EU, International Policy and SDGs Division within the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The Division manages EU climate files, represents Ireland at UNFCCC mandated events including COPs, has responsibility for the promoting the SDGs and their implementation across Government and policy responsibility with respect to air quality. This includes designing policy interventions to enhance the quality of Ireland's air and oversight of implementation of the National Emission Ceilings and EU Directives.



Dermot Burke

Dermot is a native of Glenamaddy, Co. Galway, studied Civil Engineering in NUI Galway and qualified with a master's in engineering science in 1999. He worked as an Environmental Consultant with Tobin Consulting Engineers for 7 years and joined the EPA in 2006. In the Agency, Dermot has worked as an Inspector in both Drinking Water and Industrial Licence Enforcement. He has been working as an Air Quality Specialist with the National Ambient Air Quality Unit since 2018. Dermot works on maintaining communications and telemetry of Ireland's air quality monitoring network, as an air quality specialist in various citizen science projects and the development of the air quality modelling expertise within the Agency. He is currently the day-to-day Project Manager for the LIFE Emerald project.



Speakers

Jurgita Ovadnevaite

Jurgita Ovadnevaite is an Associate Professor at the School of Natural Sciences, Physics, University of Galway, and a deputy director of the Ryan Institute's Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies (C-CAPS), where she leads the Aerosol Mass Spectrometry field and the National Aerosol Mass Spectrometry Network. Her work is focused on elucidating aerosol particle sources and impacts on climate, air quality and health.



John Wenger

John Wenger is Professor of Chemistry at University College Cork (UCC) and founding director of the Centre for Research into Atmospheric Chemistry (CRAC Lab). He has 25 years research experience in atmospheric chemistry and air pollution, producing around 110 journal publications and reports. Prof. Wenger is a current member of the EPA Advisory Committee.



Irene Cadogan

Dr. Irene Cadogan has led the Air Quality Team as Assistant Principal Officer since 2020. She has policy responsibility for all air quality matters including the solid fuel regulations, the delivery of the Clean Air Strategy, support for enforcement and communications as well as other national, European and international air quality briefs. Over the past three years she has working with her team to restructure the approach to air quality policy, leading on the finalisation and now delivery of the Clean Air Strategy, co-ordination of support for enforcement personnel and the overall achievement of air quality improvements through close collaboration with key stakeholders. Irene joined the Department in 2017 and was previously involved in a number of projects in the Waste and Resource Efficiency Division. Prior to joining the Department Irene worked in education and the private sector and was involved in policy evaluation and environmental research having completed her PhD in the area of energy efficiency policy for the residential sector.



John Gallagher

John is Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. His research expertise is developing life cycle solutions to support the management and mitigation of environmental pollution in the built environment. He applies the 3M technique (Measurement, Modelling and Mitigation) to inform the design of environmental and engineering systems that achieve sustainable and balanced outcomes. Currently John is leading and supporting National (EPA, SFI, EI) and European (Horizon2020 & INTERREG), of which his talk today will address the EPA funded STATION-AIR project which aims to investigate air quality in and around railway hubs in Dublin.



Vivien Pohl

Dr Vivien Pohl B.Sc. (Hons), Ph.D.: Vivien is a member of staff with Technological University Dublin as a Post-Doctoral Researcher with the School of Chemical and BioPharmaceutical Sciences. She is currently doing her post-doctoral research in Environmental Chemistry and Engineering in on the project IMAGE, which is funded and supported by the EPA. She has presented her work at numerous national and international conferences. She was also a committee member of various EU-COST Action projects such as SMIREs and CLIMO and has collaborated on various projects hosted by EU-COST Action of which the most recent international collaboration with the University of Belgrade to set up an inventory categorising mountain soils around Europe and contributed to international publications. She has successfully won various grants, and most recently, she was an invited guest lecturer at a training school titled 'Connecting Science and Practice in Urban Wetlands', at the University of Belgrade, Serbia.



Stig Hellebust

Stig Hellebust is a lecturer in Chemistry at University College Cork (UCC) and a member of the Centre for Research into Atmospheric Chemistry (CRAC Lab). He has spent two decades in atmospheric chemistry and air pollution research. His research interests include the emissions, source apportionment and transport of atmospheric particles and he has contributed to multiple projects in Ireland and Europe relating to fine particulate matter from anthropogenic sources, bioaerosols and health linkages in relation to air quality. Dr. Hellebust is currently involved in multiple EPA funded projects, including the PortAIR project, which is the topic of his presentation here.



Speakers

David O'Connor

Dr. David O'Connor is currently an assistant professor within the school of Chemical sciences in Dublin City University. He formerly worked at Technological University Dublin (2015–2021) and has previously held post-doctoral positions at the University of Denver (Marie Curie Fellowship) and the University College Cork, which involved numerous field and laboratory studies on atmospherically relevant species and processes. His current research interests are focused on: (i) The interaction between gaseous and aerosol phases in the atmosphere. (ii) Biological and chemical aerosol characterization and source determination. (iii) The atmospheric degradation of fungal/bacterial volatile organic compounds. (iv) Production of an Irish Bioaerosol monitoring network and forecast.

It is on this final area that most of his work has focused on in recent times and which he will talk to during his presentation.



Patrick Kenny

Patrick Kenny currently leads the national ambient air quality unit within the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring. Patrick joined the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2002 and has held various positions in the Office of Environmental Assessment and Office of Environmental Enforcement. Before joining the EPA in March 2002, Patrick worked in the pharmaceutical industry.



Ann Marie Ryan

Ann Marie is a member of the Emissions Statistics team since 2016. The team is responsible for compiling and reporting Greenhouse gas and Air Pollutant Inventories for Ireland. She is a qualified expert UN reviewer in the Industrial Processes and Product Use sector and has participated in several centralised UN reviews of Greenhouse gas inventories. She currently works in the agriculture sector estimating emission inventories and projections for Ireland.



Kevin Motherway

Kevin Motherway is currently Regional Coordinator for the Atlantic Seaboard South Climate Action Regional Office led by Cork County Council. His current role involves assisting and coordinating local authorities in the southwest in the drafting and implementation of their Climate Action plans encompassing adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions. Kevin has previously worked as a Water Quality Laboratory Manager in Cork County Council tasked with implementing Water Framework Directive sampling programme, and sampling and analysis of drinking and bathing waters across County Cork. He worked in the EPA both as a licensing and enforcement Inspector and was Project Manager for the characterisation, design, and consent stage of the Kerdiffstown Landfill Remediation for over 7 years, including a secondment to Kildare County Council. The 30-hectare Kerdiffstown Park and sports facility will open late in 2023 after a DECC-funded €70 Million clean-up, representing the largest environmental clean-up in the history of the state. During his time in Kildare Co Co, he led Kildare's 2017 bid to become the Climate Action Regional Office for the Eastern and Midlands region.

