
















Overview of The EPA's State of the Environment Report

What is it?

The State of the Environment Report 2024 gives the most recent evaluation of Ireland's environment, looking at how our society impacts on it and how it impacts on us. The EPA release a similar report every four years.

Environmental Scorecard

Area	Current Assessment	Outlook	Description
Climate 			The science is clear – climate change is already having an impact! Ireland is not on track to achieve its 2030 emissions reduction targets. We need mitigation (reducing greenhouse gases) and adaptation (preparing for impacts like floods and heat) to make this happen.
Air Quality 			Ireland meets current air quality standards for many pollutants. However, it doesn't meet WHO guidelines for some, like PM _{2.5} (fine pollutants less than 2.5 microns—30 times smaller than the width of a human hair), and is not meeting the EU's reduction target for ammonia (common pollutant mainly from manure).
Nature 			While Ireland has made progress with marine protected areas, nature is still declining, especially protected habitats and bird populations. More action is needed to meet our goals.
Water 			Overall, water quality remains "poor" with limited improvement in rivers and lakes, fewer healthy estuaries, and ongoing sewage discharge issues. There's still work to do to meet EU and national goals.
Circular Economy 			Waste is increasing, and Ireland depends on exports for recycling and waste treatment. Recent interventions, like the Deposit Return Scheme, are positive, but recycling must improve, and Ireland needs to focus on key areas to move towards a circular economy.

Key Recommended Priorities

1 Developing a National Policy Position

Creating a national plan for the environment to handle how climate and environmental issues affect each other and how they connect with other important areas like health and economy.

2 Policy Implementation

Keeping on top of agreed policies and making sure they're carried out!

3 Transforming Our Systems

Shifting how we do things in our society, especially in our energy, transport, food, and industry sectors.

4 More Investment in Infrastructure

Putting more money into our water, energy, transport and waste management infrastructures.

5 Protecting Our Environment to Protect our Health

Focusing on environmental issues which impact our health and can be changed, like air pollution.

Read the Full Report Here 