



PRESS RELEASE

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We must grasp the opportunity in the Electricity Sector

The Climate Change Advisory Council has said that much more urgent action is required from Government if Ireland is to meet its 2030 electricity capacity targets and stay within the electricity sectoral ceiling.

The Council, which published its Annual Review of the electricity sector today, has warned that Ireland's renewable electricity generation remains significantly below the required annual increase necessary to meet growing demand and simultaneously comply with the sectoral emissions ceilings.

In its review of the sector, the Council has made a series of recommendations, which includes a call to rapidly finalise all elements of planning reform to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy generation, with delays and appeals significantly hindering progress. In addition, the transposition of EU legislation will enable Ireland to avail of flexibility provisions that other European Member States are utilising to roll out renewable projects faster.

Electricity emissions fell in 2023, driven by a notable rise in imported electricity from the UK coupled with a considerable decline in the use of coal for electricity generation. In order to maintain this trajectory the Council has said it is crucial that the use of coal to generate electricity is stopped by 2025 and that the use of oil is phased out as soon as possible.

Addressing the need for urgent action from Government, **Marie Donnelly, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council** said, "The Council's analysis of the electricity sector is a stark reminder of the critical actions that are required to ensure that Ireland stays within its emissions ceiling while providing security of supply for a growing economy.

"2023 saw just 0.6GW of new grid-scale onshore renewable connections, well below the 1.6 GW required annually to meet 2030 targets. The Government must now move urgently to finalise all elements of planning reform that will help accelerate renewable delivery.

"We have a great opportunity in Ireland to harness our indigenous renewable resources both onshore and offshore, to have control and security over our supply and ensure price stability for consumers while achieving our targets and becoming a world leader in renewable electricity generation.

"Government must show leadership and take the actions required to ensure that Ireland can quickly capitalise on resources that we know are available but cannot come online due to system blockages. We know the potential – we now must have it realised."

Marie Donnelly also drew attention to resilience actions that the Council has recommended including critical electricity infrastructure, she added: "It is important that planning processes are put in place to ensure that new energy infrastructure is developed to withstand future projected climate impacts. Operators must address known flood risks to

vital infrastructure and take account of protecting and, where possible enhancing, biodiversity in their developments.

“Building consumer confidence and understanding in electrification is also an important step. If Ireland is to grasp the opportunity in the electricity sector then it is crucial that we bring consumers and communities with us.”

The Council’s [Annual Review of the Electricity Sector can be read here](#).

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR

This year, the Climate Change Advisory Council will publish Sectoral Reviews throughout the year, culminating in October to complete the Annual Review 2024. The publication schedule below is subject to change and indicative only:

Publication	Timeframe
Electricity Sectoral Review 2024	May
Enterprise & Waste Sectoral Review 2024	May
Transport Sectoral Review 2024	June
Built Environment Sectoral Review 2024	July
Resilience Sectoral Review 2024	August
Agriculture & Land Use Sectoral Review 2024	September
Biodiversity Sectoral Review 2024	October
Assessment of Inventories and Projections 2024	October

If you have any questions or are seeking further comment, please do not hesitate to contact:

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