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Irish Climate Change Policy The Next Steps



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Environment Ireland Conference, 4 September 2007



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The Big Picture

- Ireland is the fifth most climate polluting country per person in the OECD
- If everyone on Earth polluted like the Irish we would need three planets to survive



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Irish Climate Change Policy



The



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The Kyoto Step

	Million Tonnes CO ₂ e	% of Kyoto baseline	2008-2012 Total Mt
Kyoto baseline	55.78	100.00	
Kyoto target	63.03	113.00	315.16
2005 reported gross	69.95	125.40	
<u>NCCS</u>			
2010 Gross	70.33	126.08	351.65
Distance to target	7.30		
To be covered by:			
Domestic Sinks	2.07		€m
ETS purchases	2.04	@ €20x5yrs	204.00
State purchases	<u>3.61</u>	@ €20x5yrs	<u>360.70</u>
	7.72		564.70



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A critical juncture

- Kyoto kicks in on 1 January 2008
- The 30th Dáil coincides with the five year Kyoto period
- April's NCCS: tinkering not transformation
- June's Programme for Government is A New Departure



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A new departure?

John Gormley, Sandymount 2007



Bertie Ahern, Drumcondra 2002





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Programme for Government commitments

- A reduction of 3% per year on average in our greenhouse gas emissions
- An annual carbon budget presented by the Minister for Finance
- A high-level climate change commission
- An all party approach to climate change targets
- Social partnership status for environmental NGOs



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3% a year reduction on avg

	Million tonnes CO₂e
2007 (Nap Projection)	70.07
<i>2008</i>	<i>67.97</i>
<i>2009</i>	<i>65.93</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>63.95</i>
<i>2011</i>	<i>62.03</i>
2012 Commitment	60.17
2008-2012 Total	320.05
2008-2012 average	64.01



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A carbon budget is a set amount of carbon that can be emitted in a given amount of time, either by the whole economy, or a pre-selected sub-population or set of activities.

Ecofys, Developing a carbon budget for the UK, 2006



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Mobilizing public opinion

The commission, all-party approach, social partnership



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The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays is coming to a close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences.

Winston Churchill, 1936.



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The challenge ahead

“Carbon budget”	Million tonnes CO₂e	Annual reduction required
2005 actual	69.95	
2012 Government commitment	60.17	3%
2020 Ecofys	42.4 - 44.6	3% - 4%
2050 Ecofys	7 - 9	5%



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Climate Protection Act

- 2050 and 2020 targets into law
- Average annual cut of least 3% into law
- Legislative framework for carbon budgeting
- Statutory role for commission on targets and measures
- Responsibility, scrutiny, accountability, sanctions for ministers and departments



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