



Tackling Climate Change in Ireland

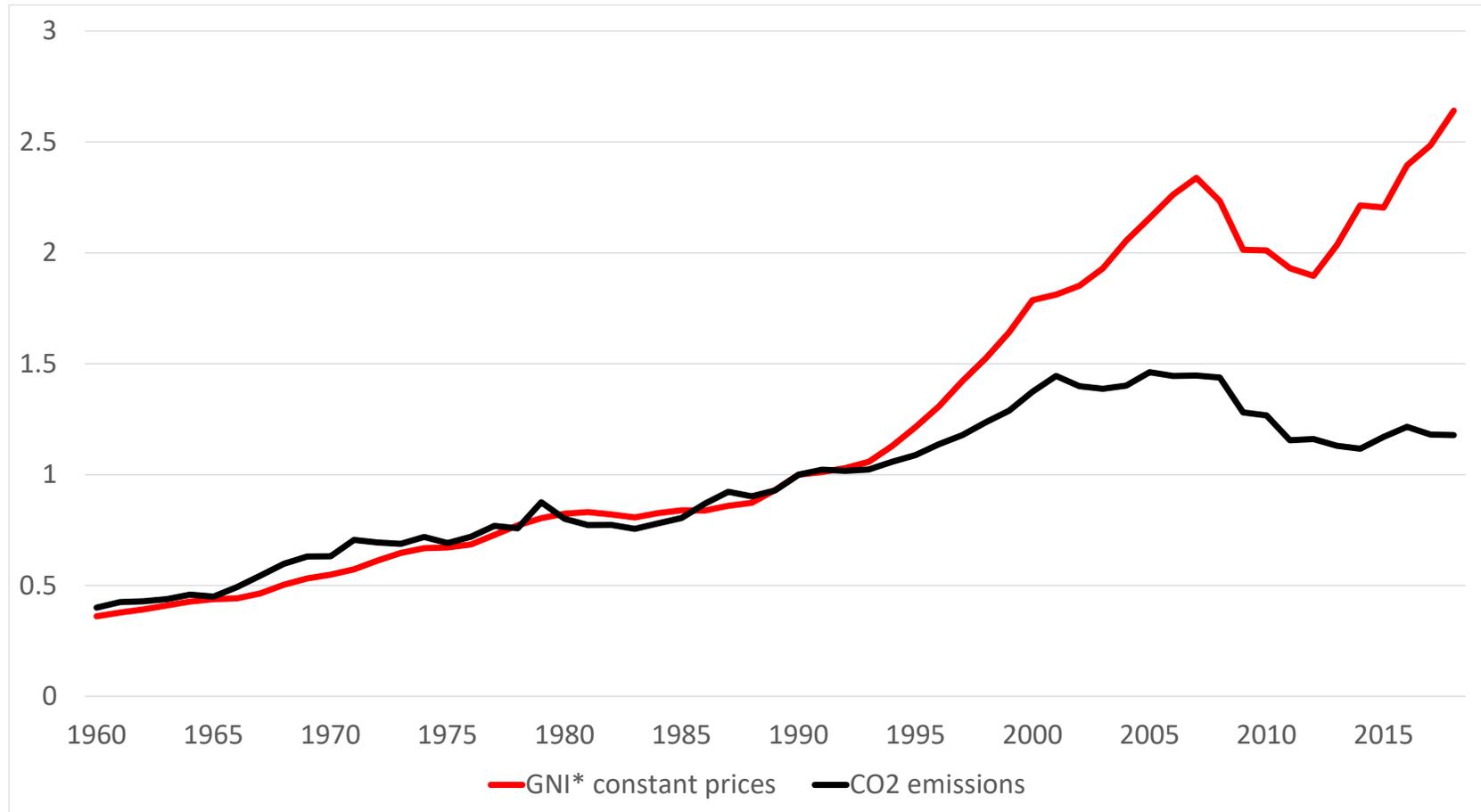
ESTG Conference
10th November 2020

Outline

1. The record
2. The challenge
3. The policies
 - Adaptation to climate change
 - Halting climate change

Carbon Dioxide and National Income

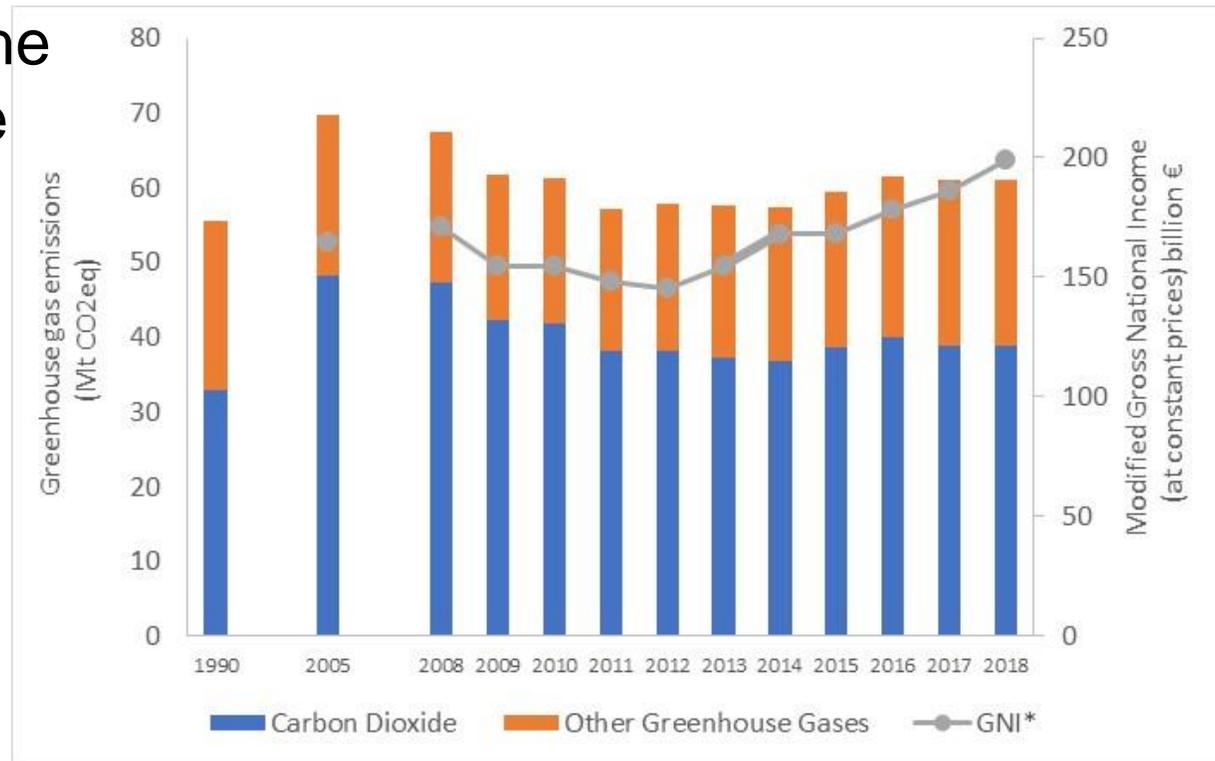
Index 1990=1.0



Emissions 2018

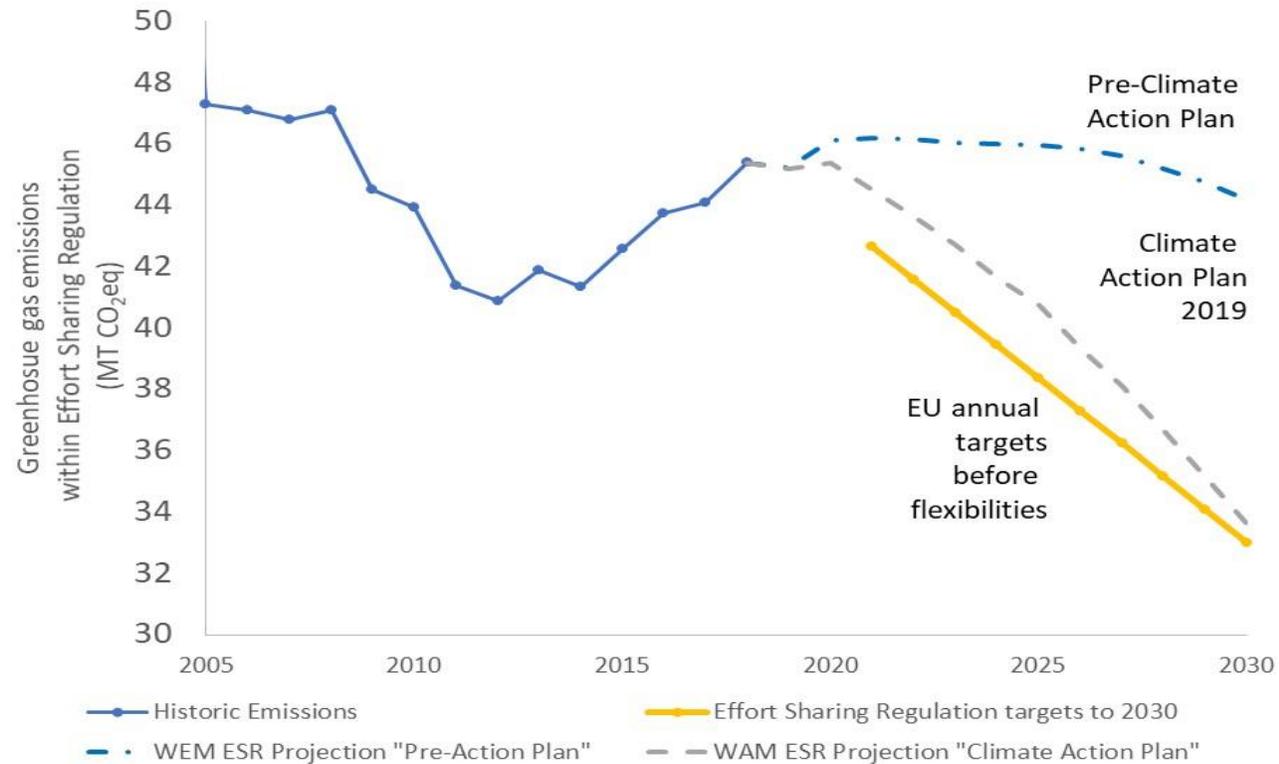
Total emissions of greenhouse gases were largely unchanged in 2018 still following growth in the economy

- A 10% reduction in the electricity sector, due to reduced operating hours at Moneypoint
- Significant increases in emissions in Residential, Agriculture and Transport sectors.



The 2030 Target

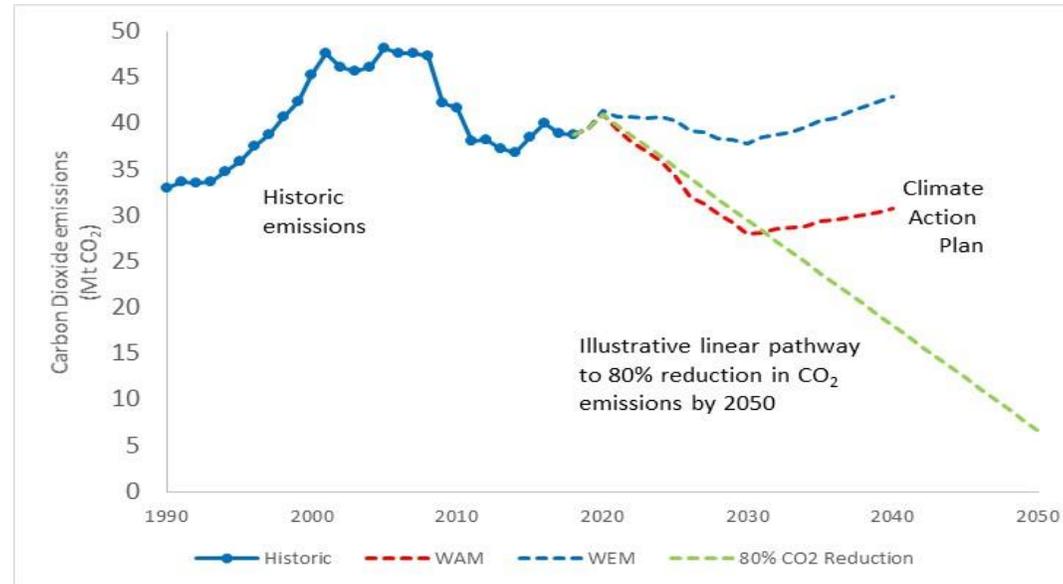
The Climate Action Plan 2019 changes the trajectory on emissions.



Note: This is non-ETS emissions

2050 Goal

- Current National Policy Position is still -80% CO₂ by 2050
- Proposed Government objective: net zero emissions by 2050
- Need additional policy measures to the Climate Action Plan for post- 2030 world. Planned policies not enough



The Challenge

Programme for Government (PFG)

- The 2019 Climate Action Plan - a major leap forward
- A significant step up in ambition by current Government
- First task is to implement measures to realise the plan
- More ambition – additional measures needed
- Need to change behaviour in all sectors
- Adaptation – the forgotten “child”

EU Climate Plan

- Net zero emissions by 2050
- Potential tougher 2030 targets with increased ambition
- Major change in EU policy measures – potentially helpful
- If accepted, would change policy challenge for Ireland

Adaptation

- Ireland must build on its adaptation planning with action
- Efforts must be made to fill gaps in planning for key areas e.g. for housing and planning
- The financial sector in Ireland must understand, assess and communicate its climate-related risks in a coordinated way
- Assess the prioritised investment needed for adaptation in Ireland – a budget
- Wide ranging implications:
 - Flooding, including coastal flooding. Heat waves. Health effects etc.
 - Global warming could be worse than expected – e.g. sea level effects

Key Messages: Carbon Tax

- Doing the “right thing” must be profitable – that is why we need the tax
- The carbon tax should rise to at least €100 per tonne by 2030.
- Lower fuel prices this year encourage higher emissions
- Some of the revenues raised should be used to avoid **regressive impacts on low-income households**

Key Messages: Electricity

- Accelerate closure of coal and peat-fired generation.
- New opportunities – offshore wind etc.
- Invest in necessary infrastructure (wires) to support goals on renewable electricity and role out of electrification of transport and heating – emphasis on non-urban areas
- Will need other changes – interconnection, hydrogen etc.

Key Messages: Transport

- Target for electric vehicles very demanding
 - Need to use taxation as well as subsidies
 - Prioritise drivers with high usage - rural?
 - Need action on other forms of transport
- Better planned development, as in National Planning Framework, facilitates public transport and active transport modes. Build the next million homes in the right place!
- Investing in public transport is vital e.g. Busconnects

Key Messages: Built Environment

- Major retrofitting of existing housing stock needed by 2030 (half a million homes). Very challenging
- Because resources are limited, target buildings where most benefits and emissions reductions can be achieved
 - Vulnerable households
 - Homes currently heated by coal, peat or oil
- High rates of retrofit cannot be achieved without unlocking low-cost finance for households and SMEs
- Aggregation; expand supply-side capacity; hydrogen

Key Messages: Agriculture

- Agriculture can both reduce emissions and enhance farm income security
- CAP should incentivise farmers to reduce emissions, including through reduced animal numbers
- The Council recommends that farmers should be rewarded for capturing CO₂ e.g. in woodland
- Government should introduce measures to significantly reduce nitrogen use by 2030

Conclusions

- The increased ambition to tackle climate change must be matched by implementation of new measures to drive decarbonisation
- EU proposals could be a game changer
- Integrating Just Transition into climate policy can add depth and assure public support for action