



EPA FUNDS €14.5M TO RESEARCH

Climate Challenges

Funding of €14.5m for 25 new research projects to address climate change, environmental challenges, the green and circular economy, human health and wellbeing will be allocated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to build essential research capacity in Ireland.

Reflecting the need for cross-sectoral research, the EPA is working in partnership with Met Éireann and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to co-fund several of the research projects.

These projects will address key knowledge gaps and support the development of vital research capacity in strategically important areas. The latest EPA Research Call garnered a strong response, with 50 per cent of successful lead researchers not having previously applied to the EPA for funding.

Laura Burke, EPA Director General said: “Our latest EPA State of the Environment Report highlights the scale of challenges facing Ireland and the need for determined action across climate, sustainable consumption, biodiversity and pollution goals. This new EPA funding will help to build the vital research talent and knowledge needed in Ireland to respond to these challenges and achieve a healthier environment.”

The latest EPA funding is significant in terms of further building the environmental research capacity in Ireland. It will support almost 200 research staff across 10 organisations, including funding for approximately 50 PhD and postgraduate students.

The EPA will provide hands-on support and training to the researchers to facilitate the uptake of the research outputs by policy makers and other users. Trinity College Dublin (TCD) received the highest number of successful research awards last year, and Prof Sinéad Ryan, TCD’S Dean of Research, described the funding as “a key enabler for research across a number of our disciplines” with a focus in conservation, sustainability and/or climate adaptation.

Reflecting the importance of collaboration in addressing climate and environmental challenges, the EPA is working in partnership with Met Éireann and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to co-fund several of the projects.

The EPA Research Programme is funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The EPA Research Call 2025 opened for applications in April, and further details

are on the EPA website. Funding research in Ireland since 1994, the EPA is currently providing funds for more than 200 ongoing research projects.

Supporting environmental policies:

The annual EPA Research Call is a key element of the EPA 2030 Research Strategy which provides scientific support for environmental policy development, implementation and broader decision making across four thematic areas:

- Addressing climate change evidence needs,
- Facilitating a green and circular economy,
- Delivering a healthy environment,
- Protecting and restoring our natural environment.

Projects to receive EPA funding for 2025 includes:

- Attribution of weather events to climate change
- Exploring Irish people’s attitudes and values around climate change
- Investigating the risk of exposure to chemicals in foodstuffs
- Susceptibility and resistance of trees to diseases such as ash dieback
- Novel approaches to managing textile waste
- Mitigating the risks posed by electronic waste (WEEE)

The EPA Research Programme is designed to support the implementation of environmental policies in Ireland, such as the Climate Action Plan; National Climate Adaption Framework; Circular Economy Action Plans and Strategies; Biodiversity National Action Plan, National Radon Strategy; National Land Use Evidence Review; UN Sustainable Development Goals’ Implementation Plan; as well as a range of key policy areas including water, air, radon, and other areas of interest for the EPA.

For further details on the EPA Research Programme visit www.epa.ie/our-services/research/