

SUMMIT TO SAY ON CLIMATE INNOVATION

A major EU Climate Innovation Summit will take place in Dublin during a specially-themed 'Climate Week' in November, as one of the main key events in the Year of Sustainable Business 2018, which will see over 50 events held across the country.

Ireland will this year play host to Europe's biggest summit on Climate Innovation, as part of an official programme of events to mark the first-ever 'Year of Sustainable Business 2018'.

Over 50 nationwide events and initiatives will be held as part of the €1.5m programme to position Ireland as a global hub for green finance, raise awareness of responsible and sustainable investment and encourage climate-aligned innovation by Irish enterprises.

It will focus on what it takes to mobilise the sustainable finance and investment flows, reporting and accounting that can put Europe on track to meet the aims of the 2015 Paris Climate accord. That agreement, signed by 180 countries, pledged to limit future global temperature rises to no more than two degrees, to secure a climate-resilient future.

Building the green finance agenda will have lasting benefits for society as well as creating job creation and sustainable prosperity, according to Minister of State for Financial Services Minister Michael D'Arcy, as he unveiled the Government's 2018 action plan for Ireland's international financial sector – the IFS2020 Strategy.

Launched in 2015, the strategy is a five-year programme to develop Ireland as key location for specialist financial services, including green and sustainable finance. Covering skills, green finance, responsible investment, enterprise innovation and resource efficiency activities, the Year of Sustainable Business will form a key part of the 2018 plan.

GREEN FINANCE AGENDA

Commenting on the IFS2020 Strategy, Sustainable Nation Ireland's CEO Stephen Nolan said: "It is fantastic to see that the green and sustainable finance agenda has been given such backing from the Irish Government.

"We are relishing the challenge and greatly looking forward to a dynamic and informative 'Year of Sustainable Business'. We



Stephen Nolan, CEO of Sustainable Nation Ireland, looks forward to a dynamic 'Year of Sustainable Business'.

aim to increase the awareness of this agenda among Irish businesses of all sizes."

He added that it's particularly timely given the publication of the EU High Level Expert Group Report on Sustainable Finance, which he claimed "will drive the European policy roadmap in this area, bringing sustainable finance even further into the mainstream of the capital markets".

UNMISSABLE OPPORTUNITY

Minister D'Arcy said: "The race is on to build a low-carbon and sustainable global economy, which offers huge economic rewards. That's why Ireland's Year of Sustainable Business 2018 represents

an unmissable opportunity. We have €28bn of Green Finance activity already in Ireland and a thriving cluster of activity covering asset management, domiciling and the listing of green bonds."

"The 2018 Action Plan for IFS2020 gives Sustainable Nation Ireland a key role in focusing on the promotion and positioning of Ireland as an international hub for green finance. It builds on a successful 2017 for Ireland's green finance initiative."

'Year of Sustainable Business 2018' Programme includes:

- **50 separate events** in Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Belfast, Drogheda, Dundalk, Waterford, Limerick, Tralee, Galway, Castlebar, Sligo and Letterkenny.
- **Regional events include '2°Camp'** – a free full-day workshop to upskill SMEs in sustainability practices. Touring nationwide from April.
- **Ireland's first ever Climate Week** in November will bring together over 1,000 people in Dublin, including the hosting of the EU's major climate innovation event.
- **Eight international events** informing key markets about Ireland's activities in this area.
- **Sustainable Nation Ireland will co-host a one-day event in London**, in partnership with the City of London's Green Finance Initiative, focused on how to mobilise private sector investment to support the national decarbonisation efforts of both Ireland and the UK.