

# POOR PERFORMANCE BY IRELAND ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Ireland is the second worst performing country after Poland in relation to climate change, in terms of national action and support for greater ambition at EU level, according to a recent report by Climate Action Network Europe, which it says emphasises weak climate policy-making and failure to support greater EU collective action.

**T**he 2018 'Off Target' report by Climate Action Network (CAN)

Europe has assessed both the role that Member States play in setting ambitious EU climate and energy targets and policies, and what progress they are making in reducing polluting emissions and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency at home.

Ireland's poor position stems from dismal progress on 2020 climate and renewable energy targets, rising emissions from the transport and agriculture sectors, the absence of effective policies, and a failure to support greater ambition in EU 2030 climate and energy legislation.

The report does welcome the innovative deliberative process of the Citizens' Assembly and recommends that the Irish government now radically revise its climate action plan (the National Mitigation Plan) on the basis of the Assembly's proposals on climate change.

Jennifer Higgins, Policy and Advocacy Advisor at Christian Aid, stated: "Despite the welcome recognition by the Taoiseach in January of Ireland's position as a climate 'laggard', and commitments to change this, six months on it appears Ireland's reputation when it comes to climate action is stagnating, not improving.

"This dismal ranking highlights the inadequacies of current policies and plans to fulfil our fair share of the global effort to deliver on the Paris Agreement. It should be a clear signal to government to rapidly remedy this by revising the current National Mitigation Plan."

LABELLED AS A 'LAGGARD'

Phil Kearney, Chair of the Climate Change Committee of An



Taisce, said it's concerning to see Ireland again labelled as "a laggard" in terms of domestic and EU climate action.

"Not only is Ireland falling behind its EU counterparts due to the failure to decrease polluting emissions, the Government has continued to trumpet supposed exceptionalism and push for loopholes in EU legislation which serves to undermine EU-wide progress on climate change.

"The report by Climate Action Network highlights the urgent need for Ireland urgently implement the

recent Citizens' Assembly proposals and increase ambition in accordance with Paris Agreement commitments."

The report shows that several Member States are failing to advocate for sufficiently ambitious EU climate and energy targets and policies, and too many are lagging behind in reducing polluting emissions at the level needed to implement the Paris Agreement.

Estonia (24%), Ireland (21%) and Poland (16%) rank lowest because of inaction on climate change domestically and opposition to greater ambition at EU level.

The five EU countries that score the highest are Sweden (77%), Portugal (66%), France (65%), the Netherlands (58%) and Luxembourg (56%), because they're advocating for more ambitious climate targets at EU level.

However, the majority of Member States scores less than half of the possible points, which shows they are not progressing fast enough towards the Paris Agreement goals.

*\*Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With over 150 member organisations from 35 European countries, representing over 1.700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.*

*For further details visit [www.caneurope.org/](http://www.caneurope.org/)*