

**Focus on  
Adaptation  
Report**

2025



*Bóthar  
Dúnta*  
**ROAD  
CLOSED**



## Summary

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### Climate services, impact, and risk assessment

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Ireland continued to make progress in climate change adaptation across policy, governance, planning, climate services, risk assessment, and research through 2025.

As climate change continues to impact Ireland, adapting to this changed landscape is essential for the country's future resilience. Building this resilience requires a coordinated approach that includes strong governance, adequate resources, legal and regulatory support, regular vulnerability assessments, and climate action planning across national, sectoral, and local levels. Access to information and enhanced capacity for adaptation are also critical.

This report summarises relevant national and international developments in climate adaptation in 2025, including new and updated Sectoral Adaptation Plans, publication of the National Climate Change Risk Assessment, completion of TRANSLATE-2 and publication of a report on funding climate adaptation in Ireland. A more comprehensive overview of national adaptation structures and governance from the preceding five years was provided in the 2024 report and is not repeated here.





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## COP30

The 2025 COP30 and 2026 COP31 Presidencies have launched the Global Implementation Accelerator; a collaborative and voluntary initiative launched to support countries in implementing their NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

In the framework of the Global Goal of Climate Adaptation, Parties agreed on a set of indicators to guide and enable investments and programmes on adaptation. They also called for tripling by 2035 finance for adaptation in the context of the climate finance commitments, also known as the New Collective Quantified Goal, of 2024's COP29.

The [Belém Health Action Plan](#), endorsed by more than 30 countries and 50 organisations, elevated health as a frontline climate priority. Backed by USD 300 million from the Climate and Health Funders Coalition, it will strengthen climate-resilient health systems, hospitals, surveillance, and disease prevention, especially in the Global South.

## EU Preparedness Union Strategy

The [EU Preparedness Union Strategy](#) to prevent and react to emerging threats and crises was published in March 2025. It comprises 30 key actions and a detailed action plan which includes “enhancing climate adaptation and availability of critical natural resources such as water” as a key objective to protect Europe's essential societal functions.

## Sectoral Adaptation Plans

Revised and new [Sectoral Adaptation Plans](#) (SAPs) have been developed under Ireland's second statutory National Adaptation Framework, which was updated and published in 2024.





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13 sectors were included this time with one additional sector, Planning, due to undertake a scoping report in addition to the other adaptation plans. These new SAPs were published in Q4 2025. Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure produce their SAP together, as do Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry – this means that overall 10 plan documents were published.

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The SAPs were developed with wide stakeholder consultation and regard to the National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA) and national advancements, as well as building on each sector's own plans and policies. They have a statutory remit up to five years and aim to deliver climate resilience and implement national climate policy.

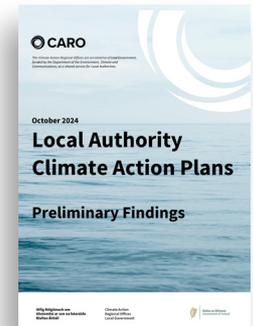
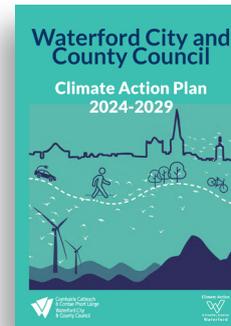
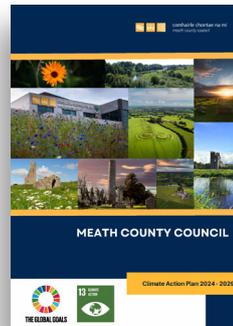
## Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Adaptation planning is being carried out on sectoral and local authority levels in Ireland implementation of mitigation, adaptation and citizen engagement actions has commenced following the publication of the Local Authority Climate Action Plans in early 2024.

## Local Authority Pilot Risk Assessment project

Two Irish regions - Louth County Council and Tipperary County Council - have been selected to participate in the CLIMAAX project. [CLIMAt risk and vulnerability Assessment framework and toolbox \(CLIMAAX\)](#) is a 4-year Horizon Europe project that will provide financial, analytical, and practical support to improve regional climate and emergency risk management plans.

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) have performed an analysis of all 31 Local Authority Climate Action Plans to produce a high-level report of preliminary findings. The CAROs have also prepared summary reports for key sectors and stakeholders.





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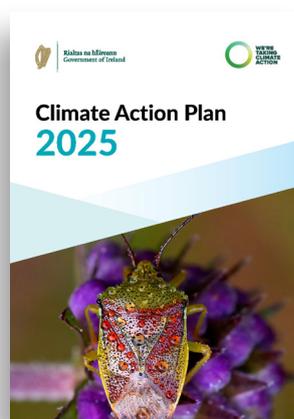
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## CAP2025

**Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25)** is the third statutory annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

Ireland's primary adaptation policy response to the impacts of climate change is set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF), however, the CAP also specifies adaptation actions with 17 listed for 2025. 14 of these were related to the Sectoral Adaptation Plans, with the remaining actions related to the publication of the National Climate Change Risk Assessment, improving the resilience of Ireland's water infrastructure through a Nature-based Solutions programme, and EU reporting on adaptation.



## Adaptation Taskforce

An Adaptation Taskforce has been established by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) to provide enhanced accountability for, and ownership of, sectoral risks. It will provide for more regular and formalised senior-level consideration in addressing major cross-cutting issues and transboundary risks in a more holistic way. The Taskforce will be chaired at Assistant Secretary level and will provide for more regular and formalised senior-level consideration in addressing cross-cutting issues and transboundary risks. While the implementation of the actions in the SAPs is the responsibility of each sectoral Minister, the Taskforce will provide for regular scrutiny and monitoring of adaptation actions at the highest level of government.

The new structures will increase the DCEE role in monitoring and evaluating the cumulative impact of SAP implementation and enable escalation where barriers or delays in SAPs are identified.



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## NFCS and TRANSLATE

The [National Framework for Climate Services \(NFCS\)](#) coordinates collaboration between climate information providers and users in order to facilitate the creation of user-driven climate services.



The [TRANSLATE](#) projects are a series of Met Éireann-led initiatives to produce standardised climate projections for Ireland and to develop climate services that meet the needs of decision-makers.

TRANSLATE-2 finished in 2025, building on the TRANSLATE results to provide an expanded range of products, including additional variables, such as wind, humidity, and radiation. It also presented case studies illustrating climate risks to aid in making more resilient adaptation decisions.

TRANSLATE-3 is now underway and will further expand the underpinning national climate change data set. It will also move beyond climate change scenarios to include a high-resolution annual to decadal data set, required for longer-term planning horizons and currently missing for

Ireland. It will continue its programme of translating this information into decision relevant contexts through the development of climate indicators and climate services.

## Climate Ireland

[Climate Ireland](#), the national adaptation platform, is provided and maintained by the EPA. It provides a centralised source of information, advice and support to help Ireland adapt to our changing climate.

In 2025 the EPA Climate Adaptation team undertook an internal review of the Climate Ireland platform, to ensure that it continues to effectively deliver on its purpose, context and to objectives. Overall, the review found that Climate Ireland is a trusted and respected platform that meets user needs in the evolving national context in which it operates. The review also identified potential areas for improvement of the structure and content to be progressed in 2026.





## Climate Ireland Adaptation Network

Climate Ireland facilitates the Climate Ireland Adaptation Network (CIAN) as a community of practice network. Four CIAN Working Groups were established in 2025 to share, discuss, and summarise understanding and perspectives of adaptation practitioners in relation to the following adaptation and resilience topics:

- ▶ Working group 1: Technical definitions of resilience
- ▶ Working group 2: Just resilience
- ▶ Working group 3: Resilient decision-making
- ▶ Working group 4: Indicator development

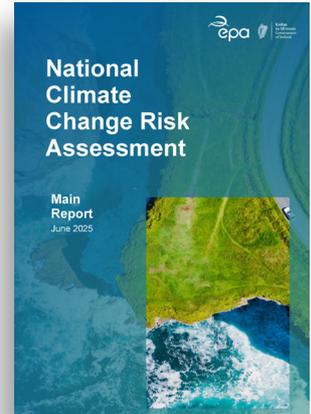
Summary reports are due to be finalised and published in early 2026, summarising the work of the group, including a summary of perspectives, opportunities and challenges relating to each topic.

In addition to this work, four newsletters were issued in 2025 with relevant updates relevant to adaptation Ireland. These were circulated among the CIAN as well as being available on the [Climate Ireland website](#).

## NCCRA

The EPA published the [National Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) in June 2025 which provides the first comprehensive assessment of where, when and how climate risks are likely to impact Ireland over the coming decades.

The National Climate Change Risk Assessment provides government, business, communities and other stakeholders the best available evidence and analysis to inform climate adaptation and resilience in Ireland at a national level. It identifies 115 risks from projected changes in climate conditions, including in energy, transport, communications, water security, public health, food production and supply and ecosystems.



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Four reports were published as part of the final release of the NCCRA:

1. **The Summary for Policymakers** provides a concise summary of policy-relevant aspects of the risk assessment.
2. **The Main Report** provides an overview of the methodology and findings, as well as recommendations to improve future climate risk assessments.
3. **The Technical Report** sets out the evidence base for the assessment and further detail on the risk assessment findings, including knowledge gaps for each system as well as qualitative descriptions of exposure, vulnerability, and consequence.
4. **The Consultation Report** is a supplementary document outlining the overarching approach to stakeholder engagement and summarising consultation activities for each stage of the NCCRA.

These reports followed the Methodology Report and the Technical Guidance for Sectoral Risk Assessments released in 2024, both of which were used throughout the development of the SAPs.

The most significant risks identified by the report requiring urgent action within the next five years are disruption and damage to communications and energy distribution infrastructure due to extreme wind disruption; and damage to buildings and transport infrastructure due to extreme wind, sea level rise, coastal erosion and coastal flooding.





## Climate Change Advisory Council

In its annual review, the Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC), provides an assessment of different aspects of adaptation and resilience. It also carries out an annual adaptation scorecard to assess activity on the Sectoral Adaptation Plans and adaptation aspects of the Local Authority Climate Action Plans.



In 2025, the [Annual Review](#) set out three key adaptation sector recommendations:

1. The Government should provide annual defined funding to make climate action roles in local authorities and the climate action regional offices permanent starting in Budget 2026.
2. The Government should ensure that actions with clearly defined resilience outcomes from the sectoral adaptation plans are included in the Climate Action Plan 2026 across all sectors.
3. The Government should establish the Extreme Weather Assistance Scheme before the 2025/2026 storm season and ensure that it is permanent, appropriately resourced and has streamlined processes and procedures to allow for rapid response.

Specific recommendations for sectoral and regional adaptation needs are also made throughout the Review.

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## Climate Adaptation Investment Framework OECD

The [Climate Adaptation Investment Framework \(CAIF\)](#) was launched at COP29 at the end of 2024.

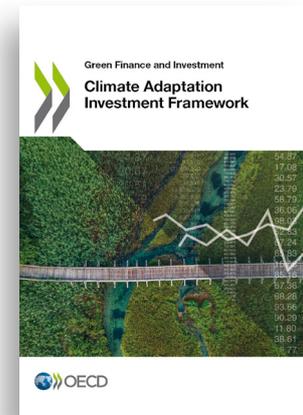
It aims to:

- ▶ Support the development of clear, credible and consistent policy frameworks that unlock investment in adaptation.
- ▶ Support the implementation of adaptation investment plans and project pipelines.
- ▶ Provide a framework for country reviews and policy dialogues.
- ▶ Provide a resource for capacity building activities.

An overview of work in 2025-26 focuses on supporting country implementation, applying the CAIF to unlock investment for climate resilience, knowledge development, targeted research to address barriers to investment, knowledge exchange, peer-learning, and collaboration on adaptation finance.

## Fostering Investible National Implementation

The [Fostering Investible National Implementation \(FINI\)](#) initiative was launched at COP30 to make National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) investible. By bringing together countries, development banks, insurers, and private investors, FINI aims to unlock USD 1 trillion in adaptation project pipelines within three years, with 20% mobilized from the private sector.





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# Funding Climate Adaptation in Ireland

A joint report by the Climate Change Advisory Council and the Central Bank of Ireland was released in Q4 2025 on [Funding Climate Adaptation in Ireland](#). The report warns that the deployment of climate adaptation finance is below what is required to address the escalating risks posed by climate change and emphasises the importance of credible transition plans to build resilience in the financial sector and contribute towards a resilient economy. It outlines the barriers to increasing climate adaptation investment and proposes actionable solutions to address these challenges.



# Central Bank Climate Observatory

The [Central Bank Climate Observatory 2024](#), published in January 2025, provides an annual update of climate-related metrics for the economy and financial sector. This update addresses: global trends in the progression of climate change, mitigation and impact; provides insight into climate risks for banks, insurers and funds using climate-aligned financial sector data; monitors progress and challenges in relation to national decarbonisation and presents an overview of the Central Bank's own emissions from operations and investment activities.



# Research



## Summary

Research outcomes are a key input to adaptation policy, and Ireland has a strong tradition of climate change research. Climate change adaptation research is carried out across many different research domains and across research-performing organisations in Ireland.

## Adaptation policy & governance

An overview of publicly-funded climate and adaptation-related research in Ireland are contained in the [Climate Research in Ireland](#) reports on the EPA website. In the most recent report released in December 2025, it highlights that €29.9m was committed for 38 new projects in climate research in 2024. This included €4.8m for research that was directly aligned to “Ireland’s future climate, its impacts and adaptation options”.

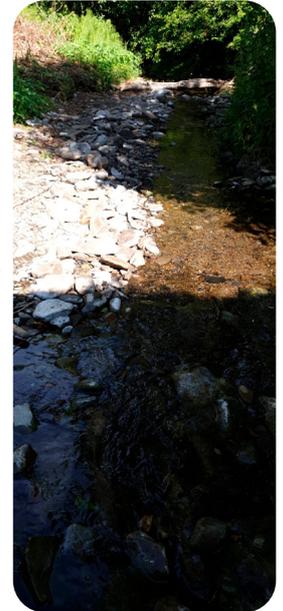
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The EPA Research Programme includes a focus on Climate Change Evidence Needs and in 2025 it announced 12 new awards with a value of €6.9m in this area. This included a number of adaptation-relevant projects on climate attribution, grid resilience, adaptation toolkits for local authorities, and exposure to extreme sea levels. The EPA also published a number of research reports directly relevant to climate adaptation in 2025 in areas such as operationalising resilience, just resilience, addressing political and economic barriers to adaptation and updated climate projects. All information on EPA Research publications and projects is available on our [website](#).





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Published by the Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland March 2026.

ISBN: 978-1-80009-345-4

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