

Ireland's National Radon Control Strategy Phase 2

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15th National Radon Forum
8th May 2019

Development of NRCS-2

1. Review of phase 1

- Achievements & Highlights

2. Development of phase 2

- Stakeholder Feedback
- Ionising Radiation Regulations, 2019
- Learnings

Achievements: Phase 1 (2014-2018)



- 31 actions
- 18 complete
- 13 ongoing or part of Phase 2



>11 Partner Organisations
>40 Individual Partners

Some Highlights

Development of

www.radon.ie

100,000 visits in 2017 & 2018



12 awareness campaigns

(Sligo, Carlow, Waterford, South Tipperary, Galway, Kerry, Wexford, Louth, Kilkenny, Mayo, Clare)

European Radon Day

7th November

The invisible gas in your home that's a bigger killer than carbon monoxide



November 5 2018 5:33 PM



Some Highlights

2 day **training course on radon remediation**

developed and delivered at 4 centres

Short **course in preventive measures** developed and now provided by CIF



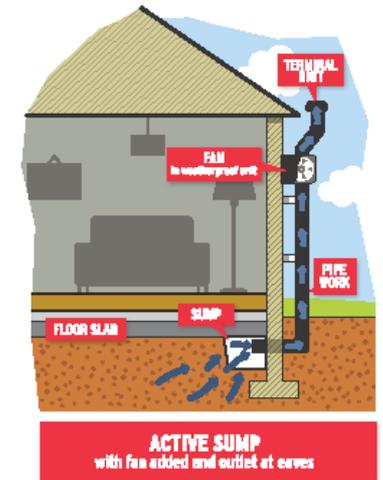
An Roinn Tithíochta,
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government



Some Highlights

Registration scheme for remediation services

launched in January 2017



Registration scheme for measurement services

launched in January 2017



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government

*Radon Industry
Association*

Some Highlights

Contract of sale for homes includes

3 radon questions

since January 2017



Law Society of Ireland

Research



Pilot grant scheme



Development of Phase 2: Stakeholder Feedback

What has worked well? (What should we continue to do?)

- Government Departments & Agencies working together
- Working with industry to develop courses & registration schemes
- Research work
- Website: radon.ie
- Training course development
- Establishment of registration schemes
- Conveyancing questions



What needs to improve? (What do we need to address?)

- Attendance at preventive courses
- Uptake of funded testing & remediation
- Uptake of radon testing during home sales

Development of Phase 2: Ionising Radiation Regulations, 2019

Regulations require the implementation of a National Radon Control Strategy which shall include:

- measures to promote the identification of homes with high radon
- the provision of information to encourage remedial work
- local & national information on:
 - radon exposure and health risks
 - importance of testing
 - remediation methods
- provisions to identify high radon areas

Radon in workplace requirements are also specified



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

S.I. No. 30 of 2019



NRCS: Phase 2 (2019-2024)

Taking account of stakeholder feedback & regulations we developed NRCS: Phase 2 which sets out

33 Actions under 5 themes:

- Radon prevention in new buildings
- Use of property transactions to drive action
- Communications and advocacy
- Promoting confidence in radon services
- Radon in workplaces and public buildings

4 priority areas based on experience



NRCS

National Radon Control Strategy
Straitéis Náisiúnta um Rialú Radóin

NRCS-2 Priority 1: Translating Awareness into Action

Awareness is high:

75% aware of radon

56% aware of link with
lung cancer

58% know to go to **EPA**
for information

BUT... awareness does not
lead to action:

1% response to
awareness campaigns

22% response to
offer of free tests

25% remediation
by those with homes that
test high

NRCS-2 Priority 1: Translating Awareness into Action

Develop targeted communications and other “nudges” to increase the testing & remediation rate

Actions:

1. Targeting specific groups when raising awareness:
 - Those that have already tested >200 Bq/m³ but not remediated
 - Those buying and selling their homes
2. Exploring the potential of digital monitors to nudge action

NRCS-2 Priority 2: Regulation is needed

Low uptake rates are normal

Need to be realistic about what can be achieved through persuasion

Stronger regulation by Government to address radon is essential (supported by information)

Actions:

1. Implementation of workplace regulations in partnership with HSA
2. Work with relevant stakeholders towards rental legislation requiring testing & remediation by landlords
3. Work with stakeholders towards conveyancing requiring radon testing
4. Continue to provide high quality information so regulations are understood

NRCS-2 Priority 3: Financial support is needed

**Financial supports
are very
important**

BUT

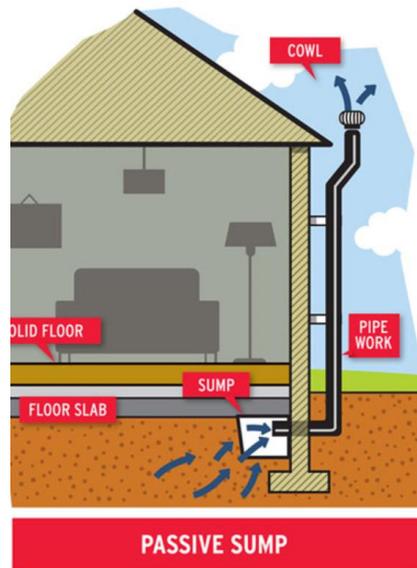
**Low uptake of
free testing and
partially funded
remediation**

Actions:

1. Work with behavioural scientists to review language used to communicate risk & financial incentives
2. Develop a national grant proposal that will optimise uptake

NRCS-2 Priority 4: Passive Prevention Systems

Ensuring new homes are optimally protected from radon needs to take account of recent research & new building practices



Actions:

1. Revision of TGDC will take account of research on
 - Composition of hardcore
 - Use of membranes
 - Use of sumps
 - Ventilation system installed
 - Measures designed to ensure a home is energy efficient
2. Development of the radon risk map will feed into updated guidance

NRCS-2. Actions to be continued

1. Maintain & develop www.radon.ie
2. Continue the EPA's 24/7 Free Phone and radon@epa.ie services
3. Maintain Registration Schemes for measurement & remediation services
4. Maintain free post-remediation service for homeowners that have tested high



NRCS-2. Actions to be continued

5. Radon Day engaging with local & national media
6. Radon Forum & Radiation Protection Research event
7. Outreach by EPA at public events (National Ploughing Championships, Young Scientist Exhibition & Science Week)

Radon levels in Wicklow home were equal to 56 X-rays a day

Environmental Protection Agency calls for people to test their homes for the gas

© Mon, Nov 28, 2016, 16:09

Dan Griffin



A radon mitigation system in the basement of a house. The EPA is calling on people in high radon areas to test their homes for the gas. File photograph: iStock

Residents of a house in Co Wicklow were exposed to a radiation dose which was equivalent to 56 chest X-rays a day because of the amount of radon in the area, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said.



NRCS-2. Actions to be continued

8. Providing the training course in radon remediation (updating as needed in consultation with industry)
9. Providing the training course in radon preventive systems in partnership with CIF (updating as needed in consultation with industry)



NRCS-2. Actions to be continued

Continue partnerships:

- All relevant Government Agencies & Departments working together
- Working with radon measurement & remediation industry
- Working with researchers (statistics, geology, physics, engineering, psychology)
- Support of local & national politicians

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>40 Individual Partners



Thank you
for your
attention!



Any Questions?