

# Update on Climate Change Policies



The Signpost Programme is a collaborative partnership of farmers, industry and state agencies working together for climate action. For further details please refer to [www.teagasc.ie/signpost](http://www.teagasc.ie/signpost)



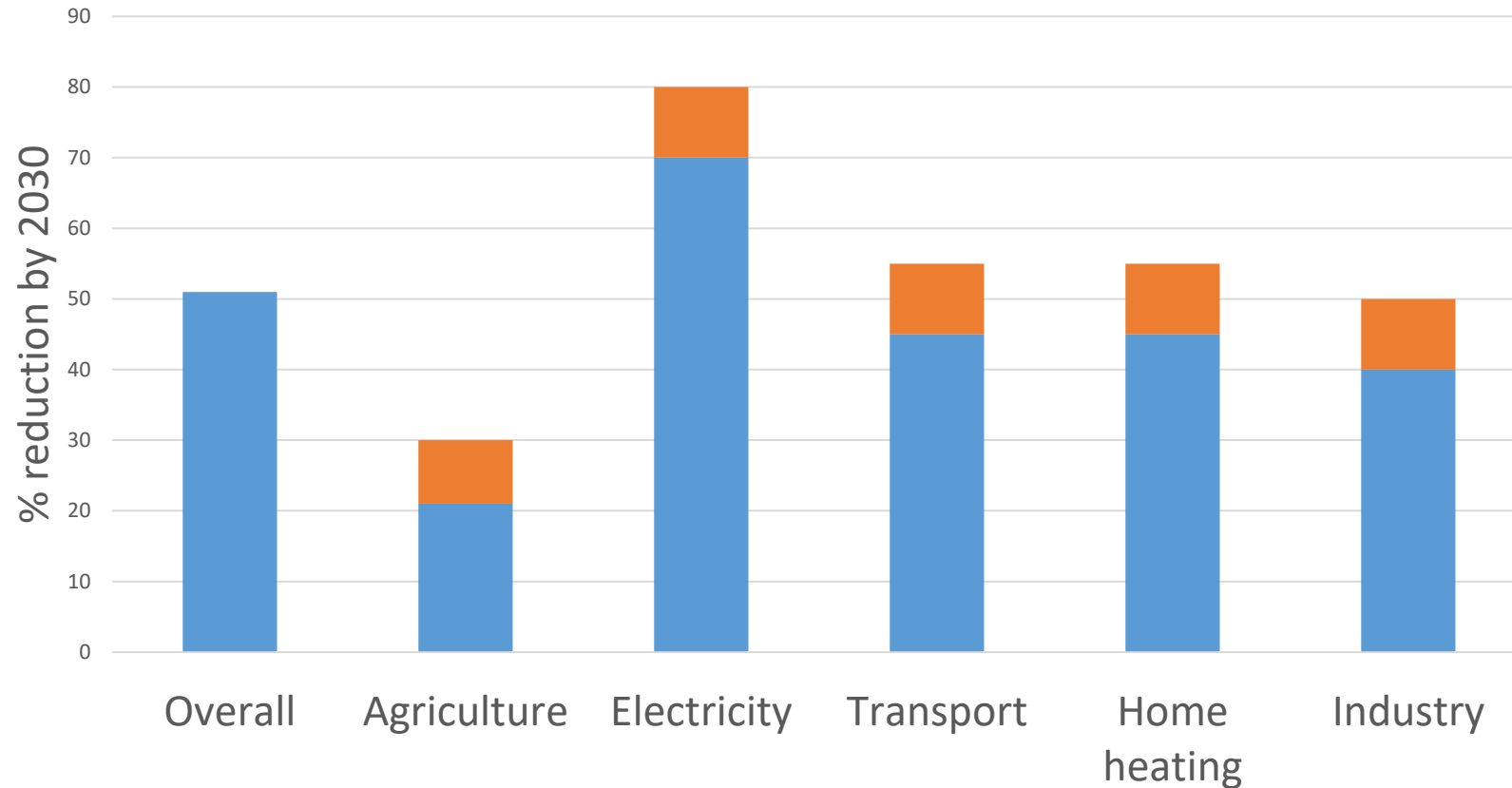
# COP21, Paris Agreement

- A **legally binding, international treaty on climate change**
- Adopted by 196 Parties (incl. Ireland) at COP 21 in Paris (on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016)
- Its goal is to **limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C**, compared to pre-industrial levels.

# Govt. and EU policy targets

- 2019 Climate Action Plan
  - National emissions to reduce by 30% by 2030
  - Agriculture to reduce by 10-15%
- New 2021 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act
  - National emissions to reduce by 51% by 2030
  - Signed into law by President Higgins on 23<sup>rd</sup> July
  - “Leaked” target for agriculture of 21 – 30% reduction by 2030
- EU has also increased its targets
  - “Fit for 55” targets a 55% reduction by 2030 (up from 40%, and versus 1990 baseline)

# Climate Action Plan 2021 Sectoral Targets\*



\* Leaked report, 17/10/21

# LULUCF

(Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry)

- Separate sector, currently emitting 4.8Mt
  - Change to Gross-Net from Net-Net is significant
- Emissions will increase as forestry sequestration decreases over this decade
- LULUCF will have its own target to cut emissions by 51%
- Policy challenge to enable additional forestry, improved forest management, hedgerows, rewetting, straw incorporation, etc.
- Very important for post 2030

	LULUCF 2018
Emissions	9.6
Removals	4.8
Net LULUCF	4.8

# CCAC Carbon Budgets (25/10/21)

- Base year is 2018 (68.3 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>/year)
- 2021 – 2025: 295 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> (59 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>/year)
  - 4.8% reduction per year
- 2026 – 2030: 200 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> (40 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>/year...but 33.5 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> by 2030)
  - 8.3% reduction per year
- The first two budgets will allow Ireland meet its 51% GHG reduction target
- 2031 – 2035 (provisional): 151 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> (30.2 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>/year)
- “Transformational changes required”
- Budgets presented to Minister Ryan, who will bring it to Government and Oireachtas for approval
- Once approved, the overall budget will be divided between the various sectors
  - Agriculture will have a budget for the amount of GHG emissions it can produce each year

# Proposed Carbon Budgets (CCAC)

	2021-2025 CB1	2026-2030 CB2	2031- 2035 (Provisional) CB3
	<b>All Gases</b>		
<b>Carbon Budget (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Annual Average Percentage Change in Emissions</b>	<b>-4.8%</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>
The figures are consistent with emissions in 2018 of 68.3Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq reducing to 33.5Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq in 2030 thus allowing compliance with the 51% emission reduction target.			

# Agriculture GHG Emissions, 2020 (EPA)

- Total Agriculture GHG Emissions, 2020 = 21.4 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>
- 37.1% of total GHG emissions
- + 1.4% v 2019, due to increased fertiliser use and dairy cow numbers

Total and Agricultural GHG Emissions, 2020 (EPA)

