

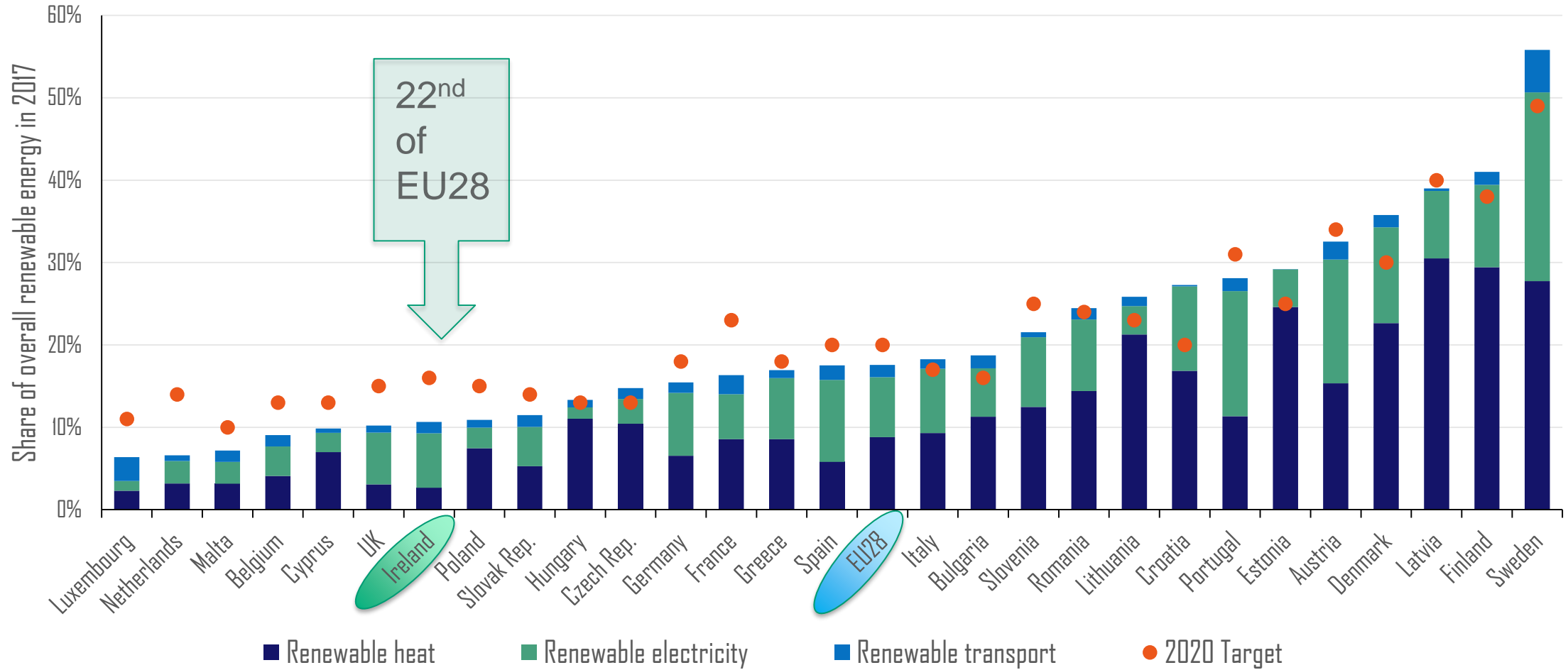
Building consensus for government action to tackle climate change; recent developments in Ireland

Denis Dineen

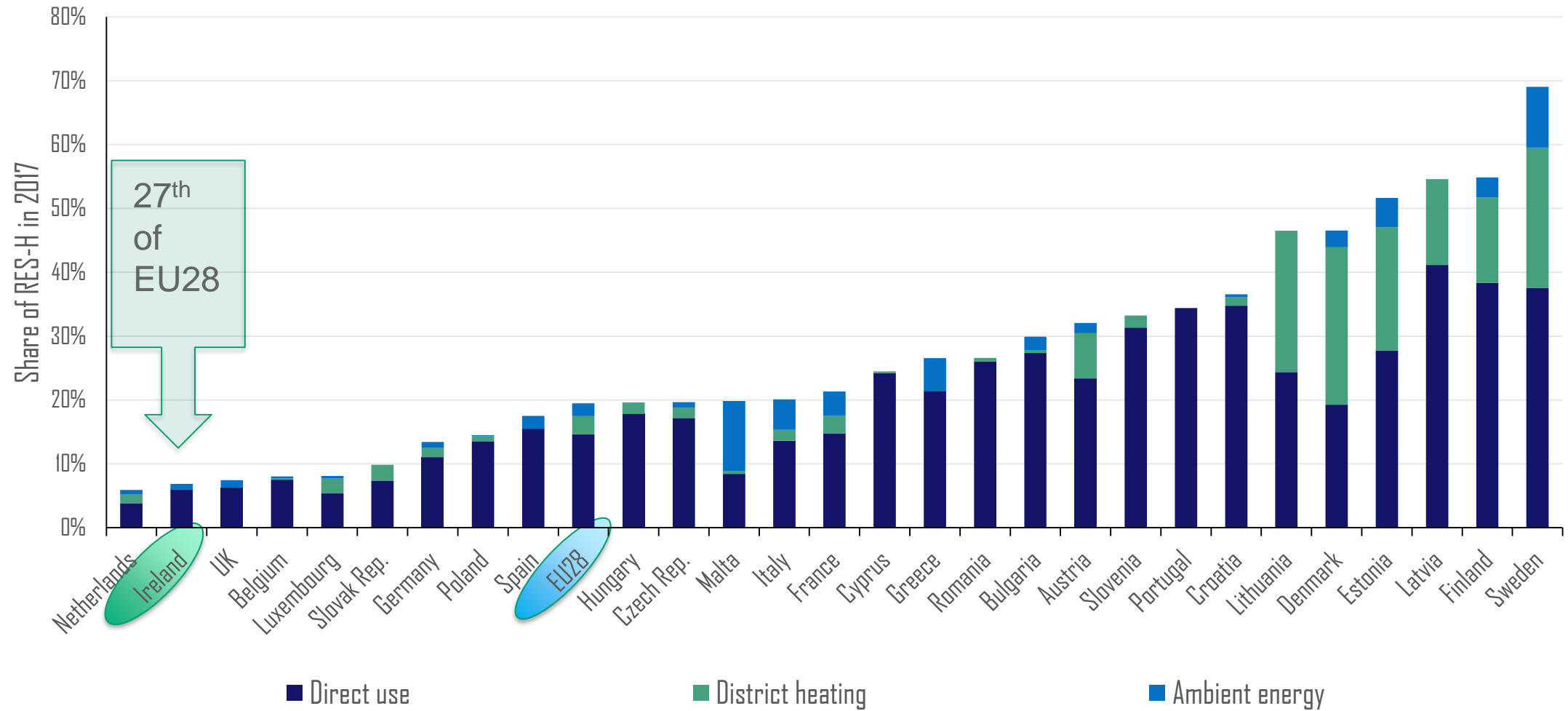


Where are we now?

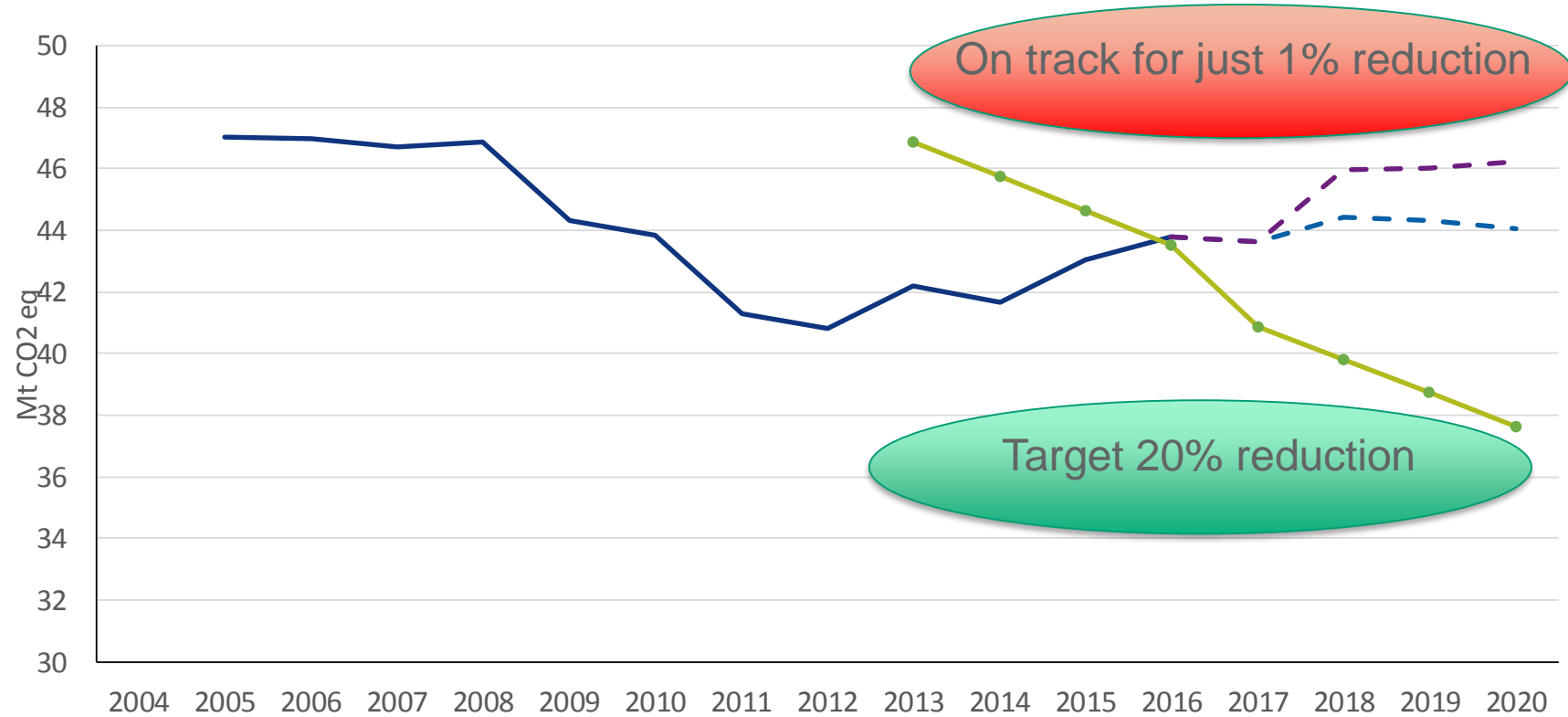
Overall renewable energy in EU



Renewable heat in EU



CO₂



- Historic Emissions (non-Emissions Trading Systems)
- - NECP2 - high oil price With Additional Measures
- - NECP 3 - low oil price With Existing Measures
- 2020 target - effort sharing decision annual emissions allowances

Ireland – Climate “laggards”

‘Extremely concerning’ Ireland labelled a ‘laggard’ over climate action – An Taisce

Reaction to CAN report: Political leadership ‘urgently needed’ to turn record around

© Mon, Jun 18, 2018, 07:50

Kevin O’Sullivan



The CAN report highlighted the critical need for Ireland to urgently implement the recent Citizens’ Assembly proposals. Photograph: Getty Images



Taoiseach tells EU he is not proud of Ireland’s role as Europe’s climate ‘laggard’

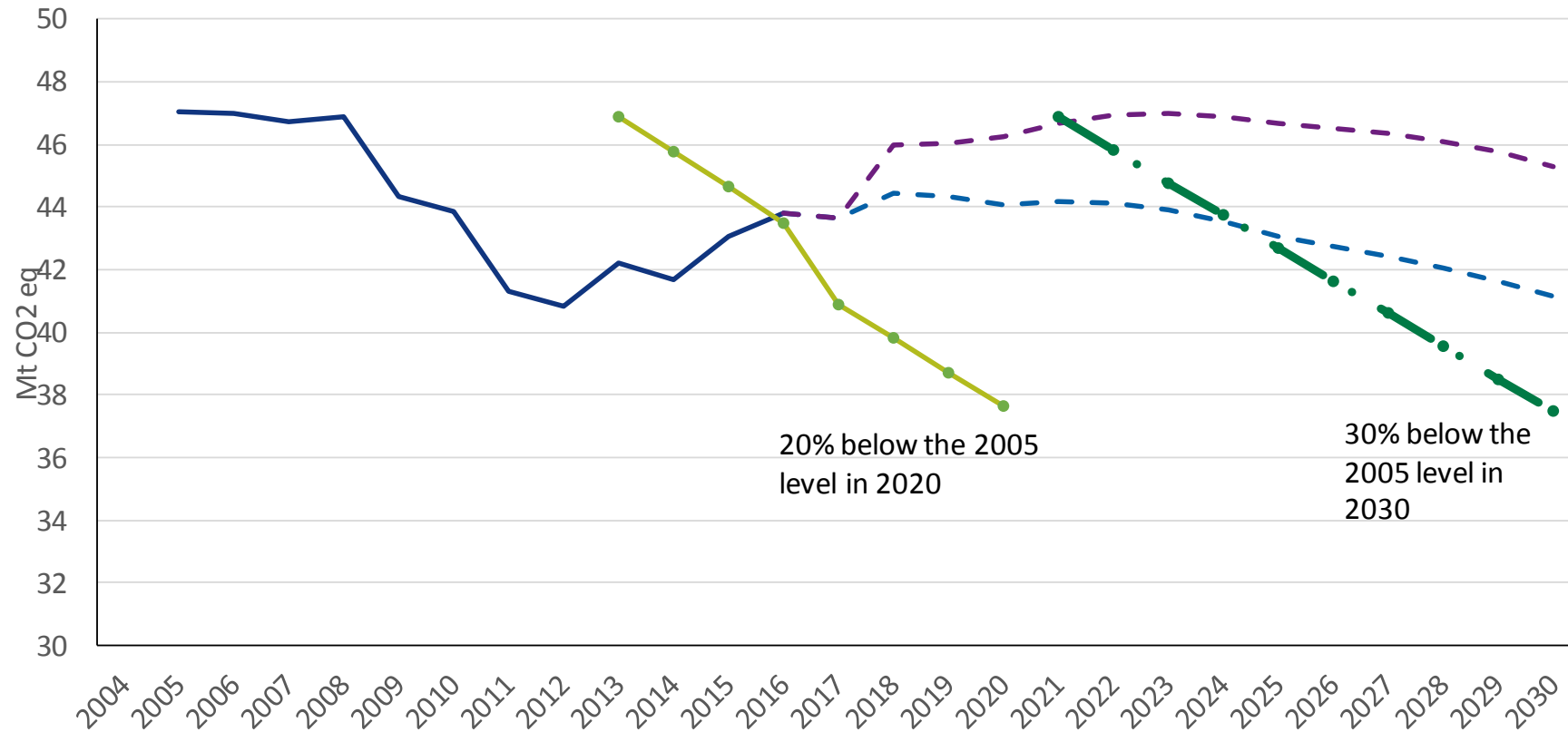


How about 2030?

Ireland 2030 target

- Ireland Non-ETS target of 30% reduction relative to 2005
- 4% one-off flexibility from emissions trading
 - highest end of the ranking
- 5.6% flexibility from land use.
 - substantially larger margin than any other Member State except Latvia

Ireland 2030



- Historic Emissions (non-Emissions Trading Systems)
- - - NECP2 - high oil price With Additional Measures
- - - NECP 3 - low oil price With Existing Measures
- 2020 target - effort sharing decision annual emissions allowances
- 2030 target - NECP 2 (high oil price WAM) allowances with all Effort Sharing Regulation flexibilities

Heat



Efficiency

- >1 million homes and buildings need upgrade. Social housing
- Challenge – expensive (finance), motivation (tricky) vs compelling (regulation)

Decarbonisation

- Electrification – Heat pumps replacing oil boilers
- Solid biomass for large heat loads
- Biomethane - Care needed with sustainability

Heat networks / district heating

- Little current experience or infrastructure
- Need to reduce risk (financial), administration, regulatory barriers, empower local authorities

Transport

Biofuel blends

- Invisible..
- HVO for deeper biodiesel?
- Sourcing biofuels / sustainability criteria



Electric vehicles

- Target 500,000 by 2030
- Charging infrastructure (shorter term)
- Banning new ICE after 2030

Modal shift

- Significant public transport sector investment
- Behaviour programmes could support - ride sharing, innovation?
- Active travel, cycling.. infrastructure

Electricity

Technical grid challenges

- Accommodating a high level of renewables in an isolated system
- Improved system services
- Increased Interconnection



Scaling up offshore

- Huge potential
- Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)
- No planning and regulation regime - inshore, plus offshore needed ASAP

Social acceptance and planning

- Mandatory community opportunities (RESS)
- Market price for small-scale and microgeneration (by Directive)
- Maintaining the existing stock of wind turbines?

Electricity



Data centres

- Ireland is global hot-spot
- Internet of things – global data tsunami
- Currently 500 MVA capacity installed. Projected 2030 capacity of 1-2 GVA
 - Current Peak system demand 4-5 GW

Ending coal and peat use

- Peat burning for electricity generation currently cross subsidised by biomass cofiring
- Irelands only coal power plant due to be shut down by 2030, what will replace it?

Can we deliver the necessary changes?

Building consensus to implement required policies

Laggard to leader

- Political will to tackle climate change
 - Gilet Jaune protests
 - Irish experience of protests to water charges
 - Fear of public reaction to increased carbon taxes
- Would the public support policies to tackle climate change that disrupt the status quo?
- Ireland's Citizen's Assembly

Citizens assembly

- Established in 2016 to consider some of the most important issues facing Ireland's future.
- Body comprising the Chairperson and 99 citizens, randomly selected to be broadly representative of the Irish electorate
- Expert Advisory Group assists by preparing information and advice

Citizens assembly

- Held 4 days of hearings and deliberation on climate change
- Issued recommendations in April 2018
- 13 recommendations

Citizens assembly

- State should prioritise the **expansion of public transport spending** over new road infrastructure spending at a ratio of no less than 2-to-1
- State should **end all subsidies for peat extraction** and instead spend that money on peat bog restoration and making proper provision for the protection of the rights of the workers impacted

92%

97%

Citizens assembly

- State should enable the **selling back into the grid** of electricity from micro-generation by private citizens
- State should ensure the greatest possible levels of **community ownership** in all future renewable energy projects

99%

100%

Citizens assembly

- Would you be willing to **pay higher taxes** on carbon intensive activities?



80%

Joint Committee on Climate Action

- Parliamentary committee established in July 2018 to examine recommendations of Citizens Assembly
- Aim to build cross-party support for recommendations
- Issued final report in March 2019
- 42 priority recommendations across 10 headings

Joint Committee on Climate Action recommendations

- A target of net zero economy-wide emissions by 2050;
- A 2030 emissions target, consistent with the emissions reduction pathway to the 2050 target, to be set by 2020 by Statutory Instrument
- Provision for five-yearly carbon budgets, consistent with the emissions reduction pathway to 2030 and 2050 targets
- A target for the renewable share of electricity generation of at least 70% by 2030
- Just Transition

Joint Committee on Climate Action recommendations

- re-evaluate co-firing subsidy for peat and biomass
- deep retrofits of all public housing stock by 2030
- minimum C BER for residential lettings
- at least 10% of expenditure on transport infrastructure to be redirected to cycling

Summary

Summary

- Ireland has done well in RES-E but overall has not made adequate progress toward EU 2020 targets
- Calls for action on climate breakdown from general public becoming louder
 - Willingness to pay?
- Signs that political willingness may be building for meaningful action on climate change
 - Willingness to pay?

Summary

- Electricity
 - More renewables, phase out of coal and peat
 - Data centre growth
- Heat
 - Efficiency, home retrofits, government financial support
 - Heat-pumps, green gas
- Transport
 - Electric vehicles
 - Some biogas for freight
 - Profound change needed to get people out of cars!