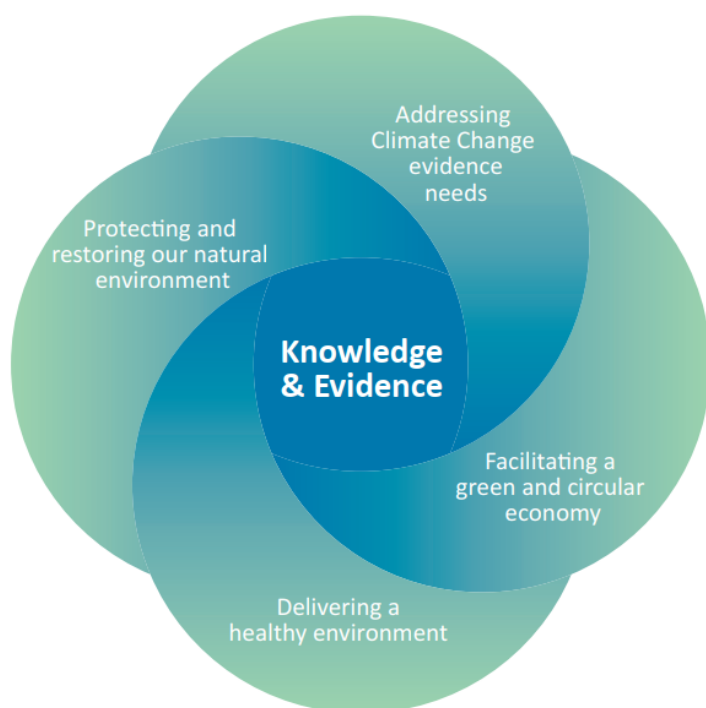


EPA Research 2030

Action Plan for 2023



Putting science and innovation at the centre of environmental protection in Ireland through the development and proactive transfer of knowledge

March 2023

The EPA Research Programme is a Government of Ireland initiative funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications

About this Action Plan

EPA-funded research provides essential scientific support for environmental policy development, implementation and broader decision making in Ireland.

EPA Research 2030 is a ten-year high-level framework for the EPA's Research Programme. It sets out the broad structure and ambition for EPA research activity over the period 2021 to 2030 and is designed to be agile, responsive, and flexible.

This Action Plan for 2023 provides a guide for the planned activities of the EPA Research Programme in 2023.

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1. EPA Research 2030 framework - Planned activities for 2023

EPA Research 2030 is a ten-year high-level framework for the EPA's Research Programme (as illustrated in **Figure 1**). It sets out the broad structure and ambition for EPA research activity over the period 2021 to 2030 and is designed to be agile, responsive, and flexible.

OUR PURPOSE	WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	WHAT WE WILL DO
Putting Science and Innovation at the centre of environmental protection in Ireland through the development and proactive transfer of knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have delivered impactful research readily usable by our end-users • Have delivered timely evidence to support policy and decision making • Have addressed identified knowledge gaps in relation to existing and emerging environmental pressures • Have supported relevant implementation actions and behavioural change interventions • Have enhanced the national environmental research capacity • Have supported the EPAs assessment, knowledge and regulatory functions • Have delivered open knowledge and data solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align research investments with key environmental challenges • Fund high quality, responsive, timely and impactful research, including development of innovative solutions and new technologies • Transfer actionable knowledge to key stakeholders • Deliver accessible research outputs • Support a cohesive approach to national and European environmental research coordination • Support excellence and competitiveness in the national research community • Provide access to EPA data and knowledge systems

Figure 1. EPA Research 2030 Mission Statement

EPA-funded research is essential to:

- Supporting the monitoring, assessment, reporting and regulatory activities of the EPA.
- Generating evidence crucial in assisting Ireland in meeting its commitments and requirements under the various international, EU and national policies and strategies.
- Generating the evidence base that supports decision making, behaviour change and policy development.
- Addressing knowledge gaps, providing the evidence-base and responding to priority challenges.
- Supporting multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder partnership projects.
- Developing environmental research capacity in Ireland, recognising the importance of not only sustaining the research-base but also of building and training the researchers in specific areas.

The EPA will focus its Research Programme activities in 2023 on addressing and progressing the six key priority areas shown in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2. Key Priorities for the EPA Research Programme in 2023

Under these six priority areas, the EPA has planned for 2023 the broad range of activities, listed in **Table 1**. The timings provided are indicative and may change, for example in response to variations in available budget and resources or shifting priorities. The EPA funding schemes available in 2023 are illustrated in **Figure 3**.









In addition to the activities listed in **Table 1**, active engagement in national and international research fora and activities will take place throughout the year.

Table 1: EPA Research activities planned in 2023 and indicative timelines

Indicative Timeline ¹	Activities
11 th January	Launch of the EPA Researchers Awards 2022
25 th January	Launch of the <i>Waters of Life Research</i> Call 2023
28 th January	Interim reporting deadline for on-going EPA awards
1 st March	Launch of the <i>DOROTHY Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action COFUND Research Fellowship</i> Call
8 th March	Submission deadline for the <i>Waters of Life Research</i> Call 2023
8 th March	Submission deadline for the EPA Researchers Awards 2022
30 th March	Rolling deadline for the EPA Research Event Support Scheme

¹ Subject to change

Indicative Timeline ¹	Activities
April	Announcement of the Winner of the EPA Researchers Awards 2022
20 th April (TBC)	Launch of the 2023 EPA Research Call
27 th April (TBC)	2023 EPA Research Call Webinar for Applicants
1 st June (TBC)	Submission deadline for the 2023 EPA Research Call
8 th June (TBC)	Authorisation deadline for the 2023 EPA Research Call
21 st June	Submission deadline for the DOROTHY Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action COFUND Research Fellowship Call
30 th June	Rolling deadline for the EPA Research Event Support Scheme
June – September	Evaluation of the 2023 EPA Research Call
28 th July	Interim reporting deadline for on-going EPA awards
August/September	Launch of the Fulbright-EPA Awards (closing in October / November 2023)
September	Launch of the EPA-Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scheme (Closing in November 2023)
30 th September	Rolling deadline for the EPA Research Event Support Scheme
September/October	Publication of the 2022 Climate Research Coordination Group Annual Report of Activities
September/ October	Awards from the 2022 Biodiversa+ Partnership Joint Transnational Call and launch of the 2023 Joint Transnational Call
September/ October	Awards from the 2022 Water4All Joint Transnational Call and launch of the 2023 Joint Transnational Call
1 st October	Interim reporting deadline for on-going EPA Scholarship awards
October	Notification of the outcomes of the 2023 EPA Research Call
November / December	Awards issued under the 2023 EPA Research Call (with start dates up until 31 st March 2024)
December	Start of the consultation for the 2024 EPA Research Call
31 st December	Rolling deadline for the EPA Research Event Support Scheme

Funding Type ↓	Funding Mechanism	Type of Research	Indicative Timeline	Type of Awards
 Short-term Evidence-based Studies	Fast track to Policy Funding Scheme	Literature review, evidence-base review, evidence synthesis, review of policies, best practices - addressing short-term policy needs	As required	Usually < 9-month duration and < €50,000
 Project-Based Awards	Annual EPA Research Calls	Research projects addressing Medium- to Longer-term policy needs (in response to specific topics or open)	Calls opening in April/ May - with awards made in November / December	6- to 12-month Desk studies (< € 150,000) 24- to 48-month Medium scale studies (< € 600,000) 36- to 48-month Large scale studies (< € 1,200,000) 48- to 60-month Capability Development projects (> € 1,200,000)
 Strategic National Partnerships	Co-funding provided to other national research funders in areas of common priorities	Variable	Variable	Variable
 Collaborative Awards	Joint Transnational Research Calls	Research addressing Medium- to Longer-term policy needs requiring a transnational approach (usually topic specific)	Variable	Usually Medium-Scale Projects (36-month duration, up to €350,000 for the budget requested to the EPA by the researchers from Ireland)
 Research Fellowships*	Annual EPA Research Calls	Research addressing Medium- to Longer-term policy needs; In response to specific topics or open calls	Calls opening in April/ May - with awards made in November / December	24- to 36-month Research Fellowship
 4-year EPA-IRC PhDs*	EPA-Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scheme	Research addressing Medium- to Longer-term policy needs; In response to open calls	Calls opening in September with awards made in March/April	48-month PhDs
 Fulbright-EPA Awards*	Fulbright Award	Research addressing Medium- to Longer-term policy needs; In response to open calls	Calls opening end of August with awards made in June	3- to 12-month duration (budget variable) for the Fulbright-EPA Awards
 Event Support	Event Support Scheme	Financial support for small, not-for-profit workshops, seminars, and other events showcasing Irish environmental research	Rolling Deadlines (31st March, 30th June, 30th September, 31st December)	Up to €3,000

* Capacity Building

Figure 3. EPA Research Funding Schemes available in 2023

2. Implementation of the *EPA Research 2030* framework

The following sections outline how the *EPA Research 2030* framework is being implemented, in terms of funding schemes, post-award monitoring, communication, dissemination and knowledge transfer, as well as the EPA Research activities in coordinating environmental research at national level and in participating in international strategic partnerships.

EPA Research funding

The EPA funds research using a tailored suite of awards to achieve the objectives set down in *EPA Research 2030*:

- [EPA Research Calls](#), which are competitive research calls for which the pre-award and post-award processes are managed by the EPA. This funding is aimed at:
 - Addressing medium- to longer-term policy needs with Desk Studies, Medium-Scale, Large-Scale and Capacity Development Projects funded via the EPA Research Calls using top-down (where specific research questions have been identified) and bottom-up (open calls) approaches; and
 - Capacity building with the funding of research fellowships.
- [Fast-track-to-Policy funding](#), which looks at providing evidence synthesis, review of policies, best practices to answer urgent emerging policy questions (addressing emerging short-term policy needs).
- [Evidence-based research agreements](#) (e.g. framework with the Economic and Social Research Institute and the Institute of Public Administration).
- [Strategic National Partnerships](#) for which the pre-award and post-award processes are managed by another research funding organisation. This funding is aimed at:
 - Addressing medium- to longer-term policy needs, with co-funding provided to other national research funders in areas of common priorities.
 - Capacity building, with funding of four-year PhDs or other researchers-based awards, as appropriate, via partnerships with strategic partners such as the Irish Research Council and the Fulbright Commission (bottom-up approach).
- [Collaborative Awards](#), by providing funding to enable the participation of the Irish research community under Joint Transnational Calls at EU and international level. The pre-award and post-award processes at transnational level are managed by the international network of funding agencies participating in the call, and the post-award processes for the Irish partners are managed by the EPA.
- [Event Support](#) for small conferences and workshops promoting environmental research in Ireland.

EPA Research policies and strategies

Gender equity

The EPA's strategy to promote gender equity in the Irish environmental research arena is based on the following:

- Gender balance in research teams.
- Gender dimension in research content.
- Gender balance in decision-making.
- Reporting and national cooperation.

The EPA implements provisions for maternity and paternity pay for funded researchers in accordance with the [EPA Policy on the Support of Maternity, Paternity and Adoptive Leave](#).

The EPA requires that Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Technological Universities (TUs) have complied with the timelines set out in the [Higher Education Authority statement on Athena SWAN Charter in Ireland](#). Other types of organisations (non-HEIs) also funded by the EPA, are asked to demonstrate that they are adhering to the same principles.

Research integrity

The EPA has endorsed the revised [2019 National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland](#), and is a member of the National Research Integrity Forum (NRIF) via its participation in the NRIF Community of Practice.

Open research

The EPA is a participant in the National Open Research Forum (NORF), and, in 2022, the EPA endorsed the [National Action Plan for the Transition to an Open Research Environment in Ireland](#).

Open access

All projects funded by the EPA Research Programme are required to ensure open access to all peer-reviewed publications resulting from EPA funding. This must be done by depositing the peer reviewed manuscript in an open access repository.

Open data

It is also a requirement for all funded projects that the research data needed to validate the results presented in their scientific publications is deposited via a data repository.

Post-award monitoring to maintain quality, ensure policy relevance and enable knowledge transfer

Research funded by the EPA is independent and is intended to contribute to the necessary debate on the protection of the environment. The involvement of policymakers and key end-users in the post-award steering and monitoring of EPA-funded projects (i.e. as Steering Committee members) allows for on-going knowledge transfer between researchers and key stakeholders. This facilitates the development of a more robust science-to-policy interface in Ireland.

Accessible and timely research outputs

Outputs from the EPA-funded research are made accessible to all, through the publication of EPA Research Reports and EPA Research Evidence Review Reports (for the targeted short-term evidence-based studies). Projects may also have specific outputs, which can include for example:

- Peer-reviewed publications (e.g. papers, posters, books, etc.).
- Non-peer reviewed outputs (e.g. newspaper articles, press releases, policy reports, radio, TV, presentation, infographics, etc.).
- Models and tools (e.g. methodologies, datasets, toolkits, etc.).
- Innovation (e.g. patents, NDA, trademarks, new products, etc.).
- Etc.

All EPA-funded projects are required to make their research data available via an open access data repository.

Engaged communication and dissemination

Significant societal and behavioural change is required to respond to climate change and to environmental threats and opportunities. As part of this, it is important that a wide range of audiences are provided with trusted and appropriate information. Communication and dissemination activities arising from EPA-funded research are strongly encouraged and monitored throughout the lifetime of funded projects.

EPA Research 2030 reinforces the focus on communication activities both at Research Project- and at Research Programme level. The EPA also continues to investigate innovative and more environmentally friendly ways to better communicate.



Proactive transfer of knowledge

Research projects have the potential to yield great environmental, social, and economic benefits. An important challenge for environmental policy is to make the best use of research results and new scientific findings to inform and underpin policy development and implementation. It is therefore crucial to communicate outputs from EPA-funded research projects to policy makers in a tailored, targeted, appropriate, and accessible way for them to make evidence-informed choices when developing policies aimed at delivering sustainable solutions to environmental problems. In addition, citizen engagement in research (including through citizen science) is also a key medium to advocate for, inform and promote behaviour change.

Knowledge transfer activities are framed around target users' needs. Such transfer will be enabled by pro-actively engaging with key stakeholders and users of the research in the:

- Framing of the EPA Research Calls (co-design).
- Post-award monitoring to support and provide guidance for the EPA-funded research projects (co-development).
- Transfer of the knowledge outputs through strategically targeted communication and dissemination activities (co-creation).

Figure 4 illustrates this engaged approach for EPA Research 2030.

EPA Research 2030 actively supports knowledge transfer activities, both at research project-level (i.e. by the researchers) and at Research Programme-level (i.e. by the EPA). Proposed activities include, for example, focussed-policy workshops, devising of policy briefs, setting up 'knowledge hubs' (networks of experts and/or projects) in tandem with outreach activities and educational materials, combining the findings of multiple research projects (i.e. clustering projects).

National environmental research coordination

The EPA is responsible for the national coordination of environmental research in Ireland. This is enabled by the EPA-led national environmental research coordination group (NERG). This group aims to facilitate, support, and promote coordination, synergies and liaison between relevant cross-sectoral funding organisations involved in environmental research in Ireland.

The EPA-led national Climate Research Coordination Group, a sub-group of the NERCG, represents key actors in Ireland's climate change-related research activity. The Climate Research Coordination Group reports annually on the activities of its members. In addition, an assessment and synthesis of climate research is published every five years (first report is due to be published in 2023).

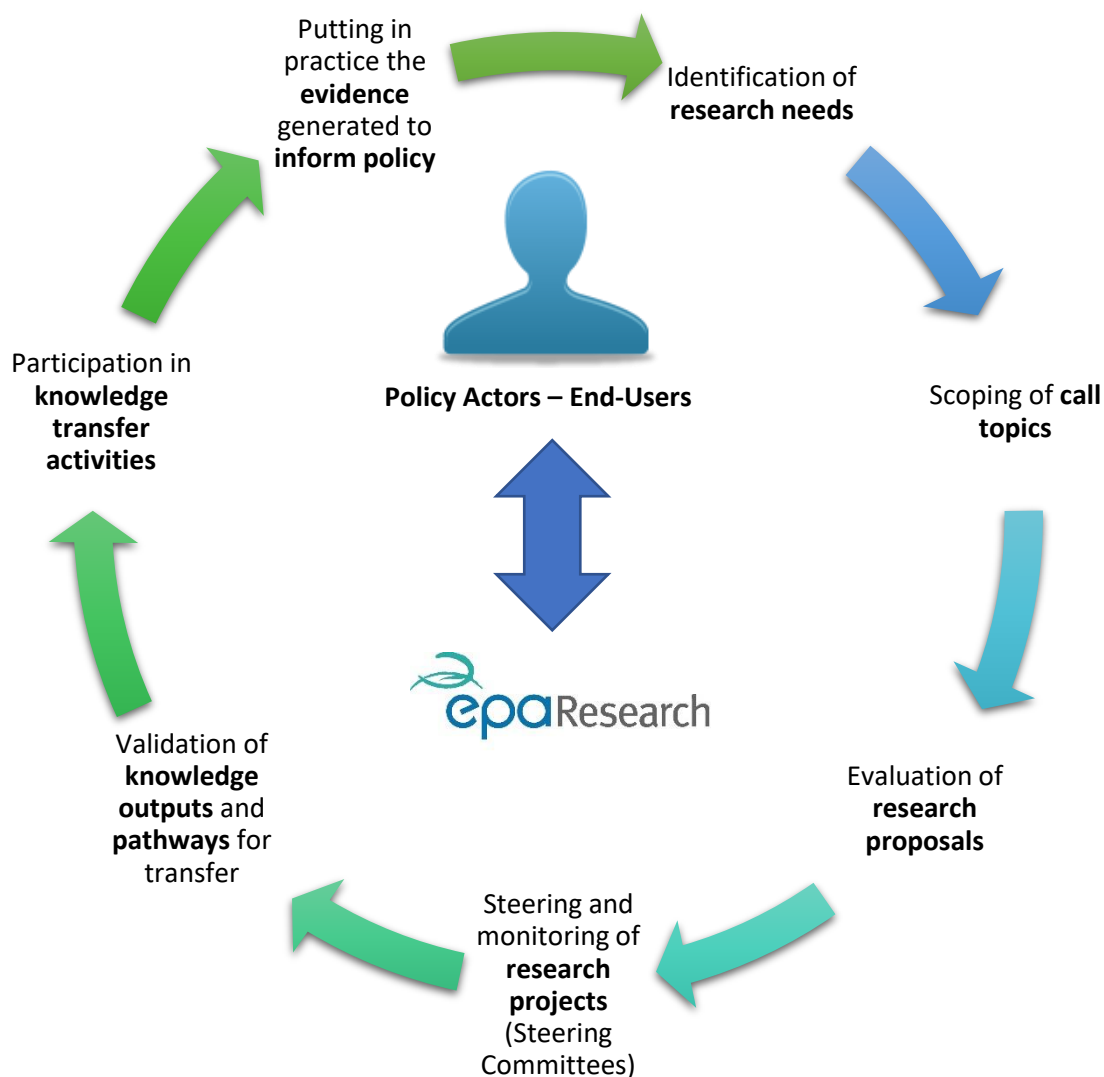


Figure 4. EPA Research 2030 - An engaged Research Programme

Support towards Ireland's participation in EU framework programmes

The EPA actively supports Ireland's participation in EU Research Funding Framework Programmes, such as Horizon Europe. Working closely with the national support network in place, the EPA engages with and influences the European research and innovation landscape through participation in programme committees and via collaboration with national and international stakeholders.

In the context of Horizon Europe (2021–2027), the EPA is involved in Clusters 5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility) and 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment), in addition to the Euratom research programme for 2021–2025, which complements Horizon Europe.

International strategic partnerships

One of the core elements for the delivery of *EPA Research 2030* relates to collaboration and engagement, including our engagement in the European research area. EPA Research has been involved in several EU initiatives/networks over the years. **Figure 5** provides a snapshot of the on-going EU partnerships and projects, the EPA is involved with, as of March 2023.

The EPA continues its active participation in EU/International networks that are relevant to **EPA Research 2030** and important to Ireland's research community, for example:

- Network of funders, such as BiodivERsA (biodiversity research) and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) on Climate and Water.
- European Commission framework programmes ²-funded projects (ERA-net COFUND actions, Coordination Support Action, Co-funded Partnerships).
- EU LIFE Integrate Projects.

EPA's participation in these initiatives facilitates researchers based in Ireland to apply to transnational funding calls in areas of strategic importance. In addition, the participation of the EPA in such initiatives and networks adds considerable value to the EPA Research Programme, for example, by:

- Providing a way to align national research priorities with European priorities (via horizon scanning activities).
- Leveraging funding to better tackle transboundary environmental challenges.
- Peer-learning and benchmarking opportunities with other funding agencies.

Resourcing and participation in specific calls, as well as in other networks, is assessed by the EPA on a case-by-case basis.

² Horizon Europe, Horizon 2020, EURATOM



Figure 5. Snapshot of EPA's involvement in international research partnerships and projects (March 2023) (*: in process of joining)

3. Year in review - 2022

Figure 6 and **Figure 7** illustrate some of the key metrics for 2022 in terms of funding awarded. 42 awards were made from the EPA Research Call in 2022, with a total commitment of €10.75m (inclusive of co-funding) and more than 200 researchers involved in the successful projects. An additional 52 awards were made via other funding opportunities with a total commitment of €3.67m.

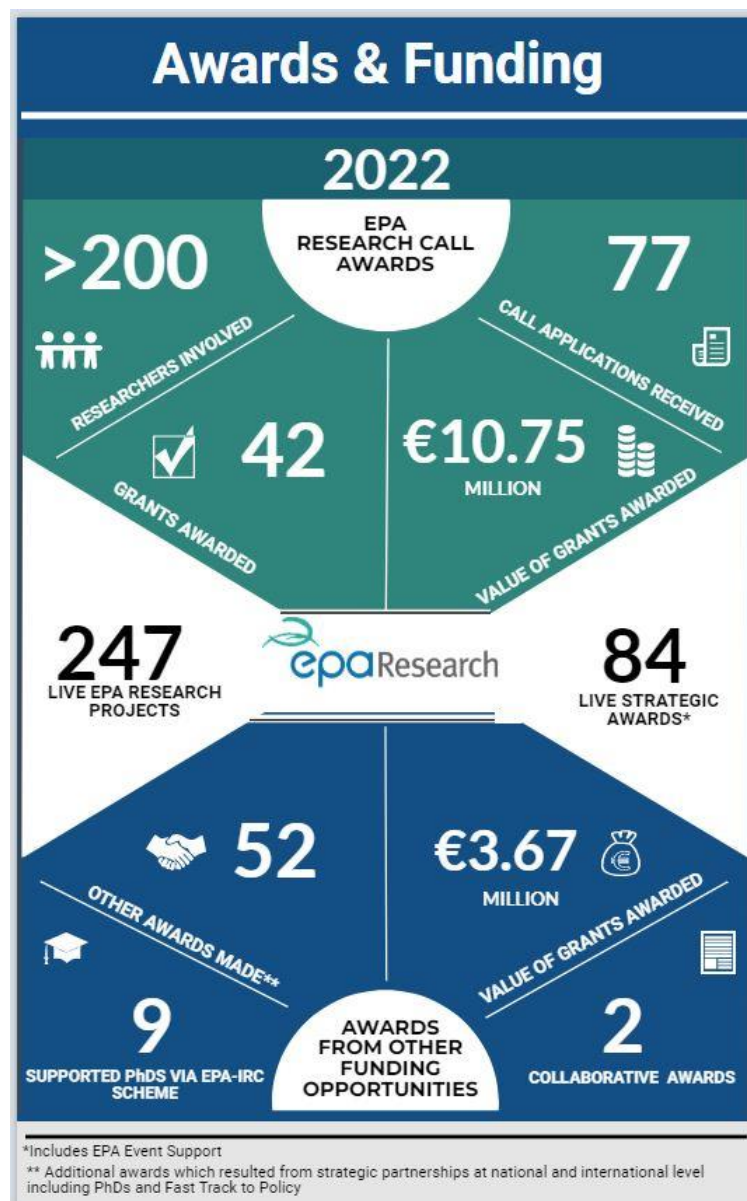


Figure 6. EPA Research 2030 Infographic: 2022 Awards

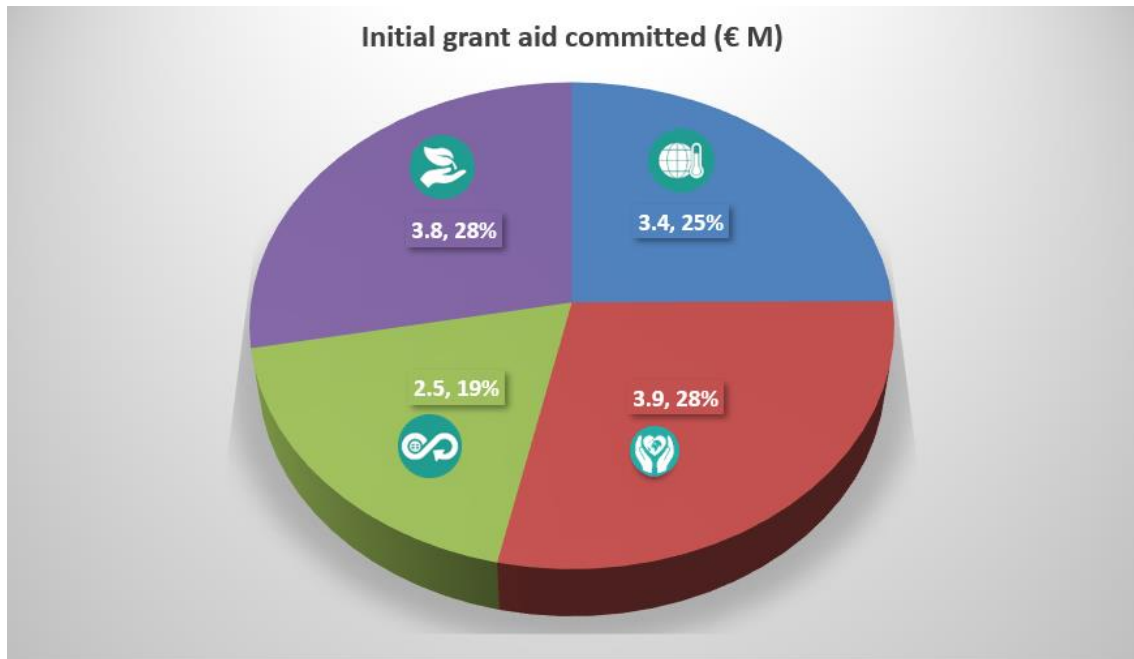


Figure 7. 2022 EPA Awards per Research Hubs (excluding Event Support and Green Enterprise)

Climate change;
 Natural environment;
 Circular economy;
 Healthy environment.

Figure 8 illustrates the 2022 communication activities.

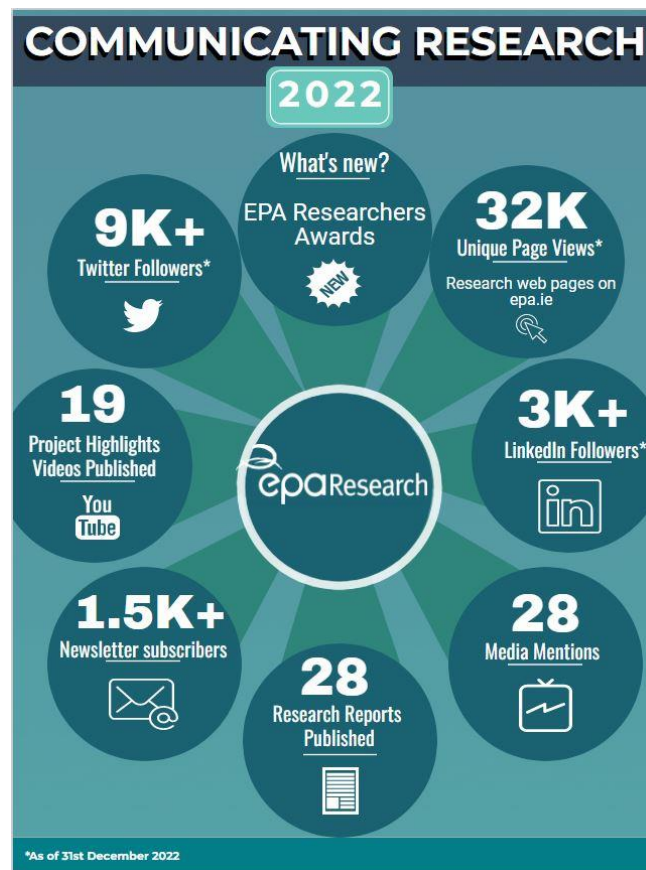


Figure 8. EPA Research 2030 Infographic: 2022 Communication Activities










Table 2. EPA Research publications in 2022 lists the full suite of EPA Research reports published in 2022. The EPA published 27 EPA Research reports in 2022, in addition to the first Evidence Synthesis report prepared under the EPA's Fast Track to Policy funding scheme.













Of the reports published in 2022, eight related to Climate Change, six to Circular Economy, seven to Healthy Environment and seven to Natural Environment. Reflecting this, the word cloud shown in **Figure 9** shows the dominance of words such as Climate, Ireland, Adaptation, Resilience in the titles of EPA research reports published in 2022.









In addition, the EPA also published the Fourth Report on Activities of the Climate Research Coordination Group (CRCG). This report presents a summary of investments, of progress on strategic goals and related developments during 2021 and of the CRCG's activities over that period. This (fourth) report covers competitive research funding committed by members of the CRCG, leveraged funding from EU schemes and core research activities conducted by CRCG members themselves in 2021.

Table 2. EPA Research publications in 2022

 Climate change;  Natural environment;  Circular economy;  Healthy environment.

Ref.	Report Number	Title	Organisation	Hub
1	Research 401	Peatland Properties Influencing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removal	University College Dublin	
2	Research 402	Climate Change Adaptation: Risks and Opportunities for Irish Businesses	Sustainability Works Ltd	
3	Research 403	EcoMetrics – Environmental Supporting Conditions for Groundwater-dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems	Trinity College Dublin	
4	Research 404	PhenoClimate: Impact of Climate Change on Phenology in Ireland	University College Cork	
5	Research 405	Qualifying and Quantifying the Reuse Sector in Ireland	Munster Technological University	
6	Research 406	Sharing Lessons Learned from Water Governance	Institute of Public Administration	
7	Research 407	Residential Solid Fuel Use in Ireland and the Transition Away from Solid Fuels	University College Cork	
8	Research 408	Sustainable Production and Consumption: The Influence of Social Norms	University College Cork	
9	Research 409	Co-designing for Resilience in Rural Development through	University College Dublin	

Ref.	Report Number	Title	Organisation	Hub
		Peer-to-peer Learning Networks and STEAM Place-based Learning Interventions		
10	Research 410	Food Loss and Waste from Farming, Fishing and Aquaculture in Ireland	Munster Technological University and University College Dublin	
11	Research 411	Innovative Valorisation of Dairy Processing Wastewater Using a Circular Economy Approach (Newtrients)	University College Cork	
12	Research 412	Emissions from and Fuel Consumption Associated with Off-road Vehicles and Other Machinery	Technological University Dublin and National University of Ireland Galway	
13	Research 413	The Diversity and Resilience of Kelp Ecosystems in Ireland	National University of Ireland Galway, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Seasearch Ireland	
14	Research 414	Managing Invasive Alien Plants in Ireland	University College Dublin	
15	Research 415	A Roadmap for Local Deliberative Engagements on Transitions to Net Zero Carbon and Climate Resilience	University College Cork and Queen's University Belfast	
16	Research 416	Development and Application of Monte Carlo Models for High-purity Germanium Gamma Spectrometry	University College Dublin	
17	Research 417	Assessment of the Environmental and Health Impacts Arising from Mercury-free Dental Restorative Materials	University College Cork	
18	Research 418	Built Environment Climate Resilience and Adaptation	University College Dublin	
19	Research 419	Enhancing Integration of Disaster Risk and Climate Change Adaptation into Irish Emergency Planning	University College Cork	
20	Research 420	Pollen Monitoring and Modelling (POMMEL)	Technological University Dublin	
21	Research 421	Assessment of the Extent and Impact of Barriers on Freshwater Hydromorphology and Connectivity in Ireland (Reconnect)	University College Dublin	

Ref.	Report Number	Title	Organisation	Hub
22	Research 422	Soil Organic Carbon and Land Use Mapping (SOLUM)	Trinity College Dublin	
23	Research 423	Environmental Transport Noise and Health: Evidence from Ireland (Noise–Health)	University College Dublin and The Economic and Social Research Institute	
24	Research 424	ESDecide: From Ecosystem Services Framework to Application for Integrated Freshwater Resources Management	University College Dublin	
25	Research 425	Connecting People to Climate Change Action: Informing Participatory Frameworks for the National Dialogue on Climate Action (C-CHANGE)	University College Cork	
26	Research 426	Packaging Waste Statistics, Producer Motivations and Consumer Behaviour	University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin	
27	Research 427	Fungal Monitoring Network and Algorithm	Dublin City University	
28	Evidence Synthesis Report 1	A Signpost for Soil Policy in Ireland MUCKISOILS (Mapping Understanding and Current Knowledge of Irish Soils)	University College Cork	
-	Fourth Report on Activities	Climate Research Coordination Group: Fourth Report on Activities: January - December 2021	Prepared by the EPA on behalf of the Climate Research Coordination Group	

Update on key performance targets and indicators




The EPA has devised a series of targets and indicators to track the implementation of EPA Research 2030 and monitor the achievement of its key objectives. These are shown in **Table 3**. The key performance targets and indicators were identified when *EPA Research 2030* was published in 2021.

The EPA Research Programme will focus on reviewing all its indicators and metrics used for its reporting obligations in 2023 to better align all requirements, increase coherence, and design an impacts indicator framework.

Based on the latest update for 2022, preliminary data show that seven of the ten key performance targets are on track to address/achieve their targets, while additional effort and a detailed review of the indicators (including targets and how they are measured) are required for the remaining three, namely:




- Funding leveraged by collaborative awards.
- Number of new PhDs supported in new awards made.
- Research reports: Funded timely funding of high quality, impactful, responsive, research.

Table 3: Update on *EPA Research 2030* Key Performance Targets and Indicators - *Targets and Indicators which are influenced by externalities outside the EPA's control are identified by (*)*.



Ref.	Targets & Indicators	Outcomes (from <i>EPA Research 2030</i>)	Measured by	Target	2022 Update	Outlook ³
1	EPA Research Funding Commitments	Research investments are aligned with key environmental challenges. High-quality, responsive, timely and impactful research funded, with a strong focus on supporting policy development and implementation.	Research priorities for inclusion in the 2022 Research Call identified following a deliberative process.	Award of timely and policy-relevant projects Topics identified via consultation	94 awards made in 2022 (€14.4m commitments). Consultation for research topics (200 ideas received by end January 2022).	
2 (*)	Funding leveraged by strategic partnerships awards	Cohesive approach with national and international funding strategies, and effective coordination of environmental research across national government departments and agencies.	% Co-funding commitments secured (i.e. co-funding income) Vs. total EPA Research budget commitments for new awards (<i>EPA Research Calls only</i>)	10% over 3 to 5 years	13% of the funding committed following the 2021 & 2022 calls is being provided by co-funding organisations.	
3	Funding leveraged by collaborative awards ⁴	Successful involvement in European and international funding networks has been facilitated.	% EPA commitments towards collaborative awards Vs. total EPA Research budget commitments for new awards	10% over 3 to 5 years	4% of the EPA Research budget commitments for new awards in 2021 & 2022 were for collaborative awards	

³ 😊: On target - 😐: Focus required - ☹️: Missed target



⁴ i.e. funded via Joint Transnational Calls

Ref.	Targets & Indicators	Outcomes (from <i>EPA Research 2030</i>)	Measured by	Target	2022 Update	Outlook ³
			<i>(All new awards)</i>			
4	EPA Research Programme Efficiency	High-quality, responsive, timely and impactful research funded, with a strong focus on supporting policy development and implementation.	% of projects which have been grant awarded within six months of the call deadline ⁵ <i>(EPA Research Calls only)</i>	90% over 3 to 5 years	92% over 2021–2022	
5	Number of new PhDs supported in new awards made	Increased national capacity in environmental research.	% EPA commitments towards EPA-IRC awards Vs. Total EPA budget commitments for new awards <i>(All new awards)</i> Number of fully funded PhDs and MSc. students funded as part of EPA Research Calls & collaborative awards <i>(based on the grant applications)</i>	10% over 3 to 5 years NEW – Establishing baseline data	16 PhDs supported in 2021–2022 via the EPA-IRC scheme, representing c. 6% of Total EPA budget commitments for new awards. 25 PhDs & 8 MSc students to be fully funded as part of 2021 and 2022 EPA Research Calls & collaborative awards	
6	Promoting an Integrated Approach in new awards made	Relevant implementation actions and behavioural change interventions have been supported.	% awards from the EPA Research Calls, which are multi-disciplinary awards Vs. Total	At least 50%	96% over 2021 & 2022 EPA Research Calls resulted in	

⁵ Organisation Approval Deadline

Ref.	Targets & Indicators	Outcomes (from <i>EPA Research 2030</i>)	Measured by	Target	2022 Update	Outlook ³
			number of awards (<i>EPA Research Calls only - based on the grant applications</i>)		multi-disciplinary awards	
7 (*)	Number of peer-reviewed Journal Publications supported	Excellence and competitiveness of the Irish environmental research community have been supported.	Number of peer-reviewed journal publications per €150k of EPA funding provided (<i>as reported by researchers in Project Progress Reports and End of Project Questionnaires for completed projects funded via EPA Research Calls only</i>)	At least 1 peer-reviewed publication per €150k of funding provided over 3 to 5 years	2.2 peer-reviewed publications per €150k of funding provided, for projects completed since May 2021 (i.e. 56 projects).	
8	EPA Research Reports	Actionable knowledge transferred to key stakeholders and accessible research outputs delivered. High-quality, responsive, timely and impactful research funded, with a strong focus on supporting policy development and implementation.	Number of EPA Research Reports published Time required between submission of draft reports and reports published	n/a n/a - Established baseline, based on reports submitted since May 2021	41 Research reports published in 2021. 28 Research reports published in 2022. Baseline established: 185 days ⁶ in review process (from the date a draft report is submitted to the	n/a 

⁶ Average based on 31 reports

Ref.	Targets & Indicators	Outcomes (from <i>EPA Research 2030</i>)	Measured by	Target	2022 Update	Outlook ³
				For 2023: Reduce timelines by 25%	date when the report is approved). 146 days in proofreading, cover and knowledge transfer ⁷ process.	
9 (*)	Research outputs have contributed to the debate on policy	High-quality, responsive, timely and impactful research funded, with a strong focus on supporting policy development and implementation.	Representation of policy /end-users (i.e. relevant Government Department) on Steering Committees	At least 85% of our Steering Committees of the projects starting during the reporting year include at least 1 representative of a relevant policy-making body (i.e. Government Department)	88% (on average ⁸) for EPA-managed research projects that started in 2021 and 2022	
10	EPA Knowledge Transfer Activities	Actionable knowledge transferred to key stakeholders and accessible research outputs delivered.	Award and implementation of the EPA Knowledge Transfer Contract	Contract awarded, list of activities and proposed indicators agreed	Contract was awarded to ERINN Ltd in October 2021. First implementation plan and impacts indicators were agreed in 2022. 40 activities have been identified for 2023.	

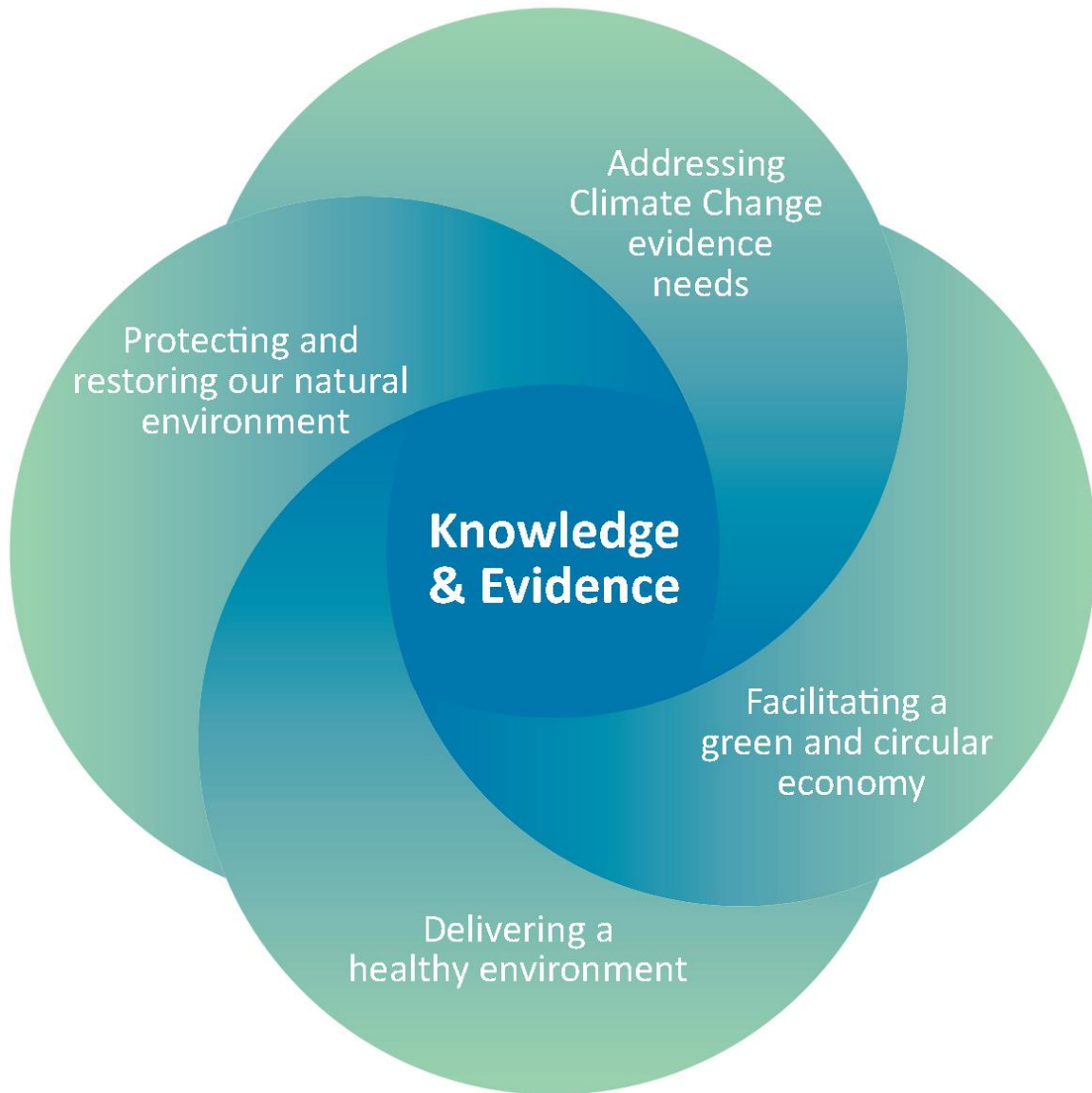
⁷ Knowledge Transfer activities introduced in 2022 may have created delays during the inception phase of the Knowledge Transfer Contract.

⁸ 65% for projects starting in 2021 (targets revised to only account for representatives from Government Department) and 100% for projects starting in 2022.

4. Related Documents

Related documentation is available from www.epa.ie and includes:

- [EPA Research 2030 Framework](#) (high-level roadmap for the EPA Research Programme from 2021 to 2030)
- [EPA Research 2030: 2021-2023 Thematic Research Areas Assessment](#) (identifying the arising priorities on a three-year cycle and used to inform the preparation of the Annual EPA Research Calls)
- [EPA Research Funding Documentation](#) (e.g. Guide for Applicants, Guide for Grantees, Call Technical Descriptions and Terms & Conditions), which will provide details the funding instruments, funding rules and opportunities (i.e. topics) and are prepared/reviewed on an annual basis.
- [Findings and Recommendations from regular Interim Reviews](#), which will assess if the objectives are being achieved and provide indications of any adjustments required.



Our Commitments

- EPA Research 2030 commits to doing the right things, in the right way, at the right time, and this is reflected in **our stated values**:
Excellence • Efficiency • Transparency and Integrity •
Relevance and Impact • Innovation • Partnership