



**Environmental Protection Agency**  
Annual Report and Accounts  
**2021**



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The EPA is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

## The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

**Regulation:** *Implementing regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

**Knowledge:** *Providing high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making.*

**Advocacy:** *Working with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental practices.*

## Our responsibilities include:

### Licensing

- Large-scale industrial, waste and petrol storage activities;
- Urban waste water discharges;
- The contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms;
- Sources of ionising radiation;
- Greenhouse gas emissions from industry and aviation through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

### National Environmental Enforcement

- Audit and inspection of EPA licensed facilities;
- Drive the implementation of best practice in regulated activities and facilities;
- Oversee local authority responsibilities for environmental protection;
- Regulate the quality of public drinking water and enforce urban waste water discharge authorisations;
- Assess and report on public and private drinking water quality;
- Coordinate a network of public service organisations to support action against environmental crime;
- Prosecute those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

### Waste Management and Chemicals in the Environment

- Implement and enforce waste regulations including national enforcement issues;
- Prepare and publish national waste statistics and the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan;
- Develop and implement the National Waste Prevention Programme;
- Implement and report on legislation on the control of chemicals in the environment.

### Water Management

- Engage with national and regional governance and operational structures to implement the Water Framework Directive;
- Monitor, assess and report on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, bathing waters and groundwaters, and measurement of water levels and river flows.

### Climate Science & Climate Change

- Publish Ireland's greenhouse gas emission inventories and projections;
- Provide the Secretariat to the Climate Change Advisory Council and support to the National Dialogue on Climate Action;
- Support National, EU and UN Climate Science and Policy development activities.

## Environmental Monitoring & Assessment

- Design and implement national environmental monitoring systems: technology, data management, analysis and forecasting;
- Produce the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports;
- Monitor air quality and implement the EU Clean Air for Europe Directive, the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and the National Emissions Ceiling Directive;
- Oversee the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive;
- Assess the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment.
- Environmental Research and Development
- Coordinate and fund national environmental research activity to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions;
- Collaborate with national and EU environmental research activity.

## Radiological Protection

- Monitoring radiation levels and assess public exposure to ionising radiation and electromagnetic fields;
- Assist in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents;
- Monitor developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety;
- Provide, or oversee the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

## Guidance, Awareness Raising, and Accessible Information

- Provide independent evidence-based reporting, advice and guidance to Government, industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics;
- Promote the link between health and wellbeing, the economy and a clean environment;
- Promote environmental awareness including supporting behaviours for resource efficiency and climate transition;
- Promote radon testing in homes and workplaces and encourage remediation where necessary.

## Partnership and networking

- Work with international and national agencies, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, representative bodies and government departments to deliver environmental and radiological protection, research coordination and science-based decision making.

## Management and structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by advisory committees who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Annual Report and Accounts, 2021

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The layout of this report has been structured and aligned to reflect the EPA Strategic Plan 2016–2020: *Our Environment, Our Wellbeing*.

# Key Statistics – 2021 in Numbers

## AUTHORISATIONS

**118**

environmental authorisations issued

**569**

authorisation amendments completed

**3**

decisions on end-of-waste criteria issued

**275**

by-product notifications processed

**132**

radiation authorisations and 529 technical amendments issued

## ENFORCEMENT

**212**

urban wastewater and 79 drinking water site visits

**1,295**

visits to industrial, waste, dumping at sea and VOC facilities

**13**

prosecutions concluded

**9**

drinking water Directions issued to Irish Water

**75**

inspections of Radiological Licensees

**11**

sites on the National Priority Sites for Enforcement

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**€710k**

awarded to eight enterprises under the 2021 Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy funding call

**7.5m**

reach in national Stop Food Waste 'Stretch Out and Save' campaign

## MONITORING

**1,539**

water bodies monitored for biological and chemical analysis

**97**

air quality monitoring stations

**844**

samples analysed for radioactivity

## INFORMATION

**722,297**

visits to [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

**112**

information requests (52 AIE and 60 FOI)

**9,900+**

environmental complaints reported

**2,900+**

environmental queries from the public

**409**

EPA datasets uploaded to [data.gov.ie](http://data.gov.ie) with 76,054 total views

## RESEARCH

**41**

Research Reports:  
9 Climate, 7 Green & Circular Economy,  
13 Healthy Environment and 12 Natural Environment

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**1**

in-house emergency exercise involving a range of teams across the EPA

**7**

international emergency exercises participated in

## RADON

**136,890**

pageviews of radon related content on the website



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## We Need Vision and Implementation to Protect Ireland's Environment and our Health and Wellbeing



### SOE 1: Environmental Policy Position

A national policy position for Ireland's environment.



### SOE 2: Full Implementation

Full implementation of existing environmental legislation and a review of the governance around the coordination on environmental protection across public bodies.



### SOE 3: Health and Wellbeing

Protecting the environment is an investment in our health and wellbeing.

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## Step Up to Protect the Environment Around Us as it is Under Increasing Threat



### SOE 4: Climate

Systemic change is required for Ireland to become the climate-neutral and climate-resilient society and economy that it aspires to be.



### SOE 5: Air Quality

Adoption of measures to meet the World Health Organization air quality guideline values should be the target to aim for in the Clean Air Strategy.



### SOE 6: Nature

Safeguard nature and wild places as a national priority and to leave a legacy for future generations.



### SOE 7: Water Quality

Improve the water environment and tackle water pollution locally at a water catchment level.



### SOE 8: Marine

Reduce the human-induced pressures on the marine environment.

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## System Change – Delivery on Sectoral and Societal Outcomes Needs to be Accelerated



### SOE 9: Clean Energy

Ireland needs to move rapidly away from the extensive use of fossil fuels to the use of clean energy systems.



### SOE 10: Environmentally-sustainable Agriculture

An agriculture and food sector that demonstrates validated performance around producing food with a low environmental footprint.



### SOE 11: Water Services

Drinking water and wastewater infrastructure must meet the needs of our society.



### SOE 12: Circular Economy

Move to a less wasteful and circular economy where the priority is waste prevention, reuse, repair and recycling.



### SOE 13: Land Use

Promote integrated land-mapping approaches to support decision-making on sustainable land use.

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## VISION

A clean, healthy and well protected environment supporting a sustainable society and economy.

## MISSION

To protect and improve the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland.

To protect our people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

## VALUES

### Our Stewardship

We are a trusted, independent and authoritative advocate for the environment.

We make objective decisions based on the best available scientific evidence and information.

We manage our resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to the public.

### Our Work

We regulate in a fair, proportionate and transparent manner and target those who don't comply.

We make a difference by working with others to foster trust and build networks and partnerships to deliver effective outcomes.

We strive continuously for improvement and excellence through learning and development.

### Our Service

We are innovative, adaptive and open to new and flexible ways of working.

We design and deliver services from the citizen's point of view.

We provide our services in a manner that is competent, courteous and responsive.

### Our Colleagues

We work together to deliver effective outcomes.

We support, trust and value our colleagues and empower each other to make decisions.

We are open and honest with each other.

We constructively challenge and encourage each other to do better.

## WHAT WE DO

### Knowledge

Provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, assessments and evidence to inform decision making by citizens, businesses and Government.

### Regulation

Implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good outcomes for people and the environment and target those who don't comply.

### Advocacy

Work with others to advocate for a clean, healthy and well protected environment and sustainable environmental behaviour.

## HOW WE DO IT

Monitoring & Assessment

Research & Expertise

Timely & Accessible Information

Licensing

Enforcement

Guidance

Partnering & Networking

Awareness Raising

Promoting Sustainable Behaviour

# Strategic Goals

## for the period 2016-2020

Goals	Objectives	Outcomes What we will have achieved by 2020
<b>Trusted Environmental Regulator</b>	<p><b>Ensure</b> the ongoing development of a proportionate and effective regulatory approach.</p> <p><b>Align</b> EPA resources to target interventions and reduce environmental risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ A risk-based, responsive regulatory approach that engages stakeholders and protects the environment and people.</li> <li>▲ Reduced environmental risks at EPA-regulated facilities through tailored interventions and by ensuring appropriate financial provisions are in place.</li> <li>▲ Driven the improved delivery and management of water and waste infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Leader in Environmental Evidence &amp; Knowledge</b>	<p><b>Realise</b> the full potential of the EPA's knowledge, skill, expertise and regional presence as key national resources in the protection of the environment and human health.</p> <p><b>Accelerate</b> the provision of timely and tailored information to meet the specific needs of stakeholder groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ More timely evidence-based environmental assessments to inform policy and decision making at national, regional and local levels.</li> <li>▲ Better provision of online, up-to-date and accessible information on the environment to stakeholders.</li> <li>▲ A research programme that addresses knowledge gaps and helps identify solutions to emerging and complex environmental problems.</li> </ul>
<b>Effective Advocate and Partner</b>	<p><b>Strengthen</b> the EPA's capability and capacity to influence, advocate and partner to help achieve a clean, healthy and well protected environment.</p> <p><b>Engage</b> the public in the protection and improvement of the environment.</p> <p><b>Promote</b> a greater awareness of the impact of environment quality on human health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Targeted opportunities to integrate environmental priorities and sustainability into sectoral, economic and social policies.</li> <li>▲ Developed public participation programmes to increase awareness of environmental issues and support the engagement of the public in environmental protection.</li> <li>▲ Collaborated with health agencies and other bodies to realise the benefits of a good environment for health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>
<b>Responding to Key Environmental Challenges</b>	<p><b>Tackle</b> the challenges to deliver improved water quality in Ireland.</p> <p><b>Engage</b> with other strategic partners to promote the development of a holistic national response to climate change.</p> <p><b>Enhance</b> air and radiation protection in Ireland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Effective and resilient structures in place to deliver better outcomes for water quality.</li> <li>▲ Established a climate change secretariat in the EPA as a centre of excellence that supports the national transition to a low carbon economy.</li> <li>▲ Strengthened the air quality and radiation protection frameworks to further protect people and the environment.</li> </ul>
<b>Organisationally Excellent</b>	<p><b>Develop</b> our staff and align our organisation to deliver best environmental outcomes.</p> <p><b>Focus</b> on the development and promotion of organisational health, wellbeing and safety at work.</p> <p><b>Promote</b> a culture of leadership, reform and innovation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Our functions and resources aligned to be responsive and adaptable to meet emerging challenges.</li> <li>▲ Engaged all staff to foster a supportive workplace environment.</li> <li>▲ Enhanced capacity in the area of organisational change and in the use of ICT to support reform and innovation.</li> </ul>



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AIE</b>	Access to Information on the Environment	<b>JAI</b>	Junior Achievement Ireland
<b>AMR</b>	Antimicrobial Resistance	<b>JPI</b>	Joint Programming Initiatives
<b>API</b>	Application Programming Interfaces	<b>LAPN</b>	Local Authority Prevention Network
<b>ARC</b>	Audit & Risk Committee	<b>MI</b>	Marine Institute
<b>AQIH</b>	Air Quality Index for Health	<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>BAT</b>	Best Available Techniques	<b>mSv</b>	millisievert
<b>B2C</b>	Business to Consumer	<b>MCP</b>	Medium Combustion Plant
<b>CAFÉ</b>	Clean Air for Europe Directive	<b>NDCA</b>	National Dialogue on Climate Action
<b>CAP</b>	Common Agricultural Policy	<b>NEC</b>	National Emission Ceiling Directive
<b>CCMA</b>	County & City Managers Association	<b>NIEA</b>	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
<b>CLRTAP</b>	Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution	<b>NHEPA</b>	Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies
<b>CNS</b>	Convention on Nuclear Safety	<b>NIECE</b>	Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
<b>DAFM</b>	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	<b>NRCS</b>	National Radon Control Strategy
<b>DECC</b>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	<b>NWPP</b>	National Waste Prevention Programme
<b>DHLGH</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	<b>ODS</b>	Ozone depleting substances
<b>EEA</b>	European Environment Agency	<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>EIONET</b>	European Environmental Information and Observation Network	<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>EMA</b>	European Medicines Agency	<b>POP</b>	persistent organic pollutant
<b>ERC</b>	Executive Risk Committee	<b>PCB</b>	polychlorinated biphenyls
<b>ESD</b>	EU Effort Sharing Decision	<b>PRI</b>	Producer Responsibility Initiative
<b>ESRI</b>	Economic and Social Research Institute	<b>PRTR</b>	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
<b>EU ETS</b>	European Union Emissions Trading System	<b>RAL</b>	Remedial Action List
<b>F-gas</b>	Fluorinated gas	<b>RBMP</b>	River Basin Management Plan
<b>FOI</b>	Freedom of Information	<b>REACH</b>	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals regulations
<b>GMOs</b>	genetically modified organism	<b>RoHS</b>	Restriction of Hazardous Substances
<b>HRB</b>	Health Research Board	<b>RMO</b>	Roads Management Office
<b>HSA</b>	Health & Safety Authority	<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>HSE</b>	Health Service Executive	<b>SEAI</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
<b>ICT</b>	Information & Communications Technology	<b>SLA</b>	Service Level Agreement
<b>IED</b>	Industrial Emissions Directive	<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>IEN</b>	Irish Environmental Network	<b>UNFCCC</b>	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>INAB</b>	Irish National Accreditation Board	<b>WEEE</b>	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Pollution Control	<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	<b>WWTP</b>	Waste Water Treatment Plant

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# 1 DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT



It is my pleasure to present to you the EPA Annual Report and Accounts which provides an overview of progress made during 2021. This was again a year in which many sectors of society were severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. One lesson from the past two years is that well-communicated science can successfully inform policy, perception, and behaviour, even when the challenges are daunting.

There is an opportunity now to build the foundation for a green recovery to protect and restore Ireland's environment. The EPA is a trusted source of science and evidence, supporting actions at every level – government, business, and individual – in progressing our transition from current unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

Throughout the pandemic the essential work of the EPA continued to ensure that the protection of human health and the environment was not diminished. As an environmental regulator the EPA has adapted to circumstances, responding to complaints, incidents and emergencies, carrying out site inspections and engaging with licensees in a risk-based and proportionate manner. We have also adapted our outreach and engagement with the public, expanding our audience through a new website and switching to online webinars for our annual conferences.

## Climate change

The first report from 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' project was published in December 2021. The findings showed the public's overwhelming recognition of the threat from climate change – they feel personally affected by it and want to see real change. As a baseline study, it aims to develop a better understanding of the Irish public's beliefs, risk perceptions, policy preferences and behaviours regarding climate change.

In August 2021, the EPA, Met Éireann and the Marine Institute published a report on 'The Status of Ireland's Climate'. This comprehensive analysis of climate data collected in Ireland details how global changes are being reflected in Ireland's atmosphere, oceans and landscape.

Greenhouse gas inventory data for 2020 published in October 2021 showed a reduction in emissions of 3.6% between 2019 and 2020. The overall emission reduction was driven by two main factors: the decreased transport

emissions due to Covid-19 restrictions and reduced emissions intensity in electricity generation. The small reduction in emissions, at a time of profound change in economic and social activity due to the pandemic, highlights the scale of action needed across all parts of our economy and society to meet the 51% emissions reduction target by 2030 set within the 2021 Climate Act.

## Waste and the Circular Economy

National statistics on waste generation and management, published in December 2021, highlighted the continued rise in waste generation which is linked to economic activity while circular use of material remains very low. Recycling rates for municipal waste and packaging waste have declined, with more waste being sent for energy recovery.

In December, the EPA launched the Circular Economy Programme which will be the driving force for Ireland's transition to a circular economy, where businesses, citizens and the public sector reduce resource use, prevent waste and achieve sustainable economic growth. The programme will also support the whole-of-government Circular Economy Strategy and promote circularity as an economic model, enhancing coherence and alignment among national, regional and local activities.

In September, the EPA revised and published Green Public Procurement guidance and accompanying criteria for the Public Sector seeking to source goods, services or works with a reduced environmental impact.



## Air

The EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme provides real-time localised air quality information linked to public health advice. With the addition of nine stations in 2021, real-time air quality monitoring has more than trebled in Ireland since implementation of the new programme began at the end of 2017.

The EPA 'LIFE Emerald' project commenced in 2021 and over the next three years will deliver a national forecast, a "nowcast" (to provide ambient air quality for all areas between monitoring stations) and historic national air quality maps.

Particulate matter from solid fuel combustion and nitrogen dioxide from traffic emissions were identified in the 'Air Quality in Ireland report 2020', published in November, as the two key air quality issues.

## Water and Waste Water

While the quality of drinking water in public supplies remains high, delays in delivering public water improvements continues to put water quality and the public's health at risk. During August and September 2021, the EPA responded to two very significant incidents at drinking water treatment plants in Gorey and Ballymore Eustace that highlighted an abject failure of managerial oversight, operational control and responsiveness by Irish Water and the Local Authorities in terms of their respective roles to deliver safe and secure drinking water.

The EPA published 'Water Quality in 2020: An Indicators Report' in July 2021 which highlighted that surface waters and groundwaters continue to be under pressure from human activities, particularly from nitrogen and phosphorous from agriculture and urban waste water discharges. There are some improvements in the biological quality of our rivers, however many are not as ecologically healthy as they should be. Focussed action is needed to see sustained improvements in water quality.

Bathing water quality continues to improve with 96% of identified bathing waters meeting or exceeding the minimum required standard.

Improvements in waste water treatment are evident, with the number of priority areas reducing by one-third over the past four years. However, the pace of delivery of essential improvements is too slow to bring all deficient treatment

systems up to standard. Irish Water must deliver the essential infrastructure in as timely a manner as possible and resolve the underlying causes for the delays in upgrading treatment systems.

Waste water discharge licences have been updated to improve the enforceability of the specific conditions which will in turn assist EPA enforcement of the licences, provide consistency and help to protect the environment.

## Radiation

During 2021, work began on upgrading and expanding the EPA's National Radiation Monitoring Network.

Research on a new radon risk map was completed in 2021. Online user testing, optimising features such as colour, language and search functionality, identified an opportunity to greatly increase people's willingness to test their homes.

The EPA reported to the National Radon Control Strategy co-ordination group on the results of a field trial whereby passive sumps and static cowls were installed in a sample of newly built unoccupied Irish dwellings. The trial showed significant reductions in radon levels.

## Assessment

Following the publication of the four-yearly State of Environment report in late 2020, the EPA continued to promote its findings, publishing a booklet presenting summary information, key messages, chapter highlights, actions, current assessment and outlook.

The EPA was tasked by Government in 2020 to lead a national land use evidence review. The evidence review is to support the ambition that 'optimal land use options inform all relevant government decisions' and that future national land-use policy will maximise carbon uptake whilst ensuring sustainable and resilient outcomes for society, the economy, and the environment. The evidence review is expected to be completed in the second half of 2022.

## Licensing and Enforcement

Licensing and permitting decisions undertaken in 2021 included high-profile facility expansions and greenfield investment activities in the pharmachem, cement, food and drink, waste, ICT and power sectors. The EPA also engaged with the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Eirgrid, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the power sector on security of energy supply issues.

The EPA enforces over 800 industrial and waste licences and its enforcement teams used a risk-based approach to on-site inspections incorporating Remote Compliance Assessments to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions. Inspectors responded to significant on-site environmental incidents, emergencies and complaints throughout 2021.

Following several fires at licensed and permitted waste facilities in early 2021, the EPA carried out a targeted campaign of inspections of waste facilities focusing on the risk of fire. Over 40 licensed sites were visited, resulting in improvements in waste management and reduced fire risks.

The EPA also regulates the use of ionising radiation in hospitals, education and industry through a system of licensing and inspection. Licensing applies to higher risk or more complex applications, while registration is applicable to lower risk applications. At the end of 2021, 259 licences and 1,453 registrations were in place.

The EPA enforces water regulations and licences as well as certificates of authorisation in relation to Irish Water. Throughout 2021, the EPA continued to respond to significant on-site incidents, emergencies, and complaints.

## Research

The EPA delivers an environmental research programme to provide essential scientific support for environmental policy development, implementation and broader decision making. In total, 58 new awards were made in 2021 (€9.91m) including 30 new awards from the 2021 EPA research call (€7.49m).

A new ten-year high-level framework for the EPA's research programming was launched in March 2021 with four thematic priorities – climate change, circular economy, delivering a healthy environment and protecting and restoring our natural environment.

The EPA launched a new 'Fast-track to Policy' research funding scheme in 2021 to strengthen the research-policy interface and provide evidence synthesis, review of policies and best practices to answer urgent emerging policy questions.

## Engagement

During 2021, the EPA redeveloped its website to provide users with a relevant and user-friendly service, with access to the information they need in a modern dynamic format. The EPA's growing social media presence has helped cultivate new audiences and engage with younger audiences as well.

Nine public events were hosted online by the EPA to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions.

Public interest in EPA citizen science initiatives exceeded all expectations. The 'Clean Air Together' project in conjunction with An Taisce's Environmental Education Unit saw over 1,000 participants in Dublin take samples for nitrogen dioxide levels in their local area in October.

The fifth 'The Story of Your Stuff' competition for second level schools was won by a student from Presentation College Athenry, Co. Galway with his topical video: 'The story of disposable face masks'. In a record year for participation, over 330 entries were submitted from 76 schools across the country.

Working in partnership with ECO-UNESCO and Junior Achievement Ireland, the EPA sponsored an environmental award at the 'virtual' BT Young Scientist competition and sponsored the Environmental Journalism Award for the National Student Media awards.

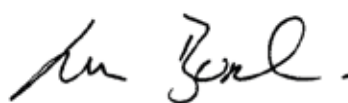
## Greening the EPA

During 2021, the EPA maintained accreditation to its Environmental Management System which is certified to the international standard ISO 14001:2015. Improvements continued to be delivered in energy performance, waste reduction, hazardous waste management, biodiversity and green public procurement. Energy efficiency reviews were conducted to inform energy reduction actions required to achieve the 2030 Climate Action targets.

## In conclusion

In my role as Director General, I wish to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the staff of the EPA throughout 2021 and to thank my fellow Directors for their dedication and support in delivering on our strategic goals. We remember our friend and colleague Dr Ciara McMahon whose untimely passing came as a shock to us all in January 2021.

I would like to extend my best wishes to the following EPA colleagues who retired during 2021, after many years of dedicated service: Ciara Maxwell, Frank Clinton, Bernadette Cuddihy, Stephen Somerville and Marie Kelly. Finally, I would like to thank the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for their continuing support.



**Laura Burke**  
Director General, EPA





# 2

Implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good outcomes for people and the environment and target those who don't comply.





## 2 REGULATION

### 2.1 LICENSING

The EPA grants authorisations which ensure that emissions from activities do not endanger human health or harm the environment.

The EPA's environmental licensing programme has a wide remit and is responsible for a range of tasks relating to the authorisation of activities that could have an impact on the environment or on human health (Tables 1 and 2). This work includes implementing Ireland's obligations under various EU Directives by carrying out environmental assessments prior to granting or refusing authorisations. It incorporates Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.

#### Authorisation of Activities

The Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) brought new and substantial changes to how industrial activities are regulated in Ireland. These changes will further ensure that licences include all measures necessary to achieve a high level of protection for the environment.

The IED requires the EPA to reconsider and, if necessary, update the conditions of our industrial licences within four years of new Best Available Techniques (BAT) conclusions being published.

By the end of 2020, 17 Commission Implementing Decisions (CIDs) on BAT conclusions had been published, the most recent being the Surface Treatment using Organic Solvents, and the Food and Drink sectors. This means that licences in those sectors will need to be reconsidered and re-assessed by December 2024. Work on implementing the requirements of all 17 CIDs is underway.

Environmental licensing and permitting decisions in 2021 are summarised in Table 1 below and included high profile facility expansions, some long-standing historical applications and greenfield investment activities in the waste, pharma and power sectors. In addition, almost half of the new applications for IE/IPC or Waste licences received in 2021 were applications in the intensive agriculture sector. In May 2021, the EPA issued a new approach for the assessment of cumulative impacts of ammonia emissions from the intensive agriculture sector which will ensure protection of Natura sites (important ecological sites) throughout the country. This has had a significant impact on the sector, especially in the border region of Cavan and Monaghan.

The Medium Combustion Plant (MCP) regulations were signed into law in December 2017 and are being implemented based on an EPA-led risk-based approach. Their purpose is to limit emissions to atmosphere from boilers and other stationary combustion plants in the 1–50 MWth (thermal input

capacity) range. At the end of 2021, a total of 238 MCPs were registered – the majority of which were emergency generators at data centres.

The EPA continues to regulate for a circular economy through End-of-Waste applications and By-Product notifications. Development of an improved online by-product notification system commenced in 2021, including an interactive By-product Register with full public access to all documentation. In addition, progress continued in 2021 in the areas of Historic Landfills and the issuing of Certificates of Authorisation for the remediation of old landfills operated by local authorities in the past.

Consents issued in respect of GMO activities related predominantly to research facilities and presented low or negligible risk. In addition, Section 5(12) of the Dumping at Sea Act 1996, as amended, came into operation in respect of offshore installations on 1 April 2021 with the signing of the Dumping at Sea Act (Section 5(12)) (Commencement) Order 2021 (S.I. 92 of 2021). This enables the EPA to grant, or refuse to grant, a permit authorising the dumping of an offshore installation in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The EPA has received two applications for the leaving in place of offshore installations. The EPA has also completed the examination of 513 licences in accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, as amended, and issued 122 no further action reports and initiated 25 licence reviews. The EPA is actively participating in the Water Environment (Abstractions and Certain Impoundments) Bill – Revised General Scheme.

In line with strategic commitments, the EPA continued to support its web service to include electronic submission of licence applications and electronic processing and communication with all stakeholders. This facilitated a more efficient service for our customers and will enable more efficient and accurate reporting of data to the European Commission.

## Emissions trading

The EPA is the enforcement and implementation authority for the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) in Ireland and as part of this system implements the EU rules for harmonised free allocation of carbon emission allowances.

In 2021, 105 stationary installations (industries, power stations and other high-energy users) were obliged to report their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the previous calendar year. All installations complied with reporting and surrender deadlines. The results from the installations covered by the ETS for 2020 showed that greenhouse gas emissions from Irish companies decreased by 6.1% (0.9 million tonnes). This was largely due to the 8% decrease in emissions from the power generation sector, due to the strong presence of renewable energy on the grid. Industrial sectors, on the other hand, showed only a drop of 3.5% in emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions from aviation reported to EPA decreased by 63% compared to 2019, which reflects the significant impact of Covid-19 restrictions. These emissions arise from flights anywhere within the European Economic Area, where the aircraft operator has been assigned to Ireland for administration within the EU ETS. Seven aircraft operators were above the threshold for reporting to Ireland in 2020, according to Eurocontrol data. One aircraft operator which went into examinership in late 2020 reported emissions but failed to surrender allowances and an excess emissions penalty was issued.

The EPA acts (along with Department of Transport and the Irish Aviation Authority) as Competent Authority for the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA). The CORSIA reporting deadline was the 31 August 2021 where each Member State was required to submit total annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per State pair aggregated for all attributed Aircraft Operators. The EPA performed the necessary checks and collated the aggregated report before passing to the Department of Transport for submission to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) via the CORSIA Central Registry.

The list of installations entitled to some free allocation of carbon allowances in the current allocation period (the National Allocation Table 2021-2025) was approved by the Commission on 29 June 2021. Since production levels, and therefore CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels, can vary from year to year the rules for Phase IV (2021-2030) are designed to reduce

over-allocation in the event of changes to the activity levels as calculated in the baseline and to increase allocation where there are significant increases in the activity level. Operators are required to submit annually a verified activity level changes report to the EPA. For each year, starting with 2021, the EPA needs to assess all verified activity level changes reports for the 66 incumbent operators listed in the National Allocation Table and consider if an adjustment should be made to that year's allocation. All adjustments are notified to the Commission for approval, nine such reports were forwarded in 2021. Work on the assessment of 2021 activity level reports will continue into the first quarter of 2022.

The auctioning of ETS allowances takes place on a common platform (European Energy Exchange – EEX) shared among 25 Member States of the EU. The EPA tracks auctioning of Ireland's quota of allowances each week and checks that the correct revenue is received by the Central Bank. Revenues due to Ireland in 2021 from Auctions of EU ETS stationary (EUAs) and aviation allowances (EUAs) totalled €149.2m (€149,240,630). The price of carbon rose sharply in 2021 with the highest auction clearing price of €85.00 achieved on 13 December 2021. In comparison, the highest price at auction in 2020 was €30.92.

The Union Registry is used as the compliance tool for regulated installations and operators under the EU ETS. These operators, both Stationary and Aviation, are legally obliged to open an account on the Union Registry to fulfil their compliance obligations in relation to carbon emissions. The Irish domain of the Union Registry, managed by the EPA, had 546 users at the end of 2021.

The Union Registry also contains the registry for the EU's Effort Sharing Decision (ESD). The ESD regulates binding emission targets for all Member States for emissions not included in the EU ETS in 2013-2020, such as transport, building heating, agriculture and waste management. The EPA, as National Administrator, balanced Ireland's emissions for 2018 against our target for that year in March 2021 as instructed by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). The allocation for 2018 was used and part of the surplus allocation from previous years, with lower emissions, which had been carried forward. This is one of the flexibilities available to EU Member States under the ESD. Further information is available on the EU Commission website.

**Table 1.** Environmental Licensing Programme (licensing activities 2021)

Licence Type	Total Applications Received 2021	Total Objections Received 2021	Total Proposed Decisions Issued 2021	Total Final Decisions Issued 2021	Total Decisions Issued 2021
IED/IPC Licences (includes IE Waste)	49	17	37	40	77
Waste Licences	3	2	3	2	5
Waste Water Licences	11	N/A	N/A	4	4
Waste Water Certificates of Authorisation	2	N/A	N/A	0	0
GMO Permits (Contained use)	32	N/A	N/A	33	33
GMO Permits (Deliberate release)	2	N/A	N/A	0	0
Historic Landfill Certificates	23	4	5	4	9
Dumping at Sea Permits	6	N/A	N/A	1	1
Certificates of Registration (Waste)	15	N/A	N/A	13	13
Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Permits	0	N/A	0	0	0
Greenhouse gas permits	22	N/A	N/A	21	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>163</b>

N/A, not applicable.

**Table 2.** Environmental Licensing Programme (other regulatory activities 2021)

Tasks	Total tasks assessed 2021
Article 11 requests	75
IE/IPC Amendments	48
IE/IPC Amendments (EPA initiated)	0
Waste Amendments	4
Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Amendments	504
Dumping at Sea Amendments	3
GMO Amendments	10
Article 27 notifications (by-product)	123
Article 28 Applications (end of waste)	5
European Medicine Agency (GMO)	6
Directive 2001/18/EC (GMO)	0
Transfers	9
Air Pollution Appeals	0
Planning correspondences examined	99
Medium Combustion Plants registered	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>931</b>

## Radiation protection authorisations

The system in place for radiation protection authorisations allows for two forms of authorisation: registration and licensing. Registration is a simpler and less administratively onerous form of authorisation, appropriate for practices that are less complex in nature and have been demonstrated to be relatively safe. Licensing applies to higher risk practices. Authorisation fees are reflective of the level of risk associated with the types of practices being carried out and therefore the level of regulatory oversight required.

**Table 3.** New radiation protection authorisations, 2021

Licences	21
Registrations	111
Technical Amendments	529
Closed Licences	106



The EPA implements and enforces environmental and radiological protection legislation in Ireland.

## 2.2 ENFORCEMENT

### Industrial and Waste Licence enforcement

The EPA licensed and regulated 844 industrial and waste facilities during 2021. The EPA's objective is to ensure that operators carry on their activities in accordance with their licences. These objectives are advanced through a combination of promoting compliance, guidance and assistance, monitoring compliance, inspections and sampling, and taking enforcement actions where necessary. The EPA's enforcement approach is underpinned by the principles published in its 'Compliance and Enforcement Policy' and set out in Figure 1 below. Table 4 includes the number of inspections carried out on industrial and waste licensed activities.

**Figure 1.** EPA enforcement principles



The EPA prioritises enforcement effort on sites which present the highest risk to the environment based on the type of activity that is licensed, the location of the activity (i.e. proximity to people or protected areas) and the enforcement history of the site (i.e. whether the site has a history of non-compliance). During 2021, the EPA focused on key priority issues of fire risk at waste management facilities, unauthorised extraction of peat and where licensed activities were having an impact on water quality. The EPA also focused enforcement activities on waste capacity issues arising as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, including closely monitored waste facilities that were subject to increases in the volume of waste presented for treatment of infectious healthcare waste, waste transfer stations, landfills and the incinerators. Remote Compliance Assessments of licensed sites were introduced as an enforcement tool during the pandemic to continue EPA inspections and enforcement activities.

The National Priority Sites List is used to target EPA's enforcement effort at the poorest performing sites to drive improvements in environmental compliance. The list ranks industrial and waste sites in order of priority for enforcement, based on factors such as: complaints (Table 5), incidents, compliance investigations and non-compliances with the licence. This list was published quarterly with 11 licensed sites included on the list at least once during 2021. The EPA's enforcement activities are summarised in the infographic in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Summary of EPA enforcement activities



Table 4. Number of inspections by sector undertaken in 2021

Activity	Number of inspections
Industrial and Waste Licences	1,295
Urban Waste Water Discharge Licences	212
Drinking water treatment plants	79
Dumping at Sea Permits	8
Volatile Organic Compound Permits	12
Market surveillance – chemicals	150
ODS and F-gas	33

Table 5. Number of complaints received in 2021 and number of facilities the subject of those complaints by sector

Activity	Number of complaints	Number of facilities the subject of those complaints
Industrial and Waste Licences	1,490	125
Urban Waste water	169	47
Drinking water	39	10
ODS and F-gas	1	N/A
<b>Total complaints</b>	<b>1,699</b>	

## Water and waste water

As environmental regulator for public water services, the EPA focused on Irish Water's delivery of priority infrastructure improvements in drinking water and urban waste water during 2021.

### Drinking water

The number of public water supplies on the EPA's Remedial Action List (RAL) increased by 6 to 52 in 2021, however the population served reduced from 1,006,104 people to 374,633. The most significant changes were the removal of Leixlip Water Treatment Plant (WTP), following plant upgrade works and the construction of a new WTP at Vartry which was brought online during the fourth quarter of 2021.

During 2021, 79 drinking water audits were completed. In December 2021, the EPA published the 'Public Supplies Drinking Water Report for 2020'. Nine Directions were issued to Irish Water in 2021, compared to five Directions in 2020.

There was a significant increase in the population affected by Boil Water Notice (BWN) during 2021 (Table 6) with 70 notices in place compared to 43 boil water notices in 2020. The increase in notices appears to be linked to increased awareness of incidents and incident reporting by Irish Water on foot of increased EPA enforcement activities following two significant incidents which occurred at Gorey and Ballymore Eustace WTPs. While the EPA does not want to see the number of BWNs increasing, they are essential to protect public health when the operations of drinking water plants are compromised.

The EPA is concerned about the lack of progress by Irish Water in the removal of lead connections in the public network in 2021. Only 5,863 lead connections were replaced, bringing the total number of replacements to 41,566 out of approximately 180,000 lead connections. At this rate, Irish Water is highly unlikely to meet its previous commitment to remove all public-side lead pipework by 2026.

**Table 6.** Boil Water Notices and Water Restrictions

Advisory Notices issued by Irish Water	2020	2021
Boil Water Notices	43 notices affecting 74,995 people	70 notices affecting 265,898 people
Water Restrictions	17 notices affecting 4,118 people	26 Notices affecting 17,954 people.

Irish Water's progress to install and operate orthophosphate dosing to reduce the solubility of lead from pipework is slow. Orthophosphate (OP) dosing is in place at three supplies (Limerick, Hacketstown and Lough Talt) serving an estimated 59,592 properties. There are 15 additional plants at which OP dosing facilities are installed but not operating due to budget constraints, which is unsatisfactory. Operational budgets approved during 2021 should allow OP dosing to be introduced at these plants during 2022 on a phased basis.

The number of water supplies affected by pesticide exceedances was 31, slightly down from 33 in 2020. The herbicide MCPA (2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid) continues to dominate which is indicative of its common usage as a spray to control rushes on agricultural land. At the end of the year, there were six supplies on the EPA Remedial Action List for pesticides.

The European Commission escalated its infringement proceedings against Ireland on Trihalomethanes (THM) in drinking water to a Reasoned Opinion. The Reasoned Opinion states that Ireland failed to take the measures necessary to ensure THM compliance in 31 public water supplies and 13 private group water schemes. Ireland responded to the Commission in June 2021, providing details and timeframes by which Irish Water will complete works to address persistent THM exceedances in these public water supplies. In November 2021, the Commission decided to refer Ireland to the Court of Justice of the European Union for failure to comply with the requirements of the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC).

### Municipal waste water discharges

During 2021, the EPA completed 212 waste water site inspections focusing on plant performance, compliance monitoring of discharges and responding to complaints and incidents.

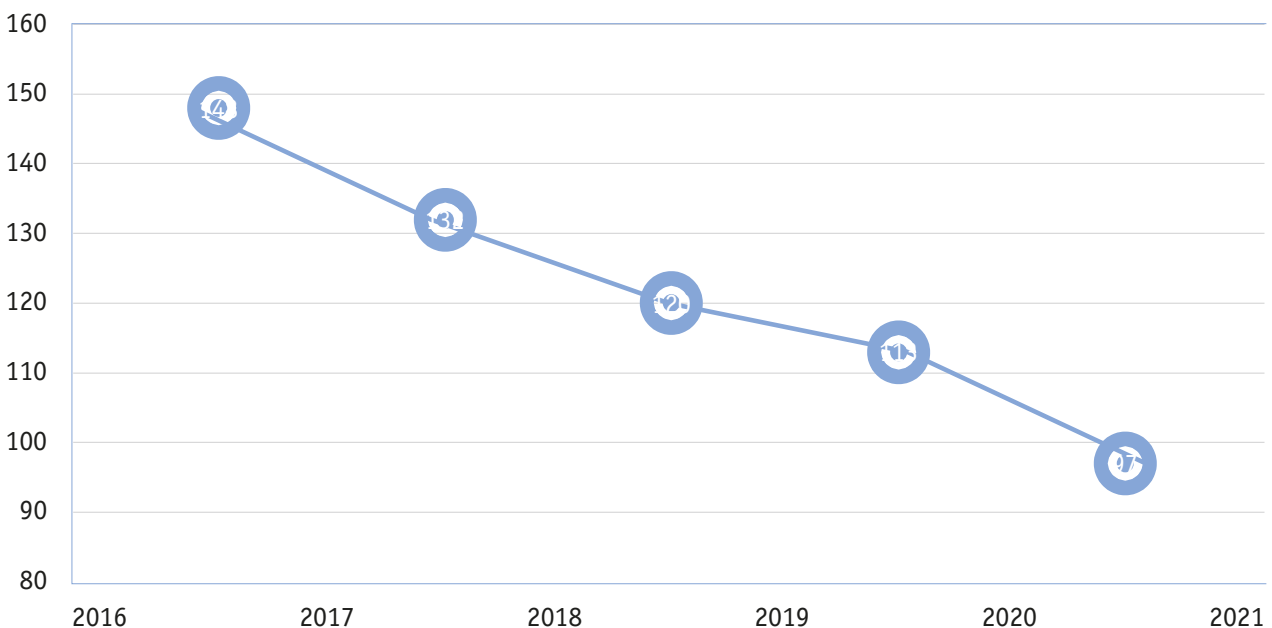
The EPA published the '2020 Urban Waste Water Report' in 2021 identifying the priority issues that must be addressed to protect our environment from the harmful effects of waste water discharges.

The Report highlighted the following improvements:

- A reduction in the number of priority areas from 148 in 2017 to 97 in 2021 (see Figure 3).
- The number of large towns and cities which failed to comply with the European Waste Water Treatment Directive improved from 28 in 2017 to 12 in 2020.
- One area (Cobh) with raw sewage discharges and eight water bodies which were not meeting their environmental objectives due to waste water pressures were resolved in 2020.

Despite these improvements, the EPA remains concerned about repeated delays and uncertainty in Irish Water's delivery of critical improvements, for example Irish Water has no clear action plan and timeframe to improve discharges from 29 of the 42 priority areas where waste water is a significant pressure on water bodies.

**Figure 3.** Reduction in the number of priority areas since 2017



### Domestic waste water treatment systems (septic tanks)

The EPA published the '2020 Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS) inspection report' in 2021. The report highlights the following:

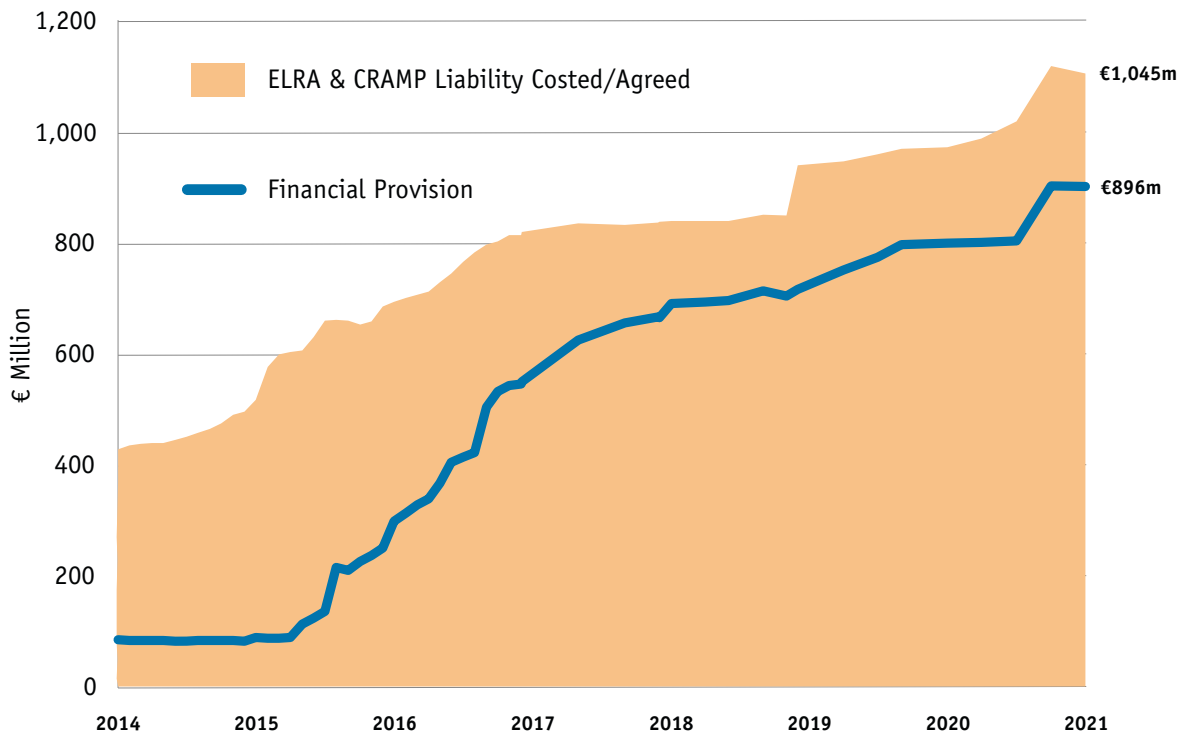
- 54% of systems failed inspection.
- three-quarters of systems failing inspection since 2013 have been fixed but failure to resolve older cases remains a concern.

The EPA published the '2022-2026 National Inspection Plan for DWWTS' in 2021. Inspection numbers remain at the current level of a minimum of 1,000 for year one of the plan and then increase by 20% for the remainder of the plan.

### Preventing environmental damage Financial provision for environmental liabilities

Ensuring that licensees make adequate financial provision to cover the environmental liabilities associated with potential incidents or with the closure and aftercare of sites remains an ongoing EPA priority. Combined liability costings for closure and restoration/aftercare (CRAMP) and potential incidents (ELRA) agreed with EPA now stands at €1,089m. In 2021, the total Financial Provision (FP) secured for addressing the environmental liabilities at priority facilities reached €896m (Figure 4). This represents a significant reduction in the risk to the environment and to the State.



**Figure 4.** Financial provision secured for environmental liabilities

## Market Surveillance and Chemicals in the Environment

### Market Surveillance (including solid fuel regulations)

Consumers need to be confident products they purchase, when used properly, do not endanger themselves, others and their environment. Therefore, the primary aim of market surveillance is the promotion of the European internal market by ensuring a high level of protection for EU consumers and their interests. The EPA is responsible for surveillance activities encompassing a wide range of market legislation. Surveillance activities entail development and execution of programmes involving compliance checks on a range of consumer goods for restricted substances and following up any uncovered non-compliance. Also, where required, the EPA assists other EU market surveillance authorities and participates in joint surveillance projects. The EPA reports regularly on its market surveillance activities to the European Commission. Furthermore, the EPA works with industry to promote compliance and provides guidance where required.

During 2021, the EPA undertook a campaign to monitor compliance with the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive. Checks were carried out on 100 samples of haircare products for levels of hazardous substances prohibited under the Directive. Test results indicate seven

products were non-compliant, the compliance status of 11 products is, as yet, undetermined with the remaining 82 products compliant. Follow-up investigations are scheduled during 2022.

A market surveillance campaign in 2021 focussed on compliance investigations of exercise accessories and equipment such as exercise mats, resistance bands, foam rollers and dumbbells with regard to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulations. The EPA contracted the procurement and testing of 50 such items for levels of restricted substances under the regulations. Test results indicate four potential non-compliances due to excessive C<sub>9</sub>-C<sub>13</sub> Chloroalkanes (POP). Follow-up investigations are ongoing.

The EPA is also charged with the establishment and maintenance of the Fuel Register under the Solid Fuel Regulations (S.I. 326 of 2012), as amended. There were 18 coal bagging facilities on the Fuel Register at the end of 2021.

## Chemicals in the Environment

The EPA designs and has carried out programmes which target suspected and/or newly confirmed hazardous substances in the environment. Such chemicals include Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and some substances evaluated under the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regime. The aims of these programmes are to better understand the potential risks posed by these substances both to the environment and human health. Additionally, results from these studies can inform future, related investigations.

During 2021, EPA completed a project to examine the historic uses of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) in construction materials in the State and a second study regarding Poly- and Perfluoro alkylated Substances (PFAS) in landfill leachate. The EPA developed and published guidance regarding the use of PFAS-containing firefighting foams for Fire Services. The EPA also commenced a study into the use of heat insulation materials containing a persistent organic pollutant Hexabromocyclododecane within the State and implications for its management. Monitoring was also commenced for a variety of hazardous substances including PFAS in 2021. This involves sampling on the Shannon and Brosna rivers four times with the final sampling to take place in early 2022.

The EPA prepared and submitted reports to the Global UN Minamata Convention on Mercury and EU Mercury Regulation. These reports incorporate information with a range of parties including FSAI, Marine Institute, Customs, HSE, HSA and Commissioner for Irish Lights. The EPA, following discussions with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), also prepared guidance on the Transportation and Temporary Storage of Metallic Mercury Waste aimed at Waste Transfer Facilities and Hazardous Waste Collection Permit Holders.

## Producer responsibility

The EPA has enforcement responsibilities under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Batteries, and Tyres Regulations. Enforcement efforts are focussed on non-compliant producers. Producers are companies that either manufacture or import electronic products, batteries or tyres and make them available for sale for the first time in Ireland.

Audits of Business to Business (B2B) producers focussed on producers who had reported zero take back of WEEE in 2019 and 2020. Business to Customer (B2C) enforcement focussed on distance seller websites, retail sectors with low WEEE take-back and potential free-riders in the window blinds sector. Fifty-six fixed payment notices were issued to non-compliant EEE producers.

The EPA focussed enforcement on the management of WEEE at EPA licensed facilities. Letters were issued to 196 licensed waste management facilities highlighting the need to effectively manage WEEE at their facilities. As imported cars include their tyres and batteries, the EPA engaged with 43 car importers to enforce their obligations under the tyres and batteries regulations.

**Table 7.** Summary statistics on the 2020 producer responsibility enforcement campaigns

Task	Total number of activities
Business to Business Producer WEEE Waste Management Plans reviewed	225
Business to Business Producer WEEE Waste Management Reports reviewed	615
Business to Business Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) Producer Audits	117
Business to Consumer EEE/Battery Distance-seller website inspections	60
Advisory letters issued to potential producers in the window blinds sector	40
Advisory letters issued to companies with historical low take back of WEEE	62
Retail inspections in sectors with historical low take back of WEEE	40
Circular letter issued to EPA-licensed waste facilities advising on WEEE management	196
Fixed Payment Notices issued	56
Tyre Producer Inspections	43
Non-compliances under tyres regulations issued to car importers	140
Non-compliances under batteries regulations issued to car importers	176

## Ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases

As part of the work to significantly reduce the use of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) and fluorinated gases (F-gas) with high global warming potential, the EPA produces guidance and carries out both desktop and on-site inspections of equipment end-users, engineering contractors servicing the relevant equipment and gas distributors. The EPA also prepares the National Halon Critical Use Report and the ODS Illegal Trade Report for submission to the European Commission.

## New Certification Process for F-gas contractors

Regulation of the F-gas sector requires persons and companies undertaking certain activities to be certified. Such certificates/attestations must be issued by a recognised awarding authority within the EU. Following the transition period after the UK's withdrawal from the EU (Brexit), certificates issued by organisations within the UK are no longer recognised within the EU. Prior to this, contractors within Ireland relied heavily on certification by UK organisations.

To avoid unnecessary re-training of contractors, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and the European Commission authorised the EPA to issue certificates to contractors holding valid UK certificates and an online application system was launched in 2019. In 2021, 644 Irish F-gas certificates/attestations were issued to service providers who held UK-based F-gas certificates so that they could continue to operate legally within the EU post-Brexit. A total of 3,733 Irish F-gas certificates have been issued by the EPA in 2021.

The EPA completed an assessment of F-gas and ODS use at Industrial Emissions (IE), Industrial Pollution Control (IPC) and Waste licensed sites with 289 sites having confirmed the use of these gases and detailed inventories. The study has raised awareness across the industrial and water sectors of F-Gas and ODS regulatory requirements, leading to better leak checking and reporting.

## Radiation protection inspections

The EPA carries out an annual programme of radiation protection inspections to assess compliance with legislation and authorisation conditions. These inspections allow the EPA to assess the standard of radiation protection at the sites inspected, to identify common or emerging issues across sites and to promote a strong radiation protection culture.

The inspection programme is set out annually based on several objective criteria including the radiological risk associated with the authorised practices, the time elapsed since the last inspection, and the compliance history of the facility. Reported incidents within the sector of operation are also considered along with any relevant information that has become available concerning either the authorised practices or the sectors in general.

During 2021, radiation protection inspections were undertaken in several sectors (Table 8) including five security surveys carried out with the assistance of An Garda Síochána National Crime Prevention Unit.

The focus of inspections for 2021 included radiation protection governance arrangements, implementation of the new Ionising Radiation Regulations (particularly the requirements on training, risk assessments, and worker categorisation), sites with disused radioactive sources, universities and satellite hospitals.

Inspection findings show that there is room for improvement in the areas of risk assessment (particularly in the industrial sector), radiation safety procedures and training. It was also identified that licensees need to strengthen their governance arrangements (including agreements with Radiation Protection Adviser's, designation of Radiation Protection Officers, and contractual arrangements with external service providers).

During 2021, eight reportable incidents and five reportable doses were notified to the EPA. Each of these matters were followed up as appropriate.

**Table 8.** Radiation protection licensee categories and inspections undertaken during 2021

Licensee sector	Number of completed inspections.
Hospital and medical facilities	37
Industrial and commercial (including source distributors and transport companies)	30
Education and research	6
Other licensees (low- and medium-risk vets, dentists, cabinet X-ray and X-ray distributors)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

## Local Authority Statutory Performance

A report on local authority environmental enforcement activities outlines the inspection and enforcement activities that local authorities carried out for 2020 focussing on national enforcement priorities. Waste enforcement activities largely remained resilient in 2020 with many good examples of multi-agency work and the improved coordination and strengthening of enforcement through the WERLA shared services. There was a reduction in enforcement activities in the area of Water and Air/Noise which needs to be addressed considering the decline in water quality and the significant health impacts associated with air and noise pollution.

The local authority performance framework was updated to evaluate the performance of local authorities in progressing national enforcement priorities designed to achieve environmental outcomes. The national enforcement priorities for 2022-2024 were developed under four themes: governance, waste, water and air/noise. This work involved significant engagement with DECC, local authorities, shared services, the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee (NWESC) and relevant EPA offices. The updated framework will provide greater transparency in relation to the performance of local authorities in their environmental protection functions where significant challenges remain in relation water quality, air pollution and waste crime.

## Prosecutions

There were 24 court appearances out of which thirteen prosecutions were heard and concluded in the District Court, resulting in 10 convictions and two other licensees received the benefit of the Probation Act while one case was dismissed (Table 9).

The Courts imposed fines of €131,250 and awarded legal costs of €187,034 and charitable donations of €5,000. Seventy-one per cent of fines were collected during 2021 with the balance expected to be collected in 2022.

**Table 9.** Legal Enforcement Activities Undertaken in 2021

Legal enforcement activity	Output
District Court prosecutions heard	13
Fines awarded in District Court	€131,250
Costs awarded in District Court	€187,034
<b>Total fines and costs</b>	<b>€318,284</b>
Charitable donations	€5,000





The EPA produces advice and guidance to industry, public bodies, and citizens covering a wide range of environmental activities to ensure compliance with best practice.

## 2.3 GUIDANCE

### Industrial and waste licensed sites

The EPA supports licensees by providing guidance to assist them comply with their statutory requirements. During the year, the EPA published three new air guidance notes and revised and updated four existing air guidance notes.

### Circular Economy

The National Waste Prevention Programme published guidance on management of hazardous waste, waste management plans for construction and demolition projects and updated guidance and training on Green Public Procurement. A public consultation was also carried out on the EPA's Circular Economy Programme.

### Waste water

The EPA published the new Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent  $\leq 10$ ) in 2021. The new Code provides details on how domestic waste water treatment systems should be constructed and maintained so they do not contaminate groundwater/surface water or endanger people's health

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

The EPA continued to update its guidance for plan-making authorities in carrying out strategic environmental assessments (SEA) of relevant plans, programmes and strategies. A Good Practice Guidance for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening was published, providing specific stand-alone guidance to assist plan/programme makers and SEA practitioners. A sectoral guidance document was also published to assist plan makers undertaking SEA in the energy sector.

### Noise mapping

In 2021, the EPA worked closely with local authorities and other noise mapping bodies to develop a more consistent national approach to strategic noise mapping of major roads and of agglomerations. Collection of data to underpin the fourth-round of strategic noise maps commenced in late 2021. In addition, EPA provided advice to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on the re-delineation of the agglomerations of Dublin and Cork to take account of changes in the extent of these areas since the original delineation in 2006. It also provided advice on the extent of the new Limerick noise agglomeration.







# 3

Provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, assessments and evidence to inform decision making by citizens, businesses and government.



### 3 KNOWLEDGE

#### 3.1 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

##### Air quality

In collaboration with local authorities and other bodies, the EPA manages and operates the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network (Figure 5). During 2021, data from the network was made available to the public through the new EPA website with improved functionality and reported in compliance with the requirements of the EU Clean Air for Europe Directive (CAFE) and 4th Daughter Directive. Data is assessed against European legal limit values and World Health Organization (WHO) guideline values.

The network was further expanded during 2021 with the addition of nine new monitoring stations. The network has now more than tripled in size since 2017 – 97 monitoring stations compared to 29 in 2017.

In November 2021, the EPA published its annual report on air quality in Ireland for 2020. The report concluded that while there was a large decrease in air pollution from traffic in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions and Ireland’s air quality was generally good during 2020, there are concerning localised issues.

Air quality impacts people’s health and there are an estimated 1,300 premature deaths in Ireland due to air pollution. Research carried out by the Health Service Executive (HSE) in conjunction with the EPA has shown the clear link between increased admissions to Dublin hospitals and poor or very poor status of the Air Quality Index for Health. Levels of particulate matter (fine particles) in air is of growing concern. Levels of this pollutant are particularly high during the winter months when people’s use of solid fuels such as coal, peat and wet wood negatively impacts air quality – especially in small towns and villages. Any movement along the spectrum of home heating choices and solid fuel choices towards cleaner modes (Figure 6) will have a subsequent improvement on air quality. Similarly, the health impact from transport emissions can be mitigated by making the right transport choices (Figure 7).

The EPA provides evidence-based assessment and timely information to all stakeholders, to support action to protect and manage the environment.

Figure 5. National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network



Figure 6. Infographic on the air quality and health aspects of home heating choices

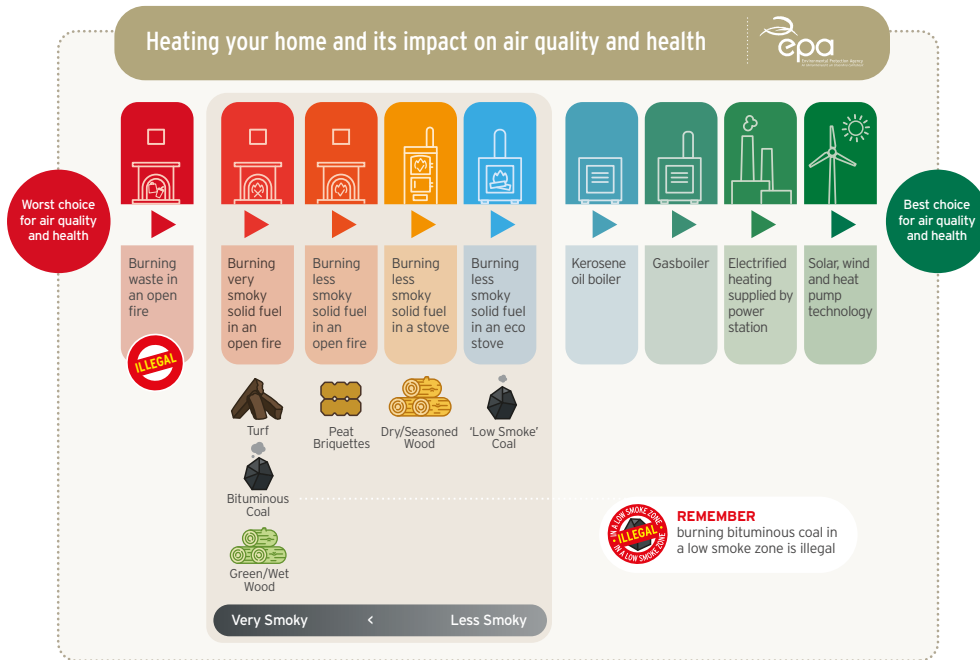
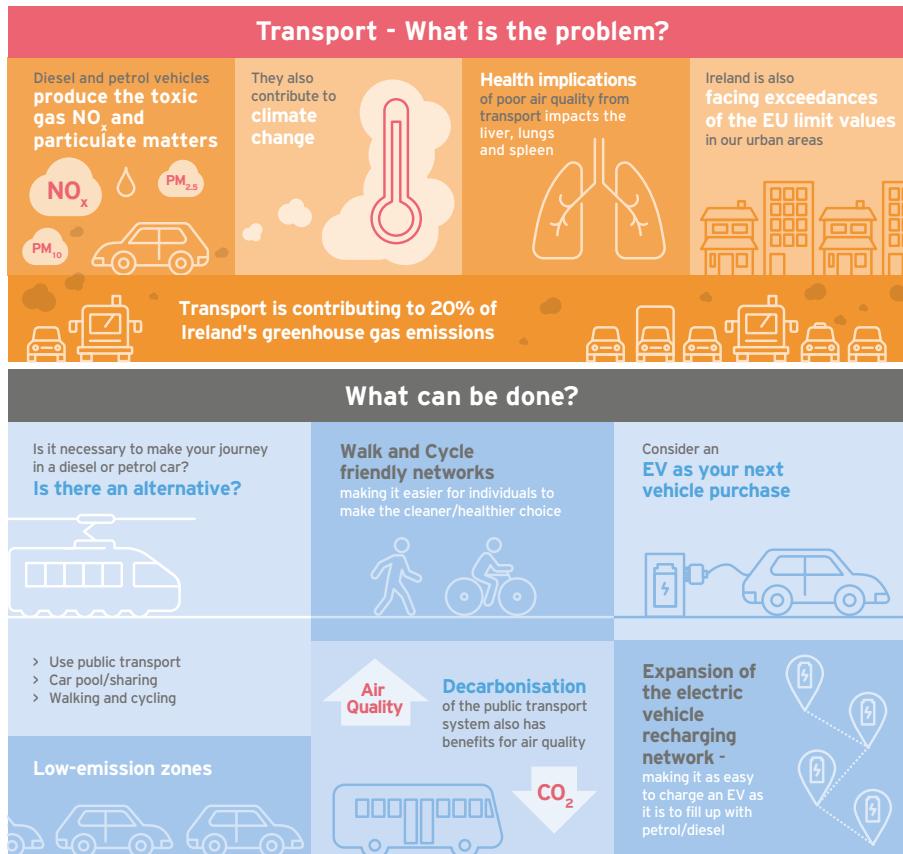


Figure 7. Infographic on the air quality and health aspects of transport choices





## Air pollutant emission inventories and projections

The EPA submitted air pollutant emissions inventory data for 2019 and emissions projections to 2040 to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), and the EU, under the National Emission Ceiling (NEC) Directive.

This latest report shows that, despite decreasing in 2019, ammonia emissions are still non-compliant with the EU ceiling and have now been non-compliant for seven out of the last nine years. Agriculture dominates emissions of ammonia (99%), which arise from animal manures and nitrogen fertiliser. However, there are some encouraging signs of abatement measures being adopted at farm level, with approximately 16% of cattle slurries applied using low emission spreading techniques, avoiding over 3,000 tonnes of ammonia emissions. There was also a four-fold increase, albeit from a low base, in the use of inhibited urea fertiliser products in 2019.

Emissions of nitrogen oxides – primarily from transport and diesel fuelled vehicles in particular – decreased by 9.2% in 2019 as vehicle NOx abatement technologies continue to improve. Emissions of non-methane volatile organic compounds also decreased slightly (1.1%) in 2019. These mostly arise from spirit production in the food and beverage industry, animal manures and fertilisers.

There was a 13.1% decrease in emissions of fine particulate matter due to lower heating requirements in 2019, while emissions of sulphur dioxide continued a downward trend.

Ireland is compliant for 2019 with the emissions ceilings under the NEC Directive for nitrogen oxides, non-methane volatile organic compounds and sulphur dioxide, whilst a ceiling for fine particulate matter doesn't come into force until 2020.

Emissions of all air pollutants need to reduce further to protect air quality and health and achieve compliance with EU emissions limits.

## Water Quality

The EPA is responsible for co-ordinating and implementing the national water quality monitoring programme, undertaking technical and scientific assessments to understand the pressures impacting on the water environment, and helping to inform the measures which need to be taken to protect and improve water quality. This information is also required for reporting to the EU on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and other water related activities.

Despite some impacts from Covid-19 restrictions, the national surface water and groundwater monitoring programme was substantially completed during 2021. Teams operating within public health guidelines undertook the following:

- Ecological surveys and chemical sampling from 1,539 waterbodies including rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal water bodies and groundwater.
- Collection and assessment of 2,073 biological samples from rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters.
- Chemical analysis of 15,391 water samples from rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters.
- Sampling and analysis of 768 groundwater samples over three rounds from approximately 270 wells and springs.

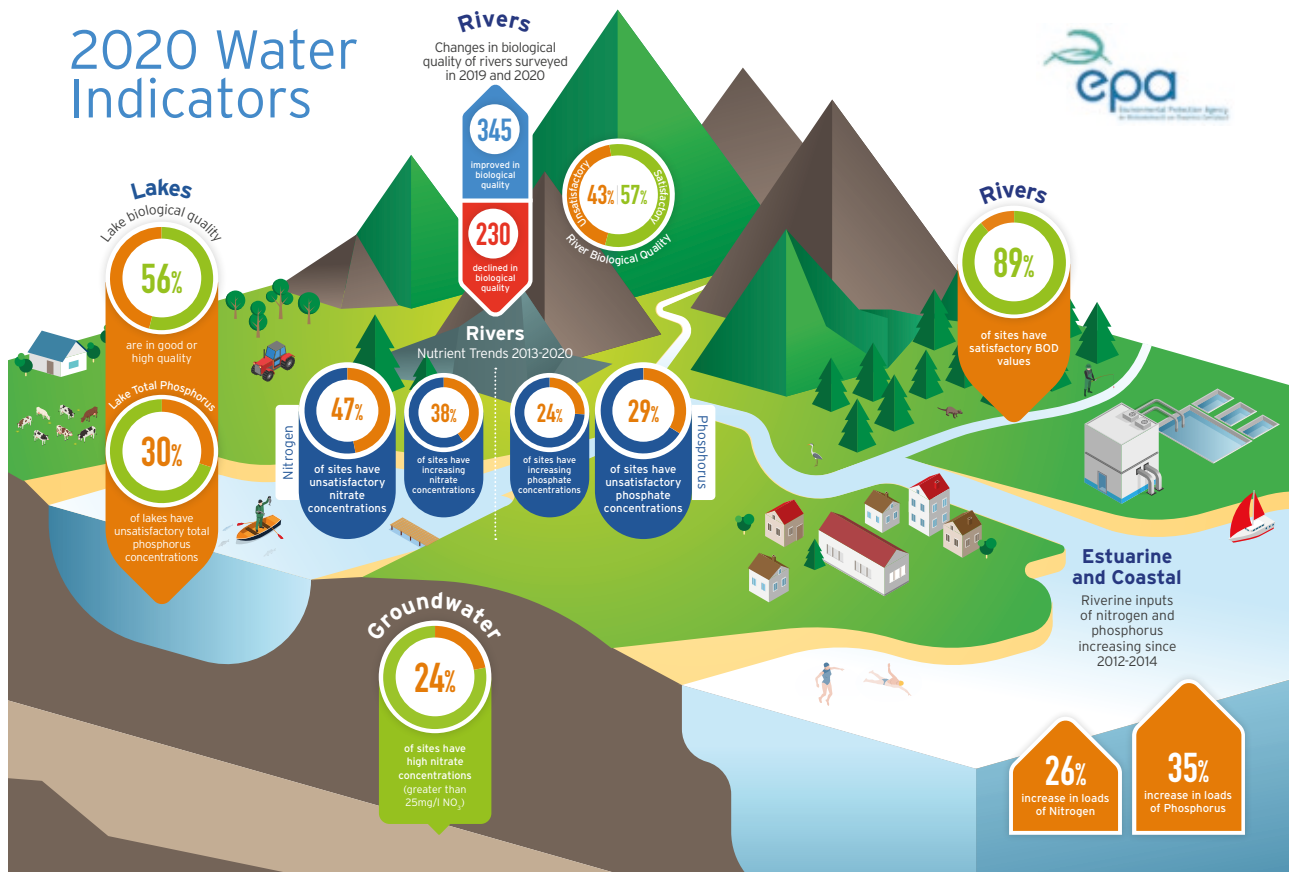
In July 2021, the EPA published the 'Water Quality in 2020 indicator report'. It provides an update on the quality of water in Ireland's rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters and groundwater using information collected in 2020. Figure 8 summarises the findings of the report.

The report highlighted that surface and groundwater continue to be under pressure from human activities: particularly from nitrogen and phosphorus from agriculture and waste water. There are some improvements in the biological quality of our rivers, however many are not as ecologically healthy as they should be. Focussed action is needed to see sustained improvements in water quality which is essential to our health and wellbeing. Just over half of our rivers and lakes are in good or high biological quality, meaning there is still a substantial amount of work to be done to bring the remaining waters back to a satisfactory standard. Also, of concern is the finding that nitrate concentrations in our rivers, estuaries and groundwaters are showing an upward trend, particularly in the south and southeast of the country.

There are however positive signs, particularly in Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) where some rivers are showing evidence of improvement. This is encouraging and indicates that targeting of measures in these areas which were selected as part of Ireland's national river basin management is leading to improvements in water quality.

The EPA also coordinated and published the annual report on emissions of nitrogen and phosphorus to water for 2020. This work supports the assessment of the impact of Ireland's Nitrates Derogation on water quality.

Figure 8. Water Quality Indicators 2020



In 2021, the EPA contributed to the draft third-cycle River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 (RBMP), published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), which set out the actions that Ireland will take to protect and improve water quality in water bodies. Assessments have been carried out on the distance to target for some of the pressures and stressors which is informing the objectives and the level of ambition of the plan. Further scenario analyses will be carried out in early 2022 on what the plan might achieve in terms of outcomes.

During 2021, the EPA continued the development of tools for assessing the risks of sediment impacts on water quality which helps characterise the pressures and provide the evidence base to target measures. A framework for providing guidance on ‘the right measure in the right place’ for river restoration and nature-based catchment

management solutions is nearing completion. The framework will include an approach for targeting measures to address activities impacting on the physical habitat conditions of surface waters, and their natural form and function. These hydromorphological pressures are the second most important stressor causing water quality impacts, after nutrients.

In September 2021, a new biological assessment method used to assess the impact of acidification on river ecology known as the Acid Waters Indicator Community Score (AWICS) was submitted to the European Commission’s evaluation committee as part of the EU-wide intercalibration exercise. The purpose of the intercalibration exercise is to ensure the assessment of water status across Europe is done in a consistent and comparable way. To date, Ireland has formally intercalibrated 15 out of the 17 methods used in the national monitoring programme.

The EPA in conjunction with researchers from National University of Ireland Galway, used information from the national monitoring programme on the coverage of green seaweed blooms to successfully demonstrate the use of Copernicus remote sensing data and machine learning to monitor water quality in estuarine waters. The outputs from this work have been published as a peer reviewed scientific publication (<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.633128#>). Satellite information was subsequently collected to assess the condition of green seaweed blooms in Irish estuaries in the summer of 2021 as part of the national WFD monitoring programme.

### Hydrometric programme

The EPA continues to provide hydrometric data to support national and international reporting obligations, water resource planning and management, flood risk management, infrastructure design and a variety of other activities.

During 2021, the EPA carried out 2,203 assessments of groundwater levels and surface water levels and/or flow at sites throughout the country. These assessments primarily focused on the EPA/local authority network of sites, but also included targeted flow measurements where data was needed for specific purposes. The frequency of site visits was tailored to the site requirements and natural variability in the river channel. The data are available for download via the EPA's HydroNet web portal.

The groundwater monitoring programme for 2021 consisted of three sampling rounds with a total of 768 groundwater samples taken from wells and springs across the country. Groundwater chemistry data is available to download via the EPA Geoportal. Every year annual quality and water level data are reported to the European Environment Agency's Water Framework Directive (WFD) WISE database to support implementation of the WFD.

The EPA completed a technical assessment of the network of surface water hydrometric stations and national hydrometric requirements in 2021. This included consultation with relevant stakeholders e.g. Office of Public Works (OPW), Marine Institute and the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), for the publication of the National Hydrometric Programme 2022-27. An updated register of all active and inactive surface water hydrometric stations in Ireland was updated and published on the EPA website.

In September 2021, the EPA carried out a water balance assessment on the Grand Canal for Waterways Ireland. The assessment identified which section of the canal had significant leakage and allows for better management of the canal. This assessment will also be beneficial for the forthcoming abstraction licensing regime. The Barrow Line section of the Grand Canal is scheduled for assessment in 2022.

The EPA continues to maintain the National Abstraction Registration portal under the abstraction registration regulations. At the end of 2021, there were 2,818 individual abstraction points registered with the EPA. The abstraction data is integrated into the WFD risk characterisation process.

Under the EU WFD Working Group on Groundwater, Ireland is leading a task to develop tools for assessing the impacts of climate change on groundwater. In 2021, a review of data and analysis of Member State practices was completed, and its findings and guidance recommendations are to be published by the Working Group in early 2022.

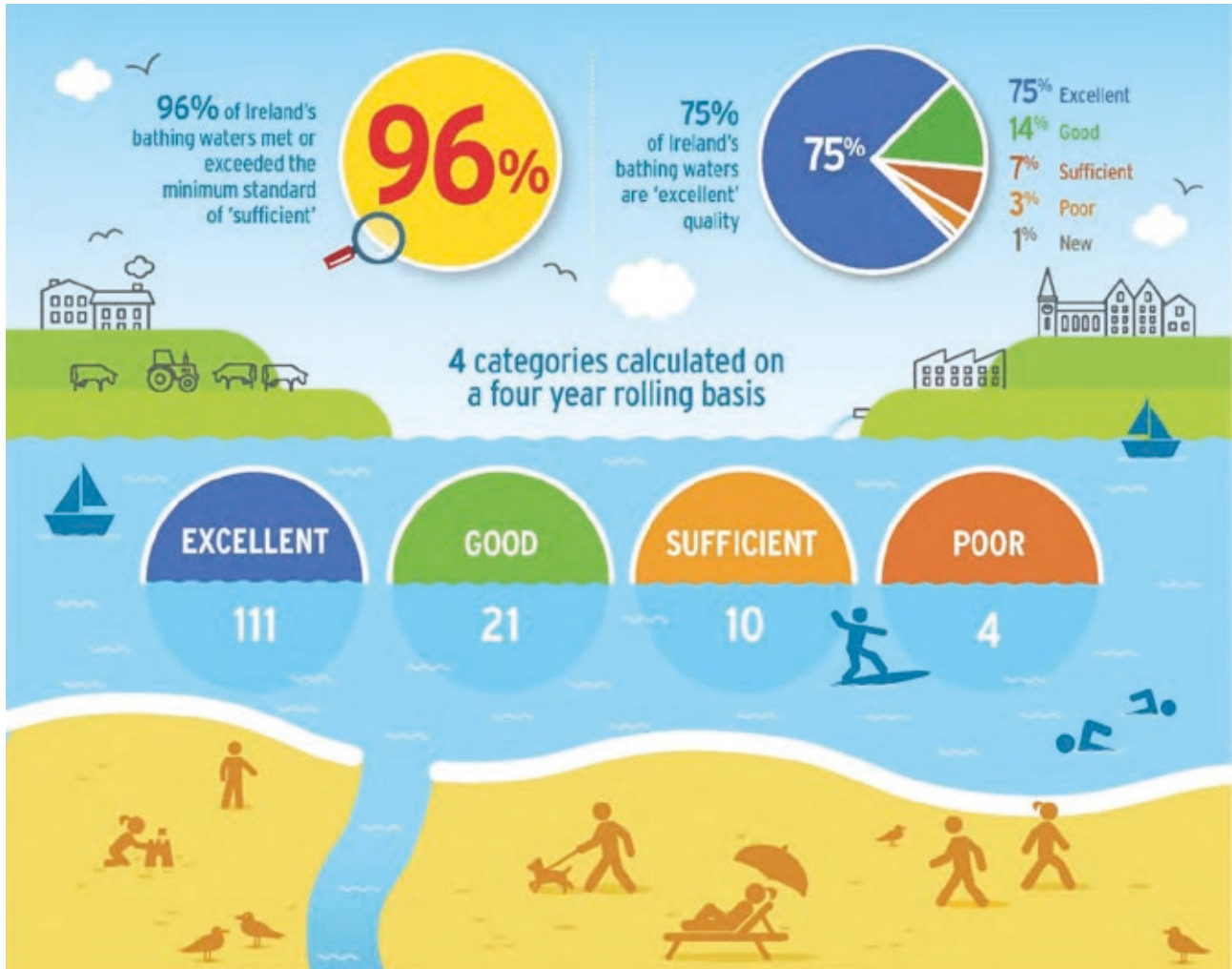
### Bathing water quality

During 2021, the EPA published the annual bathing water report that assessed results for the 2020 bathing season. Details of the 2020 bathing water quality assessments are summarised in Figure 9. The report found that 96% of bathing waters (142 of 148) in 2020 met or exceeded the minimum required standard. This is up from 95% in 2019.

The EPA worked with local authorities to ensure that the 2021 bathing water season was successfully managed despite the restrictions due to Covid-19.

In 2021, Beaches.ie was upgraded to capture and publish out of season monitoring data which are collected by some of the Dublin local authorities. The EPA has been working together with the Bathing Water Expert Group, which is led by the DHLGH, to develop an approach to protecting bathers' health outside the bathing water season.

**Figure 9.** Bathing water quality in 2020



## Climate change

### Emission inventories

In October 2021, the EPA published provisional Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data for 2020. The figures show a reduction in emissions of 3.6% compared to 2019, which although significant, is 0.4% less than the reduction seen in 2019.

Significant emission reductions were recorded for the Energy Industries sector due mainly to a 51% decrease in peat used in electricity generation and increases in wind used in electricity generation. This reduction was despite a similar level of electricity demand to 2019 and resulted in an 8.1% decrease in the emissions intensity of power generation in 2020. The lockdown measures put in place in response to the Covid-19 pandemic led to significant emissions reductions in the Transport sector but increases in the Residential sector.

The figures indicate that Ireland exceeded its 2020 annual EU emissions allocation by 6.7Mt and cumulatively exceeded its allocation over the lifetime of the 2013–2020 Effort Sharing Decision (ESD) by over 12 Mt. Emissions covered under the ESD in 2020 had only decreased by 7% on the 2005 level compared to the overall target of a 20% reduction.

### Emissions projections

In June 2021, the EPA published greenhouse gas emission projections out to 2040. Ireland can meet our current EU commitments over the 2021 to 2030 period if all current plans and policies are fully implemented.

Projections indicate that under the best-case scenario, with all the measures set out in the 2019 Climate Action Plan fully implemented, Ireland's 2030 emissions will be 24% lower than 2018 levels.



However, for Ireland to meet the more ambitious targets as presented in the European Climate Law and Ireland's Climate Bill, and to transform to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy by 2050, there needs to be a significant and immediate increase in the scale and pace of greenhouse gas emission reductions.

### Climate change impacts

In August the EPA joined with Met Éireann and the Marine Institute to publish a report on 'The Status of Ireland's Climate'. The report prepared by MaREI, University College Cork provides a comprehensive analysis of climate data collected in Ireland. It details how global changes are being reflected in Ireland's atmosphere, oceans and landscape. Global warming has resulted in Ireland's climate becoming warmer and wetter. Sea level rise, increased ocean acidity, and higher ocean temperatures are also observed in our oceans and coastal areas. Ireland's ocean and terrestrial ecosystems are responding to these changes, resulting in changes in ocean species and a longer growing season on land.

### Climate change in the Irish Mind

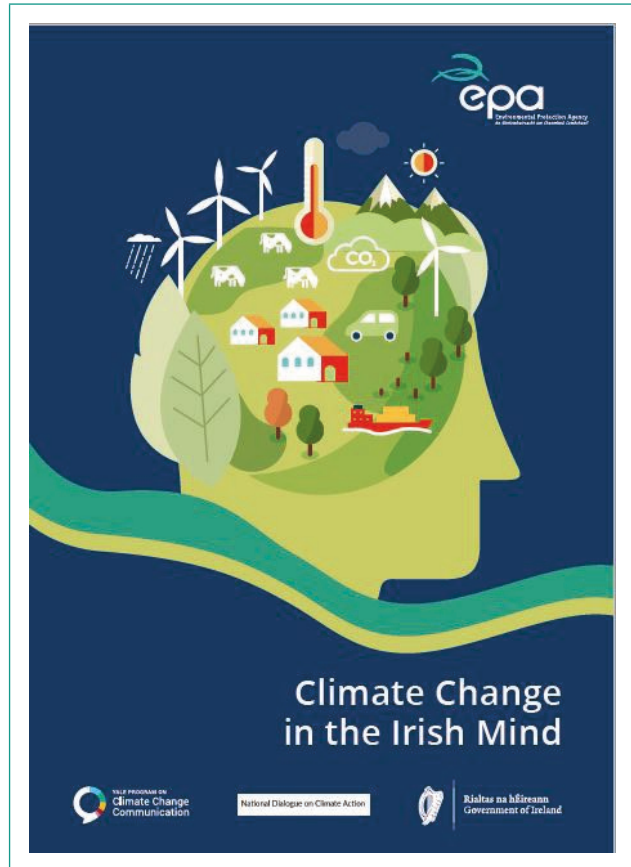
In December the EPA published the first report from 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' project. This work was undertaken by EPA and the Yale University Program on Climate Change Communication (its academic partner) in support of the National Dialogue on Climate Action. The project aims to develop a better understanding of the Irish population by conducting a baseline study of public climate change beliefs, risk perceptions, policy preferences, and behaviour of the Irish public to climate change. The project will deliver three key outputs: 1) A Climate Change in the Irish Mind report; 2) A segmentation report and 3) an online interactive map.

The report 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' is based on a nationally representative survey of more than 4,000 people during the summer of 2021.

The results are emphatic:

- Irish people are in almost full agreement that climate change is happening and 85% are worried about it.
- 91% of people say climate change is important to them personally and (79%) say climate change should be either a "very high" or "high" priority for the Government of Ireland.

- Irish people strongly support a range of policies to address climate change. People also think that climate action will increase jobs, economic growth and quality of life (78%).
- Scientists, experts and the EPA are very highly trusted sources of information about climate change.



### Five-Year Assessment Report

Work on an assessment of understanding of key aspects of climate change under a 'Five-Year Assessment Report' was commenced in 2021. The report will build on and localise information provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and is designed to inform climate policy and actions. A team of nine lead authors from Ireland's research community are preparing the report which is primarily supported by the EPA with co-funding from Science Foundation Ireland, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and Department of Transport.

## European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register

If an operator carrying out a PRTR activity has emissions or waste transfers above specified thresholds, information is provided by the operator to the EPA concerning the amount of pollutant releases to air, water, and waste water as well as off-site transfers of waste.

The 2019 PRTR data was submitted to the European Commission in March 2020 and is published on the national PRTR website (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/PRTR>). During 2021, the 2020 data was collected and validated, and was reported to the European Commission in November 2021.

Analysis of the 2020 data shows that there was a small increase in the number of operators reporting under PRTR. Overall, there was a decrease in releases to air by these operators for pollutants such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, chlorofluorocarbons, dioxins/furans, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, mercury, methane, nitrogen oxides, nitrous oxide, non-methane volatile organic compounds, sulphur oxides, sulphur hexafluoride; while releases of ammonia, chlorine, hydro-fluorocarbons, nickel, perfluorocarbons, PM10 increased. There were increases in total nitrogen, total phosphorus, fluorides, mercury and pesticides releases to water – particularly from large urban waste water treatment plants. There was a decrease in hazardous waste transfers, both for hazardous waste sent abroad and transferred within Ireland. The quantity of non-hazardous waste transferred also increased in 2020.

## Waste

The EPA's National Waste Statistics web resource ([www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/](http://www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/)) continues to provide the most recent available waste data for Ireland to view and download. During 2021, online data releases were published for a range of waste stream including municipal, household, packaging, hazardous, composting, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), end-of-life vehicles, tyres and construction & demolition waste.

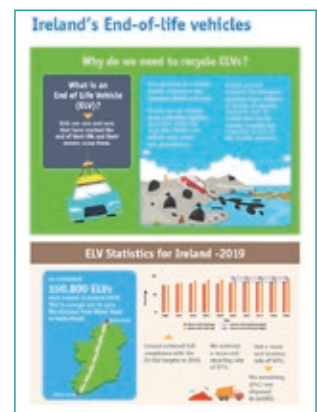
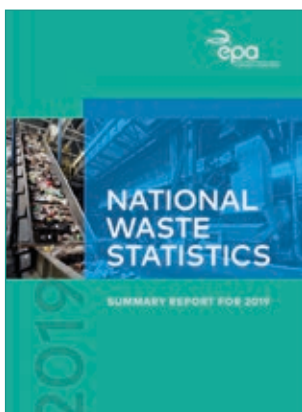
The latest EPA data show that waste generation in Ireland continued to rise in 2019 while recycling rates fell as efforts to improve recycling were outstripped by the growth in waste being generated and more waste being sent for energy recovery. Ireland continues to have some significant waste infrastructure deficits and relies heavily on exporting waste abroad for treatment. The data show that Ireland faces a widening gap to meet ambitious new EU recycling targets and to transition to a circular economy.

The 'National Waste Statistics Summary Report for 2019' was published in December 2021, summarising the latest waste data, key trends and Ireland's progress towards meeting EU targets.

## Chemicals in the environment

The EPA is the responsible body in Ireland for the implementation of a range of legislation related to chemicals in the environment and their potential effects. This includes the Persistent Organic Pollutant (POPs) Regulation (EU Regulation 2019/1021) and the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the Mercury Regulation (EU Regulation 2017/852), the Paints Directive (EU Directive 2004/42/EC), the EU Directive on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS, Directive 2011/65/EU) and the EU End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations (EU Directive 2000/53/EC).

The EPA continues to monitor developments regarding the restrictions on Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and related substances (POPs). During 2021, the EPA had many commonly used firefighting foams checked for Poly- and Perfluoro alkylated Substances (PFAS). Also, the EPA carried out checks on a variety of items ranging from haircare products to exercise accessories for not only currently restricted hazardous substances under relevant legislation but also, where appropriate, other chemicals of emerging concern. A number of potential non-compliances were identified and EPA is progressing investigations to determine if these products were placed on the market after the date when the restrictions came into force.

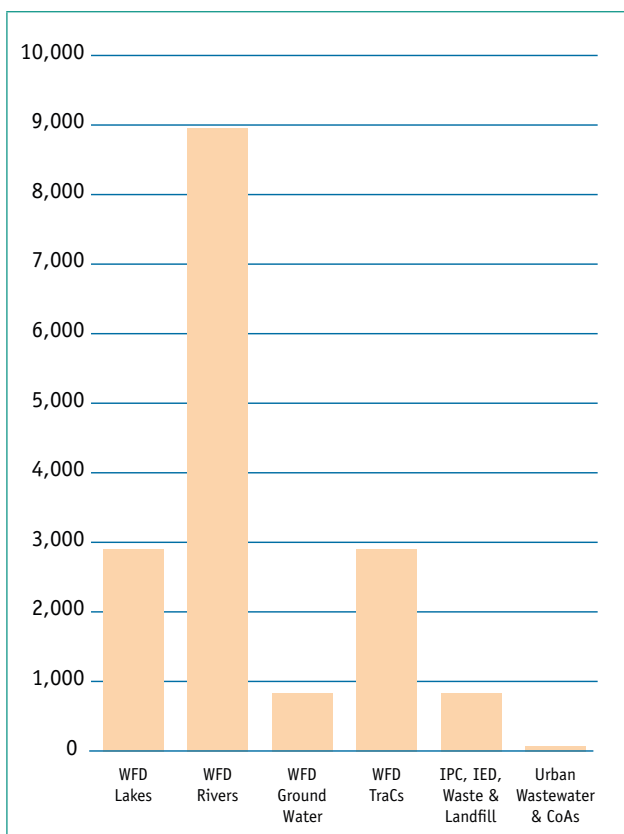


## Environment laboratory services

The EPA laboratories in Castlebar, Dublin, Kilkenny and Monaghan undertake analysis to support the implementation of monitoring programmes, licensing, enforcement, and the Water Framework Directive.

These laboratories, together with the sampling team in Cork, carry out monitoring, analysis and reporting of samples taken for enforcement at licensed facilities, as well as auditing at poultry and waste water treatment sites. The laboratories also analyse samples from rivers, lakes, groundwaters and transitional and coastal waters under the National WFD Monitoring Programmes. During 2021, the laboratories carried out a range of analyses on 15,391 samples. This is an increase on the 13,866 samples analysed in 2020 and close to the number of samples analysed prior to Covid-19 restrictions in 2019. A breakdown of the sample numbers analysed in 2021 is provided in Figure 10. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, sampling was prioritised for WFD and the EPA's enforcement programme. However, the auditing programme of local authority sampling was not undertaken in 2021.

**Figure 10.** Number of samples, by type, analysed by EPA water laboratories in 2021



In July 2021, the air, radiation, and water laboratories were re-assessed against the requirements of the ISO 17025:2017 standard by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB). The successful audit recognised the work of the EPA in continuous development, maintenance and support of the quality system across several sites.

The Lean Change Programme continued to deliver benefits for the EPA's laboratories in 2021. Lean projects completed included Radiation Instrument Calibration and Product Certification process, procurement of laboratory consumables, gas and chemicals, and implementation of a Kanban system for inventory management. The Lean turnaround times project for water laboratory reports continued and was extended to include WFD samples.

## Radiation monitoring

### Instrument calibration service

The EPA's Instrument Calibration Service provides an accredited calibration service for a range of radiation protection instruments, including survey meters, contamination meters and electronic personal dosimeters. This supports monitoring of radiation levels and radiation safety in the workplace for licensees and stakeholders in industry, medicine, defence, research, regulation, and emergency response.

The service continued to provide high quality calibrations for radiation monitors used to protect workers and the public from external exposures with 310 calibrations undertaken in 2021.

### Radioanalytical services

The EPA measures radioactivity in a wide range of foodstuffs and environmental samples. This work is undertaken both in support of the EPA's environmental radioactivity monitoring programmes and on a contract basis for external clients.

The contract radioanalytical services provided during 2021 included:

- Testing of Irish produce for compliance with the requirements of importing countries as well as imported animal-feed grains from third- countries.
- Testing of drinking water for compliance with the requirements of the European Communities Regulations.
- Testing of wipe-tests undertaken on radioactive sources to identify leakages.
- Testing of dredged samples for compliance with the requirements of the Dumping at Sea Act 1996, as amended.

In total, 487 contract samples were tested during 2021.

The 2021 radiation monitoring programme involved sampling and testing for radioactivity in air, drinking water, soil, seawater, seaweed, sediments, fish, shellfish, mixed diet and other foodstuffs as well as the continuous measurement of the ambient gamma dose rate at fixed monitoring stations around the country.

The 2017-2022 national surveillance programme for radioactivity in drinking water continued in 2021, though the programme was impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. In addition, a survey of radioactivity in Irish bottled water was completed in 2021.

A total of 537 environmental samples were analysed for various monitoring programmes during the year. The findings of this monitoring showed that, although the levels of artificial radioactivity in the Irish environment remain detectable, they are low and do not pose a significant risk to human health.

The EPA also supports the Irish food and agriculture industry through the assessment of the radioactivity status of Irish foodstuffs. This assessment provides the basis for certifying radioactivity in produce for export following the 1986 Chernobyl accident. The number of product certificates issued in 2021 was 3,237.

### National Radiation Monitoring Network

The National Radiation Monitoring Network (NRMN) is maintained as part of the EPA's responsibilities under the National Plan for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Exposure. The Network currently includes fifteen dose-rate monitors that send live data to the EPA website as well as to the European Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency. Five field instruments measure radioactivity on aerosol filters and send live data to the EPA. This data would be used in the event of an overseas nuclear or radiological accident. An additional seven aerosol and ten rainwater samplers continuously gather samples for off-line analysis in EPA laboratories.

The redevelopment of the NRMN continued in 2021. Significant civil works were undertaken at agreed sites in co-operation with site owners. Deployment of instruments and testing onsite began in 2021.



NRMN site at Athlone Barracks showing progression of work



Onsite deployment of gamma dose rate monitor



## European Commission Article 35 Verification Visit

Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty requires Member States to establish the facilities necessary to carry out continuous monitoring of the levels of radioactivity in the air, water and soil and to ensure compliance with the Basic Safety Standards. In accordance with Article 35, the Commission carries out a programme of Verification visits in Member States. The principal purpose of such visits is to provide an independent assessment of the adequacy of monitoring facilities for environmental radioactivity. The EPA hosted the Commission visit in November and visited Defence Forces and Civil Defence sites to inspect the National Radiation Monitoring Network. The preliminary feedback was positive overall and noted the commitment and engagement of EPA staff. Their full report is due in 2022.



Article 35 Verification Visit

## National Radon Control Strategy

The National Radon Control Strategy (NRCS) is a cross-government strategy that aims to reduce the incidence of radon-related lung cancer cases in Ireland. The EPA, with other stakeholders, implemented the actions for 2021, as set out in the strategy.

Field trials on the effectiveness of 'passive sumps' as a radon preventive measure were undertaken and built on previous EPA funded research on the optimal radon preventive measures for the construction of homes in Ireland. This work was carried out in collaboration with a radon contractor, Wexford County Council, the DHLGH and University College Dublin. The trials found that passive systems (passive sump and static cowl) offer a sustainable and low-cost preventive measure to reduce radon in newly built dwellings.

In collaboration with researchers in Trinity College Dublin and the Geological Survey of Ireland, the EPA completed the development of a refined radon risk map during 2021. The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), in conjunction with EPA, undertook user testing of the new map with over a thousand members of the public. The study found that improved messaging and a better search function for the map will dramatically improve its effectiveness. The EPA will publish the map in 2022 at a national radon forum event.

European Radon Day 2021 was marked on the 7th of November with a week-long radon awareness campaign that highlighted the importance of testing and remediation through a series of radio advertisements and a social media campaign.

## Non-ionising radiation

During 2021, EPA implemented a national monitoring programme for Non-Ionising Radiation (NIR) within the frequency range 0 Hz to 300 GHz. This frequency range is commonly referred to as Electromagnetic Fields (EMF). The monitoring programme supports the EPA's advisory role in relation to public exposure to EMF and will assess the population exposure to EMF by determining the typical levels of exposure found in everyday environments in Ireland, particularly in those areas with a high population and/or footfall. The objective of the programme is to establish a baseline for EMF levels in Ireland and over time use this baseline to assess the effect that the deployment of new telecommunication technologies or new electricity infrastructure may have. Measurements recommenced in March 2021 following delays due to Covid-19 restrictions with measurements completed at 30 of the 56 sites on the programme by December. The results from monitoring will be available in 2022.

No adverse health effects have been proven at EMF exposure levels below international guidelines as set out by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The ICNIRP guidelines are endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Commission. The EPA continued to provide advice to the public during 2021 on EMF and added content to its website on Wi-Fi devices and smart meters. <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/emf/health/>.

During 2020, ICNIRP published updated recommendations on Radio-Frequency EMF (RF-EMF) which covers the frequency range envisaged for 5G. The deployment of 5G technologies across Ireland is not expected to increase the public EMF exposure to levels close to the ICNIRP values.

Mobile phone handsets are the most significant source of public exposure to RF-EMF as their exposure is typically much higher than that from other radiofrequency sources such as mobile phone base stations or masts. These ICNIRP recommendations are now being evaluated by an expert EU committee. This evaluation is due to be finalised by end of 2022. EPA is monitoring this evaluation in the context of its statutory advice role.

## Ecosystems Monitoring and Reporting

The revised National Emissions Ceiling (NEC) Directive (2016/2284) requires Member States to monitor negative impacts of air pollution on ecosystems based on a network of sites that is representative of their freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types, taking a cost-effective and risk-based approach. A scoping study was undertaken to identify the necessary extent and elements of a monitoring network for Ireland which could provide robust data on the impact of air pollution on sensitive habitats such as raised and blanket bogs, grasslands and heathlands. The recommended network was based on achieving synergy with existing biological and ecosystems monitoring activities carried out by the EPA and by other organisations such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Food, Agriculture and Marine and academia. In 2021 EPA established the network with monitoring completed of a small number of sites covering bogs and heathlands. Some additional atmospheric ammonia monitoring sites were also established. When complete the network will focus on monitoring the impacts of nitrogen deposition (mostly from agriculture) on sensitive national habitats.

## Noise

The Environmental Noise Directive (END) is implemented through S.I. No. 549 of the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018. The aim of these regulations is to avoid, prevent or reduce the harmful effects of environmental noise through the preparation of strategic noise maps and the development and implementation of noise action plans. These regulations assign the EPA supervisory, advisory and coordination functions in relation to noise mapping and noise action planning.

Work on coordinating the Round-4 environmental noise mapping project for the Environmental Noise Directive continued in 2021. The EPA held bilateral meetings and technical discussions with the Department of Environment,

Climate and Communications (DECC) and the bodies responsible for strategic noise maps; and other organisation that can provide data for the project. These bodies include Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Irish Rail, Roads Management Office (RMO), National Transport Agency (NTA), Local Authorities, Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) & Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). The EPA progressed aspects around the extent of the three cities (Dublin, Limerick and Cork) that need to be modelled and mapped and worked on developing advice and technical guidance for road noise for Round-4 mapping.

Work on data collection outside of the agglomerations was progressed with good cooperation between Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the RMO, the LGMA and local authorities. Work within the three agglomerations was delayed in 2021 but the appointment a project manager in Dublin City Council to manage the mapping project for all three agglomerations was a positive development. The noise mapping and modelling work will continue during 2022.

Sixty per cent of annual progress reports on Noise Action Plans due from the local authorities for 2020, were received by the EPA. This is an area that will be focussed on by the EPA in 2022. Implementation of Noise Action Plans (noise mitigation) is a complex issue involving many organisations including: local authorities, TII and DECC.

## Land use

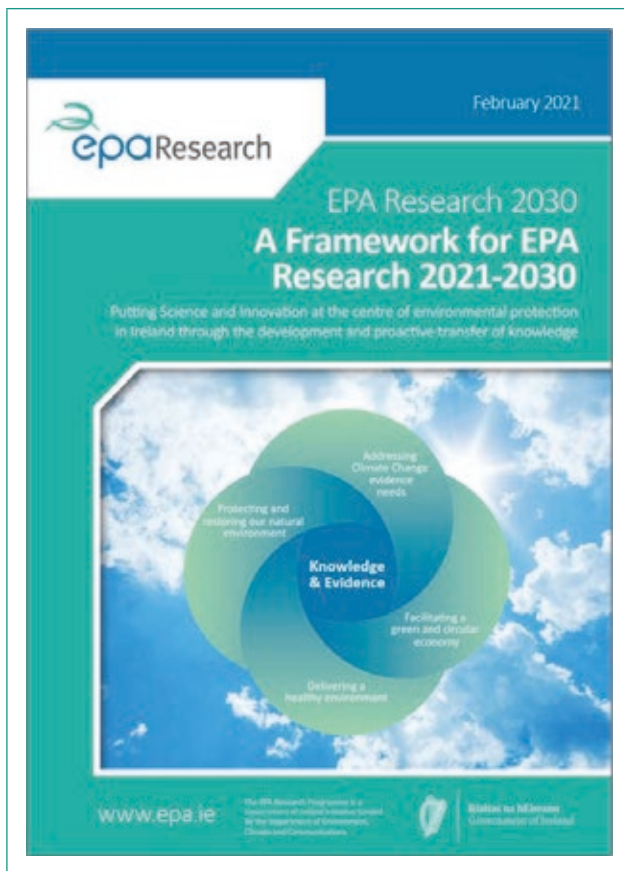
Ireland's land is a precious resource and fundamental to our economy, our environment, and our wellbeing. As such, a holistic systems approach is required to use and manage land to balance the many demands that are placed on it in terms of the complex challenges of climate change, water quality and biodiversity loss. Action 393 of the 2021 Climate Action Plan tasked the EPA with leading Phase 1 of a national Land Use Evidential Review. This work is assisted by several state agencies and government departments through a national steering group chaired by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and DECC. Phase-1 of the evidence review which commenced in mid-2021 is expected to be completed in the second half of 2022. The output is expected to support Government decision making in relation to identifying appropriate land use policies, measures and actions in the context of the it's wider economic, social and climate objectives.

Effective management of the environment is increasingly science driven. Through its research programme, the EPA is generating the knowledge and expertise to identify pressures, inform policy and develop solutions to environmental challenges.

### 3.2 RESEARCH

The EPA has a statutory responsibility for the coordination of environmental research in Ireland. This research has greatly assisted Ireland in meeting and addressing national challenges as well as international obligations at EU and United Nations levels in the areas of climate change, water quality, air quality, sustainability, health and the environment, and biodiversity.

The EPA's new ten-year high-level framework for research programming 'EPA Research 2030', was launched in March 2021. The framework is designed to be agile, responsive and flexible and aims to deliver essential scientific support for environmental policy development, implementation and broader decision making. Alongside the Framework, an action plan – providing a guide for the planned activities of the EPA Research Programme – as well as an assessment of the thematic areas – giving an overview of the priority research areas of focus for the period 2021-2023 – were also launched and will support and act as a resource for implementation of the Framework.



EPA Research 2030 thematic structure comprises four interconnected hubs:

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

The scope of EPA-funded research is informed by its relevance to policy and its alignment with the key activities of the EPA. Consideration of the interactions between social, behavioural and economic factors as an integral component of environmental research will lead to enhanced governance and more effective implementation of environmental policies and strategies.

#### Research Management

As of December 2021, the EPA managed 238 EPA Research and Collaborative (i.e. transnational) projects, as well as administering another 107 awards from strategic partnerships and event support scheme. The EPA's Grant Management and Application System was rebuilt and rolled out in May 2021.

## New Awards in 2021

In 2021, a total of 62 awards were made, including strategic partnerships at national and international level:

- 30 awards were made (€7.49m commitment) under the 2021 EPA Research Call.
- Eight projects were awarded with a total funding of €710k under the 2021 'EPA Green Enterprise Call'.
- 'The EPA Research Event Support scheme' opened in July 2021. Nine projects with a value of over €26k were awarded.
- 'The EPA new Fast-track to Policy Funding Scheme' opened as a pilot scheme in August 2021 – Two projects have been awarded.

## EPA national Strategic Partnerships:

- Three awards were made as part of the 2021/2022 'Fulbright-EPA awards'.
- Seven scholarships have been awarded under the 2020/2021 'EPA-Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scheme'.
- The EPA also committed to providing co-funding of:
  - €400k over the period 2022-2027 for two projects awarded under the 2021 'Marine Institute Blue Economy Call'.
  - €500k over the period 2022-2027 for two projects awarded under the 2021 'Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) Call'.
- Phase III of the 'EPA-ESRI Environment Research Programme' continued in 2021.
- The 'EPA-IPA Research Framework' has published two EPA Research Reports in 2021:
  - EPA Research Report 372: Using the OECD Water Governance Indicator Framework to Review the Implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018–2021.
  - EPA Research Report 373: Using an Experimental Governance Lens to Examine Governance of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018–2021.

## EPA international Strategic Partnerships:

- The configuration for the Programme Committees under 'Horizon Europe' has been finalised. The EPA is involved as national expert/contact point for Cluster-5: Climate, Energy & Mobility and Cluster-6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment. The Work programmes 2021–2022 were published in June 2021.
- Three projects with Irish researchers were successful in EPA supported European funding competitions.

## Research Linkages

The EPA actively participated in the 'Innovation 2020 Implementation Group' and continued its participation in the 'Research Integrity National Forum', 'National Open Research Forum', as well as 'Gender-related' and 'Engaged' research fora.

## Research coordination

The governance and structure of the EPA national research coordination activities were reviewed in 2021 and the three Research Coordination Groups (Sustainability, Water and Climate) were combined into the National Environmental Research Coordination Group (NERCG). The NERCG currently consists of 44 organisations. Additions to the NERCG membership in 2021 include the Department of an Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Climate Research Coordination Group (CRCG) remains as a sub-group, as part of its obligation under the Climate Action Plan to produce an annual report on Climate research.

The third 'Annual Report of Activities (2020)' for the CRCG was published in July 2021 and provides a summary of CRCG activities from January to December 2020.



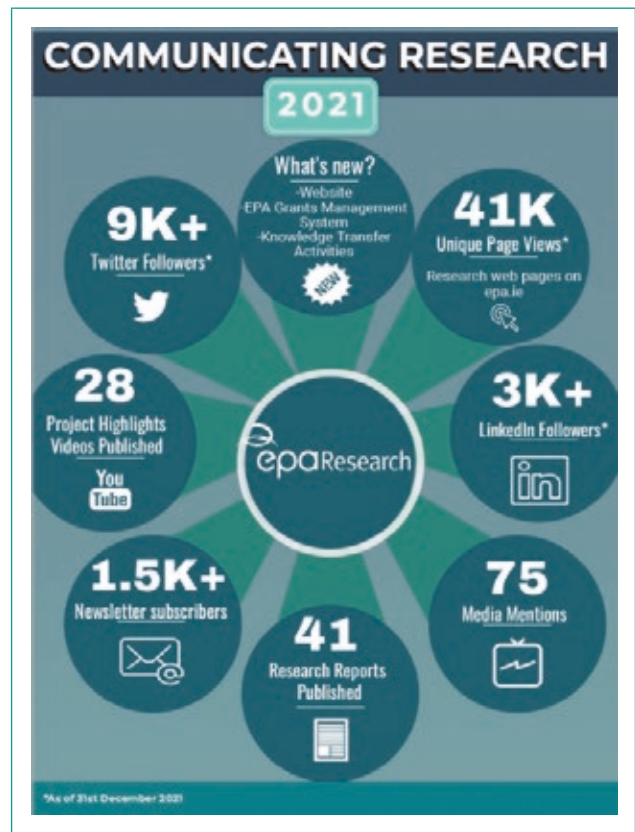




## Research Communication

The EPA published 41 new research reports, three small-scale studies, and 28 Projects Highlights Videos. These are available for download from the EPA website: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa-funded-research/epa-research-publications/>.

A new Knowledge Transfer project commenced which is supported by ERINN Innovation. The contract aims to support better knowledge transfer from EPA-funded research projects to policy-makers and policy implementation actors. The project commenced in October 2021 and will run for two years.



Provide timely and tailored information to meet the specific needs of stakeholder groups.

### 3.3 TIMELY AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

The EPA monitors and reports on Ireland's environment and regulated entities. The data gathered, managed and analysed not only provides efficiencies for both the EPA and those it regulates, it also provides independent, evidence-based information, in an open and transparent manner to inform decision making by a broad range of stakeholders including government, non-governmental organisations, state agencies, industry and the public. Information is provided in a timely and accessible manner, principally through online resources.

#### State of the Environment Report

Following the publication of the four-yearly State of Environment report in late 2020, the EPA continued to promote its findings, publishing a booklet presenting summary information, key messages, chapter highlights, actions, current assessment and outlook.



#### Online resources

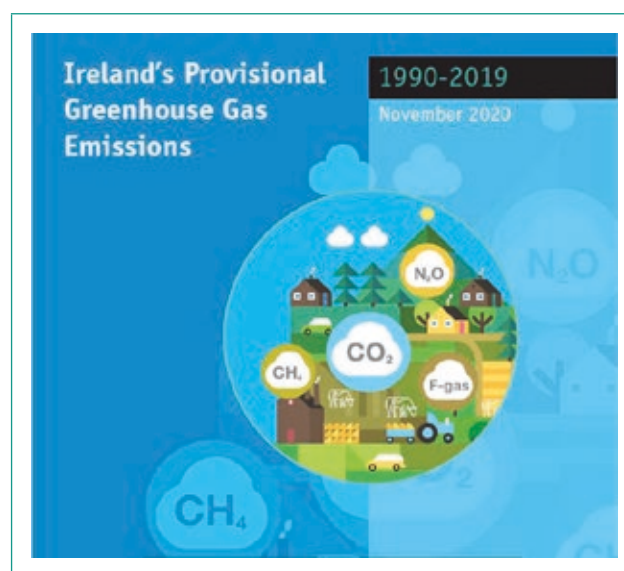
##### Ireland's Environment

The Ireland's Environment web resource ([www.epa.ie/irelands-environment](http://www.epa.ie/irelands-environment)) provides environmental data on an easy-to-navigate platform. The web resource was updated regularly during 2021, with new data from EPA reports being provided under eight environmental themes: climate, air, water, waste, nature, land and soil, environment and wellbeing, sustainable economy. Information on the pages is available in accessible formats including videos, charts, infographics, environmental indicators and factsheets. The portal also provides access to State of Environment reports and products published by the EPA, including the most recent report, 'Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020.'

#### Air quality

In 2021, the EPA's air quality webpages ([www.epa.ie/air-quality](http://www.epa.ie/air-quality)) were further upgraded to a newer display system as part of a wider website upgrade, with improved functionality allowing easier access to real-time air quality information from the substantially expanded national monitoring network. This web resource provides a station-based Air Quality Index for Health (AQIH) that translates measured data into a scale indicating how good or poor the air quality is. The scale is linked to health advice for the public and those vulnerable to poor air quality. As well as the website, the twitter feed, @EPAAirQuality, also kept the public up to date with air quality in their AQIH region.

Real-time data for selected air pollutants continued to be provided hourly to the European Environment Agency (EEA) for display on European air quality maps.



## Emissions inventories and projections

Greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions data is made available at the EPA's web resource (<https://www.epa.ie/ghg>). Significant work has been undertaken in recent years to improve the accessibility and readability of the online resource and summary reports. Short animations providing key highlights and messages and narrated by the subject matter experts together with infographics aim to communicate clear messages about the country's performance on climate action.

## National Waste Statistics

The 'National Waste Statistics Summary Report for 2019' was published in December 2021, summarising the latest waste data, key trends and Ireland's progress towards EU targets.

The EPA's National Waste Statistics web resource ([www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/](http://www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/)) continues to provide the most recent available waste data for Ireland to view and download. During 2021, online data releases were published for a range of waste streams including municipal, household, packaging, hazardous, composting, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), end-of-life vehicles, tyres and construction & demolition waste.

To enhance the provision of timely and accessible waste data, the 'First Look' section publishes quarterly figures on municipal waste accepted at Irish landfills and thermal treatment facilities.

## Radon

The EPA is the main provider of information and guidance to stakeholders in relation to radon gas. During 2021, the radon web resource ([www.epa.ie/radon](http://www.epa.ie/radon)) continued the provision of helpful and practical advice on radon testing and remediation for householders, businesses and building professionals. In total, radon-related pages were viewed more than 135,000 times during 2021. In addition, a freephone radon advice number is provided by the EPA 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



## Water quality

The shared public facing website for the Water Framework Directive (WFD) ([www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)) continues to provide a single source of water quality data and catchment management information in Ireland. Maps, dashboards, trends and charts are publicly available



for almost 5,000 water bodies, as well as reports, assessments and stories of actions carried out by local community groups. The EPA continues to provide the most recent available water quality data, including groundwater quality for Ireland. The data can be download via the EPA Geoportal: <https://gis.epa.ie/GetData/Download>.

In 2021, the EPA also published 46 individual catchment assessment reports available on [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie), which regionalise the national evidence base. These are supporting the consultation process of the draft 'River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2022–2027' and will form the basis of 46 catchment management plans which is being led by the Local Authority Waters Programme.

The EPA also distributes the Catchments Newsletter to over 3,000 email subscribers and to local groups and individuals. Articles from the Newsletter are also promoted through our social media channels.

In 2021, the EPA published further factsheets which explain in simple terms the biological survey work undertaken by the EPA's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Unit and the importance of this work in assessing the ecological health of Ireland's surface waters. The factsheets are in relation to: phytobenthos in rivers and lakes, phytoplankton in lakes and benthic invertebrates in rivers, and are available to download at <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/>.

## Water Levels and Flow

The EPA provides hydrometric data on river flows and lake and groundwater levels to support water resource and flood risk management and a variety of other activities. Data are available to view and download via the EPA's HydroNet web pages: <https://epawebapp.epa.ie/hydronet/>.

The EPA continues the publication of monthly National Hydrometric Bulletins. The bulletin provides a factual summary of river flows, lake levels and groundwater levels for a sample of surface water and groundwater hydrometric stations across Ireland. The bulletin also contains maps which show how flows and levels at stations across the country compare to the average for the month: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/hydrology-bulletin/>.



## Drinking water

The EPA's Remedial Action List (RAL) is a list of the public water supplies with the most serious problems. Action must be taken at these supplies to reduce the risk to the water quality. The RAL is updated quarterly (<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/remedial-action-list/>) and gives the location of each supply, the reason the supply is on the RAL and the planned completion date for the remedial works.

## Waste water

The EPA's Priority Urban Area List is a list of areas where action is needed to protect the environment and public health from the harmful effects of waste water discharges. Information on the EPA's Priority Urban Area List is available on the EPA Sewage Treatment Maps: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SewageTreatment>.

## Beaches

The Beaches web resource ([www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie)) provides information about bathing water quality at Ireland's beaches and lakes. The site provides a range of bathing information, including the recent water quality at each beach, any swim restrictions that are in place, weather and tide information. There is also a bathing water profile available for every beach that sets out the facilities, the known pressures and any management plans that are in place. The website was upgraded in 2021 to capture and publish out-of-season monitoring data which are collected by some of the Dublin local authorities. The site is regularly updated during the summer as results of monitoring become available from local authorities. Details of pollution incidents and remedial actions are also made available on a dedicated twitter feed (@EPAbeaches).



## National Radiation Monitoring Network

The EPA operates a National Radiation Monitoring Network consisting of equipment, located throughout the country, designed to detect radioactivity in Ireland, if any, following a major incident at an overseas nuclear facility. Live data (Figure 11 on opposite page) is publicly available on the EPA and European websites.

## Non-ionising radiation

In 2021, the EPA maintained its EMF web content in response to public enquiries on 5G technology and mobile phone handsets. <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/radiation/emf/> and on the EPA's National EMF Monitoring Programme: <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/radiation/emf/emf-monitoring-programme/>. The EPA continued to respond to queries from the public in relation to EMF during 2021. (See opposite page).

## Open Data

The Open Data Directive is a new EU Directive that encourages EU member states to make as much public sector information available for re-use as possible in an Open Data format. Open data format is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone – subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share alike. The Directive introduces the concept of high-value datasets, defined as documents the re-use of which is associated with essential benefits for society and the economy.

High-value datasets are subject to a separate set of rules ensuring their availability, in machine-readable formats, provided via Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and, where relevant, as a bulk download.

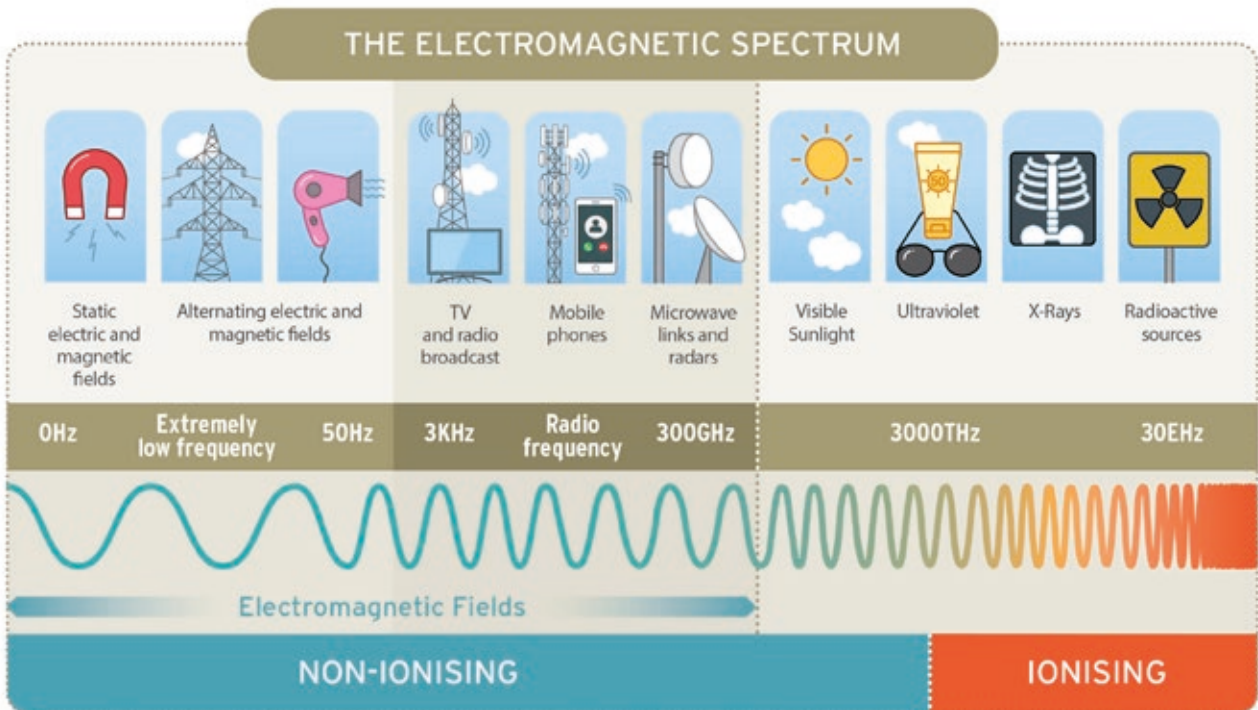
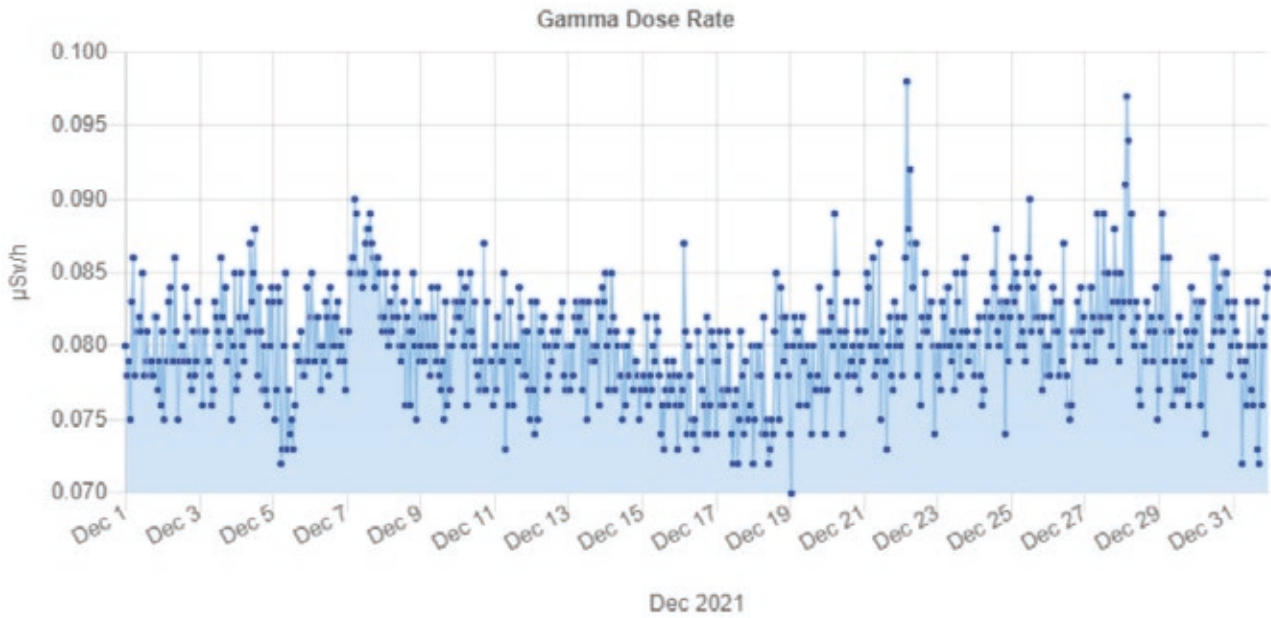
## EPA Open Data Portal

The EPA continue to report several datasets under geospatial and environmental thematic categories. Under this new directive data can be requested in an Open Data format. The EPA publishes as much information as possible on a routine basis to its Geographical Information System portal (<https://gis.epa.ie/>) which is then made available on the EPA's Environmental Open Data Portal (<https://data.epa.ie/>) and Ireland's Open Data Portal, (<https://data.gov.ie/>) – having regard to the principles of openness, transparency, interoperability, free and re-usable formats.

The EPA's Open Data Portal is designed to make environmental data easier to find, use, browse and understand. The portal is primarily intended as a resource for software developers wishing to write applications using EPA's Open Data REST APIs. Currently, there are five API's available on the portal ranging from Bathing Water to Radiation Monitoring.



**Figure 11.** Ambient Gamma Dose Rate Monitoring at Shannon Airport, Co. Clare



The EPA Open Data programme continued during 2021 with 291 EPA datasets published on Ireland's Open Data Portal, (<https://data.gov.ie/>) to-date and over 84,321 views, representing an increase of over 73,000 views since 2018. The concept of Open Data is about making data held by public bodies available and easily accessible online for re-use and redistribution.

### Public Service Data Catalogue

A key action outlined in the Public Service Data Strategy 2019-2023 is the implementation of a Public Service Data Catalogue (<https://datacatalogue.gov.ie/>) which was published in February 2021. It aims to improve the governance, management and reuse of data in a secure, efficient, and transparent way. The development of a data Catalogue for internal and public use, which will catalogue key personal data and data critical to business decisions across all public service bodies.

In October 2021, the EPA populated the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) catalogue and continued engagement regarding the catalogue.

### Pollutant Release and Transfer Register

Ireland's Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) (<https://gjs.epa.ie/EPAMaps/PRTR>) provides a publicly accessible and searchable database which the public can use to search for facilities where specified industrial activities are carried out and are releasing pollutants or transferring waste in excess of specific thresholds. The register also fulfils the requirements of the Aarhus Convention as a simple means of affording access to information about environmental emissions and transfers.

### Licensing and Permitting

As part of the EPA's policy of openness and transparency and in accordance with the Access to Information on the Environmental Regulations and various licensing/permit regulations, licensing files are available for public inspection. To provide greater access to all stakeholders, the EPA displays application files and related documents for public viewing purposes.

Information on Industrial Emissions (IE) and Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) applications, received since December 2004, and all Inspectors' reports and licences issued to-date are available on the EPA website: [www.epa.ie/terminalfour/ippc/index.jsp](http://www.epa.ie/terminalfour/ippc/index.jsp). Since December 2017, all applications are received online and most interactions with the applicants and the public are electronic and published on the EPA website, including the receipt of submissions and objections.

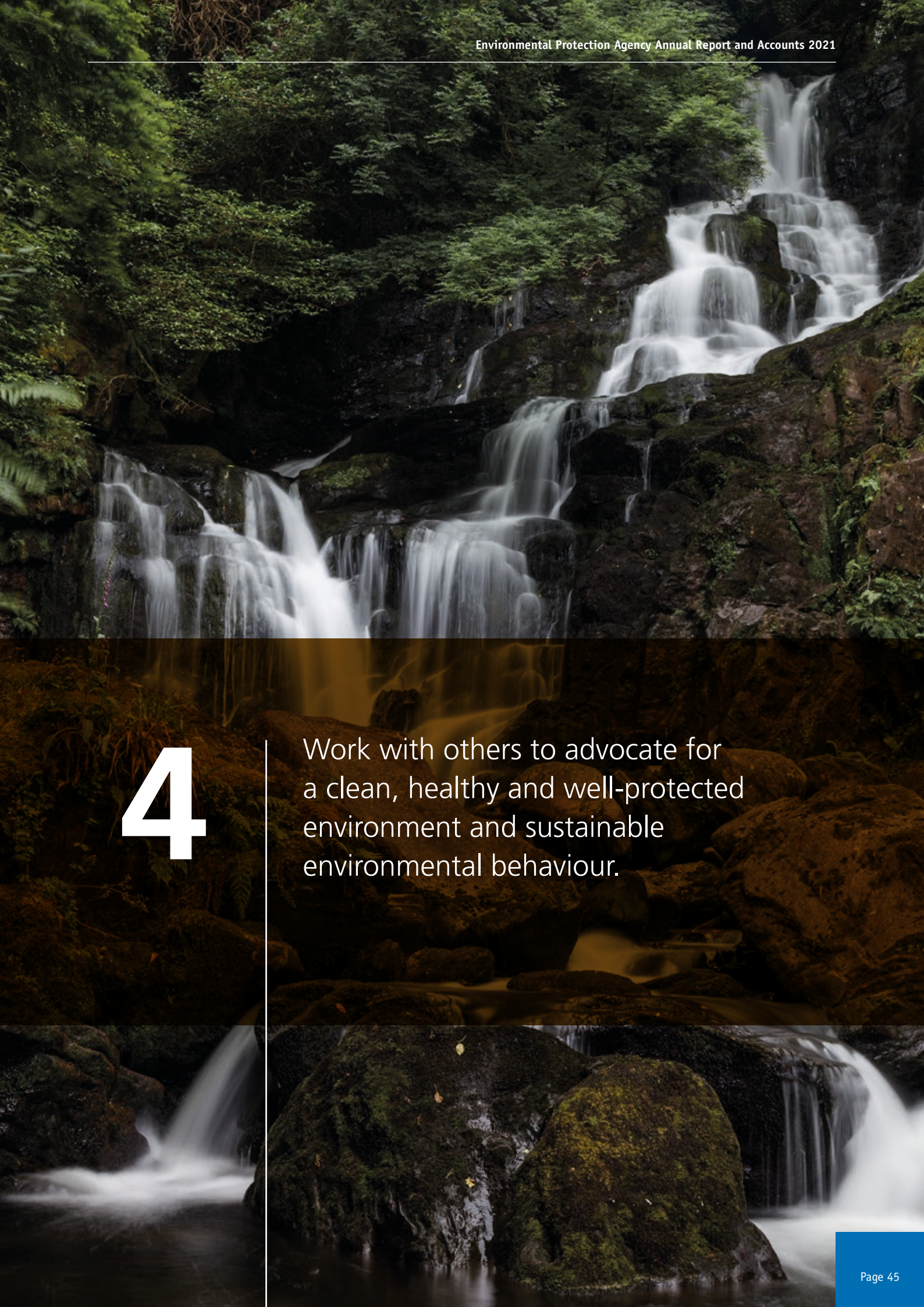
During 2021, there was over 336,000 unique page views of the IE/IPC licence search web pages. By the end of 2021 there were over 5,300 submissions received from the public using the user-interface.

### Enforcement information

In 2021, the EPA continued to provide public access to enforcement information by publishing a summary of key enforcement data for industrial and waste licensed sites on the EPA website as well as updating the list of National Priority Sites (NPS) for enforcement. This information is updated quarterly. The NPS identifies the industrial and waste licensed sites with the poorest compliance records over the previous six-month period. The enforcement data provides a summary of site visits, complaints, compliance investigations, financial provisions, non-compliances and incidents.

The online publication of key enforcement documents such as inspection and monitoring reports for licensed sites continued.





# 4

Work with others to advocate for a clean, healthy and well-protected environment and sustainable environmental behaviour.



## 4 ADVOCACY

### 4.1 PARTNERING AND NETWORKING

To deliver on our strategic objectives, we will continue to work with and through others to effect positive outcomes for the environment.

#### Oireachtas committees

The EPA welcomes the opportunity to engage with and inform Joint and Select Committees of the Oireachtas in their legislative and administrative oversight functions. During 2021, the EPA attended: the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage on water supply issues; and the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the Nitrates Directive and water quality monitoring.

#### Oversight Agreement

In line with requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, a written Oversight Agreement that clearly defines the relationship between the parent Department and the EPA is in place with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). The Oversight Agreement recognises that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has responsibility for several areas of direct relevance to the EPA's remit and defines the EPA's relationship with DHLGH.

A Performance Delivery Agreement forms part of the Oversight Agreement and focuses on the key priorities and objectives of the EPA. The agreement defines clear service ownership and accountability in relation to the roles and responsibilities of each party with a view to ensuring that the statutory functions of the EPA are discharged in an efficient and effective manner.

#### Memoranda of Understanding/Service Level Agreements

The EPA has adopted Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and Service Level Agreements (SLA) with various organisations that involve or contribute to matters relating to the environment. Memoranda of Understanding are published on the EPA website when agreed with the other party.

#### European Environment Agency

The European Environment Agency (EEA) provides timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy-making agents and the public across a wide range of topics related to the environment. Its country network is called the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET). The EEA Management Board, representing all EEA member countries, the European Commission and the European Parliament, adopted a new EEA-Eionet Strategy for 2021-2030. Laura Burke, Director General of the EPA, continues to serve as the Chairperson of the EEA Management Board.

In line with its strategic aims, the EEA has gone through a transformation process for the EIONET network to strengthen and better connect countries' expertise to European environmental policies such as the European Green Deal and 8th Environmental Action Programme. EIONET is expected to become the leading network for policy-relevant environment and climate knowledge at European Union and Country levels. During 2021, the EPA actively contributed to the EEA-Eionet modernisation process in its role as National Focal Point as well as participating in on-going EEA-Eionet activities.

The EPA actively participated in the European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (NHEPA). This informal network of the heads and directors of environment protection agencies and similar bodies across Europe works to exchange views and experiences on issues of common interest in the practical day-to-day implementation of environmental policy.

#### Climate change

The EPA worked on several international climate issues during 2021. The EPA led Ireland's engagement on the finalisation and publication the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I contribution to its 6th Assessment Report (AR6) in August.

The EPA participated in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) "subsidiary bodies" meetings took place virtually in the period from 31st May and 17th June and in the in-person UNFCCC 26th Conference of Parties (COP) in Glasgow.

The EPA holds the position of chair of the Joint Programming Initiatives – Climate which acts to align and coordinate climate change research in the European Research area. Key events during 2021 included the Climate European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA) in June and the 1st Climate Neutrality Forum in September. These brought together the latest research from Europe on climate change adaptation/resilience and climate neutrality



The EPA provides Secretariat support to DECC on the roll out and delivery of the National Dialogue on Climate Action (NDCA).

During 2020, the EPA repositioned its role within the NDCA structure to develop and set up a 'knowledge hub' around climate activation. The aim being to develop a deep understanding of the attitudes and behaviours of the Irish public to climate change at the national, sectoral and local level. Yale University's Climate Change Communications Programme have been commissioned to undertake research in this area using their unique methodology to produce a report on 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind.' The outputs from this work should form a key national resource for the development of engagement and activation campaigns conducted at various levels. Research on deliberative methods for community engagement is ongoing through the IMAGINING 2020 project and the C-Change project in UCC.

## Citizen science

The EPA continued to work with partner organisations on several citizen science projects. The GLOBE Programme, implemented in partnership with the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce involved the measurement of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) at several locations around schools. In 2021, 112 schools participated in the April campaign (24 counties) and 152 schools registered for the October 2021 campaign, with all 26 counties represented. To date, nearly 300 schools have fully participated in this project.

Building on the success of GLOBE, the EPA and the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce organised a large-scale citizen-based nitrogen dioxide monitoring project to increase public awareness of and engagement with the topic of air quality: "Clean Air Together". Recruitment for the project commenced in August 2021 and was heavily oversubscribed. Over 1000 citizen scientists were selected and they undertook sampling for NO<sub>2</sub> (traffic related air pollutant) during October and November 2021. The results from the samples will be published in early 2022. A subsequent phase of the project in Cork is planned for 2022.

The EPA worked with Wexford County Council Library Service to extend the availability of digital radon monitors loan scheme to library members across all Wexford libraries. In parallel with the Wexford libraries loan scheme, a sub-task of an EU project RadoNorm will explore the use of citizen science to encourage radon remediation by householders. The first step is to develop a Do-It-Yourself remediation toolkit for householders. The toolkit will be co-designed by the EPA and Wexford householders that have measured

radon levels above the reference level but have not carried out work to reduce their exposure. The toolkit will include an instructional video and the equipment required to remediate.

The EPA continued to work with the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) on the 'Dragonfly Ireland' survey, with the objective of producing an updated dragonfly and damselfly atlas for Ireland. There was a decline of 20% in the number of dragonfly and damselfly records submitted in 2021, though a 78% increase in the number of site surveys completed by volunteers was achieved. Dragonfly and damselfly records have now been received from three-quarters of Ireland's land area and 27 dragonfly and damselfly species were recorded in 2021.

The EPA also worked with the NBDC on the 'Explore Your Shore' survey, with the objective of empowering and supporting volunteer citizen scientists to survey and record intertidal and coastal marine species. The records collected will help improve the knowledge of marine species distribution and explore their use as bio-indicators of water quality and climate change. The project continues to progress well with a 52% increase in marine species records submitted compared to 2020. The Data Centre received 5,625 records of marine species in 2021, with 406 marine species validated.



Explore Your Shore workshop, Bull Island, Co Dublin

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

The EPA promotes sectoral engagement in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the application of good SEA practice across all public authorities. The EPA reviewed and made 107 responses to SEA-related notifications in 2021. This included submissions on key national and regional plans/programmes/strategies and associated SEAs such as the Agri Food Strategy 2030, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 and the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

The National SEA Forum met twice in 2021 to facilitate better information sharing and collaboration between SEA authorities.

## Environmental Policy Assessment Consultations

The EPA is invited regularly to contribute to strategy consultations as well as to other policy developments across a broad range of local, regional, national and international public service bodies. In 2021, the EPA established an Environmental Policy Assessment and Coordination work area to draw together the necessary topic-specific capabilities across the agency for preparing EPA submissions. This initiative is in line with a recommendation in the 2020 OECD Review of EPA relating to “opportunities for the EPA to engage more proactively in policy development and evaluation”. It leverages EPA data, knowledge and assessment capabilities to provide integrated consultation responses that maximise environmental and wellbeing co-benefits. Eleven submissions were published on the EPA website: [www.epa.ie/publications/corporate/submissions--position-papers/](http://www.epa.ie/publications/corporate/submissions--position-papers/).

## NIECE

The Network for Ireland’s Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (NIECE) provides a forum which encourages and supports organisations and individuals to work together to deliver improvements in priority environmental areas. Network membership, for the most part, includes local authorities, state agencies and government departments involved in the enforcement of environmental legislation, engagement and promotion.

The NIECE network remained very active throughout the pandemic with many of the activities moving on-line. There were 15 Networks and five Working Groups operating under the NIECE umbrella in 2021. Communications and networking continued through virtual meetings, workshops, training events, guidance preparation and the NIECE online portal. Local authority staff also participated in the National Air, the Circular Economy and the National Water conferences. Agricultural inspections and air enforcement emerged as key areas of concern and new working groups in these areas are under consideration.

The NIECE network supported the development of the new three-year National Environmental Priorities (NEPs) for Local Authorities in Waste, Air/Noise and Water. This involved significant engagement with DECC, local authorities, shared services and the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee. An enforcement planning workshop was held with local authorities covering the NEPs and the revised ‘Local Authority Performance Framework’.

## Environmental Pillar

The Environmental Pillar comprises 26 national environmental non-governmental organisations, working together to represent the views of the Irish environmental sector. The EPA meets with the Irish Environmental Network (IEN) at least annually. In 2021, the IEN undertook a midterm evaluation of their current Strategic Plan 2018-2023 and invited the EPA to participate in the process and to provide feedback, and EPA’s perspective, on the network. In addition, the EPA met with the IEN in March 2021 as part of stakeholder consultation on the review of the ‘National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems’ (septic tanks).

## Ireland’s National Action Plan (iNAP2) for Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025

EPA continued its participation in the National Implementation Committee for the Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) action plan group through attending inter-departmental and inter-agency meetings related to progressing and closing the actions under the first national action plan (iNAP1) and establishing the action plan for the second national action plan (iNAP2). The EPA participated in a European Union convened antimicrobial resistance high-level conference in October which was led by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety to share national experiences and European priorities for this subject area. At this conference EPA co-presented with the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on national progress.

## Water quality

The EPA is actively engaged in several expert working groups being led by DHLGH. These include developing the programme of measures for the third-cycle River Basin Management Plan, assessing the feasibility of improving fish passage in the River Shannon, protecting drinking water at source, and developing guidelines for incorporating the WFD into the planning framework.

The EPA participates in DAFM’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Consultative Committee and the DAFM Nitrates expert group and continues to engage constructively with DAFM through these and other mechanisms. EPA’s key message is that emissions to water from agriculture needs to reduce and that measures need to be integrated in a whole-farm planning approach, to meet water quality, biodiversity, climate, air and other environmental goals. The EPA’s evidence base is being used to inform the actions under the Nitrates

Action Programme, and the new Agri-Environment and Climate Scheme measures under CAP. In 2021, the EPA in conjunction with the Irish Farmers' Association produced a short video clip to show farmers how to use EPA produced Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) Maps (<https://www.catchments.ie/ifa-smart-farming-sources-and-solutions-the-link-between-our-soils-water-quality-and-how-to-use-the-pip-maps-on-catchments-ie/>).

The EPA meets with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) to discuss and share information on WFD monitoring, classification and reporting, including the status of cross-border water bodies and the use of rapid-assessment methods.

## Air quality

During 2021, the Air Quality Health Information working group, chaired and facilitated by the EPA, provided a forum to support: enhanced communication of accessible real-time information on air quality and health – linked to expansion of the monitoring network – modelling; and citizen science activities. This group includes stakeholders in environment and health, including the Health Service Executive (HSE) and enables discussion on air quality-related health topics.

## Nuclear safety

To allow the EPA to fulfil its responsibility in monitoring developments abroad in relation to nuclear installations and radiological safety and to advise the Government on the implications of such developments for Ireland, the EPA takes an active role in national and international committees on nuclear safety. In 2021, this included preparing a submission to the transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment public consultation on the proposed 10-year lifetime extension until 2025 of the Doel-1 and 2 Nuclear Power Plants in Belgium. The EPA also participated in the Euratom Article 37 Group of Experts on Radioactive Waste which examined submissions from the UK and Hungary on the proposed Sizewell C and Paks II nuclear power plants, respectively.

## Heads of the European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities

The Heads of the European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities (HERCA) is an association of the radiation safety authorities in Europe and aims to facilitate practical and harmonised solutions on important regulatory issues in radiation protection. HERCA provides an important forum for national authorities to share information and experience on the implementation of European legislation and international standards.

The EPA plays an active role in this work with representatives on the HERCA Board of Heads as well as the Working Groups on natural radioactivity, emergencies, medical applications, non-medical sources & practices, and education & training. The EPA is a vice-chair for the Working Group on Emergencies.

## European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group

The EPA represents Ireland on European and international fora on issues relating to nuclear safety. The EPA is actively involved in the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) and its working groups on Nuclear Safety & International Cooperation and Transparency & Communications. During 2021, this included preparations for the second Topical Peer Review (TPR) which will focus on fire protection at nuclear installations and the holding of an online stakeholder engagement meeting to present information on the TPR objectives.

## Bilateral meetings with the UK and France on radiological and nuclear matters

The EPA meets regularly with the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in the UK, to discuss radiological and nuclear issues. In 2021, these discussions centred on the UK's nuclear safety arrangements following their departure from the EU and the Euratom Treaty, activities at Sellafield, Generic Design Assessment for the safety and security assessment of new nuclear build including Small Modular Reactors, the development of a Geological Disposal Facility and international developments in nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear emergency planning. In 2021, the EPA and the ONR signed a new Information Exchange Agreement to facilitate the exchange of information on the regulation of the safety of nuclear installations and nuclear materials.

In addition, the EPA supports DECC in the twice-yearly meetings of the UK-Ireland Contact Group on Radiological Matters. In 2021, discussions included UK energy policy, updates on new nuclear build at Hinkley point C and Sizewell C, nuclear decommissioning of UK nuclear facilities and geological disposal of nuclear waste.

In 2021, the EPA and the French Nuclear Regulator, ASN, met to discuss the regulation of ionising radiation in both countries and the impact of Covid-19, radon national action plans, emergency preparedness and opportunities for future exchange between the two organisations.



## International Obligations on Nuclear Safety and Radioactive Waste Management

The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Nuclear Fuel and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management is an international convention that addresses the issue of spent fuel and radioactive waste management safety on a global scale. It does so by establishing fundamental safety principles and creating a review process. Every three years, all contracting parties to the Convention, including Ireland, must demonstrate compliance with the Convention and undergo a peer review by the other contracting parties. The seventh review meeting of this Convention was postponed in 2021 by consensus of the contracting parties. To ensure an effective and rigorous peer review process, with the widest possible participation, a physical review meeting is planned for 2022. In 2021, the EPA reviewed several national reports on compliance with the obligations of the Convention including those from the UK, France and Japan.

## Emergency planning

In 2021, the EPA participated in seven international emergency exercises organised by the European Commission and the IAEA. In addition, the EPA participated in an exercise organised by the UK's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to test practical arrangements to support the UK-Ireland bilateral agreement on early notification of a nuclear accident or incident of radiological significance. An emergency response exercise was held in the EPA in October 2021 which involved multiple teams activating their emergency response procedures in response to several emergencies arising from a severe storm. Based on lessons learned in the exercise, the EPA-wide action plan has been further developed.

The EPA continued to be active participants in the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning and its subgroups. The EPA continued to support the Nuclear Energy Agency and the IAEA by participating in technical working groups and contributing to conferences.





Providing timely and easily accessible information to all our stakeholders contributes to public participation in environmental decision-making and gives people the information they need to make environmentally informed choices.

## 4.2 AWARENESS RAISING

### Communicating key messages

The EPA's website is the principal communication channel for disseminating information to the public with over 722,000 visits during 2021. Peaks in activity during the year corresponded with publication of reports and media coverage of environmental issues. High volumes of traffic to the website related to the retrieval of information on EPA-licensed sites; downloading publications; accessing information on licensing and enforcement; careers in the EPA and accessing information on thematic environmental areas including: climate change, air, water, waste, and radon.

During 2021, the EPA launched a new website marking a major upgrade in usability, accessibility and technology. The new information architecture of the website focuses on public website users and their needs.

The EPA has continued to build its social media presence with the aim of delivering engaging content through targeted messaging across various platforms. As a result, the EPA's social media accounts (@EPAIreland) on Twitter, Linked-In, Instagram and You Tube continued to grow throughout 2021.

### Media relations

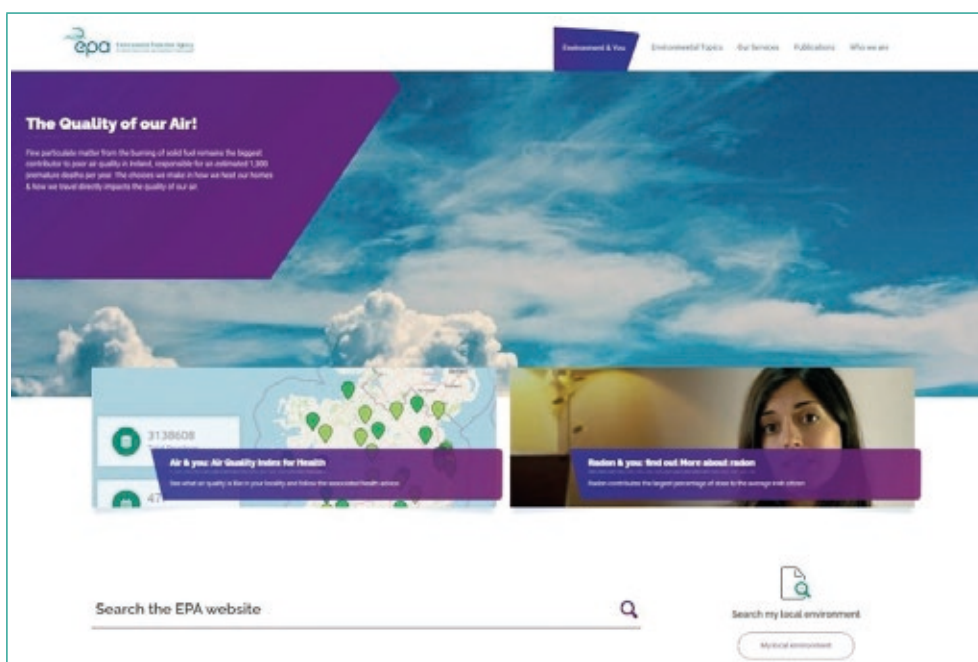
The EPA provides a 24-hour service to the media and during 2021 handled 671 media queries and issued 37 press releases. Environmental news stories featured in over 32,000 newspaper articles throughout the year.

### Outreach activities

The EPA has continued to play an important role in raising levels of awareness and supporting initiatives that increase public engagement with environmental issues and those that particularly target younger audiences.

Science week encourages people of all ages and from all walks of life to be informed, inspired and involved in STEM events and the EPA participated in a variety of events in 2021 including delivery of the EPA's climate change lesson as part of our partnership with Junior Achievement Ireland.

In 2021, the EPA again supported the "10 Things to Know About..." TV Series that aired on RTE. The seventh season was a six-part series highlighting some of the outstanding work being undertaken by Irish scientific researchers across a range of disciplines including Outdoor Living, Blood, Seaweed, Geohazards, Healthy Homes and Gut Health.



As part of the EPA's corporate sponsorship commitments, local initiatives were supported that raise awareness about environmental issues or the work of the EPA. In 2021, the EPA again partnered with ECO UNESCO, supporting the Young Environmentalist Awards and other initiatives. The EPA also promoted environmental messaging during the Wexford Opera Festival and in 2021 introduced a social media competition to find the 'greenest opera attire'. The EPA sponsored the Upcycle Challenge, a competition led by the Waste Management Planning Regions, to encourage circular economy activities of reuse, repair and upcycling activities by the public. There were 262 entries and winners for the nine categories were announced in November 2021.

### Story of Your Stuff

The fifth 'Story of Your Stuff' competition for secondary schools completed with a virtual online finale event in April 2021. Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the competition received 330 entries, from 76 schools, the highest number since the competition was launched in 2017. Entries highlighted the environmental impact of everyday items or activities and students creatively told their stories through visual media. The competition promotes environmental information available on the Ireland's Environment portal of the EPA website. Robert Urquhart from Presentation College Athenry, Galway won first prize with his video telling the story of disposable face masks. Information on all of the winning entries including the climate topic prize and the Irish language prize can be found on the Story of Your Stuff website (<https://www.thestoryofyourstuff.ie/>).



Robert Urquhart (Presentation College Athenry, Galway)  
– Winner of the 2021 Story of Your Stuff Competition

### Junior Achievement Ireland programme

The EPA continued its partnership with Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) in 2021 with 16 staff delivering a selection of JAI programmes to 520 students in 14 schools. For the second year, the EPA climate change lesson was delivered during

Science Week in November. Twenty-three EPA volunteers delivered the workshop to 610 students from 23 schools across 12 counties. For the first year, the EPA's climate change lesson was delivered by volunteers from other organisations also, with eight business volunteers, from six different organisations, delivering to 282 students. The EPA directly engaged with over 1,400 students across Ireland as part of this partnership, giving us the opportunity to deliver key environmental messages and knowledge along with reminding these students of the importance of education.

### Environmental queries

The EPA provides an Environmental Queries Service to our stakeholders including the public, students, local authorities and government departments. The service operates in accordance with the commitments set out in the EPA Customer Charter. The service handled 2940 queries during 2021. The main areas of concern to the public were: waste (disposal of small amounts of hazardous waste); air quality (impact of the use of certain types of fuels on air quality); climate change (calculation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, greening businesses); and waste water (remediation of existing septic tanks and the grants scheme).

### Conferences and exhibitions

Most EPA events were held online during 2021. These events provide an opportunity to raise awareness of, and engage the public's support in, environmental issues including the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition where the EPA sponsored the Special Environmental Award.

### EPA National Climate Conference

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the EPA National Climate Conference was held online in 2021 consisting of two half-days on 23 and 24 June. The conference was entitled "Climate Solutions for a Better Tomorrow". The EPA's data on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections was delivered as part of the event.

### Climate Change Lecture Series

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Climate Lecture Series was held online in 2021. Two lectures were held: the first, on 24 February and was delivered by Kirsten Dunlop, CEO of Climate-KIC. The lecture focused on the relationship between finance and climate change. The event was moderated by Dr John Bowman. A recording of the lecture can be viewed on the EPA's YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZv2MOpBCas>

The second lecture was also an online event, held on 15 November and delivered by Professor Michael Mann, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director, Earth System Science Center. Prof Mann spoke about the outcomes of COP26, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Annual Report 6, his book “The New Climate War” and implications globally and for Ireland. The event was moderated by Dr John Bowman. A recording of the lecture can be viewed on the EPA’s YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6VTnnpUFx8>

### Circular Economy Conference

The National Waste Prevention Programme hosted the EPA Circular Economy Conference. The event was opened by Minister Ossian Smyth and saw the launch of updated Green Public Procurement guidance. The first day included presentations from the OECD and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and focussed on policy and opportunities for the public sector. The second day focussed on opportunities that the circular economy provides to business and circularity on the high street.

### Food Waste Forum

The theme of the 2021 biennial Food Waste Forum was ‘Building knowledge to waste less’. The Forum heard about food waste prevention at the global and European level as well as in Ireland, and featured presentations from a diverse range of speakers including Bord Bia, Munster Technical University and industry. Presentations shared practical experiences in relation to measuring and reducing food waste across the supply chain.

### EPA Water Conference

The EPA held its annual Water Conference online in June. The theme of the conference was “Water: Integrating Policy and Practice” and featured a wide range of speakers from the water sector sharing their expertise in dealing with the pressures and challenges of restoring Ireland’s waters. Topics included opportunities for multiple benefits; pressures and solutions; and working with communities. Presentations are available on the EPA’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjOgDqSTBV4>

### National Air Event

The EPA held its annual National Air Event “Something in the air”, in 2021 online, with an in-studio panel and streamed live on the mornings of 10 and 11 November. The event was a forum for providing and sharing of practical information on air quality and enforcement. It was attended by representatives from the EPA, Health Service Executive (HSE), local authorities,

industry, consultants, third-level research groups, NGO’s, and members of the public. Presentations are available on the EPA’s YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFesobjWT1Fj8qaL4Z4-qxxSiGFLDZfTp>

### Environment Health and Wellbeing Conference

In November, the EPA co-hosted the annual conference about environment health and wellbeing with the HSE and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) looking at learning from the pandemic. Delegates were drawn from the HSE, ESRI and EPA and others working in the health, wellbeing and citizen engagement area, along with representatives of non-governmental organisations and academics. Presentations are available on the EPA’s YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFesobjWT1FhV74QBHfMJvL8\\_aBkG\\_CRa](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFesobjWT1FhV74QBHfMJvL8_aBkG_CRa)

### Environment and Law Conference

Convened by the Irish Centre for Environmental Law and the EPA, the joint conference was held online on 17 and 18 November 2021. Ms. Laura Burke, Director General EPA and the Honourable Mr Justice Donal O’Donnell, Chief Justice, provided opening remarks which set the scene. Legal experts considered several contemporary themes relating to environmental law enforcement including: whistleblowing and environmental crime; remedial environmental impact assessment in the substitute consent process; the principle of sincere cooperation and the EU nature directives; emerging environmental law research; the obligation on public bodies under section 15 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Acts 2015 to 2021; and the environmental liability directive.

### Noise Workshop

An EPA ‘Noise Workshop for Local Authorities’ was held in December 2021. This online Workshop was used to update the local authorities on the Round-4 noise mapping process and their roles, responsibilities and reporting requirements.

### EPA/IIEA Lecture Series

For the second year, the EPA partnered with the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) on the ‘Environmental Resilience’ lecture series. This series saw international experts address the most critical environmental issues of our time including: circularity, zero waste design, sustainable finance and the future of water. Virginijus Sinkevicius, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, also discussed the EU strategy for environmental recovery.

Our Vision: An Ireland where the Circular Economy ensures that everyone uses less resources and prevents waste to achieve sustainable economic growth

### 4.3 PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOUR

#### National Waste Prevention Programme

2021 saw the launch of the Circular Economy Programme (2021-2027) following a period of public consultation. This Programme, which will be led by the EPA, incorporates, and develops the EPA's National Waste Prevention Programme to support national-level, strategic programmes to prevent waste. It builds on fifteen years of leadership by the EPA on waste prevention. The Circular Economy Programme will be the driving force for Ireland's move to a circular economy, where businesses, citizens and the public sector reduce resource use, prevent waste and achieve sustainable economic growth. The Programme will support the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy.

Collaboration with national organisations is a key part of the delivery of the Circular Economy Programme. This includes partnerships with:

- The Rediscovery Centre – Ireland's National Centre for the Circular Economy. The centre brings together the skills and expertise of artists, scientists, designers, and craftspeople in a common purpose of sustainability.
- CIRCULÉIRE – The National Platform for Circular Manufacturing is an industry-led public-private partnership that works with leading Irish manufacturers to develop their business models from linear to circular through benchmarking, auditing and innovation projects. In 2021 five projects were awarded funding.
- The Local Authority Prevention Network provides technical assistance and funding for the promotion of resource efficiency and waste prevention at county-level. In 2021, projects across 16 local authorities were funded to carry out projects supporting reuse and fostering repair, reducing the consumption of single use items.
- SOLAS is the State agency tasked with building Ireland's Further Education and Training (FET) sector. The EPA is working with SOLAS and other organisations to develop Green Skills training offerings. In 2021, work focused on the development of a training programme on Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace and Environmental Sustainability Awareness for FET Learners.





## Stop Food Waste

Food Waste is a major issue nationally and across the EU – both in terms of waste prevention and climate change. The EPA leads Ireland’s food waste prevention effort which is focussed on Ireland’s commitment to halve food waste by 2030. This involves a transformation of public attitudes and behaviours on food; and also requires a strong response along every step of the food supply chain.

The EPA’s Stop Food Waste campaign continues to engage with audiences through the implementation of evidence-based communications. 2021 saw significant engagement on this

topic through social media. An update to the 2020 national food waste behaviour and attitudes survey was carried out in 2021. Learnings will be used to identify target audiences, key messages and evaluate the effectiveness of the programme activities. A project to develop a methodology to measure the composition of household food waste was also carried out and projects to support food waste prevention in the hospitality and food services sector continued. Initial actions are focused on rolling out a standardised measurement methodology and developing tools and resources for upskilling for action on food waste prevention in the sector.







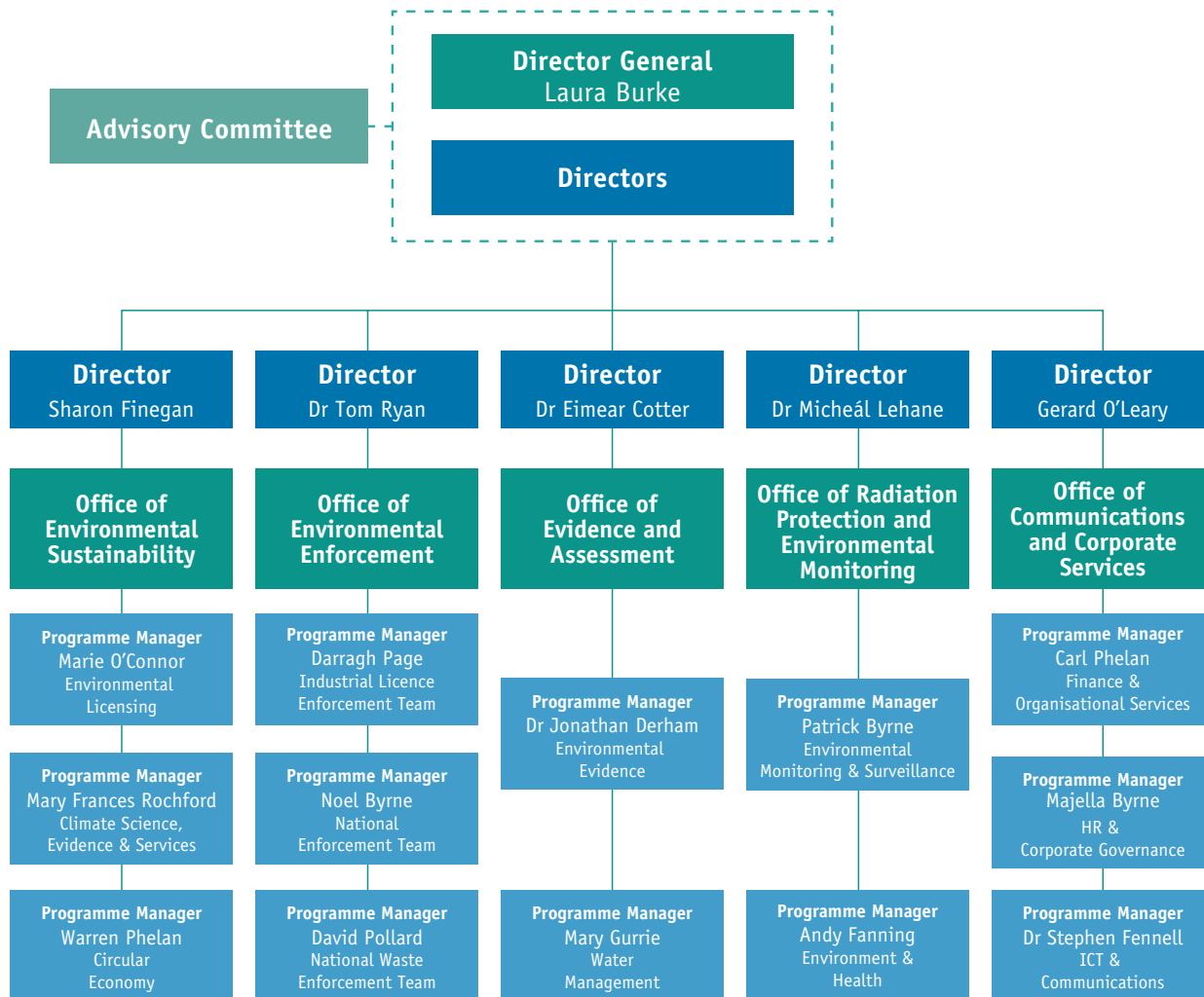
# 5

We will develop our staff and align our organisation to deliver best environmental outcomes by focusing on the development and promotion of organisational health, wellbeing and safety at work and promoting a culture of leadership, reform and innovation.



# 5 ORGANISATIONALLY EXCELLENT

## 5.1 ORGANISATION STRUCTURE





## 5.2 BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### EPA Board of Directors



Pictured (left to right): Dr Micheál Lehane (Director, Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring), Mr Gerard O’Leary (Director, Office of Communications and Corporate Services), Ms Laura Burke (Director General), Dr Tom Ryan (Director, Office of Environmental Enforcement), Dr Eimear Cotter (Director, Office of Evidence and Assessment) and Ms Sharon Finegan (Director, Office of Environmental Sustainability).



Dr Ciara McMahon passed away in service on 15 January 2021 and was replaced on the Board by Ms Sharon Finegan.

### Board meetings

The EPA Board comprises six full-time Executive Directors. A total of 51 Board meetings were held in 2021: 12 general meetings, at which corporate policy, governance, strategy, finance and planning issues were dealt with, and 39 technical meetings, at which licence applications, prosecutions and operational issues were dealt with.

### EPA Advisory Committee

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee with a term of office of three years. The 12 members are nominated by prescribed organisations and appointed by the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications. The Director General of the EPA is, ex officio, a member and Chairperson of the Committee. Nine new members were appointed to the Committee on 18 February 2021, joining the two members appointed to the Committee on 1 July 2019. The Advisory Committee has a wide range of advisory functions including making recommendations to the EPA and or the Minister.



## Appointees from prescribed bodies

Professor John Wenger

(nominated by Institute of Chemistry of Ireland)

Professor Frances Lucy

(nominated by Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland)

Ms Sadhbh O'Neil

(nominated by Irish Environmental Network)

Mr Thomas Cooney

(nominated by Irish Farmers Association)

Dr Brendan Dunford

(nominated by Heritage Ireland)

Ms Elaine Mahon

(nominated by The Wheel)

Dr Laure Marignol

(nominated by Irish Radiation Research Society)  
appointed on 1 July 2019

## Ministerial appointees

Ms Yvonne Mullooly

Ms Elaine Nevin

Dr Aoife Foley

Ms Aebhín Cawley appointed on 1 July 2019

## Chairperson

Ms Laura Burke, Director General, EPA

## Other Advisory Committees

### Dumping at Sea Advisory Committee

One meeting of the Dumping at Sea Advisory Committee (2020-2023) was held in 2021 and Committee members were introduced to and discussed the new Dumping at Sea Act (Section 5(12)) (Commencement) Order 2021 (S.I. 92 of 2021) with respect to offshore installations, which came into operation on 1 April 2021. This enables the EPA to grant, or refuse to grant, a permit authorising the deliberate disposal in the maritime area of an offshore installation, in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Committee members were invited to share information in relation to the decommissioning of offshore installations and the regulation of same in other jurisdictions. Members were also invited to submit comments or observations on permit applications and amendment requests on hand.

## Genetically Modified Organisms Advisory Committee

The EPA consulted with the 9th Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Advisory Committee (2020-2023) in relation to the following during 2021:

- Three marketing authorisation notifications received from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in respect of human medicinal products containing or consisting of GMOs,
- Risk assessments received in respect of a notification for the contained use of a Class 3 GMM, and
- A GM clinical trial notification.

A GMO AC meeting was convened in December 2021 during which the findings of an external review of the GMO licensing process were presented to and discussed by the AC. The existing standing orders were updated and presented to and agreed by AC members at this meeting.

## Health Advisory Committee

The Health Advisory Committee was established in 2011 to assist and advise the EPA in relation to the public health implications of matters pertaining to environmental protection. The committee comprises representatives from public bodies working on environment and health issues, including the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), the Health Research Board (HRB), the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM), the Department of Health, An Bord Pleanála, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, the Health Products Regulatory Authority, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the County & City Managers Association (CCMA). The committee met once during 2021 and topics examined included the updated radon map, research on effectiveness of passive sumps and EPA's work on chemicals in the environment.

## Radiological Protection Advisory Committee

The second Radiological Protection Advisory Committee commenced in 2019 for a three-year term of office. The Committee is made up of sixteen members nominated by organisations with expertise relevant to the radiological protection functions of the EPA. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the committee was only able to meet once in 2021 where they considered field trials on the effectiveness of passive sumps in Irish homes; results of the online survey on public attitudes to radiation in Ireland; and the Artemis Mission to Ireland.

## 5.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

The EPA delivered on Human Resources strategic priorities and Work Programme activities during 2021. The EPA continued to provide support and implement public health advice and guidance to protect the safety, health and welfare of staff during the Covid-19 pandemic. A key focus was the wellbeing of staff with the EPA named in the IBEC and Business & Finance newly created index: 'Leading in Wellbeing – Top 100 Companies' 2021.

### Recruitment

The EPA attracted a high level of interest in the 31 posts advertised during 2021. There were significant challenges to the recruitment process due to the Covid-19 restrictions with online interviews and remote induction of new staff.

The EPA had an approved staff complement of 448 at the end of the year (includes 28 new posts sanctioned in 2021) with 173 staff based in Headquarters, Wexford and 125 based in the Regional Inspectorate, Dublin and the remainder located in four other Regional Inspectorates and two Hydrometric Offices throughout the country.

### Internships & Placements

The EPA continued to engage with a wide range of third-level educational institutions under an internship programme so that students have an opportunity to work in the EPA and gain experience and expertise. Fifteen paid internships and eleven student placements were completed during 2021.

### Strong leadership

The Senior Management Network (SMN) comprising Directors and Programme Managers has been in place since 2014 and meets at least six times each year. In 2021, the SMN met eight times. The SMN provides an oversight role in relation to the delivery of the EPA Strategic Goals and leads by example by actively demonstrating how it lives the EPA's cultural characteristics: "Collaborative", "Supportive" and "With Purpose" in all its actions and interactions with staff. During 2021, the focus of the SMN's work was the development of a new five-year Corporate Strategic Plan. In addition, the SMN also participated in a review of the EPA's performance management and development system, emergency preparedness arrangements as well as continuing to develop and support senior management leadership across the EPA.

### Partnership

During 2021 the EPA's Partnership Committee, Meitheal, continued to ensure there was a collaborative approach to building a more productive and innovative workplace. This culture of collaboration is key to delivering on EPA's goals, a workplace that is customer focused, responsive to employee needs, and proactively diverse. Meitheal once again continued to support EPA involvement in Junior Achievement Ireland and other outreach initiatives and staff participation events.

### Safety, health and welfare at work

The EPA recognizes that safety, health and welfare are essential requirements of its operations. In this regard, it is EPA policy to conduct its business in a manner that protects the safety, health and welfare of staff, visitors, contractors, and members of the public who may be involved in or with EPA activities. The EPA provides, in so far as is reasonably practicable, a safe place of work and a safe system of work for its staff in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 and associated regulations.

## 5.4 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

The EPA's corporate strategy sets out the ambition to enhance capacity and use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to support reform and innovation. A Board subcommittee oversees the governance and strategic direction of ICT-enabled change. The key priorities for ICT investment are in areas such as information provision, data management, online and shared services, security, leading-edge technologies and building internal ICT capabilities.

### Information security

Information is a key asset of the EPA. The protection of the EPA's information, technologies and applications is critical to ensuring the EPA can continue to carry out its functions. Within the EPA, information security practices encompass three main elements: confidentiality, integrity and availability. Accordingly, the EPA has introduced policies and technologies in the last few years to assist in the protection of its assets, and to meet the growing demands in the information security space. These are periodically reviewed.

In 2021, the EPA successfully closed out all actions arising from an audit of its ICT Information Security that was carried out against the rigorous international standard ISO 27001 in 2020. The measures put in place to address these actions further strengthen the EPA's resilience against potential cyberattacks.

2021 saw significant successful cyberattacks both within Ireland and worldwide. The EPA worked closely with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) throughout the year to strengthen its defences and successfully implemented NCSC guidance in relation to major cyber incidents and alerts during the year, including the HSE cyberattack in May and the world-wide 'Apache Log4j' vulnerability in December.

### New ICT systems and technologies

Information and communications technologies are constantly changing and improving. The EPA endeavours to keep up to date with best practice in ICT; to ensure that the best technical options are selected, to maximise use of new technology, and to ensure value for money in ICT investments.

Significant work continued in 2021 to replace outdated communication technologies and improve ICT services used by EPA staff and contractors. The success of these initiatives enabled the staff and contractors to continue working from home, as necessitated by the Covid-19 restrictions.

During the year the EPA also focused on preparatory work to develop in-house applications in the 'Cloud' which will offer improved, more secure and resilient services to teams across the EPA.





## 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The EPA is committed to leading by example and incorporating good environmental management and practice in everyday activities. The EPA implements an Environmental Management System (EMS), certified to the international standard ISO 14001:2015. Using this standard, the EPA aims to minimise the environmental impact of activities to achieve continual environmental improvement, to prevent pollution, to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change and encourage environmental awareness within the organisation.

### Energy overview

The EPA has achieved significant success in relation to achieving the public sector energy efficiency savings as set out in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, reducing energy demand by over 50% since 2006. The EPA continues to build on this success with an ambitious programme to further reduce energy demand and use more efficient ways to manage energy across all EPA sites. Monitoring energy consumption remains key to achieving success to date. The EPA undertook rigorous energy audits of all EPA sites in 2021 and the results of these audits will form the basis of an ambitious energy plan to further improve energy delivery and sustainability in line with the Climate Action Plan. The EPA continues to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings by investing in renewable heating solutions, efficient building systems such as LED lighting and self-generation of electricity using Solar PV. The EPA has also improved its transport fleet by the transition to hybrid and fully electric vehicles with EV charging points installed at all EPA office locations.

The EPA use a variety of energy sources to power and heat its buildings. Sources include biomass, natural gas, thermal solar, Photovoltaic (PV), Bio-petroleum gas (Bio-LPG), kerosene and electricity (air-to-water heat pumps). Electricity is now purchased from 100% renewable sources. Diesel is used to power standby generators.

Ireland's Climate Action Plan includes ambitious reductions and changes in energy use by way of a decarbonisation pathway and as such the EPA is well placed to continue its energy and carbon reduction with further building improvements planned for lighting upgrades with energy efficient LED, expansion of Solar PV and a continued focus on its carbon emissions.

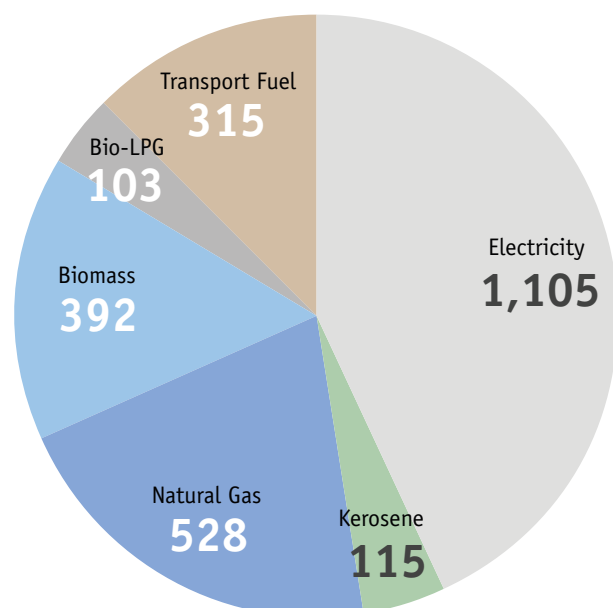
### Energy usage

Most of the energy demand in the EPA is for space heating, lighting, electrical power, hot water and transport. In 2021, the EPA's total energy consumption (Figure 12) amounted to 2595 megawatt hours (MWh) showing an overall decrease of 2.4% during the period 2020 to 2021.

Our largest energy source, electricity, reduced by 7% during this period with reductions following building improvements such as LED lighting upgrades. Reduced office occupancy due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2021 has also had an impact. The EPA's thermal energy demand reduced by 16%, due to reduced occupancy in buildings. The reduction in Fleet Transport of 23% is mainly due to reduced activity because of continuing Covid-19 restrictions during 2021.

In comparison to 2019 (Pre-Covid), the EPA's total energy demand, including heating, was reduced by 12% in 2021.

**Figure 12.** EPA energy usage (MW h) 2021



## 5.6 GOVERNANCE

### Corporate governance

Corporate governance is vitally important for the EPA in effectively discharging its statutory remit. It ensures a framework of structures and processes is in place to allow Board members to assess management and corporate performance while ensuring members also meet their own governance responsibilities objectively and effectively. It is the policy of the EPA to comply fully with governance and accountability obligations and to follow best practice in so doing.

The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 (the Code) is mandatory for all State Bodies and came into effect on 1 September 2016. During 2021, the EPA continued to implement governance requirements and maintained compliance with the Code. A Corporate Governance Unit is in place with responsibility for overseeing and reporting on the implementation of and compliance with the Code.

Requirements arising from the Annex to the Code, on Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion recommends that State Boards achieve 40% representation of women and of men on State Boards. On 31 December 2021, the EPA Board included a gender balance of 50% female and 50% male.

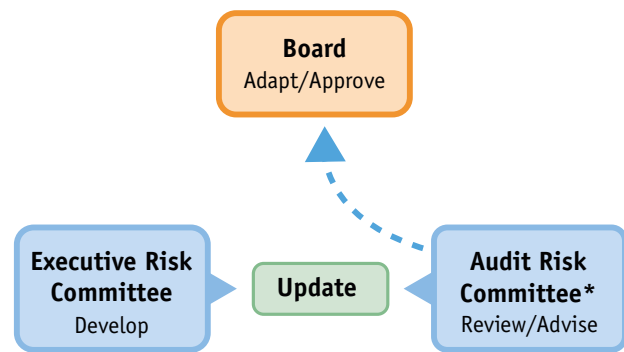
### Risk management

The EPA is committed to managing its risks and has a risk management framework in place which complies with the provisions of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

The EPA's Risk Management Policy was approved by the Board in 2018. An Executive Risk Committee (ERC) (chaired by the Chief Risk Officer) is in place and is made up of two Directors and five Programme Managers. In addition, an Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) is also in place with the membership comprising six external members and one EPA senior manager. The ERC and the ARC together have a responsibility for providing assurance to the EPA Board and advising on risk management (see Figure 13). The ERC meets on a regular basis and met four times in 2021. The ARC meets on a regular basis and met five times in 2021. Risk Management is a standing item at the ARC meetings.

The Corporate Risk Register identifies the key risks facing the EPA and details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks while responsibility for the operation of such controls is assigned to specific staff. The Corporate Risk Register is monitored, maintained and reported on by the ERC, reviewed by the ARC and presented to the EPA Board for approval.

**Figure 13.** Relationship between the Executive Risk Committee, the Audit & Risk Committee and the EPA Board



\*External independent advisory role constituted in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter

The EPA carried out an assessment of the EPA's risks using the processes outlined in its Risk Management Policy. The key risks managed by EPA in 2021 are summarised in Table 10:

**Table 10.** Summary of Risks

No.	Risk	Controls
1	The risk to the Health, Safety and Welfare of our staff and the ability of the EPA to discharge its functions.	The EPA's Pandemic Response Team (PRT) remained in place to co-ordinate the Agency's response to Covid-19. Public health advice and safety measures resulted in remote and virtual working for most EPA staff. Proactive safety reviews were undertaken in areas of potential risk with follow-up actions identified. Protocols to protect the safety, health and welfare of EPA staff, contractors, licensees, customers and stakeholders have been developed to limit the disruption of Covid-19 on the EPA's work.
2	The risk of a successful cyber security attack on our ICT systems	The EPA continues to liaise with the National Cyber Security Centre in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on matters relating to cyber security. The EPA has a Cyber Security Officer in place and also has access to information security advice and services via an external vendor. The Agency also has Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Security Policy and Procedures in place and maintains ongoing investment in training and updating security defences.

### Internal audit

During 2021, the internal audit programme was actively progressed and recommendations from previous audits were implemented. In accordance with the Code, a review of the effectiveness of the Audit & Risk Committee was carried out in 2021.

The following audits were completed in 2021:

- Internal Audit of Compliance Management (Corporate Legislation) 2021
- Review of Management and Compliance with EPA Sponsorship Policy
- Review of Environmental Licensing Programme Procedures
- Review of Internal Financial Controls 2021.

### Strategic Plan

The EPA's five-year Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (*Our Environment – Our Wellbeing*) concluded at the end of 2020. While work started on the development of a new Plan in 2020, Covid-19 restrictions resulted in significant delays to the project. Because of this delay, the 2016-2020 plan was extended for an additional year. The five strategic goals set out in that Plan were still relevant and guided the work of the EPA during 2021:

- A Trusted Environmental Regulator
- A Leader in Environmental Evidence & Knowledge
- An effective Advocate and Partner
- Able to Respond to Key Environmental Challenges
- Organisationally Excellent

Work on the development of the new five-year Plan recommenced in 2021, led by the Senior Management Network, with a draft plan approved by the EPA Board for public consultation in early 2022.

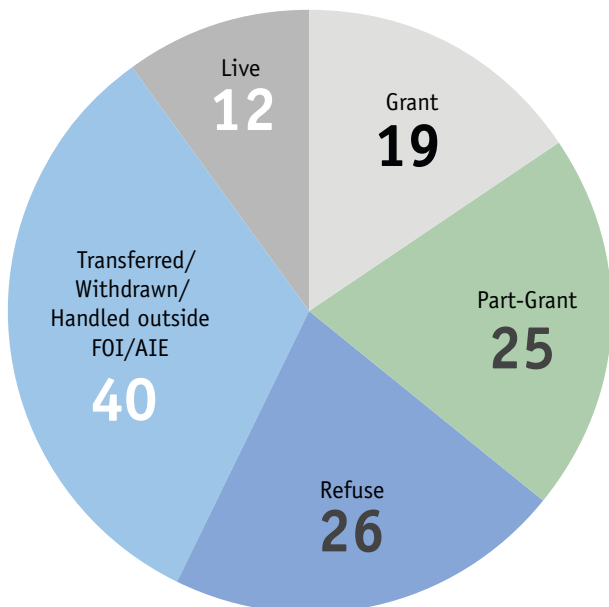


### Access to information

The EPA is committed to be an open and accessible organisation. The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2014, as amended, and the Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Regulations are two methods of accessing information for those members of the public who have not been able to access the information they require under alternative routes. The EPA publishes as much information as possible in an open and accessible manner on a routine basis outside FOI, having regard to the principles of openness, transparency and accountability. This allows for the publication or giving of records outside of FOI, provided that such publication or giving of access is not prohibited by law.

During 2021, the EPA received 60 FOI requests and a further eight were carried over from 2020. Under the AIE Regulations, the EPA received 52 requests and one was carried over from 2020. Figure 14 illustrates the Decisions issued on the requests processed during 2021. Where requests were refused, the information refused was either: personal; not environmental information (AIE); was formulated in too general a manner; was not held by the EPA; could prejudice a prosecution; did not exist; or the requests were voluminous or manifestly unreasonable.

Figure 14. FOI & AIE Decisions January to December 2021



### Protected disclosures

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires the publication of an annual report relating to the number of protected disclosures made in the preceding year and any actions taken in response to such disclosures.

The EPA confirms that one disclosure was made to the EPA as an employer, under Section 6 of the Act, in 2021.

The Director General of the EPA, in the context of her role as a Prescribed Person in relation to disclosures of relevant wrongdoings of all matters relating to the protection of the environment in the State, received eight disclosures from parties external to the EPA during the year.







# 6

## Appendices





## 6 APPENDICES

### 6.1 PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT, 1997

The Environmental Protection Agency comes under the remit of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, as amended by the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002.

It is the policy of the EPA to ensure that all invoices are paid promptly. Specific systems and procedures have been put in place to enable invoices to be tracked and to ensure that payments are made before their due date. Purchase invoices are logged on a daily basis in Accounts Section, and are followed up systematically to ensure that they are certified for payment without delay. Payments are issued as required to ensure prompt payment.

These controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material non-compliance with the Act.

There was one late payment with a value in excess of €317 during 2021 and this exceeded the due payment date by 118 days. The value of this late payment was €3,536.99.

Overall, late payments represented 0.009 % of the total value of payments covered by the Act, with total associated penalty interest of €91.48.



**Laura Burke**  
*Director General, EPA*

24 May 2022





## 6.2 CONSULTANTS AND ADVISERS ENGAGED

Apem Ltd.	ERINN Innovation Ltd
Behaviour & Attitudes	Fieldfisher Ireland
ByrneWallace	Fintan Valentine
CAAS Environmental Services Ltd	Gartner Ireland Ltd.
Camp Dresser & McKee (Ireland) Ltd	Geosyntec Consultants Ltd
Carr Communications Ltd	Halloran HR Resolutions Ltd
CDM Smith	Ipsos MRBI
CBEC Eco-engineering Ltd	Integrated Risk Solutions
Compass Informatics	Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants
Complete Laboratory Solutions Ltd.	Mason Hayes & Curran
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, UK	RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd
CERC (GBP)	Smith & Williamson
Certification Europe Ltd.	Synergy Environmental Ltd t/a Enviroguide Consulting
Cpl Occupational Healthcare	Think HR
Dr Robbie Meehan	VITO (Flemish Institute for Technological Research)
eir evo	



## 6.3 EPA PUBLICATIONS 2021

EPA publications are available to download from the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/>

### Air

The following air report can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/>

- Air Quality in Ireland 2020

### Corporate

The following corporate reports can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/corporate/>

- EPA Annual Report & Accounts 2020
- Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Cuntais 2020
- EPA Evidence Framework
- EPA Year in Review 2020
- Infographic on public attitudes to environmental issues
- Athbhreithniú ar 2020

### Radiation

The following radiation report can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/radiation/>

- Survey on attitudes to radiation in Ireland 2020

### Public Authority

The following Public Authority reports can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance-enforcement/public-authorities/>

- Focus on Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Activity report 2020
- How to join the NIECE Network
- Focus on Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Activity report 2019

### Waste

The following waste report can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/waste/>

- National Waste Statistics Summary Report for 2019

### Circular Economy

The following circular economy reports can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/>

- The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027
- The Circular Economy Programme 2021-2027
- Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects
- NWPP Annual Report 2020
- Nature and Extent of Post-Consumer Textiles in Ireland
- Green Public Procurement, Guidance for the Public Sector
- Nature and Extent of Food Waste in Ireland

### Water

The following freshwater and marine reports can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/>

- National Hydrometric Monitoring Programme 2022-2027
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – December 2021
- Register of Hydrometric Stations in Ireland 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – November 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – October 2021
- Water Quality Monitoring Report on Nitrogen and Phosphorus Concentrations in Irish Waters in 2020.
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – September 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – August 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – July 2021
- Water Quality in 2020 – an Indicators Report
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – June 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – May 2021
- Bathing Water Quality Map 2020
- Bathing Water Quality Infographic 2020
- Bathing Water Quality in Ireland Report 2020
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – April 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – March 2021
- River Monitoring – Aquatic Invertebrates Fact Sheet
- River and Lake Monitoring – Phytobenthos Fact Sheet
- Lake Monitoring Phytoplankton fact sheet
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – February 2021
- Ireland's National Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme, 2019-2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – January 2021
- Assessment of the Catchments that need Reductions in Nitrogen Concentrations to Achieve Water Quality Objectives.

## Drinking Water

The following drinking water reports can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/>

- Drinking Water Quality in Public Supplies 2020
- Focus on Private Water Supplies 2019

## Waste Water

The following waste water reports can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/waste-water/>

- National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022-2026
- Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Inspections 2020
- 2021 Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

The following waste water report can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/waste-water/>

- Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2020

## Assessment

The following reports can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/>

- SEA Screening Good Practice 2021
- Ireland's Environment: An Integrated Assessment 2021- Key messages booklet
- Good Practice Note on SEA for the Energy Sector
- SEA Action Plan 2021-2025
- SEA Action Plan 2018-2020- Progress Update 2021

## Environmental research reports

EPA Research publications are available to download from the website at: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa-funded-research/epa-research-publications/>

## Addressing climate change evidence needs

- Research 360: Methodologies for Financing and Costing of Climate Impacts and Future Adaptation Actions: Transport Networks in Ireland
- Research 362: Evaluating Ireland's Climate Policy Performance
- Research 369: CIViC: Critical Infrastructure Vulnerability to Climate Change
- Research 371: Climate Change and Land Use in Ireland
- Research 376: From Source to Sink: Responses of a Coastal Catchment to Large-scale Changes (Golden Strand Catchment, Achill Island, County Mayo)
- Research 379: Policy Coherence in Adaptation Studies: Selecting and Using Indicators of Climate Resilience
- Research 384: ClimAtt: Tools for Climate Change Attribution of Extreme Weather Events
- Research 385: Air Pollution Sources in Ireland
- Research 386: The Status of Ireland's Climate, 2020
- Research 397: Framework for Achieving the Environmental Sustainable Development Goals

## Delivering a healthy environment

- Research 361: The State of the Art on the Potential Human Health Impacts of Microplastics and Nanoplastics
- Research 365: Developing Ireland's Greenhouse Gas and Transboundary Air Pollution Monitoring Network
- Research 367: Particulate Matter from Diesel Vehicles: Emissions and Exposure
- Research 370: Potential Health Impact of Phthalates: An Irish Perspective
- Research 377: Impacts of Microplastics in the Irish Freshwater Environment
- Research 380: Innovative Water Monitoring
- Research 382: Transitioning to Strategic Noise Mapping under CNOSSOS-EU (Noise-Adapt)
- Research 383: Towards a Good Practice Guide for Implementing CNOSSOS-EU in Ireland



- Research 387: GRACE Monitoring of Groundwater over Ireland – A Feasibility Study
- Research 395: Cumulative Health Effects of Metal(loids) through Aggregate Environmental Pathways
- Research 398: Eco-driving: Trends and Potential Impacts for Irish Heavy-duty Vehicles
- Research SHEER: Our Environment, Our Health, Our Wellbeing: Access to Blue/Green Spaces in Ireland

### Facilitating a green and circular economy

- Research 363: No Home for Plastic
- Research 366: An Investigation into WEEE Arising and Not Arising in Ireland (EEE2WEEE)
- Research 374: Piloting Innovative Approaches in Sustainable Communities towards Achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Ireland
- Research 375: Development of Quality Standards for Compost and Digestate in Ireland
- Research 381: An Irish Nutrient Platform to Underpin Sustainable Development
- Research 388: Circular Economy Opportunities – Raw Materials Ireland Project
- Research 393: Estimating the Quantity of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) Exported from Ireland As Used EEE
- Research 394: Identifying Interactions for Sustainable Development Goal Implementation in Ireland
- Research 389: Evaluating the Multiple Values of Nature – ESDecide: from an Ecosystem Services Framework to Application for Integrated Freshwater Resources Management
- Research 390: Nitrogen–Sulfur Critical Loads: Assessment of the Impacts of Air Pollution on Habitats
- Research 391: Tiering of Environmental Assessment – The Influence of Strategic Environmental Assessment on Project-level Environmental Impact Assessment
- Research 392: Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment–Environmental Impact Assessment Tiering
- Research 396: Catchment Models and Management Tools for Diffuse Contaminants (Sediment, Phosphorus and Pesticides): DiffuseTools Project
- Research 399: Mapping Green Dublin: Strategic Pathways to Community-led Greening
- Research 400: Use of Constructed Wetlands for Treating Mine Waste Leachates: Assessment of Longevity and Management Implications

### Protecting and restoring our natural environment

- Research 364: Learning from Group Water Schemes: Community Infrastructures for Sustainable Development
- Research 368: Prevention, Control and Eradication of Invasive Alien Species
- Research 372: Using the OECD Water Governance Indicator Framework to Review the Implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018–2021
- Research 373: Using an Experimental Governance Lens to Examine Governance of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018–2021
- Research 378: Towards the Quantification of Blanket Bog Ecosystem Services to Water

# 7

## Financial Statements

# 7 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 7.1 GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND DIRECTORS' REPORT 2021

### Governance

The Environmental Protection Agency (Agency/EPA) was established under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, as amended (the Act). In accordance with Section 19 of the Act the Agency consists of a Director General and five Directors.

The Director General and other Directors are appointed by the Government in accordance with Sections 21 and 24 of the Act. The functions of the EPA are set out in Part III of the Act. The Director General and the Directors are accountable to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Director General and Directors are responsible for ensuring good governance and perform this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of the EPA are the responsibility of the Director General and the Directors.

The Act does not use the term 'Board' to designate the organisation's governing body; instead, the Act refers to 'the Agency' and designated 'Directors of the Agency'. The Director General serves as Chair of the Executive Board (the Board) and operational chief executive of the EPA, fulfilling both governance and management roles and is responsible for running the Agency. The Director General is accountable to the Oireachtas through the Public Accounts Committee.

The Directors of the Agency are referred to as 'Board Members', and the Agency's governing body is known as the Board. The Board fulfils both governance and management roles and its activities are organised into five Offices, with each Director having operational responsibility for an Office.

### Board Responsibilities

The EPA has been granted a wide range of powers and duties under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, as amended and other relevant environmental and radiation protection legislation.

The role of the Board of any public body is to provide strategic leadership, direction, support and guidance for the body and promote commitment to its core values, policies and objectives. In addition to the special Board responsibilities set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (the Code) and in the Act, the EPA's Board holds specific governance and management responsibilities as the Board of a State body which include:

- to ensure that the body carries out its responsibilities as set out by statute or by ministerial order
- to provide leadership, vision and direction for the body
- to define the mission of the body, decide its strategic goals and develop the policies required to achieve those goals
- to ensure good management, to monitor the achievements of management and to ensure that a proper balance is achieved between the respective roles of board and management
- to set performance targets, including key financial targets and, in particular, to agree and closely monitor the budget
- to ensure that the body behaves ethically and in a manner that accords with the core values of the body
- to define and promote the body's role in the community by developing mechanisms for gathering the views of customers and stakeholders and by keeping people informed in an open, accountable and responsible way.

Legislatively, the Board has responsibility for the management of the EPA, but for practical purposes it is empowered to delegate responsibility to other staff for operational purposes. Section 25(6) of the Act provides that the Agency may perform or exercise any of its functions through or by any director or other person or body who has been duly authorised by the Agency in that behalf.

Since the establishment of the EPA, the Board has delegated discretionary powers to various levels in the EPA. The delegation of powers continues to grow as the Agency acquires further legislative functions over time.

The EPA's Strategic Plan sets out the priority actions that the EPA will take to deliver on our mission of protecting and improving our environment. Work on the next EPA Strategic Plan is at an advanced stage and the EPA is on track to publish our next Strategic Plan in early 2022.

The work and responsibilities of the EPA are set out in: the EPA Strategic Plan; the EPA Work Programme; and the Oversight Agreement with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Each month, the Board has a dedicated meeting on governance and management issues which include but not limited to:

- Declaration of interests
- Progress reports on operational issues from individual Offices
- Financial management
- Strategic planning



- Communications management
- Corporate Governance issues (including internal audit)
- HR and staffing issues
- Risk Management

Section 50 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, as amended requires the EPA to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements, the EPA is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The EPA is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 50 of the Act. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information is the responsibility of the Director General and Directors.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. The performance of the EPA is monitored on a monthly basis through the submission to the Board of progress reports on the EPA's Key Performance Indicators. A year-end evaluation of the 2021 EPA Work Programme Activities was completed and the 2021 year-end Financial Management Report was submitted to the Board in February 2022.

The EPA is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the financial statements of the EPA give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of the EPA at 31 December 2021.

## Board Structure

The Board consists of a Director General and five other Directors, one of whom acts as Deputy Director General, all of whom are appointed by the Government. The Director General is appointed for a period of seven years and the other Directors are appointed for a period of five years. The Director General and Directors respectively may be reappointed by the Government for a second or subsequent term of office.

Requirements arising from the Annex to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016, on Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion recommends that State Boards achieve 40% representation of women and of men on State Boards. The procedures for the appointment of the Director General and Directors of the EPA are laid down in Sections 21 and 24 of the EPA Act respectively. The EPA Director General and the Directors are selected by a committee as prescribed in the EPA Act and appointed by the Government via an open recruitment process. In selecting candidates, the committee has regard to knowledge and experience, including relevant experience in environmental and radiological matters. At 31 December 2021 the EPA Board included a gender balance of 50% female and 50% male.

The Board met for General Board meetings on twelve occasions in 2021. The table below details the appointment date for Board members who served during 2021.

Board Member	Role	Date Appointed
Laura Burke	Director General	8 November 2011*
Gerard O'Leary	Deputy Director General	8 May 2012*
Micheál Lehane	Director	1 May 2016*
Eimear Cotter	Director	1 September 2017
Tom Ryan	Director	25 August 2018
Ciara McMahon	Director	15 September 2020**
Sharon Finegan	Director	19 April 2021

\* second term

\*\* Ciara McMahon passed away in service on 15 January 2021

## Audit & Risk Committee

The EPA has established an Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) that comprises six external members and one member from EPA Senior Management. The role of the ARC is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular, the ARC ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The Chairperson of the ARC meets regularly with the Director General and reports at least annually to the Board on the performance of the ARC.

There were five meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee in 2021. The ARC was re-established on 23 November 2021 for a further three years to 11 February 2025. The current members of the ARC are:

ARC Member	Change to Term During 2021
Tom Barry (Chairperson)	Unchanged
Allan Reid	Unchanged
Caroline Bocquel	Unchanged
Nuala Bannon	Unchanged
John Maher	Unchanged
Áine Ryall	Unchanged
Raymond Smith	Unchanged
Philomena Poole	Appointed November 2021*

\* Philomena Poole was appointed to the ARC in November 2021 with a view to attending ARC meetings commencing in 2022.

## Board Sub Committees

The Board has established two Board Sub Committees.

**1. ICT Board Sub-Committee:** comprises three Board members and is supported by senior Programme Managers, the senior ICT team and a senior Analytics team representative. The Board members of this committee are: Dr Micheál Lehane (Chairperson), Dr Eimear Cotter and Mr Gerard O'Leary. There were seven meetings of the ICT Board Sub-Committee in 2021.

**2. Safety, Health and Welfare (SHW) Board Sub-Committee:** comprises three Board members at the end of 2021. The members of this committee are: Mr Gerard O'Leary (Chairperson), Dr Micheál Lehane and Dr Tom Ryan. There were six meetings of the SHW Board Sub-Committee in 2021.

## External Advisory /Consultative Committees

The Board is also advised by the following key external committees, each of which was established under legislation:

- EPA Advisory Committee\*
- Dumping at Sea Advisory Committee\*
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Advisory Committee
- Health Advisory Committee\*
- Radiological Protection Advisory Committee\*

\* established under Section 41 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, as amended.

## Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

There were 12 General Board meetings in 2021. A schedule of attendance at the General Board meetings for 2021 is set out below. Eleven of the 12 General Board Meetings were held in EPA headquarters and one General Board Meeting was held in EPA Inspectorate, Dublin.

Number of meetings	Board	Fees €	Expenses
	Attended/ Out of Possible		2021 €
Laura Burke	12/12	0	289
Gerard O'Leary	12/12	0	0
Micheál Lehane	12/12	0	0
Eimear Cotter	12/12	0	0
Tom Ryan	11/12	0	0
Sharon Finegan*	8/9	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>289</b>

\* Appointed April 2021

A schedule of attendance at the ARC meetings for 2021 is set out below including the fees and expenses received by each member:

	Audit & Risk Committee	Fees	Expenses
Number of meetings	Attended/ Out of Possible	2021 €	2021 €
Tom Barry (Chairperson)	5/5	6,626	135
Nuala Bannon	5/5	0	0
Caroline Bocquel	5/5	0	0
John Maher	5/5	0	0
Áine Ryall	5/5	0	0
Raymond Smith	5/5	0	0
Allan Reid*	4/5	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,626</b>	<b>135</b>

\* All expenses paid directly to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

## COVID-19

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020 significantly changed the way the EPA operated. The EPA adapted quickly to the changed working environment with remote working becoming the norm for most EPA staff. The EPA Pandemic Response Team (PRT) continued to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic throughout 2021. The PRT is chaired by the Deputy Director General with representatives from all EPA Offices. The PRT has overseen a significant number of activities to protect the safety, health and welfare of EPA staff, contractors and visitors. Throughout 2021, the EPA continued to refine work practices including the use of ICT technologies, which has made remote working more efficient and effective.

The inbuilt controls within the EPA's Financial Systems have continued to operate as normal during the Covid-19 pandemic with no procedures or Key Controls being overridden in order to maintain business-as-usual. The EPA's Internal Auditors noted in their review of Internal Financial Controls 2021 that "Our audit results indicate

that substantial assurance can be placed on the adequacy and operating effectiveness of controls to mitigate and/or manage financial risks to which the EPA may be exposed. There is a sound framework of system of financial control in place and the controls are being consistently applied to ensure risks are managed effectively which should ensure that objectives are fully achieved."

## Disclosures Required by Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the EPA has complied with the requirements of the Code, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

### Employee Short-Term Benefits Breakdown

Employees' short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are set out in Note 8 (c) of the financial statements.

### Consultancy Costs

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions and staff training and development providers.

	2021 €	2020 €
Legal Advice, including Financial Provision of Licensed Activities.	1,049,287	1,040,088
Pension Scheme Actuarial Valuation	5,843	4,797
HR Consultancies	50,411	29,066
Public Relations	79,412	76,413
Internal Audit & Corporate Governance	78,845	73,463
Procurement Consultancy and Advice	56,208	24,295
Strategy Development and Implementation	69,264	45,802
<b>Total Consultancy Costs</b>	<b>1,389,270</b>	<b>1,293,924</b>



## Legal Costs and Settlements

The table below provides a breakdown of amounts recognised as expenditure in the reporting period in relation to legal costs, settlements and conciliation and arbitration proceedings relating to contracts with third parties. This does not include expenditure incurred in relation to general legal advice received by the EPA which is disclosed in Consultancy costs above.

	2021 €	2020 €
Legal fees – legal proceedings	369,606	282,917
Conciliation and arbitration payments	0	0
Settlements	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>369,606</b>	<b>282,917</b>

## Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	2021 €	2020 €
<b>Domestic</b>		
– Board	23,091	22,792
– Employees	330,005	382,185
<b>International</b>		
– Board	0	2,301
– Employees	12,758	36,698
<b>Total</b>	<b>365,854</b>	<b>443,976</b>

## Hospitality Expenditure

The Income and Expenditure Account includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	2021 €	2020 €
Staff hospitality*	17,429	13,547
Other hospitality	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,429</b>	<b>13,547</b>

\* Includes contributions to staff Sports & Social clubs and Employee Assistance Programme.

## Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted, and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with, the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016). The EPA was in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for 2021.

Signed on behalf of the Board.



**Laura Burke**  
Director General

Date: 24 May 2022

## 7.2 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL 2021

### 1. Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) I acknowledge the Directors' collective responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated, for preparing the accounts of the EPA and for complying with all statutory obligations applicable to the EPA. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

### 2. Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way. While the effectiveness of an internal control system can change over time, the EPA reviews and updates such systems as required.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has been in place in the EPA for the year ended 31 December 2021 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

### 3. Key Control Procedures to Provide Effective Internal Control

#### i) Annual Review of the Effectiveness of Control

The Executive Board (the Board) conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls which concluded in February 2022. In undertaking this review the Directors considered the following:

- Details of the system of internal controls in 2021 including Risk Management, Financial Management, Internal Audit, Ethics, Information Systems, Business Planning & Reporting
- Report on the Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Financial Controls 2021
- Compliance Officer's Report 2021
- IT Compliance Report 2021
- Health, Safety & Welfare Assurance Statement 2021
- Risk Management Assurance Statements 2021

Annual Assurance Statements in relation to Budgetary Responsibilities 2021 have been signed and presented to the Director General, in line with the provisions of the EPA Finance Manual. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020 significantly changed the way the EPA operated. The EPA adapted quickly to the changed working environment with remote working becoming the norm for most EPA staff. The EPA Pandemic Response Team (PRT) continued to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic throughout 2021. The PRT is chaired by the Deputy Director General with representatives from all EPA Offices. The PRT has overseen a significant number of activities to protect the safety, health and welfare of EPA staff, contractors and visitors. Throughout 2021, the EPA continued to refine work practices including the use of ICT technologies, which has made remote working more efficient and effective.

#### ii) Breaches in Control

There were no reported instances of breaches in control in 2021.

#### iii) Material Losses or Frauds

There were no reported material losses or frauds in 2021.

#### iv) Review of Statement of Internal Control

This Statement of Internal Control 2021 was reviewed by the EPA Internal Auditors, EPA Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) and the Directors in February 2022 to ensure that it accurately reflects the control system in place during 2021.

#### v) Steps taken to ensure an appropriate control environment

The Directors of the EPA have taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment within the EPA by:

- Implementing the EPA Strategic Plan 2016–2020 – Our Environment, Our Wellbeing. This Strategy sets out the EPA's Vision, Mission, Values, Goals and thirteen Strategic Objectives. Implementation of the Strategy is monitored by the Senior Management Network, comprising Directors and Programme Managers, and reported to the Board of the EPA on a periodic basis. The EPA is developing its next strategy, which is due to be published in early 2022.

- Implementing the recommendations of the OECD review of EPA's institutional and organisational set-up. The review examined our structures, accountability, business processes, reporting and performance management as well as role clarity, relationships, distribution of powers and responsibilities with other government and non-government bodies. The overall finding of the review was that *"the EPA has established itself as a trusted and respected body for environmental and radiological protection that is recognised for its scientific integrity."*
  - Agreeing a detailed work programme each year and monitoring and evaluating progress against that work programme on a monthly basis.
  - Holding regular Board meetings, including monthly management meetings where the Agenda includes strategic issues such as Corporate Governance, Financial Management, Corporate Strategy and staffing matters.
  - Adopting an EPA Finance Manual and a set of financial policies and procedures to control the significant financial elements of the EPA's business.
  - Adopting a Corporate Governance Manual to provide a clear and comprehensive summary of the principal aspects of corporate governance for the Directors and senior managers.
  - Maintaining a comprehensive schedule of insurances to protect the EPA's interests.
  - Establishing and maintaining an Audit & Risk Committee. (See Section 3(ix) Monitoring Effectiveness of System of Internal Control)
  - Establishing and operating a Risk Management Policy and Framework, appointing an Executive Risk Committee (ERC) and a Chief Risk Officer. (See Section 3(vi) Risk and Control Framework)
  - Monitoring and assessing compliance with corporate legislation in accordance with EPA Policy.
  - Defining management responsibilities, delegating appropriate functions, and reviewing and approving all EPA policies and procedures.
  - Adopting a Code of Business Conduct for Directors and Staff in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
  - Ensuring compliance with the Ethics in Public Office Acts requirements and Sections 37 & 38 of the EPA Act 1992, relating to the Declaration and Disclosure of Interests.
  - Establishing mechanisms for ensuring the adequacy of the security of its information and communication technology (ICT) systems which include;
    - the establishment of appropriate policies and control procedures,
    - effective organisational structures including segregation of duties and
    - the delegation to the internal audit unit of the responsibility for specific reviews and evaluations of ICT systems through the process of Annual Internal Audit Plans.
  - Establishing a Pandemic Response Team to coordinate the EPA's response to Covid-19.
- Legislatively, the Board has responsibility for the management of the EPA, but it is empowered to delegate responsibility to other staff for operational purposes. Section 25(6) of the EPA Act provides that the EPA may perform or exercise any of its functions through or by any Director or other person or body who has been duly authorised by the EPA in that behalf. The Programme Managers in charge of various functions are delegated operational responsibility for carrying out the work of the EPA.
- Since the establishment of the EPA, the Board of the Agency has delegated discretionary powers to various levels in the EPA. The delegation of powers continues to grow as the EPA is assigned further statutory responsibilities over time. The EPA maintains a comprehensive register of relevant environmental legislation, a register of powers delegated by the Board and Board Reserved Functions. These registers are reviewed and approved by the Board as required.
- #### vi) Risk and Control Framework
- The EPA has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.
- The EPA has also developed a Risk Management Policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The EPA's Risk Management Policy and Structures are in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).



During 2021, the EPA undertook a review of its Risk Management Processes. As part of this review, all Office Level Risk Registers and the Corporate Risk Register were reviewed. This project has resulted in a Corporate Risk Register which is more dynamic and better meets the needs of the organisation.

The Corporate Risk Register identifies the key risks facing the EPA and details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and the responsibility for the operation of controls assigned to specific staff. The Corporate Risk Register is developed and managed by the ERC, reviewed by the ARC and presented to the EPA Board for approval. Additionally, risk assessments of critical services have been carried out as part of a Business Continuity Project.

Each Director provides bi-annual assurance statements to the Board acknowledging responsibility for the on-going update, monitoring and review of the Risk Register for their Office and for ensuring the implementation of the Risk Management Policy.

I can therefore confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets
- a system for the control of programme expenditure, including procedures for the approval and payment of grants and processes to monitor the progress towards achieving the objectives.

### vii) Financial & Budgetary Information

The system of internal controls is based on a framework of regular management information, a system of delegation and accountability, a set of financial and administrative procedures including segregation of duties. In particular it includes:

- A comprehensive budgeting system with an annual budget, which is reviewed and approved by the Board. The budgeting system also includes the preparation of two formal revised budgets in June and September, both of which are submitted to the Board for approval.

- The assignment of budgets and budgetary authority and responsibility for specific functions to selected managers.
- Arrangements for all purchasing to be conducted and controlled through the EPA's financial management system and procedures.
- Monthly reviews by the Board of financial management reports.
- Adoption of an annual Corporate Procurement Plan and the appointment of a Procurement Officer.

The inbuilt controls in the Financial Systems have continued to operate as normal during 2021 with no procedures or Key Controls being overridden in order to maintain business-as-usual.

### viii) Procedures for addressing financial implications of major business risks

The financial implications of business risks have been considered through the formal business risk assessment process and in the preparation of the EPA Internal Audit Plans. These are further assessed and evaluated through the phased implementation of the EPA's Internal Audit Plan.

### ix) Monitoring effectiveness of System of Internal Control

The EPA has established and maintained an Audit & Risk Committee, comprising six external members, one of whom is the Chairperson, and one EPA senior manager, as part of the on-going systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures within the EPA, to oversee the internal audit function and advise the Board in relation to the operation and development of that function.

The EPA has established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC. The EPA engages external expertise to conduct internal audits.

The EPA Internal Audit Plan 2021–2022 was implemented during the year with progress on the implementation of the actions required arising from each audit reviewed regularly and reported to the Audit & Risk Committee at each ARC meeting and to the Board.

The Internal Audit Plan 2022-2023 was developed during 2021 and reflects the corporate risks identified for the EPA by the Executive Risk Committee, audits identified by EPA Management and the Audit & Risk Committee and developments and issues in relation to Corporate Governance that have arisen in the Public Sector in general. This Internal Audit Plan was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee and approved by the EPA Board in October 2021.

#### 4. Procurement

I confirm that the EPA has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines. There were no instances of non-compliant procurement in 2021.

#### 5. Research Funding

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) Circular 13/2014 Management of and Accountability of Grants from Exchequer Sources outlines the public financial management principles, procedures and additional reporting requirements to be followed in the management of grant funding provided from public money.

The EPA has procedures for the approval and payment of grants and processes to monitor the progress towards achieving the research objectives.

In January 2021, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications informed the EPA that it could continue to operate the existing pre-funding arrangements under the EPA's Research Programme pending receipt of formal DPER approval for 2021.

#### 6. Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that the EPA has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. The EPA's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit & Risk Committee, and the senior management within the EPA responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Directors conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2021 in both January and February 2022 and are satisfied that the system of internal control is sound.

An Internal Audit of the Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Financial Controls was undertaken in November and December 2021 and January 2022 in accordance with the Internal Audit Plan 2021/2022. Results from the Internal Audit indicate that substantial assurance can be placed on the adequacy and operating effectiveness of controls to mitigate and/or manage financial risks.

#### 7. Internal Control Issues

No breaches to internal controls were identified in relation to 2021 that require disclosure in the financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the Board.



**Laura Burke**  
*Director General*

Date: 24 May 2022

## 7.3 COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

### Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the Environmental Protection Agency for the year ended 31 December 2021 as required under the provisions of section 50 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows, and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Environmental Protection Agency at 31 December 2021 and of its income and expenditure for 2021 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 – *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

### Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the Environmental Protection Agency and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Report on Information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

The Environmental Protection Agency has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Directors' report and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.



**Andrew Harkness**

For and on behalf of the  
Comptroller and Auditor General

3 June 2022



## APPENDIX TO THE REPORT

### Responsibilities of Directors

As detailed in the governance statement and Directors' report, the Directors are responsible for

- the preparation of financial statements in the form prescribed under section 50 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 50 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 to audit the financial statements of the Environmental Protection Agency and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.
- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Environmental Protection Agency to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

### Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

### Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

## 7.4 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND RETAINED REVENUE RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Income</b>			
Oireachtas Grants – DECC	2(a)	48,636	43,048
Environment Fund Grants	2(b)	0	2,992
Oireachtas Grants – DHLGH	2(c)	6,352	6,808
Emissions Trading Costs Recovered	3	1,542	1,727
Income from Radiological Activities	4	764	824
Licensing Activities	5	674	579
Enforcement Activities	6	10,133	9,884
Sundry Receipts	7	698	342
Net Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding	23(c)	7,942	7,123
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>76,741</b>	<b>73,327</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Remuneration	8	27,373	27,064
Retirement Benefit Costs	23(a)	11,052	10,150
Travelling Expenses	9	466	555
Laboratory and Field Costs	10	1,494	1,701
Accommodation Costs	11	1,916	1,913
Administration Costs	12	8,826	8,541
Consultants	13	285	364
Grants, Contractors and External Service Providers	14	9,673	9,107
Environmental Research Programme Payments	15	8,784	8,660
Depreciation	16	5,762	5,902
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>75,631</b>	<b>73,957</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year before Appropriations</b>		<b>1,110</b>	<b>(630)</b>
Transfer (to)/ from the Capital Account	17	145	449
(Deficit)/ Surplus on Disposals of Fixed Assets		(16)	15
<b>Surplus /(Deficit) for the Year after Appropriations</b>		<b>1,239</b>	<b>(166)</b>
Surplus at 1 January		3,496	3,662
Surplus at 31 December		<b>4,735</b>	<b>3,496</b>

All income and expenditure for the year relate to continuing activities at the reporting date.

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of the Environmental Protection Agency:



**Laura Burke**  
Director General



**Gerard O'Leary**  
Deputy Director General

Date signed: 24 May 2022

## 7.5 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) after appropriations</b>		<b>1,239</b>	<b>(166)</b>
Experience gains/(losses) on retirement benefit obligations	23(d)	3,143	3,606
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations		(23,421)	(23,428)
<b>Actuarial (Loss)/Gain in the year</b>		<b>(20,278)</b>	<b>(19,822)</b>
<b>Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding</b>		<b>20,278</b>	<b>19,822</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income for the year</b>		<b>1,239</b>	<b>(166)</b>

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of the Environmental Protection Agency:



**Laura Burke**  
*Director General*

Date signed: 24 May 2022



**Gerard O'Leary**  
*Deputy Director General*



## 7.6 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Fixed Assets – Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	19	37,882	38,027
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Receivables	20	3,252	3,225
Cash and cash equivalents	21	10,350	9,445
		<b>13,602</b>	<b>12,670</b>
<b>Current Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)</b>			
Payables	22	(8,873)	(9,180)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>4,729</b>	<b>3,490</b>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities before Retirement Benefits</b>		<b>42,611</b>	<b>41,517</b>
<b>Retirement Benefits</b>			
Retirement benefit obligations	23(b)	(334,807)	(306,587)
Deferred retirement benefit funding asset	23(c)	334,807	306,587
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<b>42,611</b>	<b>41,517</b>
<b>Representing:</b>			
<b>Capital account</b>	17	<b>37,876</b>	<b>38,021</b>
<b>Retained revenue reserves</b>		<b>4,735</b>	<b>3,496</b>
		<b>42,611</b>	<b>41,517</b>

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of the Environmental Protection Agency:



**Laura Burke**  
Director General



**Gerard O'Leary**  
Deputy Director General

Date signed: 24 May 2022

## 7.7 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	1,239	(166)
Depreciation and Impairment of Fixed Assets	5,762	5,902
(Increase) in Receivables	(27)	(57)
(Decrease)/Increase in Payables	(307)	804
Interest Paid	64	41
Deficit/(Surplus) on Disposal of Fixed Assets	16	(15)
Transfer (from)/to Capital Account	(145)	(449)
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities</b>	<b>6,602</b>	<b>6,060</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Payments to acquire Property, Plant & Equipment	(5,633)	(5,453)
Proceeds on disposal of fixed assets	0	15
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>(5,633)</b>	<b>(5,438)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>		
Bank Interest Paid	(64)	(41)
Fixed Asset Loan written off	0	(23)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>(64)</b>	<b>(64)</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>558</b>
Cash and Cash equivalents at 1 January	9,445	8,887
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>10,350</b>	<b>9,445</b>

## 7.8 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

### 1 Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

#### a) General Information

The Environmental Protection Agency was set up under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, with its headquarters at Johnstown Castle Estate, County Wexford.

Primary Objectives – the description of EPA's operations and principal activities is set out in the Annual Report which accompanies these Financial Statements.

The Environmental Protection Agency is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

#### b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of the Environmental Protection Agency for the year ended 31 December 2021 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

#### c) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in the form approved by the Minister for the Environment Climate and Communications, with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform under Section 50 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material.

#### d) Revenue

##### State Grants

Revenue is generally recognised on an accruals basis; one exception to this is in the case of State Grants which are recognised on a cash receipts basis.

##### Licensing Activity Income

Applicants for environmental licences are required to pay the full licence application fee at the time of making the application. The amounts received are apportioned to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves on completion of the following stages of the licensing process:

Industrial Emissions Directive, Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Management Licences:

Application	30%
Proposed Determination	50%
Licence Issue	20%

Waste Water Discharge Licences:

Application	10%
Acknowledgement of complete application	40%
Licence Decision Issue	50%

##### Other Revenue

Other revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

### e) Emissions Trading Unit

The Emissions Trading Unit (ETU) was established within the Environmental Protection Agency in 2003. The costs of administering the emissions trading scheme are reimbursed to the EPA by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, from the proceeds of the sale of allowances, which are paid directly to the Department.

### f) Research Grant Payments

The EPA enters into commitments in respect of research projects awarded for funding. Expenditure on these research projects is charged in the financial statements on the basis of the initial payments which are made on signing of the grant award, interim payments which may be made subject to satisfactory performance and further payments which are issued on receipt and verification of claims in respect of work completed. Costs incurred by the EPA in the implementation of the research programmes are charged to the financial statements as they are incurred.

### g) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, adjusted for any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment at rates estimated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Buildings	2% per annum
Furniture and Fittings	10% per annum
Laboratory and Field Equipment	15% per annum
Equipment	20% per annum
IT and Computer Equipment	25% per annum
Motor Vehicles	20% per annum

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the life of the lease.

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

### h) Capitalisation of Internally Developed Software

The external costs of software developed for internal use are capitalised where it can be separately identified as software for use by the Agency and where it is expected to convey business benefits for a number of future years. The salary costs of software development staff are also capitalised.

### i) Capital Funding

The fixed assets of the EPA and advances to fund work in progress and asset purchases are met from a combination of capital grants, approved borrowing and allocations from current revenue. Funding sourced from grants (including that used to repay borrowings) is transferred to a capital account which is amortised in line with the depreciation of the related assets.

### j) Inventory

All inventory, including consumables are written off in the year of purchase.

### k) Receivables

Receivables are initially measured at transaction price and are subsequently carried at this amount, less a provision for doubtful debts. The provision for doubtful debts is established when there is objective evidence that the Environmental Protection Agency will not be able to collect all amounts owed to it. All movements in the provision for doubtful debts are recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.



## l) Operating Leases

Rental expenditure under operating leases is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves over the life of the lease. Expenditure is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease period, except where there are rental increases linked to the expected rate of inflation, in which case these increases are recognised when incurred. Any lease incentives received are recognised over the life of the lease.

## m) Employee Benefits

### Short-term Benefits

Short-term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year end are included in the Payables figure in the Statement of Financial Position.

### Retirement Benefits

The Environmental Protection Agency previously established its own defined benefit pension schemes, which are funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and from contributions deducted from staff and members' salaries. The Environmental Protection Agency also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme (Single Scheme), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees and are shown net of staff pension contributions from employees where contributions are retained by the Agency. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

The financial statements reflect, at fair value, the assets and liabilities arising from the Environmental Protection Agency's pension obligations and any related funding, and recognises the costs of providing pension benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees. Retirement benefit scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

## n) Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the date of the Statement of Financial Position and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

### Retirement Benefit Obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in the future of compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- (i) the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds.
- (ii) future compensation levels, future labour market conditions.

## 2 State Grants

		2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Grants from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications:</b>			
<b>(a) Oireachtas Grant – Grants from the Department's Vote:</b>			
Current	Subhead – E3	32,603	28,441
Capital	Subhead – E3	15,521	13,910
Other Programmes	Subhead – E3	512	697
<b>Total DECC Oireachtas Grants</b>		<b>48,636</b>	<b>43,048</b>
<b>The Current grant shown is net of single scheme employee contributions of €307K (2020: €264K) remitted to DPER.</b>			
<b>(b) Environment Fund Grants</b>			
Non-Pay		0	0
Research		0	0
Other Programmes		0	2,992
<b>Total Environment Fund Grants</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2,992</b>
<b>Grants from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:</b>			
<b>(c) Oireachtas Grant – Grants from the Department's Vote:</b>			
Current	Subhead – B3	5,655	5,871
Capital	Subhead – B3	697	937
<b>Total DHLGH Oireachtas Grants</b>		<b>6,352</b>	<b>6,808</b>
 <b>Total State Grants</b>		 <b>54,988</b>	 <b>52,848</b>

Research Funding of €10M (2020: €7.999M) provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is a specific allocation to meet the cost of environmental research. €11.437M was expended on these research activities in 2021 (2020: €11.134M). See Note 15.

### 3 Emissions Trading Unit (ETU) Activities

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Costs of Emissions Trading Unit recovered from Auction Funds, etc.	1,542	1,727
<b>Total Funding of ETU Costs</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>1,727</b>

### 4 Income from Radiological Activities

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Calibration Service	28	20
Radiation Monitoring Service	227	269
Radiological Licensing and Enforcement	497	535
Miscellaneous	12	0
<b>Total Income from Radiological Activities</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>824</b>

### 5 Licensing Activities – IED & IPC, Waste and WWD

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Licence Fees prepaid at 1 January	1,412	1,427
Fees Received	831	570
Less Refunds Paid	(128)	(6)
Licence Fees prepaid at 31 December (see Note 22)	(1,441)	(1,412)
<b>Amount credited to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>579</b>

Licensing: Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) and Waste

Under Section 83 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 the EPA is responsible for the licensing of large/complex industrial and other processes with significant polluting potential. Under Section 40 of the Waste Management Act, 1996 the EPA is responsible for the licensing of all significant waste recovery & disposal activities operated by local authorities and private enterprise.

Licensing: Waste Water Discharges (WWD)

The Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 provide for the licensing of urban waste water discharges. Discharges from areas that serve over 500 population equivalent require a licence from the EPA. Areas that serve less than 500 population equivalent are required to be certified by the EPA. The EPA's licensing income arises from fees charged in respect of processing such licensing applications.

## 6 Enforcement Activities – IED & IPC, Waste, WWD and Drinking Water

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Enforcement Charges Invoiced	9,907	9,711
Enforcement Income from Prosecutions	226	173
<b>Total Income from Enforcement Activities</b>	<b>10,133</b>	<b>9,884</b>

Under Section 96 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 the EPA is responsible for the regulation of large/ complex industrial and other processes with significant polluting potential. Under Section 15 of the Waste Management Act, 1996 the EPA is responsible for the regulation of all significant waste recovery and disposal activities operated by local authorities and private enterprise. Under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 the EPA is responsible for the regulation of waste water discharges. Under the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 the EPA may charge for monitoring the quality of water supplies intended for human consumption. The EPA's enforcement income arises from fees charged in respect of this enforcement work.

## 7 Sundry Receipts

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Sundry	698	342
	<b>698</b>	<b>342</b>

## 8 Remuneration

### (a) Aggregate Employee Benefits

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Staff short-term benefits	25,039	24,807
Termination benefits	0	0
Employer's contribution to social welfare PRSI	2,396	2,323
<b>Total Salary Costs</b>	<b>27,435</b>	<b>27,130</b>
IT Development Salary costs capitalised	(62)	(66)
<b>Salary Costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves</b>	<b>27,373</b>	<b>27,064</b>

The total Salary cost of €27.4M includes an accrual of €934,000 (2020: €980,000) in respect of accumulated staff annual leave entitlements. €307,000 (2020: €264,000) of Single scheme members pension contributions has been deducted and paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The total number of Single Scheme members at year end was 151 (2020: 141).

The Pension Related Deduction was replaced by the Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) with effect from 1 January 2019. In 2021, €943,000 of ASC (2020: €916,000) has been deducted from staff and paid to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.



**(b) Analysis of staff by location:**

	2021	2020
Headquarters	183	168
Regional Inspectorate Castlebar	28	26
Regional Inspectorate Cork	59	56
Regional Inspectorate Dublin	134	125
Regional Inspectorate Kilkenny	24	25
Regional Inspectorate Monaghan	14	14
Regional Offices	6	6
	<b>448</b>	<b>420</b>

**(c) Analysis of staff salary costs in excess of €60,000:**

The number of employees whose employee benefits fell within each band of €10,000 from €60,000 upwards is as follows:

	2021	2020
€60,000 to €70,000	78	81
€70,000 to €80,000	52	48
€80,000 to €90,000	15	29
€90,000 to €100,000	24	6
€100,000 to €110,000	6	7
€110,000 to €120,000	3	1
€130,000 to €140,000	0	3
€140,000 to €150,000	3	0
€150,000 to €160,000	1	1
€160,000 to €170,000	0	0
€170,000 to €180,000	1	1

The total number of staff employed (WTE) at year end was 415.9 (2020: 411.5).

**(d) Staff Short-Term Benefits**

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Basic Pay	24,974	24,742
Overtime	0	0
Allowances	65	65
	<b>25,039</b>	<b>24,807</b>

### (e) Key Management personnel

Key management personnel in the Environmental Protection Agency consists of the Director General and the 5 members of the Board of Directors. The Directors of the Environmental Protection Agency are full time executive Directors. They are paid an inclusive salary and consequently no Directors or Board fees are paid. The total value of employee benefits for key management personnel is set out below:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Salary	860	804
Allowances	11	11
	<b>871</b>	<b>815</b>

This does not include the value of retirement benefits earned in the period. The key management personnel are members of the Environmental Protection Agency (Director General and Director) staff pension scheme and their entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme.

### (f) Director General Salary and Benefits

The Director General remuneration package for the financial period was as follows:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Salary	175	172

This does not include the value of retirement benefits earned in the period. The Director General is a member of the Environmental Protection Agency (Director General and Director) staff pension scheme and her entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme.

## 9 Travelling Expenses

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Travel and Subsistence	366	452
Motor Vehicle Expenses	100	106
Travel Refunds	0	(3)
	<b>466</b>	<b>555</b>

This includes Executive Board travel expenditure of €23,091 (2020: €25,093).

## 10 Laboratory and Field Costs

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Laboratory and Field Expenses	912	992
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	541	655
Protective Clothing	41	54
	<b>1,494</b>	<b>1,701</b>

## 11 Accommodation Costs

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Rent and Rates	744	758
Power, Light and Heat, Cleaning	631	643
Repairs, Maintenance, Security	541	512
	<b>1,916</b>	<b>1,913</b>

## 12 Administration Costs

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Telephone and Postage	462	401
Printing of Publications and Stationery Supplies	384	465
Insurance	195	194
Computer and Data Processing Charges	4,050	3,912
Audit Fees	29	29
Corporate Governance and Internal Audit Costs	84	81
Legal fees, advice and related costs	1,419	1,323
Meeting, External Committee and Guest Speaker Expenses	210	151
Staff Appointment and other related costs	218	130
Bank Interest and Charges	74	57
Books, Periodicals, and Library	88	101
Staff Development and Training Costs	424	408
Advertising	80	153
Communications	961	958
Sundries	148	178
	<b>8,826</b>	<b>8,541</b>

### 13 Consultancy Costs

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Consultants	285	364
	<b>285</b>	<b>364</b>

The EPA Offices which made use of these consultancies were:	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Office of Communications and Corporate Services	108	143
Office of Environmental Sustainability	5	58
Office of Evidence and Assessment	86	66
Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring	17	39
Office of the Director General/Cross Office	69	58
	<b>285</b>	<b>364</b>

### 14 Grants, Contractors and External Service Providers

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Contractors and External Service Providers	7,201	6,585
Grants	2,472	2,522
	<b>9,673</b>	<b>9,107</b>

The EPA Offices which incurred costs under this heading were:	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Office of Communications and Corporate Services	622	642
Office of Environmental Sustainability	3,032	2,451
Office of Evidence and Assessment	3,873	4,169
Office of Environmental Enforcement	926	762
Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring	1,220	1,083
	<b>9,673</b>	<b>9,107</b>



## 15 Environmental Research

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
EPA Research Programme – Grant Payments	10,109	9,361
EPA Research Programme – Grant Refunds	(15)	(87)
Co-Funding Research Income	(1,310)	(614)
Research Programme Payments	<b>8,784</b>	<b>8,660</b>

The current EPA environmental research programme was launched in 2021. It is being funded through a combination of Exchequer funding and co-funding provided by other research funding organisations. The EPA Research Programme aims to put science and innovation at the centre of environmental protection in Ireland through the development and proactive transfer of knowledge.

### Research Co-Funding

In addition to the funding provided by DECC, the following research co-funding was received:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine	346	185
Health Service Executive	211	43
Department of Transport	166	50
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	147	0
The Marine Institute	138	50
Geological Survey of Ireland	87	26
National Parks and Wildlife Service	63	0
Met Éireann/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	55	103
Bio Diversa	25	0
Agence Nationale de la Recherche	21	90
Gas Networks Ireland	0	39
REPAK	0	20
Sundry/Other	51	8
Total Co- Funding	<b>1,310</b>	<b>614</b>

In 2021 EPA Research Programme expenditure was €11.11M including Grant Payments of €10.109M as shown above and implementation and activity costs of €1,001K which are reported under the Travel, Lab and Field, Administration and Contractors cost headings.

In 2020 EPA Research Programme expenditure was €10.790M including Grant Payments of €9.361M as shown above and implementation and activity costs of €1,430K, which are reported under the Travel, Lab and Field, Administration and Contractors cost headings.

A further €327K of grant payments (2020: €343K) to research projects is included in the Grants figure at Note 14.

At 31 December 2021 commitments entered into but not yet charged to the financial statements in respect of Research projects amounted to €24.841M (2020: €24.391M) with the following breakdown:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Outstanding Grant Commitments at 1 January	24,391	27,551
Grants Approved during the year	11,166	8,015
Grants Decommited during the year	(295)	(1,558)
Grant Payments made in the year	(10,436)	(9,704)
Refunds of Grant payments received in the year	15	87
<b>Outstanding Commitments at 31 December</b>	<b>24,841</b>	<b>24,391</b>

These figures exclude EPA implementation costs in respect of Research programmes.

## 16 Depreciation of Fixed Assets

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment (Note 19)	5,762	5,902
	<b>5,762</b>	<b>5,902</b>

## 17 Capital Account

	€'000	€'000
At 1 January 2021		38,021
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account:		
Income Allocated for Capital purposes – Fixed Asset Additions		5,633
<b>Less:</b>		
Disposals at cost	(4,196)	
Less prior depreciation on disposals	4,180	
	(16)	
Depreciation charge for year	(5,762)	
Net Transfer (to)/from Income and Expenditure Account		(145)
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>		<b>37,876</b>

At 31 December 2021 the Capital Account balance includes €15,662 (2020: €15,662) in respect of prepayments for fixed assets (see Note 20 – Receivables).

## 18 Taxation

The EPA is specifically exempted under the provisions of Section 32, and Schedule 2, of Finance Act, 1994. Accordingly, no taxation charges have been included in the accounts.

## 19 Fixed Assets – Property, Plant & Equipment

	Total	Buildings	Furniture & Fittings	IT & IS Equipment	Lab & Field Equipment	Motor Vehicles
Cost	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
At 1 January 2021	91,865	43,572	6,231	28,077	12,750	1,235
Additions	5,633	901	399	2,943	1,390	0
Disposals	(4,196)	(5)	(475)	(2,125)	(1,591)	0
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>93,302</b>	<b>44,468</b>	<b>6,155</b>	<b>28,895</b>	<b>12,549</b>	<b>1,235</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 January 2021	53,838	15,223	4,408	23,686	9,491	1,030
Charge for Year	5,762	858	734	2,954	1,122	94
On Disposals	(4,180)	(1)	(475)	(2,116)	(1,588)	0
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>55,420</b>	<b>16,080</b>	<b>4,667</b>	<b>24,524</b>	<b>9,025</b>	<b>1,124</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>						
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>37,882</b>	<b>28,388</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>4,371</b>	<b>3,524</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>38,027</b>	<b>28,349</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>4,391</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>205</b>

The EPA regional inspectorate building at Seville Lodge, Kilkenny was constructed by the Office of Public Works on a site acquired for EPA. The legal transfer of the site to the EPA is being processed by the OPW through the Chief State Solicitors Office.

In 2021 the EPA capitalised €2.288M (2020: €2.29M) in respect of the external cost and €62K (2020: €66K) in respect of the internal salary cost of software development for internal use. This is in line with our Accounting Policy for Capitalisation of Internally Developed Software.

## 20 Receivables

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Debtors	1,727	1,982
Prepayments	1,509	1,227
Prepayments for Fixed Assets	16	16
	<b>3,252</b>	<b>3,225</b>

## 21 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Cash and Bank Balances	10,350	9,445

## 22 Payables

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Licence Fees Prepaid	1,441	1,412
Other Deferred Income	586	615
Trade and Other Expenses	6,846	7,153
	<b>8,873</b>	<b>9,180</b>

Included in Trade and Other Expenses above are the following amounts due to the Revenue Commissioners:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Professional Service Withholding Tax	364	388
PAYE/PRSI/USC	769	764
VAT	371	349
Relevant Contract Tax	2	0
	<b>1,506</b>	<b>1,501</b>



## 23 Retirement Benefit Costs

### (a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Current Service Cost	9,945	8,237
Interest on retirement benefit scheme liabilities	2,438	3,191
Employee Contributions	(1,331)	(1,278)
	<b>11,052</b>	<b>10,150</b>

### (b) Movement in net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Net retirement benefit obligation at 1 January	306,587	279,642
Current service costs	9,945	8,237
Interest costs	2,438	3,191
Actuarial (gain)/loss	20,278	19,822
Pensions paid in the year	(4,441)	(4,305)
<b>Net retirement benefit obligation at 31 December</b>	<b>334,807</b>	<b>306,587</b>

### (c) Deferred Funding for Retirement Benefits

The EPA recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described below and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit schemes, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The EPA has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The net deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves was as follows:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Funding recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	12,383	11,428
Resources applied to pay retirement benefits	(4,441)	(4,305)
	<b>7,942</b>	<b>7,123</b>

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31 December 2021 amounted to €334.8M (2020: €306.6M).

#### (d) History of defined benefit obligations

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
	€ M	€ M	€ M	€ M	€ M
Defined benefit obligations	335	307	280	248	247
Experience gains/(losses) on defined benefit scheme liabilities:					
Amount (€ M)	3.143	3.606	7.264	(0.688)	(6.240)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	0.9%	1.2%	2.6%	(0.3%)	(2.5%)

The cumulative actuarial loss recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income amounts to **€159.1M (2020: €138.8M)**.

#### (e) General Description of the Schemes

The schemes are defined benefit final salary pension arrangements with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations. The schemes provide staff members with a pension (being 1/80 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (being 3/80 per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member's 65th birthday, and pre-2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. The schemes provide Board members with a pension (being 1/48 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (being 1/32 per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. Board members are entitled to retire when their contract ends. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

The valuation used for FRS 102 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation performed on 29 March 2022 by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	2021	2020
Future salary increases	3.20%	2.45%
Future retirement benefit increases	2.70%	1.95%
Future state pension increases	2.20%	1.45%
Discount rate	1.20%	0.80%
Future inflation	2.20%	1.45%
Revaluation in deferment	2.70%	1.95%

## Mortality

Mortality Pre-Retirement – Nil.

Mortality Post Retirement – Male: 58% of ILT15, Female 62% of ILT15.

The mortality basis adopted explicitly allows for improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age. The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2021 and 2041.

Year of attaining age 65	2021	2041
Life expectancy – male	86.8	89.1
Life expectancy – female	89.2	91.2

## 24 Lease Commitments

At 31 December 2021 the Environmental Protection Agency had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Payable within one year	639	719
Payable within two to five years	2,004	2,338
Payable after five years	2,000	2,489

Operating lease payments recognised as an expense were €720K, (2020: €723K).

## 25 Related Party Disclosures

The EPA has adopted procedures to govern its decision making in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 and the Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 and regulations made thereunder. These procedures have been adhered to by the EPA during the year.

Key management personnel in the EPA consist of the Director General and the members of the Board of Directors. Total compensation paid to key management personnel, including Directors salaries, vouched expenses and the Director General's remuneration amounted to €894K (2020: €840K).

In the normal course of business the Agency may approve grants and may also enter into other contractual arrangements with undertakings in which EPA Key management personnel have an interest.

The following transactions were carried out with related parties:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Purchase of Goods and Services:</b>		
Other Related Parties	28	46
	<b>28</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Payable to related parties:</b>		
Other Related Parties	3	0
	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

The payables arise from purchase transactions.

In cases of potential conflict of interest, Board members absent themselves and do not participate in discussions regarding these matters.

## 26 COVID-19

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020 significantly changed the way the EPA operated. The EPA adapted quickly to the changed working environment with remote working becoming the norm for most EPA staff. The EPA Pandemic Response Team (PRT) continued to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic throughout 2021. The PRT is chaired by the Deputy Director General with representatives from all EPA Offices. The PRT has overseen a significant number of activities to protect the safety, health and welfare of EPA staff, contractors and visitors. Throughout 2021, the EPA continued to refine work practices including the use of ICT technologies, which has made remote working more efficient and effective. The inbuilt controls within the EPA's Financial Systems have continued to operate as normal during the Covid-19 pandemic with no procedures or Key Controls being overridden in order to maintain business as usual. The Agency does not believe that Covid-19 is impacting on its ability to continue to operate as a going concern.

## 27 Comparative Figures

Some changes have been made to the presentation of items in the financial statements and the comparative figures have been reclassified where necessary on a basis consistent with the current year presentation.

## 28 Approval of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 24 May 2022.



# AN GHNÍOMHAIREACTH UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an GCC freagrach as an gcomhshaol a chosaint agus a fheabhsú, mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaol a chosaint ar thionchar díobhálach na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

## Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

**Rialáil:** Rialáil agus córais chomhlíonta comhshaoil éifeachtacha a chur i bhfeidhm, chun dea-thorthaí comhshaoil a bhaint amach agus díriú orthu siúd nach mbíonn ag cloí leo.

**Eolas:** Sonraí, eolas agus measúnú ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírthe agus tráthúil a chur ar fáil i leith an chomhshaoil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht.

**Abhcóideacht:** Ag obair le daoine eile ar son timpeallachta glaine, táirgiúla agus deachosanta agus ar son cleachtas inbhuanaithe i dtaobh an chomhshaoil.

## I measc ár gcuid freagrachtaí tá:

### Ceadúnú

Gníomhaíochtaí tionscail, dramhaíola agus stórála peitрил ar scála mór;

- Sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbhig;
- Úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe;
- Foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin;
- Astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ó thionscal agus ón eitíocht trí Scéim an AE um Thrádáil Astaíochtaí.

## Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Iniúchadh agus cigireacht ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas acu ón GCC;
- Cur i bhfeidhm an dea-chleachtais a stiúradh i ngníomhaíochtaí agus i saoráidí rialáilte;
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí an údaráis áitiúil as cosaint an chomhshaoil;
- Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí a rialáil agus údaruithe um sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbhig a fhorfheidhmiú
- Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí agus phríobháidigh a mheasúnú agus tuairisciú air;
- Comhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra d'eagraíochtaí seirbhíse poiblí chun tacú le gníomhú i gcoinne coireachta comhshaoil;
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaol.

## Bainistíocht Dramhaíola agus Ceimiceáin sa Chomhshaol

- Rialacháin dramhaíola a chur i bhfeidhm agus a fhorfheidhmiú lena n-áirítear saincheistanna forfheidhmithe náisiúnta;
- Staitisticí dramhaíola náisiúnta a ullmhú agus a fhoilsiú chomh maith leis an bPlean Náisiúnta um Bainistíocht Dramhaíola Guaisí;
- An Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc Dramhaíola a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm;
- Reachtaíocht ar rialú ceimiceáin sa timpeallacht a chur i bhfeidhm agus tuairisciú ar an reachtaíocht sin.

## Bainistíocht Uisce

- Plé le struchtúir náisiúnta agus réigiúnacha rialachais agus oibriúcháin chun an Chreat-treoir Uisce a chur i bhfeidhm;
- Monatóireacht, measúnú agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán aibhneacha, lochanna, uiscí idirchreasa agus cósta, uiscí snámha agus screamhuisce chomh maith le tomhas ar leibhéil uisce agus sreabhadh abhann.

## Eolaíocht Aeráide & Athrú Aeráide

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin a fhoilsiú um astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa na hÉireann;
- Rúnaíocht a chur ar fáil don Chomhairle Chomhairleach ar Athrú Aeráide agus tacaíocht a thabhairt don Idirphlé Náisiúnta ar Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide;

- Tacú le gníomhaíochtaí forbartha Náisiúnta, AE agus NA um Eolaíocht agus Beartas Aeráide.

## Monatóireacht & Measúnú ar an gComhshaol

- Córais náisiúnta um monatóireacht an chomhshaoil a cheapadh agus a chur i bhfeidhm: teicneolaíocht, bainistíocht sonraí, anailís agus réamhaisnéisiú;
- Tuairiscí ar Staid Thimpeallacht na hÉireann agus ar Tháscairí a chur ar fáil;
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán an aeir agus Treoir an AE i leith Aeir Ghlain don Eoraip a chur i bhfeidhm chomh maith leis an gCoinbhinsiún ar Aerthruaillíú Fadraoin Trasteorann, agus an Treoir i leith na Teorann Náisiúnta Astaíochtaí;
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm na Treorach i leith Torainn Timpeallachta;
- Measúnú a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar chomhshaol na hÉireann.
- Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil
- Comhordú a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíochtaí taighde comhshaoil agus iad a mhaoiniú chun brú a aithint, bonn eolais a chur faoin mbeartas agus réitigh a chur ar fáil;
- Comhoibriú le gníomhaíocht náisiúnta agus AE um thaighde comhshaoil.

## Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéil radaíochta agus nochtadh an phobail do radaíocht ianúcháin agus do réimsí leictreamaighnéadacha a mheas;
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as tairmí núicléacha;
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta;
- Sainseirbhísí um chosaint ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

## Treoir, Ardú Feasachta agus Faisnéis Inrochtana

- Tuairisciú, comhairle agus treoir neamhspleách, fianaise-bhunaithe a chur ar fáil don Rialtas, don tionscal agus don phobal ar ábhair maidir le cosaint comhshaoil agus raideolaíoch;
- An nasc idir sláinte agus folláine, an geilleagar agus timpeallacht ghlan a chur chun cinn;
- Feasacht comhshaoil a chur chun cinn lena n-áirítear tacú le hiompraíocht um éifeachtúlacht acmhainní agus aistriú aeráide;
- Tástáil radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre agus feabhsúchán a mholadh áit is gá.

## Comhpháirtíocht agus Líonrú

Oibriú le gníomhaireachtaí idirnáisiúnta agus náisiúnta, údaráis réigiúnacha agus áitiúla, eagraíochtaí neamhrialtais, comhlachtaí ionadaíochta agus ranna rialtais chun cosaint comhshaoil agus raideolaíoch a chur ar fáil, chomh maith le taighde, comhordú agus cinnteoireacht bunaithe ar an eolaíocht.

## Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

- Tá an GCC á bhainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrtóir agus cúigear Stiúrtóir. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:
- An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú
- An Oifig um Chosaint ar Radaíocht agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tugann coistí comhairleacha cabhair don Ghníomhaireacht agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair inní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.

### **Headquarters**

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An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Chaomhnú Comhshaoil  
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Cuntais  
**2021**



# AN GHNÍOMHAIREACTH UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an GCC freagrach as an gcomhshaol a chosaint agus a fheabhsú, mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaol a chosaint ar thionchar díobhálach na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

## Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

**Rialáil:** Rialáil agus córais chomhlíonta comhshaoil éifeachtacha a chur i bhfeidhm, chun dea-thorthaí comhshaoil a bhaint amach agus díriú orthu siúd nach mbíonn ag cloí leo.

**Eolas:** Sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírthe agus tráthúil a sholáthar ar mhaithe le bonn eolais a chur faoi chinnteoireacht.

**Abhcóideacht:** Ag obair le daoine eile ar son timpeallachta glaine, táirgíúla agus dea-chosanta agus ar son cleachtas inbhuanaithe i dtaobh an chomhshaoil.

## I measc ár gcuid freagrachtaí tá: Ceadúnú

- Gníomhaíochtaí tionscail, dramhaíola agus stórála peitрил ar scála mór;
- Sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbigh;
- Úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe;
- Foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin;
- Astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ó thionscal agus ón eitíocht le Scéim an AE um Thrádáil Astaíochtaí.

## Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Iniúchadh agus cigireacht ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas acu ón GCC;
- Cur i bhfeidhm dea-chleachtais i dtaca le gníomhaíochtaí agus saoráidí rialaithe a spreagadh;
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí an údarais áitiúil as cosaint an chomhshaoil;
- Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí a rialáil agus údaruithe um sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbigh a fhorfheidhmiú;
- Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí agus phríobháidigh a mheasúnú agus tuairisciú air;
- Comhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra d'eagraíochtaí seirbhíse poiblí chun tacú le gníomhú i gcoinne coireachta comhshaoil;
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a sháraíonn dlí an chomhshaoil agus a bhfuil dochar á dhéanamh acu don chomhshaol.

## Bainistíocht Dramhaíola agus Ceimiceáin sa Chomhshaol

- Rialacháin dramhaíola a chur i bhfeidhm agus a fhorfheidhmiú lena n-áirítear saincheisteanna forfheidhmithe náisiúnta;
- Staitisticí dramhaíola náisiúnta a ullmhú agus a fhoilsiú chomh maith leis an bPlean Náisiúnta um Bainistíocht Dramhaíola Guaisí;
- An Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc Dramhaíola a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm;
- Reachtaíocht ar rialú ceimiceáin sa timpeallacht a chur i bhfeidhm agus tabhairt faoi thuirisciú i leith na reachtaíochta sin.

## Bainistíocht Uisce

- Plé le struchtúir náisiúnta agus réigiúnacha rialachais agus oibriúcháin chun an Chreat-treoir Uisce a chur i bhfeidhm;
- Monatóireacht, measúnú agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán aibhneacha, lochanna, uisce idirchreasa agus cósta, uisce snámha agus screamhuisce chomh maith le tomhas ar leibhéal uisce agus sreabhadh abhann.

## Eolaíocht Aeráide & Athrú Aeráide

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin a fhoilsiú um astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa na hÉireann;
- Rúnaíocht a chur ar fáil don Chomhairle Chomhairleach ar Athrú Aeráide agus tacaíocht a léiriú don Idirphlé Náisiúnta maidir le Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide;
- Tacú le gníomhaíochtaí forbartha Náisiúnta, AE agus NA um Eolaíocht agus Beartas Aeráide.

## Monatóireacht & Measúnú ar an gComhshaol

- Córais náisiúnta um monatóireacht an chomhshaoil a cheapadh agus a chur i bhfeidhm: teicneolaíocht, bainistíocht sonraí, anailís agus réamhaisnéisiú;
- Tuairiscí ar Staid Thimpeallacht na hÉireann agus ar Tháscairí a chur ar fáil;
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip a chur i bhfeidhm chomh maith leis an gCoinbhinsiún ar Aerthruailliú Fadraoin Trasteorann agus an Treoir um Uasteorainneacha Astaíochtaí Náisiúnta;
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm na Treorach i leith Torainn Timpeallachta;
- Measúnú a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar chomhshaol na hÉireann.
- Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil
- Comhordú a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíochtaí taighde comhshaoil agus iad a mhaoiniú ar mhaithe le brúnna a aithint, bonn eolais a chur faoin mbeartas agus teacht ar réitigh;
- Comhoibriú i dteannta le gníomhaíocht taighde comhshaoil náisiúnta agus AE.

## Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal radaíochta agus glacadh an phobail do radaíocht ianúcháin agus do réimís leictreamaighnéadacha a mheas;
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as tairmí núicléacha;
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhfuil baint acu le saoráidí núicléacha agus le sábháilteacht raideolaíochta;
- Sainseirbhísí um chosaint ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

## Treoir, Ardú Feasachta agus Faisnéis Inrochtana

- Tuairisciú, comhairle agus treoir neamhspleách, fianaise-bhunaithe a chur ar fáil don Rialtas, don tionscal agus don phobal ar ábhair maidir le cosaint comhshaoil agus raideolaíoch;
- An nasc atá idir sláinte agus folláine, an geilleagar agus timpeallacht ghlan a chur chun cinn;
- Feasacht comhshaoil a chur chun cinn lena n-áirítear tacú le hiompraíocht um éifeachtúlacht acmhainní agus aistriú aeráide;
- Tástáil radóin i dtithe cónaithe agus ionaid oibre a chur chun cinn agus feabhsúchán a spreagadh nuair atá gá leis.

## Comhpháirtíocht agus Líonrú

- Oibriú le gníomhaireachtaí idirnáisiúnta agus náisiúnta, údarais réigiúnacha agus áitiúla, eagraíochtaí neamhrialtais, comhlachtaí ionadaíochta agus ranna rialtais chun cosaint comhshaoil agus raideolaíoch a chur ar fáil, chomh maith le taighde, comhordú agus cinnteoireacht bunaithe ar an eolaíocht.

## Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an ghníomhaíocht á bainistiú ag Bord Iánamseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

- An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú
- An Oifig um Chosaint ar Radaíocht agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tugann coistí comhairleacha cabhair don GCC agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le hábhair inní a phlé agus ar mhaithe le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



## AN GHNÍOMHAIREACHT UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Cuntais 2021

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Cé go ndearnadh gach iarracht cruinneas an ábhair atá san fhoilseachán seo a chinntiú, ní féidir cruinneas iomlán a dhearbhu. Ní ghlacann an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil ná an t-údar/na húdair le haon fhreagracht de dheasca cailteanais ná damáiste a tharla nó a mhaítear a tharla, go páirteach nó ina iomláine, de thoradh aon duine a bheadh i mbun gníomhaíochta nó gan bheith ag gníomhú de dheasca aon ábhar de chuid an fhoilseacháin seo. Féadfar an foilseachán seo a atáirgeadh go hiomlán nó go páirteach gan cead breise, ar choinníoll go ndéanfar an fhoirse a admháil.

Arna fhoilsiú ag an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, Éire

Deartha ag Clever Cat Design

An Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil,  
Bosca Oifig Phoist 3000,  
Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin,  
Co. Loch Garman,  
Éire

Íomhánna le caoinchead fhoireann GCC

Íomhá Clúdaigh: Grúdú Stoirm Chill Mhantáin  
Grianghraf le Aimie cranch

ISBN: 978-1-80009-048-4

Rinneadh struchtúrú agus ailíniú ar leagan amach na tuarascála seo chun Plean Straitéiseach na GCC 2016-2020 a léiriú: *Ár gComhshaoil, Ár bhFolláine.*

# Príomh-Staitisticí – 2021 i bhFigiúirí

## ÚDARUITHE

**118**

údarú  
comhshaoil  
eisithe

**569**

leasú  
údaraithe  
déanta

**3**

chinneadh ar  
chritéir um ábhair  
nach dramhaíl a  
thuilleadh iad  
eisithe

**275**

fógra  
fotháirgí  
próiseáilte

**132**

údarú radaíochta  
agus 529 leasú  
teicniúil eisithe

## FORFHEIDHMIÚ

**212**

cuairt ar láithreáin  
d'fhuíolluisce uirbeach  
agus 79 ar láithreáin  
d'uisce óils

**1,295**

cuairt ar shaoráidí tionscail,  
dramhaíola, ar shaoráidí  
dumpála san fharraige  
agus VOC

**13**

ionchúiseamh  
tagtha i gcrích

**9**

d'Treoir um  
Uisce Óil eisithe  
d'Uisce Éireann

**75**

iniúchadh ar  
Shealbhóirí Ceadúnais  
Raideolaíocha

**11**

láithreán ar na  
Láithreáin Náisiúnta  
Tosaíochta um  
Fhorfheidhmiú

## GEILLEAGAR CIORCLACH

**€710k**

bronnta d'ocht bhfiontar faoi  
Fhiontraíocht Ghlas 2021:  
Nuálaíocht maidir le glaoch ar  
mhaoiniú do Gheilleagar  
Ciorclach

**7.5m**

Freastai 7.5m don  
fheachtas náisiúnta  
Stop Food Waste  
'Stretch Out and  
Save'

## MONATÓIREACHT

**1,539**

Monatóireacht déanta  
ar 1,529 do Bharlaigh  
maidir le hanailís  
bhithheolaíoch agus  
cheimiceach

**97**

stáisiún  
monatóireachta  
aercháilíochta

**844**

Anailís déanta ar  
844 samplaí maidir  
le radaighníomh-  
aíochta

## EOLAS

**722,297**

cuairt ar [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

**112**

iarratas ar fhaisnéis  
(52 Rochtain ar  
Fhaisnéis faoin  
gComhshaoil  
agus 60 SF)

**9,900+**

gearán maidir leis an gcomhshaoil

**2,900+**

ceist faoin gcomhshaoil  
ón bpobal

**409**

tacar sonraí GCC  
uaslódáilte ar  
[data.gov.ie](http://data.gov.ie) agus  
76,054 amharc  
san iomlán orthu

## TAIGHDE

**41**

Tuarascáil Taighde:

9 ar an gComhshaoil, 7 ar Gheilleagar Ciorclach  
agus Glas, 13 ar Chomhshaoil Sláintiúil agus 12  
ar an gComhshaoil Nádúrtha

## ULLMHAÍOCHTAÍ d'ÉIGEANDÁLAÍ

**1**

cleachtadh éigeandála déanta go hinmheánach  
le réimse foirne ón GCC trí chéile

**7**

cleachtadh éigeandála idirnáisiúnta ar  
glacadh páirt iontu

## RADÓN

**136,890**

amharc leathanaigh ar ábhar a bhaineann  
le radón ar an suíomh gréasáin

## Teastaíonn Fís agus Feidhmiú uainn chun Comhshaol na hÉireann agus ár Sláinte agus ár bhFolláine a chosaint



### SOE 1: Staid Beartais Comhshaoil

Staid beartais náisiúnta maidir le comhshaol na hÉireann.



### SOE 2: Feidhmiú Iomlán

Reachtaíocht chomhshaoil reatha a chur i bhfeidhm ina hiomláine agus athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an rialachas a bhaineann le cosaint an chomhshaoil thar chomhlachtaí poiblí a chomhordú.



### SOE 3: Sláinte agus Folláine

Is Infheistíocht inár Sláinte agus Folláine é an Comhshaol a Chosaint.

## Seasamh Suas chun an Comhshaol Mórthimpeall orainn a Chosaint mar go bhfuil sé i mBaol; agus tá an Baol seo ag Dul in Olcas



### SOE 4: Aeráid

Tá athrú córasach ag teastáil má táthar chun sochaí agus geilleagar atá neodrach ó thaobh díobháil aeráide de agus atá seasmhach i leith an athraithe aeráide de a dhéanamh d'Éirinn, arb é sin an aidhm atá ag an tír.



### SOE 5: Cáilíocht an Aeir

Ba cheart go mbeadh an sprioc sa Straitéis um Aer Glan bearta a ghlacadh chun treoirluachanna na hEagraíochta Domhanda Sláinte a chomhlíonadh.



### SOE 6: Dúlra

An dúlra agus áiteanna fiáine a chosaint mar thosaíocht náisiúnta agus oidhreacht a fhágáil do na glúnta atá le teacht.



### SOE 7: Cáilíocht an Uisce

Feabhas a chur ar an timpeallacht uisce agus aghaidh a thabhairt ar thruailliú uisce go háitiúil ar leibhéal an dobharcheantair.



### SOE 8: Muirí

Brúnna ar an timpeallacht mhuirí ar daoine is cúis leo a laghdú.

## Athrú ar an gCóras – Caithfear Dlús a Chur le Baint Amach Torthaí Earnála agus Sochaíocha



### SOE 9: Fuinneamh Glan

Ní mór d'Éirinn aistriú go tapa ó úsáid leathan breoslaí iontaise go córais fuinnimh ghlain a úsáid.



### SOE 10: Talmhaíocht inbhuanaithe ó thaobh comhshaoil de

Earnáil talmhaíochta agus bhia a léiríonn feidhmiú deimhnithe maidir le bia a tháirgeadh ar bhealach a bhfuil lorg íseal aige ar an gcomhshaol.



### SOE 11: Seirbhísí Uisce

Caithfidh bonneagar uisce óil agus fuíolluisce riachtanais ár sochaí a chomhlíonadh.



### SOE 12: Geilleagar Ciorclach

Bogadh i dtreo geilleagar ciorclach nach gcuireann an méid céanna amú, geilleagar a thugann tús áite do chosc ar dhramhail, athúsáid, deisiú agus athchúrsáil.



### SOE 13: Úsáid Talún

Cuir chuige chomhtháite i leith mapáil talún a chur chun cinn chun tacú le déanamh cinntí maidir le húsáid talún inbhuanaithe.



## FÍS

Comhshaoil glan folláin dea-chosanta a thacaíonn le sochaí agus geilleagar inbhuanaithe.

## MISEAN

An comhshaoil a chosaint agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Ár ndaoine agus an comhshaoil a chosaint ar éifeachtaí díobhálacha radaíochta agus truaillithe.

## LUACHANNA

### Ár Maoirseacht

Guth iontaofa neamhspleách údarásach ar son an chomhshaoil is ea muid.

Déanaimid cinntí oibiachtúla agus iad bunaithe ar an bhfianaise agus an eolas eolaíoch is fearr atá ar fáil.

Bainistímid ár n-acmhainní go héifeachtach agus go héifeachtúil chun luach a chur ar fáil don phobal.

### Ár nObair

Déanaimid rialáil ar bhealach cóir comhréireach trédhearcach, agus dírimid orthu siúd nach mbíonn comhlíontach.

Déanaimid difríocht trí obair a dhéanamh le dreamanna eile chun iontaobh, líonraí agus comhpháirtíochtaí a chruthú ar mhaithe le torthaí éifeachtacha a bhaint amach.

Déanfaimid ár ndícheall go leanúnach feabhsú agus feabhas a bhaint amach trí fhoghlaim agus forbairt.

### Ár Seirbhís

Táimid nuálaíoch, oiriúnaitheach agus toilteanach bealaí nua agus solúbtha oibre a leanúint.

Déanaimid seirbhísí a dhearadh agus a sholáthar ó dhearcadh an tsaoránaigh.

Cuirimid ár seirbhísí ar fáil ar bhealach atá inniúil, cúirtéiseach agus sofhreagrach.

### Ár gComhghleacaithe

Oibrímid le chéile chun torthaí éifeachtacha a chur ar fáil.

Tacaímid lenár gcomhghleacaithe, tá iontaobh againn astu agus is mór againn iad, agus bímid ag cumhachtú a chéile chun cinntí a dhéanamh.

Bímid oscailte agus macánta lena chéile.

Tugaimid dúshlán a chéile agus spreagaimid a chéile go cuiditheach chun obair níos fearr a dhéanamh.

## AN MÉID A DHÉANAIMID

### Eolas

Sonraí, measúnuithe agus fianaise ardchaighdeán spriocdhírthe thráthúil a chur ar fáil le cur le cinnteoireacht ag saoránaigh, gnóthaí agus an Rialtas.

### Rialáil

Rialáil agus córais chloí comhshaoil éifeachtacha a chur i bhfeidhm, chun dea-thorthaí don chomhshaoil agus do dhaoine a bhaint amach, agus díriú orthu siúd nach mbíonn ag cloí leo.

### Abhcóideacht

Obair a dhéanamh le dreamanna eile chun abhcóideacht a dhéanamh ar son comhshaoil atá glan, sláintiúil agus dea-chosanta agus ar son iompraíocht chomhshaoil inbhuanaithe.

## MAR A DHÉANAIMID É

Monatóireacht agus Measúnú

Taighde agus Saineolas

Eolas Tráthúil agus Inrochtana

Ceadúnú

Forfheidhmiú

Treoir

Comhpháirtíochtaí agus Líonraí

Múscailt Feasachta

Iompraíocht Inbhuanaithe a Chur Chun Cinn



# Dréacht-Straitéis

2016-2020

Dréacht	Cuspóirí	Torthaí An Méid a Bheidh Bainte Amach Againn faoi 2020
<b>Rialtóir Iontaofa Comhshaoil</b>	<b>Cinntiú</b> go ndéantar forbairt leanúnach ar chur chuige comhréireach éifeachtach rialaitheach. <b>Ailiniú</b> a dhéanamh ar acmhainní an GCC chun idirghabhálacha a spriocdhírú agus an riosca comhshaoil a laghdú.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Cur chuige sofhreagrach rialaitheach atá bunaithe ar rioscaí agus a chuireann páirtithe leasmhara san áireamh agus a chosnaíonn an comhshaoil agus daoine.</li><li>▲ Rioscaí laghdaithe comhshaoil ag áiseanna rialáilte an GCC trí idirghabhálacha saincheaptha agus trí chinntiú go mbíonn forálacha cú airgeadais i bhfeidhm.</li><li>▲ Baint amach soláthair agus bainistíochta feabhsaithe uisce agus bonneagar uisce.</li></ul>
<b>Ceannaire Fianaise agus Eolas Comhshaoil</b>	<b>Baint Amach</b> acmhainneacht iomlán eolas, scileanna, shaineolas agus láithreach réigiúnach an GCC mar phríomh-acmhainní náisiúnta i gcosaint an chomhshaoil agus sláinte an duine. <b>Luathú</b> an tsoláthair eolais thráthúil shaincheaptha le freastal ar riachtanais ar leith na ngrúpaí páirtithe leasmhara.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Measúnuithe comhshaoil níos tráthúla atá bunaithe ar fhianaise le cur le polasaithe agus cinnteoireacht go náisiúnta, go réigiúnach agus go háitiúil.</li><li>▲ Soláthar feabhsaithe eolais ar an gcomhshaoil do pháirtithe leasmhara, agus é ar líne, cothrom le dáta agus inrochtana.</li><li>▲ Clár taighde a dhíríonn ar bhearnaí eolais agus a chabhraíonn le réitigh ar fhadhbanna éiritheacha casta comhshaoil a aithint.</li></ul>
<b>Abhcóide agus Comhpháirtí Éifeachtach</b>	<b>Neartú</b> chumas agus acmhainn an GCC tionchar a imirt, abhcóideacht a dhéanamh agus dul i gcomhar le dreamanna eile le cabhrú le comhshaoil glan sláintiúil atá cosanta go cúig a bhaint amach. <b>Teagmháil</b> a dhéanamh leis an bpobal i gcosaint agus feabhsú an chomhshaoil. <b>Cur Chun Cinn</b> a dhéanamh ar fheasacht níos mó ar thionchar cháilíocht an chomhshaoil ar shláinte an duine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Deiseanna spriocdhíríte le tosaíochtaí comhshaoil agus inbhuanaitheacht a chomhtháthú le polasaithe earnála, eacnamaíocha agus sóisialta.</li><li>▲ Clár rannpháirtíochta pobail a fhorbairt chun feasacht ar cheisteanna comhshaoil a mhéadú agus tacú le rannpháirtíocht an phobail i gcosaint an chomhshaoil.</li><li>▲ Comhoibriú le gníomhaireachtaí stáit agus comhlachtaí eile chun tairbhí dea-chomhshaoil don tsláinte agus d'fholláine a bhaint amach.</li></ul>
<b>Freagairt ar Phríomhdhúshláin Chomhshaoil</b>	<b>Dul i ngleic</b> leis na dúshláin a bhaineann le cáilíocht fheabhsaithe uisce a chur ar fáil in Éirinn. <b>Teagmháil a dhéanamh</b> le comhpháirtithe straitéiseacha eile chun forbairt freagartha iomlánaíche náisiúnta ar an athrú aeráide a chur chun cinn. <b>Feabhsú</b> a dhéanamh ar chosaint aeir agus radaíochta in Éirinn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Struchtúir éifeachtacha agus láidre i bhfeidhm chun torthaí níos fearr a chur ar fáil i gcáilíocht an uisce.</li><li>▲ Rúnaíocht um an athrú aeráide a bhunú sa GCC mar ionad feabhais a thacaíonn leis an aistriú náisiúnta go geilleagar ísealcharbóin.</li><li>▲ Na creata um cháilíocht aeir agus cosaint ar radaíocht a neartú chun daoine agus an comhshaoil a chosaint tuilleadh.</li></ul>
<b>Ar Fheabhas go hEagraíochtúil</b>	<b>Forbairt</b> a dhéanamh ar ár bhfoireann agus ár n-eagraíocht a ailiniú chun na torthaí comhshaoil is fearr a bhaint amach. <b>Dírú</b> ar fhorbairt agus cur chun cinn sláinte eagraíochtúla, folláine agus sábháilteachta ag an obair. <b>Cur chun cinn</b> a dhéanamh ar chultúr ceannaireachta, athchóirithe agus nuálaíochta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Ár bhfeidhmeanna agus acmhainní a ailiniú ar mhaithe le bheith sofhreagrach agus in ann dul in oiriúint do dhúshláin éiritheacha.</li><li>▲ Teagmháil leis an bhfoireann go léir chun timpeallacht thacúil ionad oibre a chruthú.</li><li>▲ Cumas feabhsaithe i réimse an athraithe eagraíochtúil agus in úsáid TFC le tacú le hathchóirithe agus nuálaíocht.</li></ul>

## LIOSTA NA nGIORRUCHÁN

<b>AIE</b>	Rochtain ar Fhaisnéis faoin gComhshaoil	<b>LAPN</b>	Líonra Coiscithe na nÚdarás Áitiúil
<b>AMR/FSFM</b>	Frithsheasmhacht Fhrithmhiocróbach/ Antimicrobial Resistance	<b>MI</b>	Foras na Mara
<b>An CTFTA</b>	An Coinbhinsiún ar Thruailliú Fadraoin Trasteorann an Aeir	<b>MoU</b>	Meabhrán Tuisceana
<b>An CTU</b>	An Chreat-Treoir Uisce	<b>mSv</b>	millisiveart
<b>AN GLE</b>	An Ghníomhaireacht Leigheasa Eorpach	<b>NDCA</b>	An t-Idirphlé Náisiúnta ar Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide
<b>AQIH</b>	Innéacs Chaighdeán an Aeir don tSláinte	<b>NEC</b>	An Treoir maidir le hUasteorainn Náisiúnta Astaíochtaí
<b>ARC</b>	An Coiste um Iniúchóireacht & Riosca	<b>NHEPA</b>	Líonra um Cheannairí na nGníomhaireachtaí um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil
<b>B2C</b>	Gnó go Tomhaltóir	<b>NIEA</b>	Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
<b>BAT</b>	Na Teicnící is Fearr atá ar Fáil	<b>NIECE</b>	An Líonra um Chomhlíonadh agus Forfheidhmiú Comhshaoil na hÉireann
<b>BNÉC</b>	Bord Náisiúnta na hÉireann um Chreidiúnú	<b>NRCS</b>	An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Rialú Radóin
<b>BTS</b>	An Bord Taighde Sláinte	<b>NWPP</b>	An Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc Dramhaíola
<b>CAFÉ</b>	An Treoir um Aer Glan don Eoraip	<b>ODS</b>	Substaintí ídithe ózóin
<b>CBT</b>	An Comhbheartas Talmhaíochta	<b>OGManna</b>	orgánach géinmhodhnaithe
<b>CCMA</b>	Cumann na mBainisteoirí Contae agus Cathrach	<b>OPW</b>	Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
<b>CÉF/API</b>	Comhéadain Fheidhmchláir/Application Programming Interfaces	<b>PCB</b>	défhéinil pholaclóirinithe
<b>CFR</b>	An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin Riosca	<b>POP</b>	truailléain orgánacha mharthanacha
<b>CNS</b>	An Coinbhinsiún ar Shábháilteacht Núicléach	<b>PRI</b>	Tionscnamh um Fhreagracht Táirgeoirí
<b>DAFM</b>	An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara	<b>PRTR</b>	An Clár um Scaoileadh agus Aistriú Truailléan
<b>ECFE</b>	An Eagraíocht um Chomhar agus Fhorbairt Eacnamaíochta	<b>RAL</b>	Liosta na mBeart Ceartaitheach
<b>EIONET</b>	An Gréasán Eorpach um Fhaisnéis agus um Fhaire ar an gComhshaoil	<b>RBMP</b>	Plean Bainistíochta Abhantraí
<b>ESD</b>	Cinneadh maidir le Comhroinnt Díchill an AE	<b>RCAC</b>	An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
<b>ESRI</b>	An Institiúid Taighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta	<b>REACH</b>	Na rialacháin maidir le Clárú, Meastóireacht, Údarú agus Srianadh Ceimiceán
<b>EU ETS</b>	Scéim an AE i ndáil le Trádáil Astaíochtaí	<b>RMO</b>	Oifig um Bainistíocht Bhóithre
<b>F-ghás</b>	Gás fluairínithe	<b>RoHS</b>	Srian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha
<b>FOI</b>	Saoráil Faisnéise	<b>RTRÁO</b>	An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
<b>FSS (HSE)</b>	Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte	<b>SEA</b>	Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta
<b>GEC</b>	An Ghníomhaireacht Eorpach Comhshaoil	<b>SLA</b>	Comhaontú Seirbhíse
<b>HSA</b>	An tÚdarás Sláinte & Sábháilteachta	<b>TFC</b>	Teicneolaíocht na Faisnéise & na Cumarsáide
<b>IED</b>	An Treoir maidir le hAstaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha	<b>ÚFIE</b>	Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann
<b>IEN</b>	Líonra Comhshaoil na hÉireann	<b>UNECE</b>	Coimisiún Eacnamaíochta na Náisiún Aontaithe don Eoraip
<b>IMD</b>	Ionad Meándóchain	<b>UNFCCC</b>	Creat-Choinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe ar an Athrú Aeráide
<b>IPC</b>	Rialú Comhtháite ar Thruailliú	<b>WEEE</b>	Dramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach
<b>IPCC</b>	An Painéal Idir-Rialtasach ar an Athrú Aeráide	<b>WWTP</b>	Ionad Cóireála Fuíolluisce
<b>JAI</b>	Junior Achievement Ireland		
<b>JPI</b>	Tionscnaimh Chomh-chláraithe		

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# 1 RÁITEAS AN ARD-STIÚRTHÓRA



Tá áthas orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Cuntais na GCC, a thugann forbhreathnú ar an dul chun cinn a rinneadh i rith 2021, a chur os bhur gcomhair. D’imir an phaindéim COVID-19 tionchar mór arís i mbliana ar an-chuid earnálacha den tsochaí. Ceacht amháin atá foghlamtha le dhá bhliain anuas ná gur féidir feidhm a bheith ag eolaíocht atá curtha in iúl go maith i dtaca le polasaí, le tuiscint agus le hiompar, fiú más dúshláin scanrúla atá os ár gcomhair.

Tá deis ann anois bunobair a dhéanamh ar mhaithe le téarnamh glas a chruthú chun comhshaoil na hÉireann a chosaint agus a athbhunú. Is foinse iontaofa eolaíochta agus fianaise í an GCC, agus í i mbun tacaíochta le gníomhartha ag gach leibhéal – an rialtas, cúrsaí gnó agus an duine aonair – chun ár n-aistriú ó phatrúin tomhaltais agus táirgthe neamh-inbhuanaithe reatha a chur chun cinn.

Le linn na paindéime leanadh d’obair riachtanach na GCC lena chinntiú nár tháinig aon laghdú ar chosaint shláinte an duine agus an chomhshaoil. Mar rialtóir comhshaoil tá athruithe curtha i gcrích ag an GCC de réir mar a bhí gá leo, agus í ag dul i ngleic le gearáin, eachtraí agus cásanna éigeandála, í ag tabhairt faoi chigireachtaí ar an láithreán agus í ag déileáil le ceadúnaithe ar bhealach oiriúnach bunaithe ar riosca. Tá athruithe curtha i gcrích ag ainm chomh maith maidir le for-rochtain agus rannpháirtíocht leis an bpobal, ag méadú ár lucht spéise agus suíomh gréasáin nua ag ainm agus ag aistriú go seimíneáir gréasáin dár gcomhdhála bhlantúla.

## Athrú aeráide

Foilsíodh an chéad tuarascáil ón tionscadal ‘Athrú Aeráide i Meon na hÉireann’ i mí na Nollag 2021. Tugtar le fios sna torthaí, aitheantas fírláidir daoine den phobal maidir leis an mbagairt atá ann ón athrú aeráide – mothaíonn siad go bhfuil sé ag cur isteach go pearsanta orthu agus go bhfuil athrú mór de dhíth orthu. Mar staidéar bonnlíne, is í an aidhm atá ag an tionscal ná tuiscint níos feara a fhorbairt maidir le tuairimí, brath riosca, sainroghanna polasaithe agus iompar phobal na hÉireann maidir le hathrú aeráide.

I mí Lúnasa 2021, d’fhoilsigh an GCC, Met Éireann agus Foras na Mara tuarascáil ar ‘Stádas Aeráid na hÉireann’. Tugtar le fios leis an anailís chuimsitheach seo ar shonraí aeráide a bailíodh in Éirinn, an chaoi a bhfuil athruithe domhanda le brath in atmaisféar, in aigéin agus i dtírdhreach na hÉireann.

Tugadh le fios le sonraí fardail gás ceaptha teasa de chuid 2020, a foilsíodh i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2021, gur tháinig laghdú 3.6% ar astaíochtaí idir 2019 agus 2020. Bhí dhá phríomhchúis leis an laghdú sin ar astaíochtaí: an laghdú ar astaíochtaí iompair de dheasca shrianta COVID-19 agus déine astaíochtaí

laghdaithe a bhí bainteach le giniúint leictreachais. Leag an laghdú beag ar astaíochtaí, ag tréimhse inar tháinig athrú mór ar ghníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch agus shóisialta de bharr na paindéime, béim ar an méid gníomhaíochta atá de dhíth ar fud gach cuid dár ngeilleagar agus dár sochaí chun an sprioc laghdú 51% faoi 2030, sprioc a leagadh síos san Acht Aeráide 2021, a bhaint amach.

## Dramhaíl agus an Geilleagar Ciorclach

Leag staitisticí náisiúnta maidir le giniúint agus bainistiú dramhaíola, a foilsíodh i mí na Nollag 2021, béim ar an ardú leanúnach ar ghiniúint dramhaíola de dheasca ghníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch agus tugadh le fios go bhfuil úsáid ciorclach ábhair fós an-íseal. Tháinig laghdú ar rátaí athchúrsála do dhramhaíl bhardaís agus dramhaíl ó phacáistíocht, agus tá níos mó dramhaíola á seoladh le haghaidh aisghabháil an fhuinnimh.

I mí na Nollag, sheol an GCC Clár an Gheilleagair Ciorclaigh, clár a bheidh mar cheann feadhna agus Éire ag aistriú go geilleagar ciorclach, geilleagar ina ndéanfaidh gnólachtaí, saoránaigh agus an earnáil phoiblí úsáid acmhainní a laghdú, dramhaíl a chosc agus fás eacnamaíoch inbhuanaithe a bhaint amach. Beidh an clár ina chrann taca chomh maith le Straitéis uile-Rialtais an Gheilleagair Ciorclaigh agus cuirfidh sé ciorclaíocht chun cinn mar shamhail gheilleagrach, rud a chuirfidh le comhleanúnachas agus le hailíniú i measc gníomhaíochtaí náisiúnta, réigiúnacha agus áitiúla.

I mí Mheán Fómhair, thug an GCC faoi athbhreithniú ar threoir an tSoláthair Phoiblí Ghlais agus critéir tionlacain ar mhaithe leis an Earnáil Phoiblí, agus rinne an GCC iad a fhoilsiú chun teacht ar earraí, seirbhísí nó oibreacha a mbeadh tionchar comhshaoil níos ísle acu.



## Aer

Soláthraíonn Clár Náisiúnta Monatóireachta na GCC ar Cháilíocht an Aeir Chomhthimpeallaigh faisnéis fhíor-ama logánta maidir le cáilíocht an aeir agus bíonn comhairle sláinte phoiblí in éineacht léi. Tháinig méadú faoi thrí ar mhonatóireacht fhíor-ama ar cháilíocht an aeir in Éirinn ó cuireadh tús le cur i bhfeidhm an chlár nua ag deireadh 2017 tar éis do naoi stáisiún nua teacht ar an bhfód i rith 2021.

Cuireadh tús le tionscadal na GCC ‘LIFE Emerald’ in 2021 agus thar na trí bliana amach romhainn cuirfear ar fáil réamhaisnéis náisiúnta, “nowcast” nó réamhaisnéis láithreach (ar mhaithe le cáilíocht an aeir chomhthimpeallaigh a chur ar fáil do na háiteanna go léir idir stáisiúin mhonatóireachta, agus léarscáileanna stairiúla ar cháilíocht an aeir.

Tugadh le fios sa ‘Tuarascáil ar Cháilíocht an Aeir in Éirinn 2020’, a foilsíodh i mí na Samhna, gurb iad an dá phríomhcheist maidir le cáilíocht an aeir ná ábhar cáithnínach ó dhó breoslaí soladacha agus dé-ocsaíd nítrigine ó hastaíochtaí tráchtá.

## Uisce agus Fuíolluisce

Cé go bhfuil cáilíocht an uisce óil i soláthairtí poiblí fós ard, is baol do cháilíocht an uisce agus don tsláinte phoiblí iad moilleanna i bhforbairtí uisce poiblí. Le linn mhí Lúnasa agus Mheán Fómhair 2021, d’fhreagair an GCC do dhá eachtra an-suntasacha ag ionaid chóireála uisce óil i mBaile Ghuaire agus sa Bhaile Mór, a thug le fios teip uafásach i maoirseacht bainistíochta, rialú oibríochtaí agus freagracht Uisce Éireann agus na nÚdarás Áitiúil maidir lena róil faoi seach uisce óil slán agus sábháilte a sholáthar.

D’fhoilsigh an GCC ‘Cáilíocht Uisce in 2020: Tuarascáil Táscair’ i mí Iúil 2021 inar leagadh béim ar an bhfíoras go bhfuil uiscí dromchla agus screamhuiscí fós faoi bhrú ó ghníomhaíochtaí an duine, go háirithe, nítrigin agus fosfar de dheasca na talmhaíochta agus sceití fuíolluisce uirbigh. Tá roinnt feabhsuithe tagtha ar cháilíocht bhithéolaíoch ár n-aibhneacha, ach tá go leor acu nach bhfuil chomh sláintiúil ó thaobh na héiceolaíochta de agus go mba chóir dóibh a bheith. Tá gníomh soiléir de dhíth ar mhaithe le feabhsuithe marthanacha ar cháilíocht an uisce a chinntiú.

Tá cáilíocht uisce snámha fós ag dul chun feabhais, agus 96% de na huiscí snámha aitheanta ag comhlíonadh nó ag sárú an íoschaighdeáin atá riachtanach.

Tá feabhsuithe i gcóireál fuíolluisce le feiceáil, le laghdú aon trian tagtha ar áiteanna tosaíochta le ceithre bliana anuas. Tá an luas faoi fheabhsuithe riachtanacha ró-mhall áfach chun na córais chóireála easnamhacha a thabhairt suas go dtí an caighdeán cuí. Ní mór d’Uisce Éireann an bonneagar riachtanach a sheachadadh chomh tráthúil agus is féidir agus leigheas a fháil ar na bunchúiseanna a bhfuil moill á cur acu le huasghrádú na gcóras cóireála.

Tá uasdátú déanta ar cheadúnais doirte san uisce chun infhorghníomhaitheacht na gcoinníollacha sonracha a fheabhsú agus cabhróidh sé sin leis an GCC na ceadúnais a chur i bhfeidhm, leanúnachas a chur ar fáil agus an comhshaoil a chosaint.

## Radaíocht

I rith 2021, cuireadh tús le hobair i dtaca le huasghrádú agus leathnú ar Líonra Náisiúnta Monatóireachta Radaíochta na GCC.

Tugadh taighde ar léarscáil nua baoil radóin chun críche in 2021. Thug tástáil úsáideoirí ar líne, agus leas á bhaint as gnéithe cosúil le dath, teanga agus feidhmiúlacht chuardaigh, le fios go raibh deis ann cur go mór le toilteanas daoine tabhairt faoi thástáil ar a gcuid tithe.

Rinne an GCC torthaí i dtaca le triail allamuigh inar tugadh faoi shuiteáil umar éighníomhach agus cochall statach i roinnt tithe cónaithe nuathógtha Éireannacha nach raibh cónaí iontu, a thuiriscí do ghrúpa comhordaithe na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Rialú Radóin. Thug an triail le fios go raibh laghduithe suntasacha tagtha ar leibhéal radóin.

## Measúnú

I ndiaidh don tuarascáil ar Staid an Chomhshaoil a dtugtar faoi gach ceithre bliana a fhoilsiú i ndeireadh na bliana 2020, lean an GCC lena torthaí a chur chun cinn; d’fhoilsigh sí leabhrán inar cuireadh faisnéis achomair, príomhtheachtaireachtaí, buaicphointí caibidil, gníomhartha, measúnú reatha agus ionchas i láthair.

In 2020 chuir an Rialtas de chúram ar an GCC athbhreithniú náisiúnta fianaise-bhunaithe ar thalamhúsáid a threorú. Tá an t-athbhreithniú fianaise á dhéanamh chun tacú leis an uaillmhian go mbeidh ‘roghanna talamhúsáide barrmhaithe ina mbonn eolais i dtaca le gach cinneadh ábhartha rialtais’, agus go ndéanfar iontógáil carbóin a uasmhéadú mar chuid de bheartas náisiúnta talamhúsáide sa toadhcháil agus torthaí inbhuanaithe agus athléimneacha ar mhaithe na sochaí, an gheilleagair agus an chomhshaoil, á gcinntiú. Meastar go mbeidh an t-athbhreithniú fianaise-bhunaithe críochnaithe sa dara leath de 2022.

## Ceadúnú agus Forfheidhmiú

I measc na gcinntí maidir le ceadúnú agus ceadú a rinneadh in 2021, áiríodh méadú ar shaoráidí ardrphróifíle agus gníomhaíochtaí infheistíochta úrnua sna hearnálacha seo a leanas: ceimiceáin chógaisíochta, stroighin, bia agus deoch, dramháil, TFC agus fuinneamh. Chuaigh an GCC i dteagmháil chomh maith leis an gCoimisiún um Rialáil Fóntas, le Eirgrid, leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide agus leis an earnáil chumhachta maidir le fadhbanna i dtaca le slándáil an tsoláthair fuinnimh.

Tugann an GCC faoi fhorfheidhmiú i dtaca le breis agus 800 ceadúnas tionsclaíochta agus dramhaíola agus bhain a cuid foirne forfheidhmithe úsáid as cur chuige riosca-bhunaithe maidir le cigireachtaí ar an láthair, agus Measúnachtaí Comhlionta Cianda san áireamh, le dul in oiriúint do shrianta COVID-19. D'fhreagair na cigirí d'eachtraí suntasacha comhshaoil ar an láthair, do chásanna éigeandála agus do ghearáin le linn 2021.

I ndiaidh roinnt tinte a tharla ag saoráidí dramhaíola ceadúnaithe agus ceadaithe go luath in 2021, thug an GCC faoi fheachtas spriodhírthe cigireachtaí ar shaoráidí dramhaíola agus a n-aird á díriú ar an bpríacal dóiteáin. Tugadh cuairt ar níos mó ná 40 láithreán ceadúnaithe, agus de thoradh na gcuariteanna bhain feabhsuithe le bainistíocht dramhaíola agus bhí an príacal dóiteáin laghdaithe.

Tugann an GCC faoi rialú chomh maith i dtaca le húsáid na radaíochta ianúcháin in ospidéal, san earnáil oideachais agus in earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus córas ceadúnaithe agus cigireachta á gcur i bhfeidhm. Baineann ceadúnú le feidhmeanna a bhfuil ardriosca ag baint leo nó atá níos casta, agus is clárú atá i gceist le feidhmeanna a bhfuil riosca níos ísle ag baint leo. Faoi dheireadh 2021, bhí 259 ceadúnas agus 1,453 clárú curtha i bhfeidhm.

Déanann an GCC rialacháin agus ceadúnais uisce a fhorfheidhmiú, chomh maith le deimhnithe údarúcháin a bhaineann le hUisce Éireann. Le linn 2021, lean an GCC ag freagairt d'eachtraí suntasacha ar an láthair, do chásanna éigeandála agus do ghearáin.

## Taighde

Cuireann an GCC clár taighde comhshaoil ar fáil chun tacaíocht riachtanach eolaíochta a thabhairt d'fhorbairt agus cur chun feidhme beartais chomhshaoil agus do chinnteoireacht i gcomhthéacs níos leithne. San iomlán, bronnadh 58 deontas nua in 2021 (€9.91m); ina measc bhí 30 deontas nua ó ghairm taighde 2021 de chuid na GCC (€7.49m).

Seoladh creat nua deich mbliana ardleibhéil i mí an Mhárta 2021 le haghaidh chlár taighde na GCC. Tá ceithre thosaíocht théamacha i gceist leis: athrú aeráide, geilleagar ciorclach, comhshaoil sláintiúil a sholáthar agus ár gcomhshaoil nádúrtha a chosaint agus a athbhunú.

Sheol an GCC scéim nua maoinithe taighde 'Mear go Beartas' in 2021 ar mhaithe leis an gcomhéadan beartais taighde a neartú agus sintéis fianaise-bhunaithe, athbhreithniú maidir le beartais agus dea-chleachtais a sholáthar chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar cheisteanna beartais práinneacha atá ar na bacáin.

## Rannpháirtíocht

Thug an GCC faoi athfhorbairt a suímh gréasáin le linn 2021 ar mhaithe le suíomh gréasáin ábhartha agus so-úsáidte a chur ar fáil do na húsáideoirí, le rochtain ar fhaisnéis i bhformáid dhinimiciúil nua-aimseartha más gá léi. Ba mhór an chabhair í láithreach mhéadaitheach na GCC ar na meáin shóisialta chun lucht féachana nua a chothú agus chun teagmháil a dhéanamh le lucht éisteachta atá níos óige chomh maith.

Rinne an GCC naoi n-imeacht phoiblí a óstáil ar líne de dheasca shrianta COVID-19.

Bhí suim an phobail i dtionscnaimh eolaíochta saoránach na GCC i bhfad níos mó ná mar a bhí aon duine ag súil leis. Rinne breis agus 1,000 rannpháirtí i mBaile Átha Cliath samplaí a ghlacadh i dtaca le leibhéil dé-ocsaíde nítrigine ina gceantar áitiúil i mí Dheireadh Fómhair ar mhaithe leis an tionscadal 'Aer Glan le Chéile' i gcomhar le hAonad Oideachais Comhshaoil An Taisce.

Bhuaigh dalta ó Choláiste na Toirbhearta, Baile Átha an Rí, Co. na Gaillimhe an cúigiú comórtas 'The Story of Your Stuff', comórtas ar son scoileanna dara leibhéal, lena fhíseán tráthúil: 'The story of disposable face masks' (Scéal na masc aghaidhe aon uaire). Sa bhliain ina raibh an rannpháirtíocht níos airde ná mar a bhí riamh, fuarthas níos mó ná 330 iarratas ó 76 scoil ar fud na tíre.

Ag gníomhú i gcomhpháirtíocht le ÉICI-EOECNA agus Junior Achievement Ireland thug an GCC faoi urraíocht ar ghradam comhshaoil ag an gcomórtas fíorúil d'Eolaí Óg BT agus ar an nGradam Iriseoireachta Comhshaoil do Ghradaim Náisiúnta Mac Léinn na Meán.


## An GCC a Ghlasú

I rith 2021, lean Córas Bainistíochta Comhshaoil na GCC, atá deimhnithe ag an gcaighdeán idirnáisiúnta ISO 14001:2015, de bheith creidiúnaithe. Leanadh le feabhsuithe ar fheidhmíocht fuinnimh, laghdú dramhaíola, bainistíocht dramhaíola guaisí, bithéagsúlacht agus soláthar poiblí glas. Tugadh faoi athbhreithnithe ar éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh ar mhaithe le heolas a dhéanamh do ghníomhartha laghdaithe fuinnimh atá de dhíth chun spriocanna Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide 2030 a bhaint amach.

## Conclúid

Agus mé ag gníomhú mar Ard-Stiúrthóir, is mian liom aird a dhíriú ar obair chrua agus ar ghealltanas fhoireann na GCC i rith 2021 agus buíochas a ghabháil le mo chuid comhstíúrthóirí as a dtiomantas agus as a dtacaíocht agus ár spriocanna straitéiseacha á mbaint amach againn. Tugaimid chun cuimhne ár gcara agus ar gcomhghleacaí an Dr Ciara McMahon ar bhain a bás roimh am i mí Eanáir 2021, stangadh asainn ar fad.

Ba mhaith liom gach rath a ghuá ar na comhghleacaithe seo a leanas ón GCC a chuaigh ar scor i rith 2021, tar éis blianta fada de sheirbhís thiomnaithe: Ciara Maxwell, Frank Clinton, Bernadette Cuddihy, Stephen Somerville agus Marie Kelly. Ar deireadh thiar thall, ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide agus leis an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta as a dtacaíocht leanúnach.



Laura Burke  
Ard-Stiúrthóir an GCC





# 2

Córais éifeachtacha chomhlíonta a chur chun feidhme maidir le rialáil agus leis an gcomhshaoil, ar mhaithe le dea-thorthaí ar son daoine agus an chomhshaoil a bhaint amach, agus díriú orthu siúd nach mbíonn ag cloí le na córais.





## 2 RIALÁIL

### 2.1 CEADÚNÚ

Déanann an GCC údaruithe a cheadú lena chinntiú nach bhfuil astaíochtaí ó ghníomhaíochtaí ag cur sláinte daoine i mbaol ná ag cruthú dochair don chomhshaoil.

Baineann cúram leathan le clár ceadúnaithe comhshaoil na GCC agus tá freagracht air as réimse tascanna atá bainteach le húdarú gníomhaíochtaí a bhféadfadh tionchar a bheith acu ar an gcomhshaoil nó ar shláinte na ndaoine (Táblaí 1 agus 2). Áirítear ar an obair oibleagáidí na hÉireann a chur i bhfeidhm faoi Threoracha éagsúla AE, rud a dhéantar nuair a thugtar faoi mheasúnachtaí comhshaoil sula gceadaítear údaruithe nó sula ndiúltaítear dóibh. Cuimsítear léi Measúnacht Tionchair Comhshaoil agus Measúnacht Chúí.

#### Údarú Gníomhaíochtaí

Tá athruithe nua agus suntasacha tagtha chun cinn maidir leis an gcaoi ina rialaítear gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha in Éirinn de dheasca na Treorach maidir le hAstaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha. Cinnteoidh na hathruithe seo go gcuimseoidh ceadúnais na bearta uile atá de dhíth ar mhaithe le leibhéal ard cosanta a bhaint amach don chomhshaoil.

Faoin Treoir maidir le hAstaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha ceanglaítear ar an GCC tabhairt faoi athmhéasúnú ar choinníollacha ár gceadúnas tionsclaíoch laistigh de cheithre bliana ó fhoilsiú chonclúidí na dTeicnící is Fearr atá ar Fáil, agus na coinníollacha sin a athnuachan más gá.

Faoi dheireadh 2020, bhí 17 gCinneadh Cur Chun Feidhme an Choimisiúin maidir le conclúidí na dTeicnící is Fearr atá ar Fáil foilsithe, agus ba é an ceann ba dhéanaí acu ná Cóireáil Dromchla ag Úsáid Tuaslagóirí Orgánacha, chomh maith leis na hearnálacha Bia agus Deochanna. Ciallaíonn sé seo go gcaithfear tabhairt faoi athbhreithniú agus athmhéasúnú ar cheadúnais sna hearnálacha sin faoi mhí na Nollag 2024. Tá an obair i dtaca le riachtanais 17 gCinneadh Cur Chun Feidhme an Choimisiúin a chur i bhfeidhm, idir lámha.

I measc chinntí ceadúnaithe agus ceadaithe comhshaoil in 2021 a bhfuil achoimre déanta orthu i dTábla 1 thíos, tá cinntí a bhain le méaduithe i dtaca le saoráidí cáiliúla, feidhmeanna stairiúla atá ansin le fada an lá agus gníomhaíochtaí infheistíochta úrnua a bhain le hearnálacha na dramhaíola, na gceimiceán cógaisíochta agus na cumhachta. Ina theannta sin, ba in earnáil na diantalmhaíochta a bhí beagnach leath na n-iarraitas nua ar cheadúnais le haghaidh Astaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha/Rialú Comhtháite ar Thruaillíú nó ceadúnais dramhaíola a fuarthas in 2021. I mí na Bealtaine 2021, d'éisigh an GCC cur chuige nua ar mhaithe le tabhairt faoi mheasúnú i leith thionchair charnacha astaíochtaí amóinia na hearnála diantalmhaíochta, lena gcinnteofar cosaint na láithreán Natura (láithreán thábhachtacha éiceolaíochta) ar fud na tíre. Bhain tionchar suntasach leis seo ar son na hearnála, go háirithe i réigiún teorann Chabháin agus Mhuineacháin.

Rinneadh na rialacháin um Ionaid Mheándócháin a thrasúimh sa dlí i mí na Nollag 2017 agus tá siad á gcur i bhfeidhm bunaithe ar chur chuige riosca-bhunaithe faoi stiúir na GCC. Is é an

cuspoir atá leo ná teorainn a chur le hastaíochtaí ó choirí agus ó hionaid dócháin sheasta eile sa raon 1-50 MWth (ionchur teirmeach) chuig an atmaisféar. Faoi dheireadh 2021, bhí 238 Ionad Meándóchana cláraithe; ba ghineadóirí éigeandála ag ionaid sonraí iad sin den chuid is mó.

Leanann an GCC de rialáil a dhéanamh ar mhaithe leis an ngeilleagar ciorclach agus í ag tabhairt faoi fheidhmeanna Deiridh Dramhaíola agus faoi fhógraí Fotháirgí. Cuireadh tús le córas feabhsaithe um fhógraí fotháirgí ar líne a fhorbairt in 2021, lena n-áirítear Clár Fotháirgí idirghníomhach agus rochtain iomlán poiblí ar na doiciméid uile. Anuas air sin, rinneadh dul chun cinn fós in 2021 maidir le hIonaid Stairiúla Líonta Talún agus le heisiúint na dTeastas Údaraithe atá ag teastáil chun obair leasúcháin a dhéanamh ar shean-líonta talún a bhí á bhfeidhmiú ag údarais áitiúla san am a chuaigh thart.

Bhain ceadanna a eisíodh maidir le gníomhaíochtaí OGM le saoráidí taighde den chuid is mó agus níor bhain aon riosca nó is riosca beag a bhain leo. Ina theannta sin, tháinig Alt 5(12) den Acht um Dhumpáil ar Muir 1996, arna leasú, i bhfeidhm maidir le suiteálacha amach ón gcósta ar an 1 Aibreán 2021 nuair a síníodh Ordú (Tosach Feidhme) 2021 an Achta um Dhumpáil ar Muir (Alt 5(12)) (I.R. 92 de 2021). Cuireann sé seo ar chumas na GCC ceadúnas lena n-údaraithear suiteáil amach ón gcósta a dhumpáil, a bhronnadh, nó gan é a bhronnadh, de réir fhorálacha an Achta. Tá dhá iarratas faighte ag an GCC maidir le suiteálacha amach ón gcósta a fhágáil ina n-ionad. Chomh maith leis sin, rinne an GCC scrúdú ar 513 ceadúnas de réir na Rialachán um Scardadh Dramhuisce (Údarú) 2007, arna leasú, agus d'éisigh sí 122 tuarascáil gan aon gníomhaíocht bhreise agus chuir sí tús le 25 athbhreithniú i dtaca le ceadúnais. Tá páirt ghníomhach á glacadh ag an GCC i dtaca leis an mBille um an Comhshaoil Uisce (Astarraingtí agus Ciontaí Áirithe) – Scéim Ghinearálta Athbhreithnithe.

Lean an GCC ar aghaidh le tacaíocht a thabhairt dá seirbhís gréasáin, ar aon dul lena gealltanais straitéiseacha, chun cur isteach leictreonach i dtaca le hiarraitas ar cheadúnais agus próiseáil agus cumarsáid leictreonach le gach páirtí leasmhar a chur san áireamh. Dá dheasca seo, tá seirbhís níos éifeachtúla ag ár gcustaiméirí agus éascóidh sé tuairisciú sonraí níos éifeachtúla agus níos cruinne don Choimisiún Eorpach.



## Trádáil astaíochtaí

Is í an GCC Údarás forfheidhmithe agus feidhmithe Chóras an AE i ndáil le Trádáil Astaíochtaí (EU ETS) in Éirinn agus, dá bhrí sin, cuireann sí rialacha an AE i bhfeidhm chun go mbeidh cionroinnt chomhoiriúnaithe saor de liúntais astaíochtaí ann.

In 2021, ceanglaíodh ar 105 suiteáil sheasta (tionscail, stáisiún chumhachta agus úsáideoirí ardfhuinnimh eile) a n-astaíochtaí CO<sub>2</sub> a thuairisciú don bhliain féilire roimhe sin. Chloigh gach suiteáil leis na spriocdhátaí um thuairisciú agus thabhairt suas. Thug an fhaisnéis ó na suiteálacha clúdaithe ag CTA in 2020 le fios go raibh laghdú 6.1% (0.9 milliún tona) tagtha ar astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ó chuideachtaí Éireannacha. Tharla sé seo den chuid is mó de bharr laghdaithe 8% ar astaíochtaí ón earnáil giniúna cumhachta, a tháinig chun cinn mar gheall ar láithreachtaí láidir an fhuinnimh athnuaite ar an eangach. Ar an taobh eile den scéal, níor léirigh earnálacha tionsclaíochta ach laghdú 3.5% ar astaíochtaí.

Tháinig laghdú 63% ar astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ó heitlíocht a tuairiscíodh don GCC i gcomparáid le 2019, rud a léiríonn an tionchar suntasach a bhain le srianta COVID-19. Eascraíonn na hastaíochtaí seo ó eitiltí áit ar bith laistigh den Limistéar Eorpach Eacnamaíoch nuair a shanntar an t-oibreoir aerárthaigh d'Éirinn ar mhaithe le riarachán laistigh de CTA AE. Bhí seacht n-oibreoir aerárthach os cionn na dtairsí tuairiscithe d'Éirinn in 2020, de réir sonraí a thug Eurocontrol. Rinne oibrítheoir aerárthaí amháin a chuaigh faoi scrúdaitheoireacht go déanach in 2020 astaíochtaí a thuairisciú ach theip air liúntais a thabhairt suas agus rinneadh pionós astaíochtaí iomarcacha a eisiúint.

Gníomhaíonn an GCC (mar aon leis an Roinn Iompair agus Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann) mar Údarás Inniúil don Scéim Fritháirithe agus Laghdaithe Carbóin don Eitlíocht Idirnáisiúnta (CORSIA). Ba é an 31 Lúnasa 2021 an sprioc-am do thuairisciú CORSIA agus éilíodh ar gach Ballstát astaíochtaí bliantúla iomlána CO<sub>2</sub> den Stát tathagaithe do gach Oibrítheoir Aerárthaigh sannta a chur isteach. Rinne an GCC na seiceálacha a raibh gá leo agus rinne sí sainscagadh ar an tuarascáil thathagaithe sular cuireadh ar aghaidh í chuig an Roinn Iompair lena seoladh chuig an Eagraíocht Eitlíochta Sibhialta Idirnáisiúnta trí Chlárlann Lárnach CORSIA.

Cheadaigh an Coimisiún liosta na suiteálacha atá i dteideal roinnt lamháltas carbóin saor in aisce sa tréimhse leithdháilte reatha (an Tábla Náisiúnta Leithdháilte 2021-2025) ar an 29 Meitheamh 2021. Ós rud é gur féidir le leibhéil táirgeachta, agus dá bhrí sin leibhéil astaíochtaí CO<sub>2</sub>, a bheith éagsúil ó bhliain go bliain tá na rialacha do Chéim IV (2021-2030) leagtha amach chun ró-leithdháileadh a laghdú i gcás athruithe, mar a ríomhtar iad sa bhunlíne, ar na leibhéil ghníomhaíochta, agus leithdháileadh a mhéadú áit a bhfuil arduithe suntasacha ar an leibhéal gníomhaíochta. Ceanglaítear ar oibreoirí tuarascáil ar athruithe ar leibhéal gníomhaíochta fíoraíthe a chur faoi bhráid na GCC gach bliain. Do gach bliain, ag tosú le 2021,

ní mór don GCC measúnú a dhéanamh ar gach tuarascáil fíoraíthe ar athruithe ar leibhéal na gníomhaíochta do na 66 oibreoir reatha atá liostaithe sa Tábla Náisiúnta Leithdháilte agus breithniú ar chóir tabhairt faoi choigeartú i dtaca le leithdháileadh na bliana sin. Cuirtear gach choigeartú in iúl don Choimisiún lena cheadú; cuireadh naoi dtuarascáil den sórt sin ar aghaidh in 2021. Leanfar den obair ar mheasúnú maidir le tuarascálacha ar leibhéal gníomhaíochta 2021 chomh fada leis an gcéad ráithe de 2022.

Tugtar faoi cheantáil liúntais CTA ar ardán coiteann (Malartán Fuinnimh na hEorpa – EEX) a roinntear i measc 25 Ballstáit an AE. Tugann an GCC faoi cheant chuóta lamháltas na hÉireann a rianú gach seachtain agus seiceálann sí go bhfuil an t-ioncam ceart á fháil ag an mBanc Ceannais. B'ionann ioncaim a bhí dlite d'Éirinn in 2021 ó Cheantanna liúntais sheasta CTA agus eitlíochta an AE agus €149.2 milliún (€149,240,630). Tháinig ardú suntasach ar phraghas an charbóin in 2021 agus baineadh amach an praghas imréitigh ceantála ab airde riamh, €85.00, ar an 13 Nollaig 2021. Lena hais sin, ba é an praghas ab airde ag ceant in 2020 ná €30.92.

Baintear úsáid as Clárlann an Aontais mar uirlis chomhlíonta le haghaidh suiteálacha agus oibreoirí rialáilte de réir CTA an AE. Tá sé d'oibleagáid ar na hoibreoirí seo, oibreoirí Seasta agus Eitlíochta araon, cuntas a oscailt le Clárlann an Aontais ar mhaithe lena gcuid oibleagáidí comhlíonta maidir le hastaíochtaí carbóin a chomhlíonadh. Bhain 546 úsáideoir le fearann na hÉireann de chuid Chlárlann an Aontais, atá á bhainistiú ag an GCC, ag deireadh 2021.

Cuimsíonn Clárlann an Aontais, chomh maith, clárlann an AE le haghaidh an Chinnidh maidir le Comhroinnt Díchill. Rialaíonn an Cinneadh maidir le Comhroinnt Díchill spriocanna ceangailteacha astaíochta do na Ballstáit uile le haghaidh astaíochtaí nach bhfuil curtha san áireamh mar chuid de Chinneadh maidir le Comhroinnt Díchill an AE in 2013-2020, cosúil le hiompar, téamh, talmhaíocht agus bainistíocht dramhaíola. Ag feidhmiú mar an Riarthóir Náisiúnta, tháinig an GCC ar chothromaíocht idir astaíochtaí na hÉireann in 2018 agus a sprioc don bhliain sin i dtaca le treoir na Roinne Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide i Márta 2021. Úsáideadh an leithdháileadh don bhliain 2018 agus cuid den leithdháileadh breise ó na blianta roimhe sin, a raibh astaíochtaí níos ísle i gceist leis, a tugadh ar aghaidh. Seo ceann de na solúbthachtaí atá ar fáil do Bhallstáit an AE faoin gCinneadh maidir le Comhroinnt Díchill. Tá tuilleadh sonraí ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin an Choimisiúin AE.

**Tábla 1.** An Clár um Cheadúnú Comhshaoil (gníomhaíochtaí ceadúnaithe in 2021)

Cineál an Cheadúnais	Líon Iomlán na nIarratas a Fuarthas in 2021	Líon Iomlán na nAgóidí a Fuarthas 2021	Líon Iomlán na gCinntí Beartaithe a Eisíodh in 2021	Líon Iomlán na gCinntí Críochnaitheacha a Eisíodh in 2021	Líon Iomlán na gCinntí a Eisíodh in 2021
Ceadúnais IED/IPC (Dramhaíl IE san áireamh)	49	17	37	40	77
Ceadúnais Dramhaíola	3	2	3	2	5
Ceadúnais Fuíolluisce	11	N/B	N/B	4	4
Deimhnithe Údarúcháin Fuíolluisce	2	N/B	N/B	0	0
Ceadanna OGM (Úsáid shrianta)	32	N/B	N/B	33	33
Ceadanna OGM (Scaoileadh beartaithe)	2	N/B	N/B	0	0
Deimhnithe Ionaid Stairiúla Líonta Talún	23	4	5	4	9
Ceadanna do Dhumpáil ar Farraige	6	N/B	N/B	1	1
Deimhnithe Clárúcháin (Dramhaíl)	15	N/B	N/B	13	13
Ceadanna do Comhdhúile Orgánacha So-Ghalaithe (VOC)	0	N/B	0	0	0
Ceadanna do gháis ceaptha teasa	22	N/B	N/B	21	21
<b>Iomlán</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>163</b>

N/B, ní bhaineann le hábhar.

**Tábla 2.** An Clár um Cheadúnú Comhshaoil (gníomhaíochtaí rialála eile in 2021)

Tascanna	Iomlán na dtascanna ar a ndearnadh measúnú in 2021
Iarratais faoi Airteagal 11	75
Leasuithe ar Astaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha(IE)/Cosc Comhtháite ar Thruailliú (IPC)	48
Leasuithe IE/IPC (tionscanta ag an GCC)	0
Leasuithe i dtaca le dramhaíl	4
Leasuithe maidir le hIonaid Chóireála Fuíolluisce	504
Leasuithe maidir le Dumpáil san Farraige	3
Leasuithe OGM	10
Fógraí faoi Airteagal 27 (fotháirge)	123
Iarratais faoi Airteagal 28 (deireadh dramhaíola)	5
An Ghníomhaireacht Leigheasra Eorpach (OGM)	6
Treoir 2001/18/CE (OGM)	0
Aistriú	9
Achomhairc maidir le Thruailliú Aeir	0
Comhfhreagras pleanála fiosraithe	99
Ionaid Mheándócháin cláraithe	45
<b>Iomlán</b>	<b>931</b>

## Údaruithe um chosaint radaíochta

Déanann an córas atá i bhfeidhm ar mhaithe le húdaruithe um chosaint radaíochta dhá chineál údaraithe a cheadú: clárú agus ceadúnú. Foirm údaraithe níos simplí atá i gclárú agus tá níos lú dualgas trom riaracháin ag gabháil leis, agus é cuí le haghaidh cleachtas nach bhfuil chomh casta ó thaobh nádúir agus a bhfuil sé cruthaithe go bhfuil siad réasúnta sábháilte. Baineann ceadúnú le cleachtais ardriosca. Léiríonn táillí údaraithe leibhéal an riosca a bhaineann leis na cineálacha cleachtas atáthar ina mbun agus, mar sin, leibhéal na maoirseachta rialála a bhfuil gá leis.

**Tábla 3.** Údaruithe nua um chosaint radaíochta, 2021

Ceadúnais	21
Clárúcháin	111
Leasuithe Teicniúla	529
Ceadúnaithe Dúnta	106

Déanann an GCC reachtaíocht um chosaint an chomhshaoil agus chosaint raideolaíoch a chur i bhfeidhm agus a fhorfheidhmiú in Éirinn.

## 2.2 FORFHEIDHMIÚ

### Forfheidhmiú Ceadúnas Tionsclaíoch agus Ceadúnas Dramhaíola

Thug an GCC ceadúnas do agus rinne sí rialáil i dtaca le 844 saoráid thionsclaíoch agus dramhaíola i rith 2021. Is é cuspóir na GCC ná déanamh cinnte go dtugann oibreoirí faoina gcuid gníomhaíochtaí i gcomhréir lena gcuid ceadúnas. Déantar na cuspóirí sin a chur chun cinn mar seo a leanas: comhlíonadh, treoir agus cabhair a spreagadh, monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh, cigireachtaí agus sampláil, agus gníomhartha forfheidhmithe a ghlacadh nuair is gá. Tá cur chuige forfheidhmithe na GCC tacaithe ag na prionsabail atá foilsithe anseo, 'Beartas Comhlíonta agus Forfheidhmithe', agus atá leagtha amach i bhFíor 1 thíos. Áirítear i dTábla 4 líon na gcigireachtaí a tugadh fúthu maidir le gníomhaíochtaí ceadúnaithe tionsclaíocha agus dramhaíola.

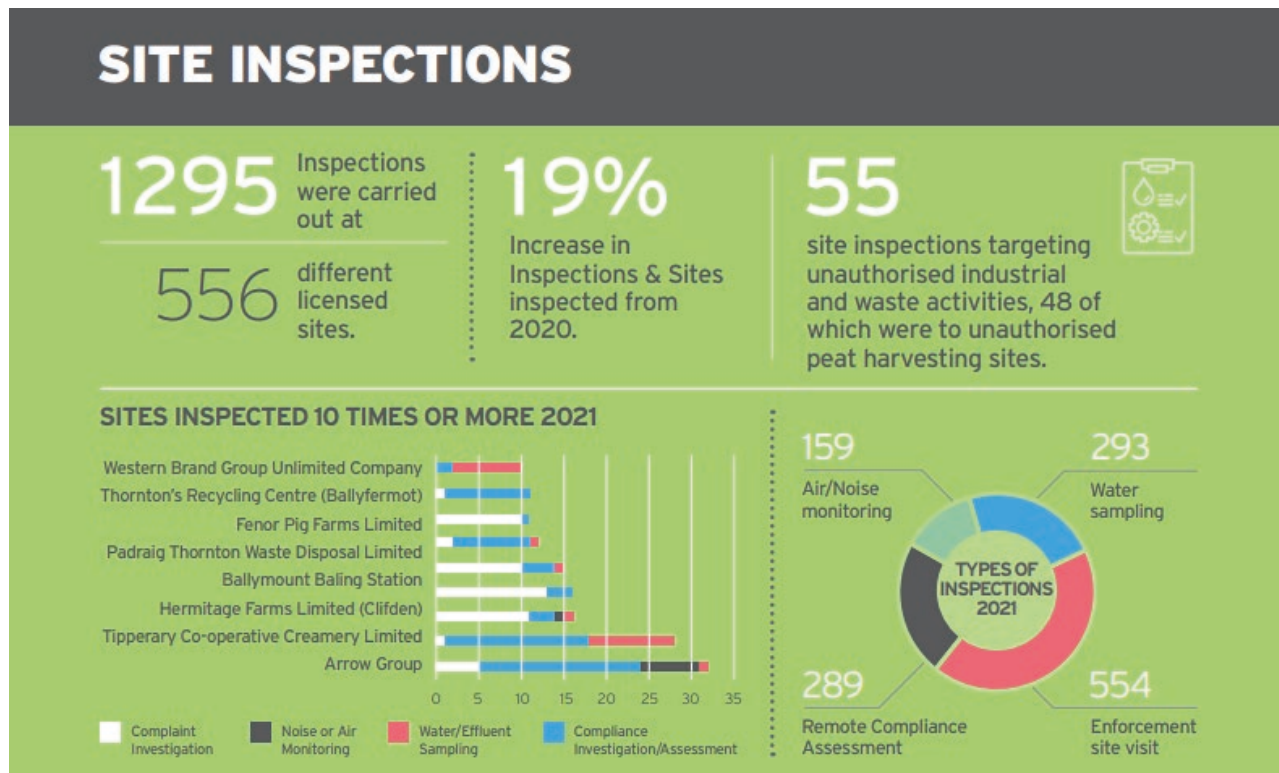
**Fíor 1.** Prionsabail fhorfheidhmithe na GCC



Tugann an GCC tosaíocht don iarracht forfheidhmithe maidir leis na láithreáin atá ina mbaol is mó don chomhshaoil bunaithe ar an gcineál gníomhaíochta atá ceadúnaithe, ionad na gníomhaíochta (.i. gaireacht do dhaoine nó limistéir chosanta) agus stair fhorfheidhmithe an láithreáin (.i. cibé acu ar tharla neamh-chomhlíonadh ar an láithreán roimhe sin). Le linn 2021, dhírigh an GCC a haird ar na príomhcheisteanna tosaíochta seo a leanas: an riosca dóiteáin ag ionaid bainistíochta dramhaíola, baint neamhúdaraíthe móna agus aon áit a raibh tionchar ag gníomhaíochtaí ceadúnaithe ar cháilíocht an uisce. Dhírigh an GCC gníomhaíochtaí forfheidhmithe chomh maith ar shaincheisteanna acmhainne dramhaíola a tháinig chun cinn mar thoradh ar phaindéim COVID-19, lena n-áirítear saoráidí dramhaíola a ndéantar monatóireacht ghéar orthu, a raibh méaduithe ar an méid dramhaíola a cuireadh ina dtreo chun cóireáil a dhéanamh ar dhramhaíl ionfhabhtaíoch cúram sláinte, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola, láithreáin líonta talún agus loisceoirí. Cuireadh i bhfeidhm Measúnuithe Comhlíontachta Cianda ar láithreáin cheadúnaithe mar uirlis fhorfheidhmithe le linn na paindéime chun leanúint le cigireachtaí agus gníomhaíochtaí forfheidhmithe na GCC.

Baintear úsáid as Liosta Náisiúnta na Láithreán Tosaíochta chun iarracht forfheidhmithe na GCC a dhíriú ar na láithreáin is measa ó thaobh feidhmíochta de chun feabhsúcháin ar chomhlíonadh i leith an chomhshaoil a chur chun cinn. Sa liosta seo rangáitear láithreáin thionsclaíocha agus dramhaíola in ord tosaíochta um fhorfheidhmiú, bunaithe ar fhachtóirí mar na cinn seo a leanas: gearáin (Tábla 5), teagmhais, cigireachtaí comhlíonta agus neamhchomhlíonadh an cheadúnais. Foilsíodh an liosta sin go ráithiúil agus bhí 11 láithreán cheadúnaithe luaite ar an liosta uair amháin ar a laghad i rith 2021. Tugtar achoimre ar ghníomhaíochtaí forfheidhmithe na GCC sa ghrafaic faisnéise i bhFíor 2.

**Fíor 2.** Achoimre ar ghníomhaíochtaí fhorfheidhmithe na GCC



**Tábla 4.** Líon na gcigireachtaí de réir earnála a rinneadh in 2021

Gníomhaíocht	Líon na gcigireachtaí
Ceadúnais Thionsclaíocha agus Dhramhaíola	1,295
Ceadúnais um Sceitheadh Fuíolluisce Uirbigh	212
Ionaid chóireála uisce óil	79
Ceadanna do Dhumpáil ar Farraige	8
Ceadanna do Chomhdhúile Orgánacha So-Ghalaithe	12
Faireachán margaidh – ceimiceáin	150
Substantí a Ídionn Ózón agus Gáis Fhluairínithe	33

**Tábla 5.** Líon na ngearán a fuarthas in 2021 agus líon na saoráidí a bhí faoi réir na ngearán sin de réir earnála

Gníomhaíocht	Líon na nGearán	Líon na saoráidí faoi réir na ngearán sin
Ceadúnais Thionsclaíocha agus Dhramhaíola	1,490	125
Fuíolluisce uirbeach	169	47
Uisce óil	39	10
Substantí a Ídionn Ózón agus Gáis Fhluairínithe	1	N/B
<b>Líon iomlán na ngearán</b>	<b>1,699</b>	



## Uisce agus fuíolluisce

Mar rialtóir comhshaoil do sheirbhísí uisce poiblí, dhírigh an GCC ar bhaint amach feabhsúchán bonneagair tosaíochta ag Uisce Éireann ó thaobh uisce óil agus fuíolluisce uirbigh i rith 2021.

### Uisce óil

Mhéadaigh líon na soláthar uisce poiblí ar Liosta na mBeart Ceartaitheach de chuid na GCC faoi 6 go 52 in 2021, ach tháinig laghdú áfach ar an daonra ar a ndearnadh freastal ó 1,006,104 go 374,633. Ba iad na hathruithe ba shuntasáí ná fáil réidh le hIonad Cóireála Uisce Léim an Bhradáin (ICU/WTP), tar éis oibreacha uasghrádaithe gléasra agus ionad cóireála uisce nua a thógáil ag Feartraí a tugadh chun feidhme sa cheathrú ráithe de 2021.

Tugadh 79 iniúchadh uisce óil chun críche le linn 2021. D'fhoilsigh an GCC Tuarascáil ar Uisce Óil na Soláthar Poiblí don bhliain 2020 i mí na Nollag 2021. Eisíodh naoi dTreoir d'Uisce Éireann in 2021, i gcomparáid le cúig Threoir i 2020.

Tháinig méadú suntasach ar líon na ndaoine a ndeachaigh Fógra um Fhiuchadh Uisce i bhfeidhm orthu i rith 2021 (Tábla 6) le 70 fógra foilsithe i gcomparáid le 43 fógra in 2020. Is cosúil go bhfuil baint ag an méadú ar fhógraí le feacht mhéadaithe i dtaca le teagmhais agus le tuairiscí teagmhais ag Uisce Éireann i ndiaidh don GCC gníomhaíochtaí forfheidhmithe a mhéadú tar éis do dhá theagmhas shuntasacha titim amach ag Ionaid Chóireála Uisce Ghuaire agus an Bhaile Mhóir. Cé nach bhfuil an GCC ag iarraidh líon na bhFógraí um Fhiuchadh Uisce a fheiceáil ag méadú, tá ríthábhacht ag baint leo chun sláinte an phobail a chosaint nuair atá uisce óil á chur i mbaol ag oibríochtaí in ionaid an uisce óil.

Tá imní ar an GCC mar gheall ar a laghad dul chun cinn atá déanta ag Uisce Éireann chun ceangail luaidhe a bhaint amach as an líonra poiblí in 2021. Níor athsholáthraíodh ach 5,863 ceangal luaidhe, rud a d'fhág gur ionann líon iomlán na n-athsholáthar ná 41,566 as timpeall 180,000 ceangal luaidhe. Má leanann cúrsaí mar atá siad, ní dócha go gcomhlíonfaidh Uisce Éireann an gealltanais a rinne sé roimhe seo chun gach píopa luaidhe poiblí a bhaint as feidhm faoi 2026.

**Tábla 6.** Fógraí um Fhiuchadh Uisce agus Srianata Uisce

Fógraí Comhairliúcháin eisithe ag Uisce Éireann	2020	2021
Fógraí maidir le hUisce a Fhiuchadh	43 fógra a raibh tionchar acu ar 74,995 duine	70 fógra a raibh tionchar acu ar 265,898 duine
Srianata Uisce	17 fógra a raibh tionchar acu ar 4,118 duine	26 fógra a raibh tionchar acu ar 17,954 duine.

Baineann moill leis an dul chun cinn atá á dhéanamh ag Uisce Éireann i dtaca le suiteáil agus feidhmiú dáileoga ortafosfáite ar mhaithe le tuaslagthacht luaidhe ó phíobair a laghdú. Tá dáileoga ortafosfáite i bhfeidhm ag trí sholáthar (Luimneach, Baile Haicéid agus Loch Tailt) agus iad ag freastal ar 59,592 réadmhaoín mheasta. Tá 15 ionad eile ina bhfuil áiseanna dáileoga ortafosfáite suiteáilte ach nach bhfuil ag feidhmiú, de dheasca srianata buiséid, rud nach bhfuil sásúil. Ba cheart go gcinnteodh buiséid oibríúcháin a ceadaíodh le linn 2021 dáileoga ortafosfáite a thabhairt chun feidhme ag na hionaid sin, ar bhonn céimnithe, le linn 2022.

Tháinig laghdú beag ar líon na soláthar uisce a raibh tionchar ag farasbarr lotnaidicídí orthu ó 33 soláthar in 2020 go dtí 31. Tá an lámh in uachtar ag an luibhicíd MCPA (aigéad 2-meitil-4-chlórafheanocsail-aicéiteach) i gcónaí, rud a thugann le fios go n-úsáidtear go coitianta é i dtaca le spraeáil chun smacht a fháil ar fhás luachra ar thalamh talmhaíochta. Faoi dheireadh na bliana, bhí sé soláthar ar Liosta na mBeart Ceartaitheach de chuid na GCC do lotnaidicídí.

Ghéaraigh an Coimisiún Eorpach a chuid imeachtaí sáraithe in aghaidh na hÉireann i dtaca le Tríhalaimeatáin in uisce óil go Tuairim Réasúnaithe. Tugann an Tuairim Réasúnaithe le fios gur theip ar Éirinn na bearta riachtanacha a ghlacadh chun comhlíonadh Tríhalaimeatán a chinntiú maidir le 31 soláthar uisce poiblí agus 13 ghrúpscéim uisce phríobháideacha. D'fhreagair Éire an Coimisiún i mí an Mheithimh 2021, ag soláthar sonraí agus frámaí ama faoina dtabharfadh Uisce Éireann oibreacha chun críche chun dul i ngleic le sárúithe leanúnacha Tríhalaimeatán sna soláthar uisce poiblí sin. I mí na Samhna 2021, chinn an Coimisiún Éire a tharchur chuig Cúirt Bhreithiúnais an Aontais Eorpaigh toisc nach ndearnadh riachtanais na Treorach um Uisce Óil (98/83/CE) a chomhlíonadh.

## Sceitheadh fuíolluisce cathrach

Chuir an GCC 212 cigireacht ar láithreáin fuíolluisce i gcrích le linn 2021, cigireachtaí ina ndíríodh ar fheidhmíocht ionaid, ar mhonatóireacht chomhlíonta ar sceití agus ar fhreagairt do ghearáin agus teagmhais.

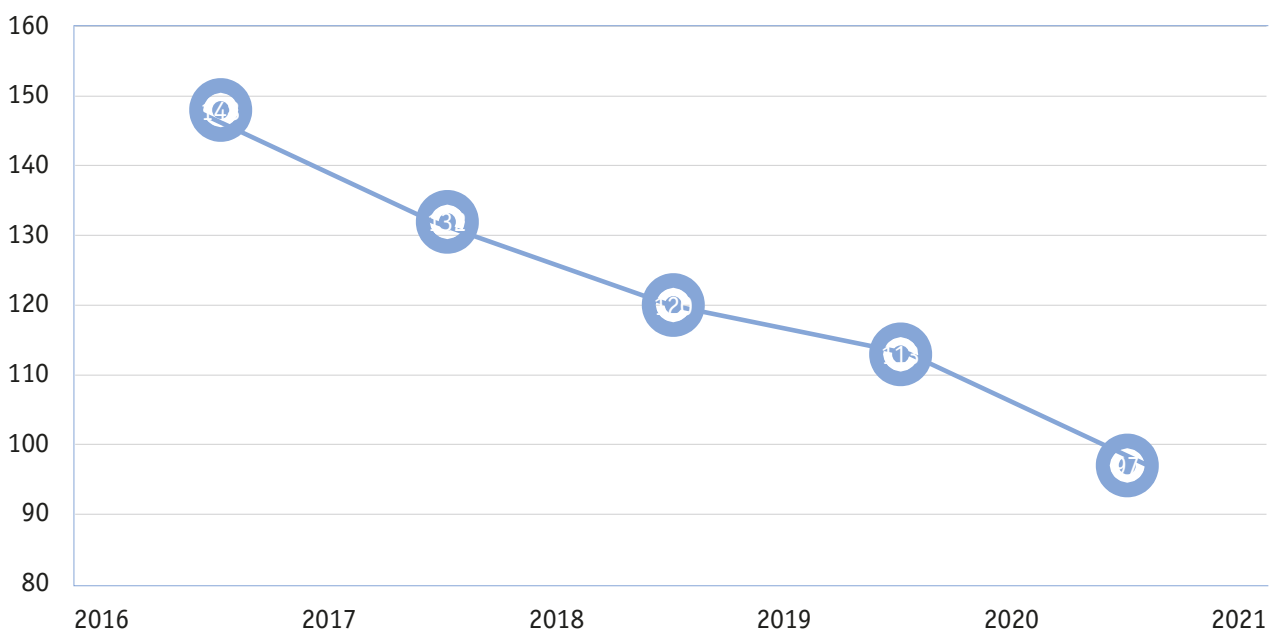
D'fhoilsigh an GCC 'Tuarascáil ar Fhuíolluisce Uirbeach 2020' in 2021 ina n-aithnítear na ceisteanna tosaíochta ar gá aghaidh a thabhairt orthu leis an gcomhshaoil a chosaint ó thionchair dhíobhálacha sceití fuíolluisce.

Leag an Tuarascáil béim ar na feabhsúcháin seo a leanas:

- Laghdú déanta ar líon na n-áiteanna tosaíochta ó 148 in 2017 go dtí 97 in 2021 (féach Fíor 3).
- Tháinig feabhas ar an líon cathracha agus bailte móra nár chomhlíon Treoir an AE um Chóireáil Fuíolluisce ó 28 in 2017 go dtí 12 in 2020.
- Thángthas ar réiteach in 2020 maidir le ceantar amháin (An Cóbh) ina raibh scaoileadh camrais amh ag tarlú agus ocht ndobharlach nach raibh a gcuspóirí comhshaoil á mbaint amach acu, mar gheall ar bhrúnna fuíolluisce.

Ach in ainneoin na bhfeabhsúcháin seo, tá imní fós ar an GCC faoi mhoilleanna a tharlaíonn arís agus arís eile agus éiginnteacht maidir le feabhsúcháin ríthábhachtacha Uisce Éireann a sheachadadh, mar shampla níl aon phlean gníomhaíochta soiléir ná fráma ama ag Uisce Éireann chun feabhas a chur ar sceití ag 29 de na 42 áit tosaíochta ina bhfuil brú suntasach á chur ag fuíolluisce ar dhobharlaigh uisce.

**Fíor 3.** Laghdú ar líon na n-áiteanna tosaíochta ó 2017 i leith



## Córais chóireála fuíolluisce tí (dabhcha séarachais)

D'fhoilsigh an GCC 'Tuarascáil Chigireachta 2020 i dtaca le Córais Chóireála Fuíolluisce Tí' in 2021. Leagann an tuarascáil béim ar na nithe seo a leanas:

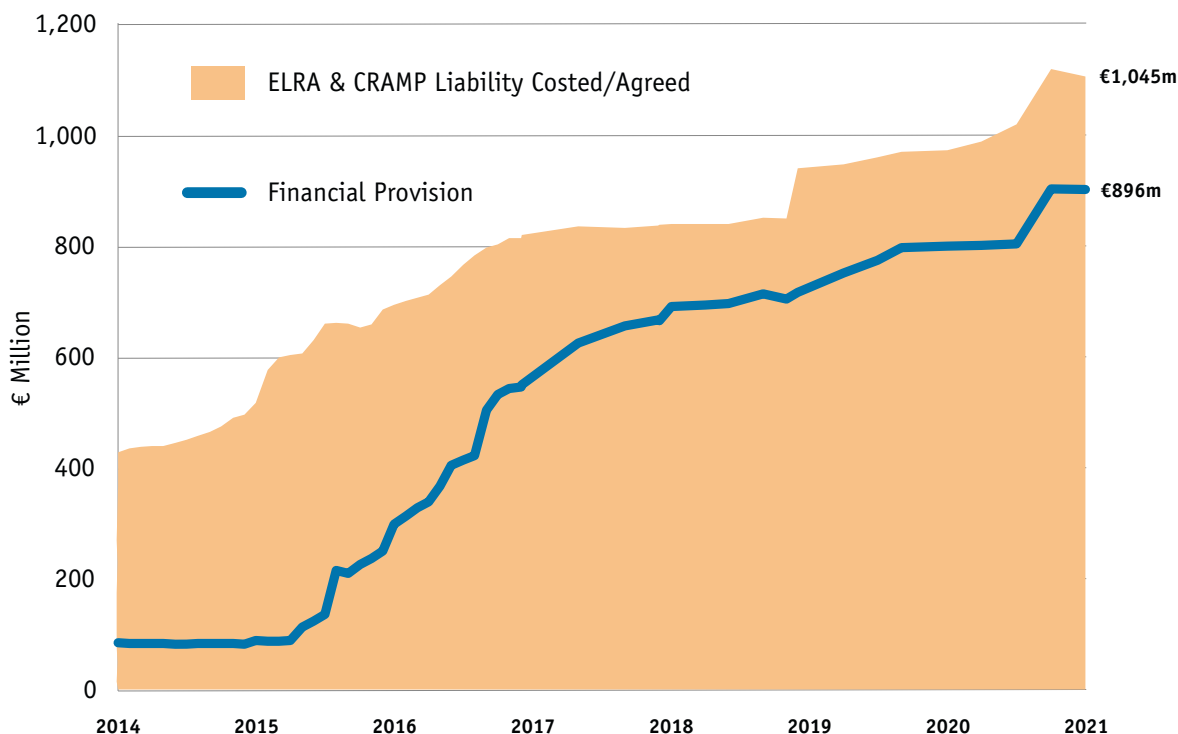
- bhain teip le 54% de na córais i dtaca leis an gcigireacht.
- rinneadh trí cheathrú de na córais ar theip orthu i dtaca le cigireacht ó 2013 i leith a dheisiú, ach is ábhar imní fós é nach ndearnadh cásanna níos sine a réiteach.

In 2021, d'fhoilsigh an GCC an 'Plean Náisiúnta Cigireachta 2022-2026 i dtaca le Córais Chóireála Fuíolluisce Tí'. Fanfaidh líon na gcigireachtaí ag an leibhéal reatha de 1,000 ar a laghad ar feadh bhliain a haon den phlean agus ansin tiocfaidh méadú 20% orthu don chuid eile den phlean.

## Dochar don chomhshaoil a chosc Foráil airgeadais do dhliteanais chomhshaoil

Is tosaíocht leanúnach í don GCC a chinntiú go ndéanann ceadúnaithe soláthar airgeadais imleor chun na dliteanais chomhshaoil a ghabhann le teagmhais fhéideartha nó le dúnadh agus le hiarchúram láithreán a chlúdach. Is é €1,089m an chostáil chomhcheangailte dliteanais a bhaineann le dúnadh agus athchóiriú/iarchúram agus teagmhais fhéideartha (ELRA) a comhaontaíodh leis an GCC. B'ionann agus €896m an Soláthar Airgeadais iomlán a fuarthas chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar dhliteanais chomhshaoil ag saoráidí tosaíochta in 2021 (Fíor 4). Is ionann sin agus laghdú mór ar an mbaol don chomhshaoil agus don Stát.

Fíor 4. Foráil airgeadais faighte ar mhaithe le dliteanais chomhshaoil



## Faireachas Margaidh agus Ceimiceáin sa Chomhshaoil

### Faireachas Margaidh (Rialacháin um Bhreosla Soladach san áireamh)

Ní mór do thomhaltóirí a bheith muiníneach nach mbeidh aon chontúirt dóibh féin, do dhaoine eile ná don chomhshaoil ag baint le hearraí a cheannaíonn siad, nuair a úsáidtear i gceart iad. Mar sin, is í an phríomhaidhm a bhaineann le faireachas margaidh ná margadh inmheánach na hEorpa a chur chun cinn agus leibhéal ard cosanta á chinntiú do thomhaltóirí an AE agus dá gcuid leasanna. Tá an GCC freagrach as gníomhaíochtaí faireachais maidir le raon leathan reachtaíochta margaidh. Is éard atá i gceist le gníomhaíochtaí faireachais ná cláir a fhorbairt agus a chur i gcrích, a bhfuil seiceálacha comhlíonta ar raon earraí tomhaltóra do shubstaintí srianta bainteach leo, agus tabhairt faoi obair leantach maidir le haon neamhchomhlíonadh a aimsítear. Ina theannta sin, nuair a bhíonn gá leis, cabhraíonn an GCC le húdaráis um faireachas margaidh i mBallstáit eile an AE agus bíonn sí rannpháirteach i gcomhthionscadail faireachais. Tugann an GCC faoi thuairisciú rialta ar a gníomhaíochtaí faireachais margaidh don Choimisiún Eorpach. Oibríonn an GCC le tionscal, chomh maith, chun comhlíonadh a spreagadh agus treoir a chur ar fáil nuair a bhíonn gá léi.

I rith 2021, thug an GCC faoi fheachtas chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh na Treorach maidir le Srian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha. Tugadh faoi sheiceálacha ar 100 sampla de tháirgí cúram gruaige maidir le leibhéil substaintí guaiseacha

atá coiscthe faoin Treoir. Tugann torthaí tástála le fios go raibh seacht dtáirge neamh-chomhlíontach, nach bhfuil stádas comhlíonta cinntithe le haghaidh 11 tháirge go fóill agus go raibh an 82 táirge eile comhlíontach. Tá imscrúduithe leantacha sceidealaithe le haghaidh 2022.

Dhírigh feachtas faireachais margaidh in 2021 ar imscrúduithe comhlíonta a dhéanamh ar ghabháil aclaíochta agus trealamh amhail mataí aclaíochta, bandaí friotaíochta, rollóirí cúrphlaisteacha agus tromáin lúithe i dtaca le Truilleáin Orgánacha Mharthanacha agus na rialacháin um Chlárú, Meastóireacht, Údarú agus Srianadh Ceimiceán. Dháil an GCC conradh ar mhaithe le soláthar agus tástáil 50 earra dá leithéid i dtaca le leibhéil substaintí srianta faoi na rialacháin. Tugann torthaí tástála le fios go raibh ceithre neamhchomhlíonadh fhéideartha ann mar gheall ar an iomarca C<sub>9</sub>-C<sub>13</sub> Clóralcáin (Truilleáin Orgánach Marthanach). Tá imscrúduithe leantacha idir lámha.

Leagtar cúram ar an GCC chomh maith i dtaca leis an gClár Breosla a bhunú agus a choimeád faoi na Rialacháin ar Bhreosla Soladach (I.R. Uimh. 326 de 2012), arna leasú. Bhí 18 saoráid ina gcuirtear gual i málaí ar an gClár Breosla ag deireadh na bliana 2021.

## Ceimiceáin sa Chomhshaoil

Déanann an GCC cláir a dhearadh agus a chur i gcrích faoina ndírítear ar shubstaintí sa chomhshaoil a bhfuil amhras ann go bhfuil siad guaiseach agus/nó substaintí atá deimhnithe den chéad uair mar shubstaintí guaiseacha. Áirítear ar na ceimiceáin seo, Truailleáin Orgánacha Mharthanacha agus roinnt substaintí a bhfuil measúnú déanta orthu faoi na rialacháin maidir le Clárú, Meastóireacht, Údarú agus Srianadh Ceimiceán. Is iad na haidhmeanna atá leis na cláir sin ná tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar na rioscaí féideartha a bhaineann leis na substaintí sin don chomhshaoil agus do shláinte an duine. Ina theannta sin, beidh na torthaí a thagann ó na staidéir sin in ann bonn eolais a chur faoi imscrúduithe bainteacha amach anseo.

I rith 2021, thug an GCC tionscadal chun críche faoina ndearnadh scrúdú ar úsáidí stairiúla Défheinilí Polaclóirínithe in ábhair thógála sa Stát, chomh maith le staidéar eile maidir le Substaintí Sárfhluarailcile agus Polafluarailcile i láisteáit líonadh talún. D'fhorbair agus d'fhoilsigh an GCC treoir maidir le húsáid chur comhraicthe dóiteáin, ina bhfuil Substaintí Sárfhluarailcile agus Polafluarailcile, ar mhaithe le Seirbhísí Dóiteáin. Chuir an EPA tús chomh maith le staidéar i dtaca le húsáid ábhar inslithe teasa, ina bhfuil an truailleán orgánach marthanach Heicseabrómaicloglaidéacáin, laistigh den Stát, chomh maith leis na himpleachtaí a bhaineann lena bhainistiú. Cuireadh tús chomh maith le monatóireacht in 2021 maidir le héagsúlacht substaintí guaiseacha, Substaintí Sárfhluarailcile agus Polafluarailcile san áireamh. Is éard atá i gceist leis seo ná tabhairt faoi shampláil ar aibhneacha na Sionainne agus na Brosnaí ceithre huaire agus an tsampláil deiridh le tarlú go luath in 2022.

D'ullmhaigh agus chuir an GCC tuarascálacha faoi bhráid Choinbhinsiún Domhanda Minamata na Náisiún Aontaithe maidir le Mearcair agus Rialú Mearcair de chuid an AE. San áireamh sna tuarascálacha seo tá faisnéis ó raon páirtithe, lena n-áirítear Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann, Foras na Mara, Custaim, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, an tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta agus Coimisinéir Soilse na hÉireann. D'ullmhaigh an GCC, tar éis cainteanna leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, treoir i dtaca le hlompar agus Stóráil Shealadach na Dramhaíola Mearcair Mhiotail atá dírithe ar Shaoráidí Aistrithe Dramhaíola agus ar Shealbhóirí Ceadanna um Bailiú na Dramhaíola Guaisí.

## Freagracht Táirgeoirí

Tá freagrachtaí forfheidhmithe ag an GCC faoi na Rialacháin ar Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (DTLL), Ceallraí agus Boinn. Dírítear iarrachtaí forfheidhmithe ar tháirgeoirí neamhchomhlíontacha. Is cuideachtaí iad táirgeoirí a thugann faoi dhéantúsaíocht nó a iompórtálann táirgí leictreonacha, ceallraí nó boinn agus a chuireann ar fáil iad ar son díola den chéad uair in Éirinn.

Dhírigh iniúchtaí ar tháirgeoirí Gnólachta go Gnólacht (B2B) ar tháirgeoirí a thug le fios ina dtuairiscí nach raibh aon aisghabháil DTLL acu in 2019 agus 2020. Dhírigh forfheidhmiú Gnólachta go Custaiméir (B2C) ar shuíomhanna gréasáin ciandioltóirí, ar earnálacha miondíola le haischur íseal DTLL agus ar shaorthairbhíthe féideartha in earnáil na ndallóg fuinneoige. Rinneadh caoga sé fógra íocaíochta seasta a eisiúint do tháirgeoirí TLL neamhchomhlíontacha.

Dhírigh an GCC forfheidhmiú ar bhainistíocht DTLL ag saoráidí ceadúnaithe. Eisíodh litreacha chuig 196 saoráid cheadúnaithe um bainistíocht dramhaíola, litreacha inar cuireadh béim ar an riachtanas atá le bainistíocht éifeachtach a dhéanamh ar DTLL ina gcuid saoráidí. Ós rud é go n-áirítear boinn agus ceallraí i dtaca le carranna a allmhairítear, chuaigh an GCC i dteagmháil le 43 allmhaireoir cairr chun a ndualgas faoi na rialacháin boinn agus ceallraí a fhorfheidhmiú.

**Tábla 7.** Staitisticí achoimre ar na feachtais fhorfheidhmithe um fhreagracht táirgeoira in 2020

Tasc	Líon iomlán na ngníomhaíochtaí
Pleananna Bainistíochta Dramhaíola DTLL na dTáirgeoirí Gnólachta go Gnólacht athbhreithnithe	225
Tuarascálacha Bainistíochta Dramhaíola DTLL na dTáirgeoirí Gnólachta le Gnólacht athbhreithnithe	615
Iniúchtaí ar Tháirgeoirí Gnólachta le Gnólacht Threalamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (TLL)	117
Cigireachtaí ar shuíomhanna gréasáin Chiandioltóirí TLL/Ceallraí Gnólachta le Tomhaltóir	60
Litreacha comhairleacha eisithe chuig táirgeoirí ionchasacha in earnáil na ndallóg fuinneoige	40
Litreacha comhairleacha eisithe chuig cuideachtaí gur bhain aisghabháil íseal stairiúil leo i dtaca le DTLL	62
Cigireachtaí miondíola in earnálacha gur bhain aisghabháil íseal stairiúil leo i dtaca le DTLL	40
Ciorclán eisithe chuig saoráidí dramhaíola atá ceadúnaithe ag an GCC ag cur comhairle orthu i dtaca le bainistíocht DTLL	196
Fógraí íocaíochta Seasta eisithe	56
Scrúduithe ar Thairgeoirí Bonn	43
Neamhchomhlíonadh faoi rialacháin boinn a heisíodh chuig allmhaireoirí cairr	140
Neamhchomhlíonadh faoi rialacháin ceallraí a heisíodh chuig allmhaireoirí cairr	176



## Substaintí a Ídionn Ózón agus Gáis Cheaptha Teasa Fhluairínithe

Mar chuid den obair chun laghdú suntasach a dhéanamh ar úsáid Substaintí a Ídionn Ózón agus Gás fhuairínithe (F-ghás), lena mbaineann ardcumas téimh dhomhanda, cuireann an GCC treoir ar fáil agus déanann sí cigireachtaí deisce agus ar an láthair ar úsáideoirí deiridh trealaimh agus ar chonraitheoirí innealtóireachta a sheirbhíonn an trealamh ábhartha agus dáileoirí gáis. Chomh maith leis sin, ullmhaíonn an GCC an Tuarascáil Náisiúnta ar Úsáid Chriticiúil Halóin agus Tuarascáil ar Thrádáil Neamhdhleathach Substaintí a Ídionn Ózón lena gcur faoi bhráid an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh.

## Próiseas Deimhniúcháin Nua do chonraitheoirí F-gháis

Chun earnáil an F-gháis a rialáil is gá go mbeadh deimhniú ar fáil do dhaoine agus do chuideachtaí a thugann faoi ghníomhaíochtaí áirithe. Ní mór go mbeadh teastais/dearbhuíthe den sórt sin eisithe ag údarás dámhachtana faofa san AE. Tar éis na hidirthréimhse i ndiaidh don RA an AE a fhágáil (an Breatimeacht), ní aithneoidh an AE a thuilleadh deimhniúthe arna n-eisiúint ag eagraíochtaí sa RA. Go dtí seo, bhíodh conraitheoirí in Éirinn ag brath go mór ar dheimhniú ag eagraíochtaí de chuid na Ríocht Aontaithe.

Ar mhaithe le hathoiliúint nach raibh aon ghá léi a sheachaint, thug an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide agus an Coimisiún Eorpach údarú don GCC chun deimhniúthe a eisiúint chuig conraitheoirí ag a bhfuil deimhniúthe bailí ón RA cheana féin, agus seoladh córas iarratais ar líne in 2019. In 2021, eisíodh 644 teastais/dearbhuí F-gháis do sholáthraithe seirbhíse a raibh teastais F-gháis na RA acu, le go mbeadh sé ar a gcumas leanúint ar aghaidh ag obair go dleathach laistigh den AE in aimsir an iar-Bhreatimeachta. Rinne an GCC 3,733 teastais F-gháis de chuid na hÉireann a eisiúint in 2021.

Rinne an GCC measúnú ar úsáid F-gháis agus Substaintí a Ídionn Ózón ag láithreáin cheadúnaithe Astaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha, Rialaithe ar Thruaillíú Tionsclaíoch agus Dramhaíola agus dheimhniú 289 láithreán go raibh na gáis seo á n-úsáid acu agus chuir siad fardail mhionsonraithe ar fáil. Spreag an staidéar feasacht ar fud na n-earnálacha tionsclaíocha agus uisce maidir le riachtanais rialála F-Gháis agus Substaintí a Ídionn Ózón, rud a bhí ina chúis le seiceáil agus tuairisciú sceite níos fearr.

## Cigireachtaí maidir le cosaint ar radaíocht

Tugann an GCC faoi chlár bliantúil cigireachtaí maidir le cosaint ar radaíocht ar mhaithe le measúnú a dhéanamh ar choinníollacha comhlíonta reachtaíochta agus údaruithe. Cuireann na cigireachtaí seo ar chumas na GCC tabhairt faoi mheasúnú ar chaighdeán na cosanta radaíochta ag na láithreáin a ndéantar cigireacht orthu, saincheisteanna coitianta nó saincheisteanna atá ag teacht chun cinn ar fud na láithreán a aithint agus cultúr láidir cosanta radaíochta a chur chun cinn.

Déantar an clár cigireachtaí a riar gach bliain bunaithe ar roinnt critéar oibiachtúil, lena n-áirítear an riosca raideolaíoch a bhaineann leis na cleachtais údaraithe, an méid ama atá caite ón gcigireacht dheireanach, agus stair chomhlíonta na saoráide. Déantar chomh maith teagmhais thuairiscithe san earnáil oibriúcháin a mheas, chomh maith le haon fhaisnéis ábhartha nua atá ar fáil maidir leis na cleachtais údaraithe nó na hearnálacha i gcoitinne.

Rinneadh cigireachtaí cosanta radaíochta i roinnt earnálacha le linn 2021 (Tábla 8), cúig shuirbhé shlándála san áireamh a tugadh fúthu le cabhair ó hAonad Náisiúnta Coiscthe Coireachta an Gharda Síochána.

Áiríodh ar aird na gcigireachtaí do 2021 na socruithe rialachais um chosaint radaíochta, cur i bhfeidhm na Rialachán nua um Radaíocht Ianúcháin (go háirithe na riachtanais maidir le hoiliúint, measúnuithe riosca agus catagóirí oibríthe), láithreáin le foinsí radaighníomhacha as úsáid, ollscoileanna agus ospidéal satailíte.

Tugann torthaí na gcigireachtaí le fios gur féidir feabhas a chur ar na réimsí measúnaithe riosca (go háirithe san earnáil thionsclaíoch), nósanna imeachta sábháilteachta radaíochta agus cúrsaí oiliúna. Tugadh le fios chomh maith go gcaithfidh ceadúnaithe a gcuid socruithe rialachais a neartú (lena n-áirítear comhaontuithe le Comhairleoirí um Chosaint Radaíochta, Oifigigh Cosanta Radaíochta a cheapadh, agus socruithe conarthacha le soláthraithe seirbhíse seachtracha).

I rith 2021, cuireadh ocht dteagmhas intuairiscithe agus cúig dháileog intuairiscithe in iúl don GCC. Tugadh faoi obair leantach i dtaca gach ceann de na hábhair seo de réir mar ba chuí.

**Tábla 8.** Catagóirí ceadúnaí um chosaint radaíochta agus cigireachtaí ar tugadh fúthu i rith 2021

An earnáil ceadúnaithe	Líon na gcigireachtaí a cuireadh i gcrích.
Áiseanna ospidéal agus míochaine	37
Na hearnálacha tionsclaíocha agus tráchtála (lena n-áirítear dáileoirí foinseacha agus cuideachtaí iompair)	30
Oideachas agus taighde	6
Ceadúnaithe eile (tréidlianna íseal-riosca agus meán-riosca, fioclóirí, córais X-gha chaibinéid agus dáileoirí aonaid X-ghathacha)	2
<b>lomlán</b>	<b>75</b>

## Feidhmíocht Reachtúil na nÚdarás Áitiúil

Tugtar le fios i dtuarascáil ar ghníomhaíochtaí forfheidhmithe comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil, na gníomhaíochtaí cigireachta agus forfheidhmithe a ndeachaigh údaráis áitiúla ina mbun do 2020 agus an bhéim ar thosaíochtaí forfheidhmithe náisiúnta. D'éirigh go maith arís eile le gníomhaíochtaí forfheidhmithe dramhaíola in 2020; chonacthas go leor samplaí maithe d'obair ilghníomhaireachta agus baineadh amach comhordú agus forfheidhmiú níos fearr trí sheirbhísí comhroinnte WERLA. Tháinig laghdú ar ghníomhaíochtaí forfheidhmithe i réimse an Uisce agus an Aeir/Torainn gur gá aghaidh a thabhairt orthu nuair a thugtar chun cuimhne an laghdú ar cháilíocht an uisce agus na tionchair shuntasacha sláinte a bhaineann le truailliú aeir agus torainn.

Rinneadh creat feidhmíochta na n-údarás áitiúil a nuashonrú ar mhaithe le feidhmíocht na n-údarás áitiúil a mheas i dtaca le tosaíochtaí forfheidhmithe náisiúnta a chur chun cinn, tosaíochtaí atá curtha i dtoll a chéile chun torthaí comhshaoil a bhaint amach. Rinneadh na tosaíochtaí forfheidhmithe náisiúnta do 2022-2024 a fhorbairt i dtaca le ceithre théama: rialachas, dramhaíl, uisce agus aer/torann. Bhain rannpháirtíocht shuntasach leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, le húdaráis áitiúla, le seirbhísí comhroinnte, leis an gCoiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta um Fhorfheidhmiú Dramhaíola agus le hoifigí ábhartha na GCC, leis an obair sin. Soláthróidh an creat nuashonraithe níos mó trédhearcachta maidir le feidhmíocht na n-údarás áitiúil agus iad ag tabhairt faoin gcuid feidhmeanna cosanta comhshaoil nuair atá dúshlán shuntasacha fós le sárú maidir le cáilíocht uisce, truailliú aeir agus coireacht dramhaíola.

## Ionchúisimh

Thángthas os comhair na cúirte 24 uair agus astu sin éisteadh le trí ionchúiseamh déag agus tugadh chun críche iad sa Chúirt Dúiche; bhí 10 gciontú dá dtoradh seo, fuair beirt cheadúnaí eile sochar an Achta Promhaidh agus caitheadh amach an cás eile (Tábla 9).

Ghearr na Cúirteanna fineálacha de €131,250, bhronn siad costais dlí de €187,034 agus thug sintiúis charthanachta de €5,000.

Bailíodh seachtó a haon faoin gcéad de na fineálacha le linn 2021 agus táthar ag súil go mbaileofar an t-iarhméid in 2022.

**Tábla 9.** Gníomhaíochtaí Forfheidhmithe Dlí a rinneadh in 2021

Gníomhaíocht forfheidhmithe dlí	Aschur
Ionchúisimh sa Chúirt Dúiche a fuair Éisteacht	13
Fineálacha a gearradh sa Chúirt Dúiche	€131,250
Costais a bronnadh i gCúirt Dúiche	€187,034
<b>Líon iomlán na bhfineálacha agus na gcostas</b>	<b>€318,284</b>
Tabharthais charthanúla	€5,000



Cuireann an GCC comhairle agus treoir ar fáil do thionscal, do chomhlachtaí poiblí agus do shaoránaigh i dtaca le réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí comhshaoil chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag cloí leis an gcleachtas is fearr.

## 2.3 TREOIR

### Suíomhanna tionsclaíocha agus dramhaíola ceadúnaithe

Tugann an GCC tacaíocht do cheadúnaithe agus iad á dtreorú ar mhaithe le cabhrú leo lena gcuid riachtanas reachtúil a chomhlíonadh. D'fhoilsigh an GCC trí nóta treorach aeir nua le linn na bliana agus rinneadh athcheartú agus nuashonrú ar cheithre nóta treorach aeir a bhí i bhfeidhm cheana féin.

### Geilleagar Ciorclach

D'fhoilsigh an Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc ar Dhramháil treoir i dtaca le bainistiú dramhaíola guaisí agus pleananna bainistíochta dramhaíola ar mhaithe le tionscadail tógála agus scartála, chomh maith le treoir agus oiliúint nuashonraithe maidir le Soláthar Poiblí Glas. Tugadh faoi chomhairliúchán poiblí chomh maith i dtaca le Clár an Gheilleagair Chiorclaigh de chuid GCC.

### Fuíolluisce

D'fhoilsigh an GCC an Cód Cleachtais nua le haghaidh Córais Chóireála Fuíolluisce Tí (Coibhéis Daonra  $\leq 10$ ) in 2021. Tugann an Cód nua sonraí i dtaca leis an gcaoi ar chóir córais chóireála fuíolluisce tí a thógáil agus a chothabháil ionas nach n-éilleofar screamhuisce/uisce dromchla agus nach gcuirfead sláinte dhaoine i mbaol.

### Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta

Lean an GCC ar aghaidh ag nuashonrú a treorach um údaráis a dhéanann pleananna maidir le measúnacht straitéiseach timpeallachta a chur i gcrích ar phleananna, cláir agus straitéisí ábhartha. Foilsíodh Treoir um Dhea-Chleachtas maidir le Scrúdú Mheasúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta, a sholáthair treoir shainiúil neamhspleách chun cabhrú le déantóirí pleananna/cláir agus le cleachtóirí Mheasúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta. Foilsíodh treirdhoiciméad earnála chomh maith chun cabhrú le déantóirí pleananna agus iad ag tabhairt faoi Mheasúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta san earnáil fuinnimh.

### Mapáil torainn

In 2021, d'oibrigh an GCC go dlúth le húdaráis áitiúla agus le comhlachtaí eile léarscáilithe torainn chun cur chuige náisiúnta atá níos comhsheasmhaí maidir le mapáil straitéiseach torainn ar bhóithre móra agus ar cheirtleáin, a fhorbairt. Cuireadh tús le bailiú sonraí a bheadh ina gcrann taca don cheathrú babhta de léarscáileanna straitéiseacha torainn, go déanach in 2021. Ina theannta sin, chuir an GCC comhairle ar fáil don Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide maidir le ceirtleáin Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Chorcaí a ath-leagan amach agus na hathruithe ar mhéid na gceantar seo ón am a leagadh amach an chéad lá ariamh iad in 2006 á gcur san áireamh. Chuir sí comhairle ar fáil chomh maith i dtaca le méid an cheirtleáin torainn nua i Luimneach.





# 3

Sonraí, measúnuithe agus fianaise ardchaighdeáin agus spriocdhírthe thráthúil a chur ar fáil chun tacú le saoránaigh, gnóthais agus an Rialtas agus cinntí á ndéanamh acu.



### 3 EOLAS

#### 3.1 MONATÓIREACHT AGUS MEASÚNÚ

Cuireann an GCC measúnú atá bunaithe ar fhianaise agus eolas tráthúil ar fáil do na páirtithe leasmhara go léir, le tacú le gníomhú chun an comhshaoil a chosaint agus a bhainistiú.

#### Cáilíocht an aeir

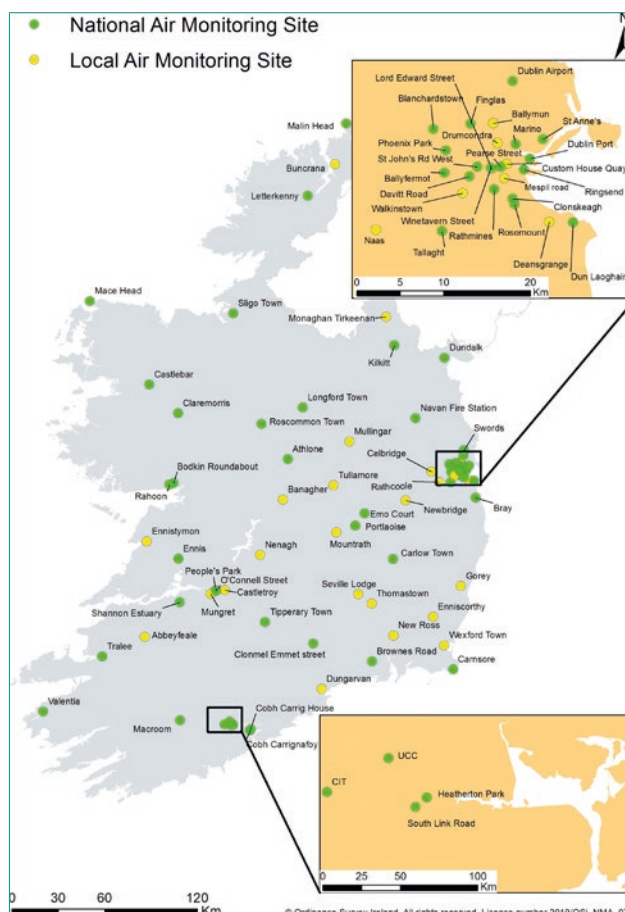
I gcomhar le húdaráis áitiúla agus le comhlachtaí eile, déanann an GCC an Líonra Náisiúnta Monatóireachta ar Cháilíocht an Aeir Chomhthimpeallaigh (Fíor 5), a riar agus a bhainistiú. I rith 2021, cuireadh sonraí ón líonra ar fáil don phobal ar shuíomh gréasáin nua na GCC lena mbaineann feidhmiúlacht fheabhsaithe agus tugadh tuairisc ar na sonraí sin i gcomhlíonadh riachtanais na Treorach maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip agus na 4ú Treorach ar leith. Déantar sonraí a mheas i gcomparáid le luachanna teorann dlíthiúla Eorpacha agus luachanna threoirlínte na hEagraíochta Domhanda Sláinte.

Leathnaíodh an líonra tuilleadh le linn 2021 nuair a cuireadh naoi stáisiún mhonatóireachta nua leis. Tá an líonra trí huairé níos mó ná mar a bhí sé in 2017 – tá 97 stáisiún monatóireachta ann anois i gcomparáid le 29 stáisiún in 2017.

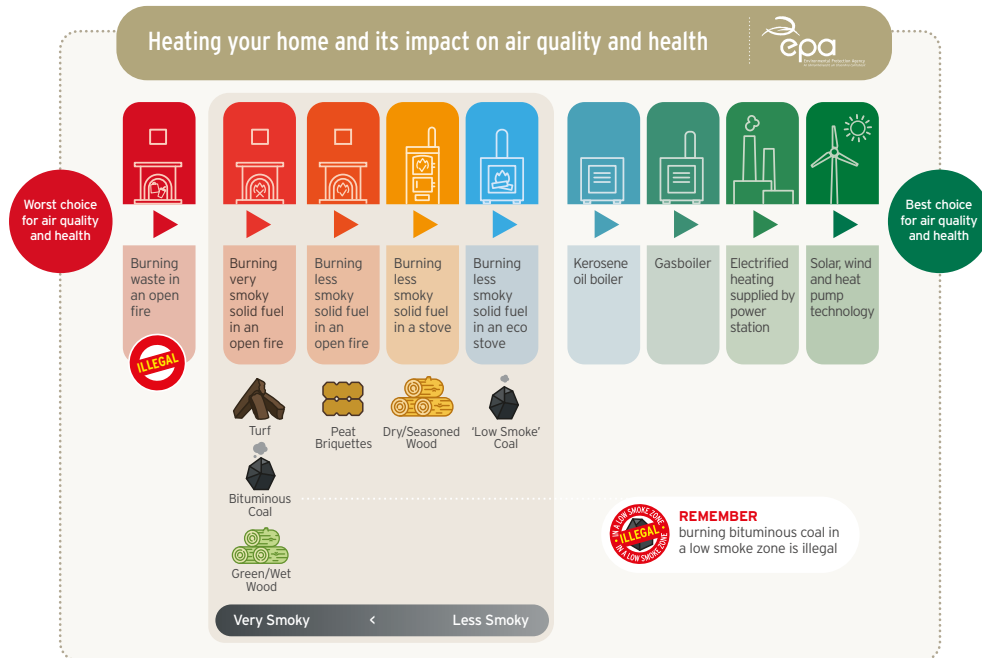
I mí na Samhna 2021, d’fhoilsigh an GCC a tuarascáil bhliantúil maidir le cáilíocht an aeir in Éirinn ar mhaithe le 2020. Thug conclúidí na tuarascála le fios, cé go raibh laghdú mór ar thruailliú aeir ó thrácht in 2020 de dheasca shrianta COVID-19 agus go raibh cáilíocht aeir na hÉireann go maith don chuid is mó, le linn 2020, ba údar imní iad na ceisteanna áitiúla.

Bíonn tionchar ag cáilíocht an aeir ar shláinte dhaoine agus meastar go bhfaigheann 1,300 duine bás roimh am in Éirinn mar gheall ar thruailliú aeir. Thug taighde a rinne Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte i gcomhar leis an GCC le fios go raibh ceangal soiléir idir níos mó daoine a bheith á gcur chuig ospidéal i mBaile Átha Cliath agus stádas dona nó an-dona Innéacs Cháilíocht an Aeir don tSláinte. Is ábhar imní leibhéil na n-ábhar cáithníní (cáithníní míne) atá san aer, ábhar imní atá ag méadú. Bíonn leibhéil an truailléain sin ard ach go háirithe i rith mhíonna an gheimhridh nuair a bhíonn tionchar diúltach ag úsáid breoslaí soladacha mar ghual, móin agus adhmaid úr ag daoine ar cháilíocht an aeir, go háirithe sna bailte beaga agus sna sráidbhailte. Má thagann athrú ar na réimsí roghanna maidir le córas teasa tí agus breosla sholadaigh agus aistriú i dtreo móid atá níos glaine (Fíor 6), feabhsófar cáilíocht an aeir. Mar an gcéanna, is féidir an tionchar ar an tsláinte ó astaíochtaí iompair a mhaolú ach tabhairt faoi na roghanna cearta i dtaca le hiompar (Fíor 7).

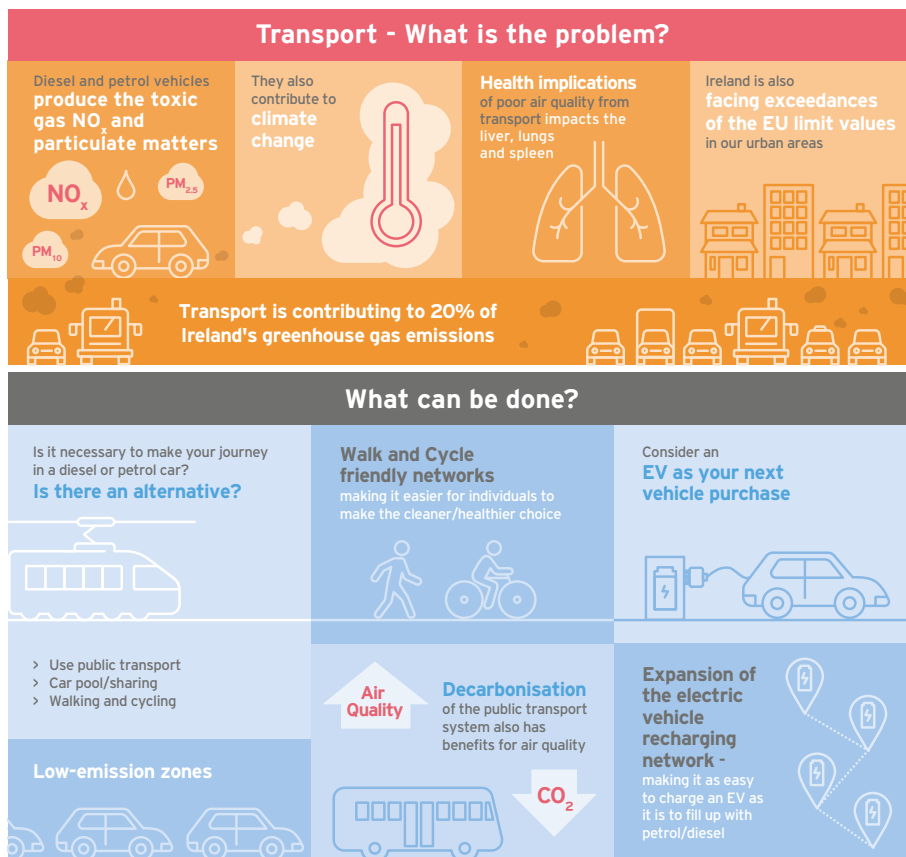
Fíor 5. Líonra Náisiúnta Monatóireachta ar Cháilíocht an Aeir Chomhthimpeallaigh



Fíor 6. Grafaic faisnéise ar cháilíocht an aeir agus gnéithe sláinte i dtaca le roghanna maidir le córas teasa tí



Fíor 7. Grafaic faisnéise ar cháilíocht an aeir agus gnéithe sláinte i dtaca le roghanna iompair



## Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin i dtaca le hastaíochtaí truaileán aeir

Chuir an GCC sonraí fardail maidir le hastaíochtaí truaileán aeir le haghaidh 2019, agus réamh-mheastacháin astaíochtaí suas go 2040, faoi bhráid Choimisiún Eacnamaíochta na Náisiún Aontaithe don Eoraip, an Choinbhinsiún ar Thruailliú Aeir Fadraoin Trasteorann, agus an AE, de réir na Treorach um Uasteorainneacha Astaíochtaí Náisiúnta.

Tugann an tuarascáil is déanaí seo le fios, cé gur tháinig laghdú ar astaíochtaí amóinia in 2019, nach bhfuil na hastaíochtaí sin fós ag comhlíonadh uasteorainn an AE agus go bhfuil siad neamhchomhlíontach anois ar feadh seacht mbliana as an naoi mbliana atá caite. Is í an talmhaíocht is mó atá ina cúis le hastaíochtaí amóinia (99%), a eascraíonn as aoileach ainmhithe agus leasachán nítrigine. Mar sin féin, tá comharthaí spreagúla ag teacht chun cinn go bhfuil bearta laghdaithe á nglacadh ag leibhéal na feirme; tá thart ar 16% de sciodar eallaigh á gcur i bhfeidhm agus úsáid á baint as teicnící leata a mbaineann astaíochtaí isle leo, ag seachaint breis agus 3,000 tona d'astaíochtaí amóinia. Chomh maith leis sin, tháinig méadú ceithre oiread ar úsáid táirgí leasacháin úiré coiscthe in 2019, cé go raibh bonn íseal i gceist.

Tháinig laghdú 9.2% in 2019 ar astaíochtaí ocsaíd nítrigine – go háirithe ó fheithiclí iompair agus feithiclí breoslaithe díosail – agus teicneolaíochtaí laghdaithe NOx feithiclí ag dul chun feabhais. Tháinig laghdú beag chomh maith (1.1%) ar astaíochtaí comhdhúile orgánacha so-ghalaithe neamh-mheatáin in 2019. Is de dheasca tháirgeadh biotáille sa tionscal bia agus deochanna, aoileach ainmhithe agus leasacháin, den chuid is mó iad seo.

Tháinig laghdú 13.1% ar astaíochtaí d'ábhar cáithníní mín mar gheall ar riachtanais téimh níos ísle in 2019, agus lean astaíochtaí dé-ocsaíde sulfair dá dtreocht anuas.

In 2019, chomhlíon Éire na huasteorainneacha astaíochtaí faoin Treoir um Uasteorainneacha Astaíochtaí Náisiúnta le haghaidh ocsaíd nítrigine, comhdhúile orgánacha so-ghalaithe neamh-meatán agus dé-ocsaíd sulfair; níl uasteorainn d'ábhar cáithníní mín á cur i bhfeidhm go dtí 2020.

Ní mór astaíochtaí na dtruaileán aeir uile a laghdú tuilleadh chun cáilíocht agus sláinte an aeir a chosaint agus chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag cloí le teorainneacha astaíochtaí an AE.

## Cáilíocht an Uisce

Tá freagracht ar an GCC maidir leis na rudaí seo a leanas: an clár náisiúnta monatóireachta ar cháilíocht an uisce a chomhordú agus a chur i bhfeidhm, tabhairt faoi mheasúnuithe teicniúla agus eolaíochta ar mhaithe le tuiscint a fháil ar na brúnna a imríonn tionchar ar an gcomhshaoil uisce, agus cuidiú le heolas a dhéanamh do na bearta gur gá dul ina mbun ar mhaithe le cáilíocht an uisce a chosaint agus a fheabhsú. Tá an fhaisnéis seo de dhíth chomh maith chun tuairisciú don AE i dtaca leis an gCreat-Treoir Uisce agus le gníomhaíochtaí eile a bhaineann le huisce.

Cé go raibh roinnt tionchair ag srianta COVID-19 ar chúrsaí, tugadh an clár náisiúnta monatóireachta ar uisce dromchla agus screamhuisce chun críche den chuid is mó le linn 2021. Thug foirne a bhí ag obair de réir threoirínte poiblí sláinte faoi na rudaí seo a leanas:

- Suirbhéanna éiceolaíochta agus sampláil cheimiceach ó 1,539 dobharlach lena n-áirítear aibhneacha, lochanna, dobharlaigh idirchreasa agus chósta agus screamhuisce.
- 2,073 sampla bitheolaíochta a bhailiú ó aibhneacha, lochanna, inbhir agus uiscí cósta agus tabhairt faoi mheasúnú orthu.
- Anailís cheimiceach ar 15,391 sampla uisce ó aibhneacha, locha, inbhir agus uiscí cósta.
- Sampláil agus anailís ar 768 sampla screamhuisce, ar feadh trí bhabhta, ó thart ar 270 tobar agus fuarán.

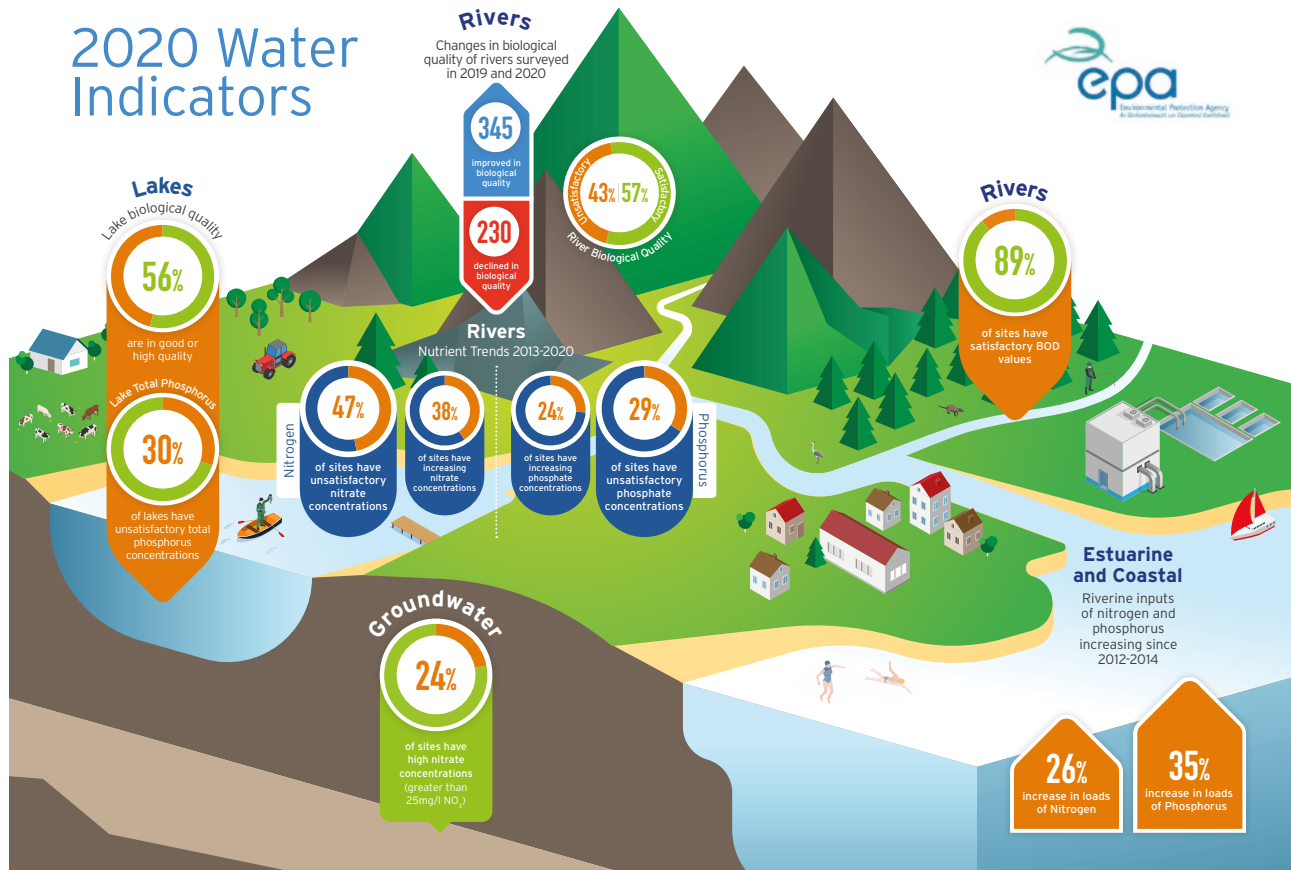
D'fhoilsigh an GCC an 'Tuarascáil Táscaire maidir le Cáilíocht an Uisce in 2020', i mí Iúil 2021. Sa tuarascáil tugtar an fhaisnéis is déanaí ar cháilíocht an uisce in aibhneacha, lochanna, uiscí idirchreasa agus cósta agus screamhuisce na hÉireann, ag baint úsáid as faisnéis a bailíodh le linn 2020. Tugann Fíor 8 achoimre ar thorthaí na tuarascála.

Tugadh le fios sa tuarascáil go bhfuil uisce dromchla agus screamhuisce fós faoi bhrú ó ghníomhaíochtaí daonna: go háirithe, de dheasca nítrigine agus fosfair ó thalmhaíocht agus ó fhuíolluisce. Tá roinnt feabhsuithe tagtha ar cháilíocht bhitheolaíoch ár n-aibhneacha, ach tá go leor acu nach bhfuil chomh sláintiúil ó thaobh na héiceolaíochta de agus go mba chóir dóibh a bheith. Tá gníomh soiléir de dhíth ar mhaithe le feabhsuithe marthanacha i leith cháilíocht an uisce a chinntiú, gné atá riachtanach ar son ár sláinte agus folláine. Tá beagán níos mó ná leath dár n-aibhneacha agus lochanna i gcáilíocht bhitheolaíoch mhaith nó ard, a thugann le fios go bhfuil go leor oibre fós de dhíth chun na huiscí atá fágtha a iompú ar ais go caighdeán atá sásúil. Cúis eile imní, ná an toradh go bhfuil tiúchana níotráite inár n-aibhneacha, inbhir agus screamhuisce ag dul i méid, go háirithe iad siúd i ndeisceart agus in oirdheisceart na tíre.

Baineann comharthaí dearfacha, áfach, go háirithe le Limistéir Thosaíochta ina bhfuil Beart Riachtanach, áiteanna a bhfuil fianaise go bhfuil roinnt aibhneacha ag dul chun feabhais. Is údar misnigh é seo agus tugann sé le fios go bhfuil feabhas tagtha ar cháilíocht an uisce mar thoradh ar dhíriú ar bhearta sna limistéir sin mar chuid de bhainistíocht abhantraí náisiúnta na hÉireann.

Chomh maith leis sin, chomhordaigh agus d'fhoilsigh an GCC an tuarascáil bhliantúil maidir le scaoileadh nítrigine agus fosfair isteach san uisce don bhliain 2020. Tacaíonn an obair seo leis an measúnú ar thionchar Mhaolú Níotráití na hÉireann maidir le cáilíocht an uisce.

Fíor 8. Táscairí Cáilíochta Uisce 2020



In 2021, ghníomhaigh an GCC ar mhaithe leis an tríú timhriall den dréacht-Phlean Bainistíochta Abhantraí 2022-2027, a d’fhoilsigh an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta, agus inar leagadh amach na bearta a ghlacfaidh Éire uirthi féin chun cosaint a thabhairt agus feabhas a chur ar cháilíocht an uisce i ndobharlaigh. Tá measúnuithe déanta ar an achar ama go mbainfeadh an sprioc amach maidir le cuid de na brúnna agus strusairí, rud atá ag déanamh eolais do chuspóirí agus leibhéal uailmhéine an phlean. Tabharfar faoi thuilleadh anailís ar chásanna go luath in 2022 maidir le cad is féidir leis an bplean a bhaint amach i dtaca le torthaí.

I rith 2021, lean an GCC den fhorbairt ar uirlisí chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar na rioscaí a bhaineann le tionchar dríodair ar cháilíocht an uisce, uirlisí a chabhraíonn leis na brúnna a aithint agus a sholáthraíonn an bonn fianaise chun díriú ar bhearta. Tá creat chun treoir a sholáthar ar ‘an mbeart ceart san áit cheart’ ar mhaithe le hathchóiriú abhann agus i dtaca le réitigh bhainistíochta do bharcheantair atá nádúr-bhunaithe,

beagnach críochnaithe. Beidh cur chuige sa chreat ar mhaithe le díriú ar bhearta chun tabhairt faoi ghníomhaíochtaí a mbíonn tionchar acu ar dhálaí fisiceacha gnáthóige uisce dromchla, agus ar a bhfoirm agus a bhfeidhm nádúrtha. Is iad na brúnna hidreamoírfeolaíoch seo an dara strusaire is tábhachtaí, ag teacht sna sála ar chothaithigh, a bhfuil tionchar acu ar cháilíocht an uisce.

I mí Mheán Fómhair 2021, cuireadh modh measúnaithe bhitheolaíoch nua faoi bhráid choiste meastóireachta an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh mar chuid den bheart idirchlabraithe ar fud an AE, modh a úsáidtear chun tabhairt faoi mheasúnú ar thionchar an aigéadaithe ar éiceolaíocht abhann ar a dtugtar Scór Comhphobail um Tháscaire Uisce Aigéid. Is é cuspóir an bhirt idirchlabraithe ná a chinntiú go ndéantar measúnú ar stádas an uisce ar fud na hEorpa ar bhealach atá comhsheasmhach agus inchomparáide. Go dtí seo, tá Éire tar éis tabhairt faoi idirchlabrú foirmiúil ar 15 as na 17 modh a úsáidtear sa chlár náisiúnta monatóireachta.



Bhain an GCC, i gcomhar le taighdeoirí ó Ollscoil na hÉireann Gaillimh, úsáid as faisnéis ón gclár náisiúnta monatóireachta ar chumhdach bhláthú feamainne glaise chun léiriú go rathúil an úsáid a bhaintear as sonraí cianbhraiteacha Copernicus agus meaisínfhoghlaím ar mhaithe le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an uisce in uisce inbhearacha. Foilsíodh torthaí na hoibre seo mar fhoilseachán eolaíoch piarmheasúnaithe (<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.633128#>). Bailíodh faisnéis satailíte ina dhiaidh sin chun staid bhláthú feamainne glaise in inbhir na hÉireann, i samhradh na bliana 2021, a mheas mar chuid de chlár náisiúnta monatóireachta na Creat-Treorach Uisce.

## An Clár Hidriméadrachta

Leanann an GCC de shonraí hidriméadrachta a chur ar fáil le tacú le hoibleagáidí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta tuairiscithe, pleanáil agus bainistíocht acmhainní uisce, bainistíocht rioscaí tuilte, dearadh bonneagair agus réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí eile.

Thug an GCC faoi 2,203 measúnacht ar leibhéal screamhuisce agus ar leibhéal uisce dromchla agus/nó sreabhadh i láithreáin ar fud na tíre i rith 2021. Sna measúnachtaí sin díriodh go príomha ar líonra láithreán na GCC/na n-údarás áitiúil, ach cuimsíodh tomhais spriocdhírith ar shreabhadh chomh maith, áit a raibh gá le sonraí ar mhaithe le cuspoirí sonracha. Cuireadh minicíocht na gcuairteanna láithreáin in oiriúint do riachtanais an láithreáin agus d'ínathraitheacht nádúrtha an chainéil abhann. Tá na sonraí ar fáil le híoslódáil ach dul go tairseach ghréasáin HydroNet na GCC.

Chuimsigh an clár monatóireachta screamhuisce do 2021 trí bhabhta samplála agus tógadh 768 sampla screamhuisce san iomlán as toibreacha agus as fuaráin ar fud na tíre. Tá sonraí ceimice screamhuisce ar fáil le híoslódáil ach dul go Geoportal na GCC. Gach bliain tuairiscítear sonraí bliantúla ar cháilíocht agus ar leibhéal an uisce do bhunachar sonraí WISE na Creat-Treorach Uisce de chuid na Gníomhaireachta Eorpaí Comhshaoil, chun tacú leis an gCreat-Treoir Uisce a chur i bhfeidhm.

Thug an GCC measúnú teicniúil ar líonra na stáisiún hidriméadrach uisce dromchla agus na riachtanais hidriméadrachta náisiúnta chun críche in 2021. Áiríodh leis sin comhairliúchán le páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha, m.sh. Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí, Foras na Mara agus Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta na hÉireann, ar mhaithe le Clár Hidriméadrach Náisiúnta 2022-27 a fhoilsiú. Rinneadh clár de gach stáisiún hidriméadrach uisce dromchla gníomhach agus neamhghníomhach in Éirinn a nuashonrú agus a fhoilsiú ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC.

I mí Mheán Fómhair 2021, thug an GCC faoi mheasúnú ar chothromaíocht uisce ar an gCanáil Mhór d'Uiscebhealaí na hÉireann. D'aithin an measúnú cén chuid den chanáil a raibh sceitheadh suntasach ann agus ceadáinn sé seo bainistiú níos fearr ar an gcanáil. Beidh an measúnú seo tairbheach chomh maith don chóras ceadúnaithe astarraingthe atá ar na bacáin. Tá measúnú le déanamh ar Líne na Bearú de chuid na Canálach Móire in 2022.

Tá an GCC ag leanúint leis an Tairseach Chláraithe Náisiúnta d'Astarráingthe a chothabháil faoi na rialacháin um chlárú astarraingthe. Ag deireadh 2021, bhí 2,818 pointe astarraingthe aonair cláraithe ag an GCC. Déantar na sonraí astarraingthe a chomhtháthú i bpróiseas thréithriú riosca na Creat-Treorach Uisce.

Tá Éire ina ceannasaí ar thasc chun uirlisí a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le tabhairt faoi mheasúnú ar thionchair an athraithe aeráide ar screamhuisce, tasc atá faoi stiúir Ghrúpa Oibre ar Screamhuisce na Creat-Treorach Uisce de chuid an AE. In 2021, tugadh chun críche athbheithniú ar shonraí agus anailís ar chleachtais na mBallstát, agus tá an Grúpa Oibre chun a chuid torthaí agus moltaí treorach a fhoilsiú go luath in 2022.

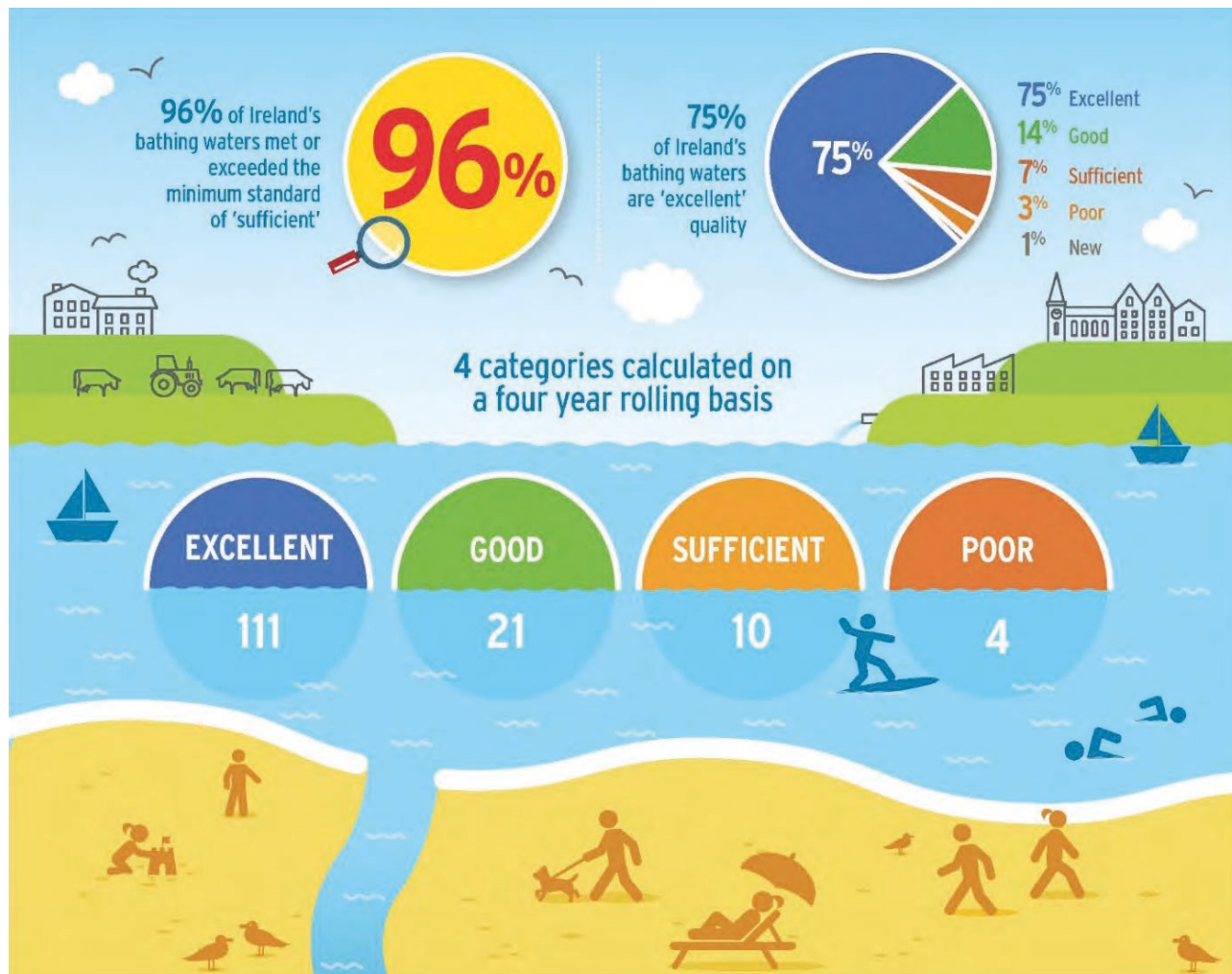
## Cáilíocht an uisce snámha

I rith 2021, d'fhoilsigh an GCC an tuarascáil bhliantúil ar uisce snámha ina ndearnadh measúnú ar thorthaí le haghaidh shéasúr snámha 2020. Tá sonraí i dtaca le measúnuithe ar chaighdeán an uisce snámha do 2020 léirithe i bhFíor 9. Thug an tuarascáil le fios gur chomhlíon 96% de na huiscí snámha (142 as 148) na híoschaighdeáin a bhí riachtanach in 2020, nó gur sháraigh siad iad. Is ardú é sin ó 95% in 2019.

D'oibrigh an GCC le húdarás áitiúla chun a chinntiú go ndéanfaí bainistíocht rathúil ar shéasúr snámha 2021 in ainneoin na srianta de bharr COVID-19.

I 2021 rinneadh uasdátú ar an suíomh gréasáin Beaches.ie chun sonraí monatóireachta maidir le huiscí snámha lasmuigh den séasúr, a bhíonn á mbailliú ag cuid de na húdarás áitiúla i mBaile Átha Cliath, a ghabháil agus a fhoilsiú. Tá an GCC ag gníomhú i gcomhar leis an nGrúpa Saineolaithe ar Uisce Snámha, atá faoi stiúir na Roinne Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta, chun cur chuige a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le sláinte snámhóirí a chosaint lasmuigh de shéasúr an uisce snámha.

**Fíor 9.** Caighdeán an uisce snámha in 2020



## Athrú aeráide Fardail astaíochta

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2021, d'fhoilsigh an GCC sonraí sealadacha maidir le hastaíochtaí Gás Ceaptha Teasa (GCT) le haghaidh 2020. Tugann na figiúirí le fios gur tháinig laghdú 3.6% ar astaíochtaí i gcomparáid le 2019, agus cé go bhfuil sé seo suntasach, tá sé 0.4% níos lú ná an laghdú a bhí i gceist le 2019.

Rinneadh laghduithe suntasacha ar astaíochtaí a thaifead d'earnáil na dTionscal Fuinnimh de dheasca go príomha laghdú 51% ar an móin a úsáidtear i nginiúint leictreachais agus méaduithe ar an ngaoth a úsáidtear i nginiúint leictreachais. Tharla an laghdú sin in ainneoin go raibh an leibhéal céanna éilimh ar leictreachas agus a bhí ann in 2019 agus ba é an toradh a bhí air ná laghdú 8.1% i dtaca le déine astaíochtaí na giniúna cumhachta in 2020. Tháinig laghdú mór ar astaíochtaí san earnáil lompair de dheasca na mbeart glasála a cuireadh i bhfeidhm mar fhreagra ar Phaindeim COVID-19, ach ba arduithe a tháinig ar an earnáil Chónaithe.

Tugann na figiúirí le fios gur sháraigh Éire a leithdháileadh astaíochtaí bliantúla AE le chomh hard le 6.7Mt don bhliain 2020 agus, i dtaca lena leithdháileadh go carnach thar shaolré Chinneadh maidir le Comhroinnt Díchill 2013-2020, le chomh hard le 12 Mt. Níor tháinig ach laghdú 7% ar astaíochtaí arna gcumhdach faoin gCinneadh maidir le Comhroinnt Díchill in 2020, ar mhéid na bliana 2005, i gcomparáid le sprioc foriomlán de laghdú 20%.

## Réamh-mheastacháin ar astaíochtaí

D'fhoilsigh an GCC réamh-mheastacháin astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa suas go 2040 i mí an Mheithimh 2021. Is féidir le hÉirinn ár gcuid tiomantais reatha i leith an AE a chomhlíonadh thar an tréimhse 2021 go 2030 má chuirtear na plananna agus beartais reatha ar fad i bhfeidhm go hiomlán.

Sa chás ab fhearr, tugtar le fios sna réamh-mheastacháin, go mbeidh astaíochtaí na hÉireann in 2030, 24% níos ísle ná leibhéal 2018, agus na bearta go léir atá leagtha amach i bPlean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide 2019 curtha i bhfeidhm go hiomlán.

Mar sin féin, le go mbeadh Éire in ann spriocanna níos uailmhianaí, mar a chuirtear i láthair iad le Dlí Aeráide na hEorpa agus Bille Aeráide na hÉireann, a bhaint amach, agus go mbeadh sé ar a cumas aistriú go geilleagar atá seasmhach ó thaobh na haeráide de, saibhir maidir le bithéagsúlacht agus neodrach ó thaobh aeráide de faoi 2050, ní mór go dtarlódh méadú suntasach láithreach i dtaca le scála agus le luas na laghduithe ar astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa.

### Tionchair an athraithe aeráide

I mí Lúnasa, d'fhoilsigh an GCC, Met Éireann agus Foras na Mara tuarascáil ar 'Stádas Aeráid na hÉireann'. Tugtar anailís chuimsitheach ar shonraí aeráide a bailíodh in Éirinn sa tuarascáil a d'ullmhaigh MaREI, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh. Tugtar le fios inti conas mar atá athruithe domhanda le brath in atmaisféar, in aigéin agus i dtírdhreach na hÉireann. De dheasca an téimh dhomhanda, tá aeráid na hÉireann ag éirí níos teo agus níos fliche. Tugtar léargas chomh maith ar ardú leibhéal na farraige, ar aigéadacht aigéin atá méadaithe, agus ar theocht aigéin ag dul in airde, inár n-aigéin agus inár gceantair chósta. Tá éiceachórais aigéin agus talún na hÉireann ag freagairt do na hathruithe sin, agus speicis aigéin ag athrú agus séasúr fáis níos faide ar talamh le feiceáil.

### Athrú aeráide agus Meon na hÉireann

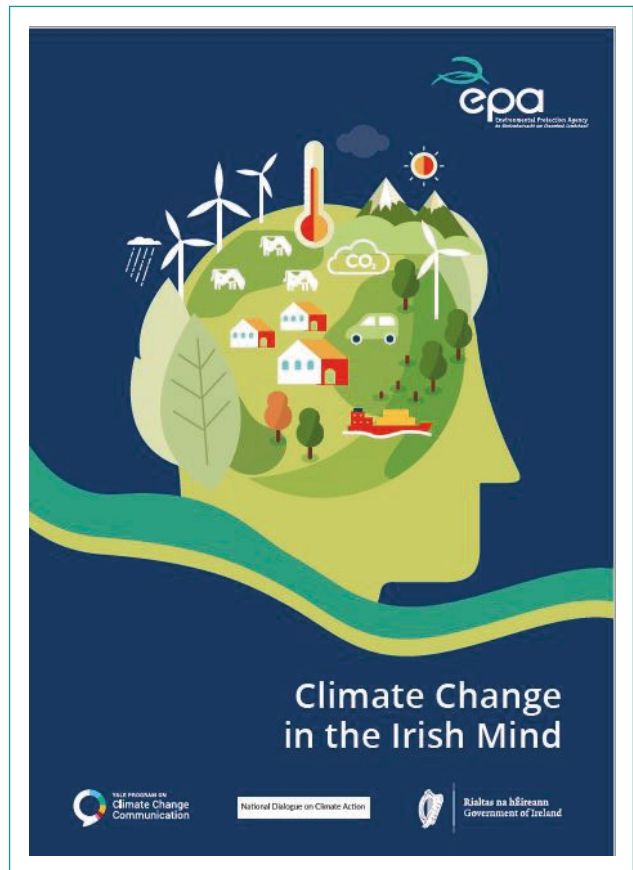
D'fhoilsigh an GCC an chéad tuarascáil ón tionscadal 'Athrú Aeráide i Meon Mhuintir na hÉireann' i mí na Nollag. Is í an GCC agus Clár Ollscoil Yale (a comhpháirtí acadúil) ar Chumarsáid ar Athrú Aeráide a thug faoin obair sin agus í mar thacaíocht don Idirphlé Náisiúnta ar Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an tionscadal go mbeadh tuiscint níos fearr ar dhaonra na hÉireann agus tabhairt faoi staidéar bonnlíne i dtaca leis an tuairim phoiblí maidir le hathrú aeráide, dearthaí riosca, sainroghanna maidir le beartais agus iompar phobal na hÉireann i leith an athraithe aeráide. Déanfar trí príomhaischur a chur ar fáil sa tionscadal: 1) Tuarascáil i dtaca le hAthrú Aeráide i Meon Mhuintir na hÉireann; 2) Tuarascáil deighilte agus 3) Léarscáil idirghníomhach ar líne.

Ar shuirbhé náisiúnta ionadaíoch ar níos mó ná 4,000 duine i rith an tsamhraidh in 2021 atá an tuarascáil 'Athrú Aeráide in Meon Mhuintir na hÉireann' bunaithe.

Tá na torthaí teann:

- D'aontaigh pobal na hÉireann d'aon ghuth go bhfuil an t-athrú aeráide ar bun agus léirigh 85% imní ina leith.
- Deir 91% de dhaoine go bhfuil athrú aeráide tábhachtach dóibh go pearsanta agus (79%) gur cheart go mbeadh athrú aeráide mar thosaíocht "an-ard" nó "ard" do Rialtas na hÉireann.

- Tacaíonn muintir na hÉireann go láidir le raon beartas chun dul i ngleic le hathrú aeráide. Tá daoine den tuairim chomh maith go dtiocfaidh méadú ar an líon post, ar chaighdeán na beatha agus ar an bhfás eacnamaíoch de dheasca an athraithe aeráide (78%).
- Is foinsí faisnéise an-iontaofa iad eolaithe, saineolaithe agus an GCC ar athrú aeráide.



### Tuarascáil Mheasúnaithe Cúig Bliana

Cuireadh tús le hobair ar mheasúnú tuisciana maidir le príomhghnéithe an athraithe aeráide le 'Tuarascáil Mheasúnaithe Cúig Bliana' in 2021. Cuirfear leis an bhfaisnéis arna soláthar ag an bPainéal Idir-Rialtasach ar Athrú Aeráide mar chuid den tuarascáil seo agus déanfar an fhaisnéis sin a logánú. Chomh maith leis sin, dearadh an tuarascáil le go mbeadh sí ina bonn eolais ar mhaithe le beartas agus gníomhaíochtaí aeráide. Tá an tuarascáil á hullmhú ag foireann de naonúr príomhúdar ó phobal taighde na hÉireann agus tacaíocht phríomha á fáil ón GCC agus cómhaoiniú curtha ar fáil ag Fondúireacht Eolaíochta Éireann, Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann agus an Roinn Iompair.

## An Clár Eorpach um Scaoileadh agus Aistriú Truailleán

Má tá astaíochtaí nó aistrithe dramhaíola os cionn na dtairseach sonrach ag oibreoir atá i mbun gníomhaíochta an Chláir Scaoilte agus Aistrithe Truailleán, cuireann an t-oibreoir faisnéis ar fáil don GCC maidir le méid an truailleán a scaoileadh amach san aer, san uisce agus san bhfuíolluisce, agus le haistrithe dramhaíola lasmuigh den láithreán.

Cuireadh sonraí an Chláir Scaoilte agus Aistrithe Truailleán 2019 faoi bhráid an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh i mí an Mhárta 2020 agus foilsíodh iad ar shuíomh gréasáin náisiúnta an Chláir Scaoilte agus Aistrithe Truailleán (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/PRTR>). Bailíodh na sonraí do 2020 le linn 2021 agus rinneadh iad a dhearbhu, agus cuireadh tuairisc fúthu ar fáil don Choimisiún Eorpach i mí na Samhna 2021.

Tugann anailís ar shonraí 2020 le fios gur tháinig méadú beag ar líon na n-oibreoirí a thuairiscigh faoin gClár Scaoilte agus Aistrithe Truailleán. Ar an iomlán, tháinig laghdú ar scaoileadh amach san aer ó na hoibreoirí seo maidir le truailleán mar dhé-ocsaíd charbóin, aonocsaíd charbóin, clórafluaracarbóin, dé-ocsaíní/fúráin, hidreaclórafluaracarbóin, mearcair, meatán, ocsaíd nítrigine, ocsaíd nítríúil, comhdhúile so-ghalaithe orgánacha neamh-mheatán, ocsaídí sulfair agus heicseafluairíd sulfair; agus tháinig méadú ar scaoileadh i dtaca le hamónia, clóirín, hidreafluoracarbóin, nicil, sárfluoracarbóin agus PM10. Tháinig méaduithe ar scaoileadh isteach san uisce i leith iomlán na nítrigine agus fosfar, fluairíde, mearcair agus lotnaidicídí – go háirithe ó hionaid mhóra chóireála an fhuíolluisce uirbhí. Tháinig laghdú ar aistrithe dramhaíola guaisí, ar dhramhaíl ghuaiseach a cuireadh thar lear agus a aistríodh laistigh d’Éirinn araon. Agus tháinig méadú ar an méid dramhaíola neamhghuaisí a aistríodh in 2020.

## Dramhaíl

Leantar de na sonraí dramhaíola is úire i leith na hÉireann a chur ar fáil ar acmhainn ghréasáin Staitisticí Náisiúnta Dramhaíola na GCC ([www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/](http://www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/)), le hamharc orthu agus lena n-íoslódáil. I rith 2021, foilsíodh eisiúintí sonraí ar líne ar mhaithe le raon sruthanna dramhaíola, lena n-áirítear dramhaíl bhardais, dramhaíl tí, pacáistíocht, dramhaíl ghuaiseach, dramhaíl mhúirínithe, dramhthrealamh leictreach agus leictreonach (DTLL), feithiclí a bhfuil a ré caite, boinn agus dramhaíl tógála agus scartála.

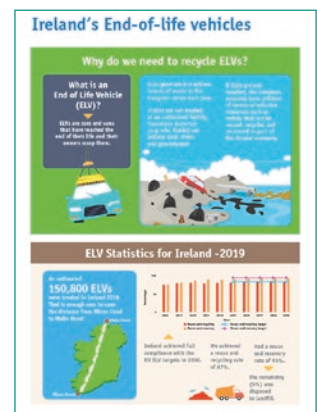
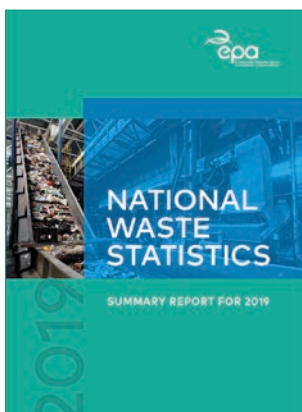
Tugann na sonraí is déanaí ón GCC le fios gur leanadh den ardú ar ghiniúint dramhaíola in Éirinn in 2019 agus gur thit rátaí athchúrsála de réir mar a bhí iarrachtaí chun athchúrsáil a fheabhsú á sárú ag fás ar an dramhaíl a bhí á giniúint agus níos mó dramhaíola á seoladh ar mhaithe le hathshlánú fuinnimh. Tá roinnt easnamh suntasach i dtaca le bonneagar dramhaíola ag Éirinn i gcónaí agus braitheann sí go mór ar dhramhaíl a onnmhairiú thar lear ar son cóireála. Tugann na sonraí le fios go bhfuil easnamh atá ag dul i méid in Éirinn maidir le spriocanna athchúrsála uaimhianacha nua an AE a bhaint amach nó aistriú go geilleagar ciorclach.

Foilsíodh ‘Tuarascáil Náisiúnta Achomair na Staitisticí Dramhaíola do 2019’ i mí na Nollag 2021, agus tugadh achoimre inti ar na sonraí dramhaíola is deireanaí, ar phríomhthreochtaí agus ar dhul chun cinn na hÉireann agus spriocanna an AE á mbaint aici.

## Ceimiceáin sa chomhshaoil

An GCC is ea an foras in Éirinn a bhfuil freagracht uirthi as réimse reachtaíochta a chur i bhfeidhm, a bhaineann le ceimiceáin sa chomhshaoil agus na tionchair a d’fhéadfadh a bheith acu. Cuimsíonn sé seo an Rialachán maidir le Truailleán Orgánacha Mharthanacha (Rialachán AE 2019/1021) agus Coinbhinsiún Stóicólm ar Thruailleán Orgánacha Mharthanacha, an Rialachán um Mearcair (Rialachán AE 2017/852), Treoir AE na bPéinteanna (Treoir AE 2004/42/CE), an Treoir AE maidir le Srian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha (RoHS, Treoir 2011/65/AE) agus Rialachán na bhFeithiclí a bhfuil a Ré Caite de chuid an AE (Treoir AE 2000/53/CE).

Leanann an GCC den mhonatóireacht ar fhorbairtí maidir leis na srianta ar Aigéad Sárfhuaroachtánóch agus ar shubstaintí gaolmhara (Truailleán Orgánacha Mharthanacha). I rith 2021, rinne an GCC cúir comhairle dóiteáin a bhfuil a n-úsáidí forleathan, a sheiceáil le haghaidh Substaintí Sárfhuarailcile agus Polafluarailcile. Chomh maith leis sin, thug an GCC faoi sheiceálacha ar earraí éagsúla, ina measc táirgí cúram gruaige agus oiriúintí aclaíochta, ní hamháin le haghaidh substaintí guaiseacha atá srianta i láthair na huairde réir reachtaíochta ábhartha, ach chomh maith leis sin, nuair is iomchuí, le haghaidh ceimiceáin eile ar údar imní iad. Rinneadh neamhchomhlíonadh féideartha a shainithint agus tá cigireachtaí á ndéanamh ag an GCC chun fáil amach ar cuireadh na táirgí sin ar an margadh tar éis an dáta ar ar cuireadh na srianta i bhfeidhm.



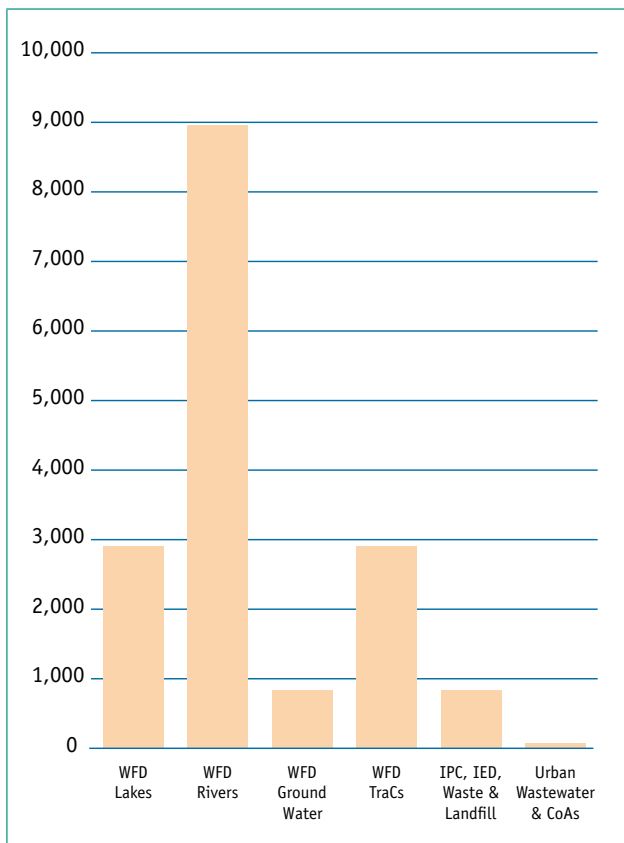


## Seirbhísí saotharlainne don chomhshaoil

I saotharlanna na GCC i gCaisleán an Bharraigh, i mBaile Átha Cliath, i gCill Chainnigh agus i Muineachán, tugtar faoi anailís chun tacú le cláir mhonatóireachta, ceadúnú, forfheidhmiú agus an Chreat-Treoir Uisce a chur i bhfeidhm.

Tugann na saotharlanna seo, chomh maith leis an bhfoireann samplála i gCorcaigh, faoi mhonatóireacht, anailís agus tuairisciú ar shamplaí a thógtar chun forfheidhmiú a dhéanamh ag saoráidí ceadúnaithe, chomh maith le hiniúchadh ag láithreáin éanlaith chlóis agus cóireála fuíolluisce. Tugann na saotharlanna faoi anailís chomh maith i dtaca le samplaí ó aibhneacha, lochanna, screamhuisce agus uisce idirchreasa agus cósta faoi Chláir Náisiúnta Mhonatóireachta na Creat-Treorach Uisce. I rith 2021, thug na saotharlanna faoi raon anailís ar 15,391 sampla. Is méadú é seo ar na 13,866 sampla a ndearnadh anailís orthu in 2020 agus gar do líon na samplaí a ndearnadh anailís orthu roimh shrianta COVID-19 a chur i bhfeidhm in 2019. Déantar miondealú ar líon na samplaí a ndearnadh anailís orthu in 2021 i bhFíor 10. De dheasca shrianta COVID-19, tugadh tús áite do shampláil don Chreat-Treoir Uisce agus ar mhaithe le clár forfheidhmithe na GCC. Níor tugadh faoi chlár iniúchta samplála na n-údarás áitiúil in 2021, áfach.

**Fíor 10.** Líon na samplaí, de réir cineáil, a ndearna saotharlanna uisce GCC anailís orthu in 2021



Rinne Bord Náisiúnta na hÉireann um Chreidiúnú ath-mheasúnú i mí Iúil 2021 ar na saotharlanna aeir, radaíochta agus uisce de réir riachtanais an chaighdeán ISO 17025:2017. D’aithin an t-iniúchadh rathúil obair na GCC i bhforbairt, cothabháil agus tacaíocht don chóras cáilíochta ar fud roinnt láithreán.

Lean an Clár um Athrú ‘Lean’ ag soláthar tairbhí do shaotharlanna na GCC in 2021. Ar na tionscadail ‘Lean’ a cuireadh i gcrích, bhí próiseas Calabraithe Uirlisí Radaíochta agus Deimhnithe Táirge, soláthar earraí inchaite saotharlainne, gás agus ceimiceán, agus córas Kanban do bhainistiú fardail a chur i bhfeidhm. Leanadh den tionscadal um agaí slánúcháin ‘Lean’ ar mhaithe le tuarascálacha saotharlainne uisce agus leathnaíodh é chun samplaí na Creat-Treorach Uisce a chur san áireamh.

## Monatóireacht ar radaíocht

### Seirbhís calabraithe uirlisí

Cuireann Seirbhís Calabraithe Uirlisí na GCC seirbhís chreidiúnaithe um chalabráir ar fáil le haghaidh réimse uirlisí cosanta ar radaíocht, lena n-áirítear méadair shuirbhéireachta, méadair éillithe agus dáileogmhéadair leictreonacha phearsanta. Tacaíonn sé seo le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal radaíochta agus ar shábháilteacht radaíochta in ionaid oibre do cheadúnaithe agus páirtithe leasmhara i dtionscal, leigheas, cosaint, taighde, rialú agus freagairt éigeandála.

Lean an tseirbhís ar aghaidh ag cur calabraithe d’ardchaighdeán ar fáil ar mhaithe le monatóirí radaíochta a úsáidtear chun oibríthe agus an pobal a chosaint ar nochtadh seachtrach, agus tugadh faoi 310 calabráir in 2021.

### Seirbhísí radanailíseacha

Tomhaiseann an GCC radaighníomhaíocht i réimse leathan bia-ábhar agus samplaí comhshaoil. Tugtar faoin obair mar thacaíocht do chlár an GCC um monatóireacht ar radaighníomhaíocht chomhshaoil agus chomh maith ar bhonn conartha do chliaint sheachtracha.

Chuimsigh na seirbhísí radanailíseacha ar conradh don bhliain 2021 na gnéithe seo a leanas:

- Táirgí Éireannacha a thástáil maidir le comhlíonadh le riachtanais na dtíortha allmhairiúcháin chomh maith le gráin bhia ainmhithe allmhairithe ó thríú tíortha.
- Tástáil ar uisce óil um chloí le ceanglais Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach.
- Tástáil ar scrúduithe cuimilte a cuireadh i bhfeidhm i dtaca le foinsí radaighníomhacha chun sceitheadh a aithint.
- Tástáil ar shamplaí dreideáilte maidir le cloí le riachtanais an Achta um Dhumpáil ar Muir 1996, arna leasú.

Tástáladh 487 sampla conartha ar an iomlán le linn 2021.

Ba é a bhí i gceist leis an gclár monatóireachta radaíochta 2021 ná sampláil agus tástáil a dhéanamh i gcomhair radaighníomhaíochta san aer, in uisce óil, san ithir, in uisce farraige, i bhfeamainn, i ndrídair, in iasc, i sliogiasc, i gcothú measctha agus i mbia-ábhair eile, chomh maith le tomhas leanúnach a dhéanamh ar ráta comhthimpeallach na dáileoige gáma i stáisiúin mhonatóireachta seasta ar fud na tíre.

Lean clár faireachais náisiúnta 2017-2022 do radaighníomhaíocht in uisce óil ar aghaidh in 2021, cé go raibh tionchar ag srianta COVID-19 air. Ina theannta sin, tugadh chun críche suirbhé ar radaighníomhaíocht in uisce buidéal na hÉireann in 2021.

Rinneadh anailís ar 537 sampla comhshaoil san iomlán ar mhaithe le clár mhonatóireachta éagsúla i rith na bliana. Thug torthaí na monatóireachta sin le fios, cé go bhfuil leibhéil na radaighníomhaíochta saorga i dtimpeallacht na hÉireann inbhraite fós, go bhfuil na leibhéil sin íseal agus nach mbaineann ach baol íseal leo i dtaca le sláinte an duine.

Tacaíonn an GCC chomh maith le tionscal an bhia agus na talmhaíochta in Éirinn agus í ag tabhairt faoi mheasúnacht ar stádas na radaighníomhaíochta i mbianna Éireannacha. Tá an mheasúnacht sin mar bhonn chun radaighníomhaíocht a dheimhniú i dtáirgí atá le honnmhairiú tar éis thimpiste Chernobyl i 1986. Ba é an líon teastas táirge a eisíodh in 2021 ná 3,237.

## An Líonra Náisiúnta Monatóireachta Radaíochta

Déantar an Líonra Náisiúnta Monatóireachta Radaíochta a choimeád mar chuid de fhreagrachtaí na GCC faoin bPlean Náisiúnta Éigeandála do Nochtadh Núicléach agus Raideolaíoch. Tá cúig mhonatóir déag ar an ráta dáileoige sa líonra faoi láthair a sheolann sonraí gníomhacha chuig suíomh gréasáin na GCC, an Coimisiún Eorpach agus an Ghníomhaireacht Idirnáisiúnta do Fhuinneamh Adamhach. Déantar radaighníomhaíocht ar scagairí aeradóil a thomhas le cúig ionstraim allamuigh agus seoltar sonraí beo chuig an GCC. Bhainfí úsáid as na sonraí seo i gcás timpiste núicléach nó raideolaíoch thar sáile. Déanann seacht samplóir aeradóil agus deich samplóir báistí eile samplaí a bhailiú an t-am ar fad le go ndéanfar anailís as líne orthu i saotharlanna na GCC.

Leanadh le hathfhorbairt a dhéanamh ar an Líonra Náisiúnta Monatóireachta Radaíochta in 2021. Tugadh faoi oibreacha sibhialta suntasacha ag láithreáin chomhaontaithe i gcomhar le húinéirí láithreáin. Cuireadh tús le huirlisí a thabhairt chun feidhme agus le tástáil ar an láthair in 2021.



Láithreán NRMN ag Dún Bhaile Átha Luain ag léiriú dul chun cinn na hoibre



Monatóir ráta dáileog gáma á úsáid ar an láthair

## Cuairt Fíorúcháin i dtaca le hAirteagal 35 an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh

Ceanglaítear le hAirteagal 35 de Chonradh Euratom ar na Ballstáit na saoráidí riachtanacha a bhunú chun tabhairt faoi mhonatóireacht leanúnach ar leibhéil na radaighníomhaíochta san aer, san uisce agus san ithir agus chun a chinntiú go bhfuil na Caihdeáin Bhunúsacha Sábháilteachta á gcomhlíonadh. I gcomhréir le hAirteagal 35, tugann an Coimisiún faoi chlár de Chuairteanna fíoraithe i mBallstáit. Is é príomhchuspóir a leithéid de chuairteanna ná measúnú neamhspleách a chur ar fáil i dtaca le leorgacht áiseanna monatóireachta ar mhaithe le radaighníomhaíocht chomhshaoil. Rinne an GCC óstáil ar chuairt an Choimisiúin i mí na Samhna agus thug sí cuairt ar láithreáin Óglaigh na hÉireann agus láithreáin Chosanta Sibhialta chun cigireacht a dhéanamh ar an Líonra Náisiúnta Monatóireachta Radaíochta. Bhí an réamhaiseolas dearfach ar an iomlán agus tugadh suntas do thiomantas agus rannpháirtíocht fhoireann na GCC. Tá a dtuarascáil iomlán le foilsiú in 2022.



Cuairt Fíorúcháin i dtaca le hAirteagal 35

## An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Rialú Radóin

Straitéis trasrialtais ceithre bliana is ea an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Rialú Radóin agus is í aidhm atá léi na líon chásanna na hailse scamhóige a bhfuil baint acu le radón a laghdú in Éirinn. Chuir an GCC, i gcomhar le páirtithe leasmhara eile, na tosaíochtaí le haghaidh 2021 i bhfeidhm, mar atá leagtha amach sa straitéis.

Tugadh faoi thrialacha allamuigh ar éifeachtacht umar éighníomhach mar bheart chun cosc a chur ar radón, rud a chuir leis an taighde a bhí maoinithe ag an GCC roimhe ar na bearta coiscthe radóin optamacha do thógáil tithe in Éirinn. Cuireadh an obair seo i gcrích i gcomhpháirt le conraitheoir radóin, Comhairle Contae Loch Garman, an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta, agus an Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath. Thug na trialacha le fios go gcuireann córais éighníomhacha (umar éighníomhach agus cochall seasta) beart ceartaitheach inbhuanaithe ar chostas íseal ar fáil ar mhaithe le gás radóin i dtithe cónaithe nua-thógtha a laghdú.

Thug an GCC obair forbartha ar léarscáil guaiseacha mhionchoigeartaithe chun críche in 2021, i gcomhar le taighdeoirí i gColáiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath agus le Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta na hÉireann. Thug an Institiúid Taighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta, i bpáirtíocht leis an GCC, faoi thástáil úsáideora ar an léarscáil nua i gcomhar le míle duine den phobal. Thug an staidéar le fios go rachadh cur teachtaireachtaí feabhsaithe agus feidhm chuardaigh atá níos fearr ar an léarscáil go mór chun tairbhe a cuid éifeachtúlachta. Foilseoidh an GCC an léarscáil in 2022 ag imeacht fhóram náisiúnta an radóin.

Rinneadh Lá Eorpach an Radóin 2021 a cheiliúradh ar an 7 Samhain le feachtas i dtaca le feachtas radóin ar siúl, a mhair ar feadh seachtaine agus a leag béim ar an tábhacht atá le tástáil agus feabhsúchán agus feidhm á baint as fógraí ar an raidió agus feachtas ar na meáin shóisialta.

## Radaíocht neamh-ianúcháin

Le linn 2021, chuir an GCC clár náisiúnta monatóireachta ar Radaíocht Neamh-ianúcháin, laistigh den raon minicíochta 0 Hz go 300 GHz, i bhfeidhm. Tugtar Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha ar an raon minicíochta seo go forleathan. Tacaíonn an clár monatóireachta le ról comhairleach na GCC i dtaca le nochtadh an phobail do Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha agus déanfar nochtadh an daonra do Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha a mheas agus na gnáthleibhéil nocht a fhaightear sa timpeallacht gach lá in Éirinn a dheimhniú, go háirithe sna ceantair sin le daonra agus/nó líon na gcustaiméirí ard. Is é an cuspóir atá leis an gclár ná bonnlíne a bhunú do leibhéil na Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha in Éirinn agus an bhonnlíne sin a úsáid chun tionchar shocrú na dteicneolaíochtaí teileachumarsáide nua nó an bhonneagair leictreachais nua a mheas thar am. Rinneadh tomhais a atosú i Márta 2021 i ndiaidh moilleanna de dheasca shrianta COVID-19 agus bhí na tomhais tugtha chun críche ag 30 de na 56 láithreán de chuid an chláir faoi mhí na Nollag. Beidh torthaí na monatóireachta ar fáil in 2022.

Níor cruthaíodh éifeachtaí díobhálacha sláinte ar bith mar gheall ar leibhéil nocht Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha níos lú ná iad atá leagtha síos ag an gCoimisiún Idirnáisiúnta um Chosaint ar Radaíocht Neamhianúcháin. Tá tacaíocht á tabhairt ag an Eagraíocht Dhomhanda Sláinte agus ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach do na treoirí sin. Lean an GCC ag cur comhairle ar an bpobal maidir le Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha le linn 2021 agus cuireadh ábhar breise lena suíomh gréasáin maidir le gléasanna Wi-Fi agus méadair chliste.

<http://www.epa.ie/radiation/emf/health/>.

Le linn 2020 d'fhoilsigh an Coimisiún Idirnáisiúnta um Chosaint ar Radaíocht Neamhianúcháin moltaí nuashonraithe i dtaca le Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha Radaimhnicíochta atá ag freastal ar an réimse minicíochta atá beartaithe do 5G. Ní síltear go mbeidh ardú ar nochtadh an phobail do Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha, a bheadh gar do leibhéil luachanna an Choimisiúin, de dheasca



teicneolaíochtaí 5G a dháileadh fud fad na hÉireann. Is iad sásanna láimhe fón póca an fhoinsé is suntasaí do nochtadh poiblí do Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha Radaimhnicíochta mar go mbíonn an nochtadh i bhfad níos airde go hiondúil ná foinsí eile radaimhnicíochta mar stáisiúin bunáite nó crainn chumarsáide fón póca. Tá sainchoiste de chuid an AE ag tabhairt faoi mheasúnú faoi láthair ar na moltaí sin de chuid an Choimisiúin Idirnáisiúnta um Chosaint ar Radaíocht Neamhianúcháin. Meastar go dtabharfar an measúnú chun críche roimh dheireadh 2022. Tá an GCC ag tabhairt faoi mhonatóireacht ar an measúnú i dtaca lena ról comhairleach reachtúil.

## Monatóireacht agus Tuairisciú ar Éiceachórais

Sa Treoir um Uasteorainneacha Astaíochtaí Náisiúnta (2016/2284) leasaithe, ceanglaítear ar na Ballstáit monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar na hiarmhairtí diúltacha ar éiceachórais de thoradh ar aerthruailliú agus an mhonatóireacht sin a bhunú ar líonra suíomhanna atá ionadaíoch do ghnáthóga úruisce, nádúrtha agus leath-nádúrtha agus do chineálacha éiceachóras foraoise, agus cur chuige a chur i bhfeidhm a bheidh cost-éifeachtúil agus bunaithe ar riosca. Tugadh faoi staidéar scoipe chun an fhairsinge a bhfuil gá leis ar líonra monatóireachta a aithint, a thabharfaidh sonraí daingne ar thionchar thruailliú aeir ar ghnáthóga leochaileacha in Éirinn, amhail portaigh ardaithe agus bratphortaigh, tailte féaraigh agus fraochmhánna. Bhí an líonra molta bunaithe ar na sineirgí atá ann a úsáid le gníomhaíochtaí monatóireachta bitheolaíoch agus éiceachórais a dtugann an GCC fúthu, mar aon le heagraíochtaí eile amhail an tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra, an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus lucht acadúil. In 2021 bhunaigh an GCC an líonra agus tá monatóireacht tugtha chun críche ar líon beag láithreán, lena n-áirítear portaigh agus fraochmhánna. Cuireadh láithreáin monatóireachta bhreise i dtaca le hamóinia atmaisféarach ar bun chomh maith. Nuair a bheidh an líonra críochnaithe, direofar ar mhonatóireacht a dhéanamh ar shil-leagan nitrigine (ó chúrsaí talmhaíochta den chuid is mó) maidir le gnáthóga íogaire náisiúnta.

## Torann

Déantar an Treoir um Thorann Timpeallachta a chur i bhfeidhm le I.R. Uimh. 549 de Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Torann Timpeallachta) 2018. Is í an aidhm atá leis na rialacháin sin ná na héifeachtaí díobhálacha atá ag torann timpeallachta a sheachaint, a chosc nó a laghdú trí léarscáileanna torainn straitéiseacha a ullmhú agus pleananna gníomhaíochta torainn a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm. Déanann na rialacháin sin feidhmeanna maoirseachta, comhairleacha agus comhordaithe a shannadh don GCC maidir le mapáil torainn agus gníomhaíocht a pheanáil ar thorann.

Leanadh den obair agus Babhta 4 den tionscadal maidir le mapáil torann timpeallachta ar son na Treorach um Thorann Timpeallachta, a chomhordú in 2021. Bhí cruinnithe

déthaobhacha agus cainteanna teicniúla ag an GCC leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide agus leis na comhlachtaí a bhfuil freagracht i dtaca le léarscáileanna straitéiseacha torainn orthu; agus eagraíochtaí eile a bhfuil sé ar a gcumas sonraí a chur ar fáil ar mhaithe leis an tionscadal. Áirítear ar na comhlachtaí sin, Bonneagar Iompair Éireann, Iarnród Éireann, an Oifig um Bainistiú Bóithre, an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Iompair, Údarás Áitiúla, Údarás Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath agus an Ghníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil. Rinne an GCC dul chun cinn maidir le gnéithe i dtaca leis na trí chathair (Baile Átha Cliath, Luimneach agus Corcaigh) a bhfuil múnú agus mapáil de dhíth orthu, agus d'oibrigh sí ar chomhairle agus treoir theicniúil a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le mapáil Bhabhta 4 do thorann bóthair.

Rinneadh dul chun cinn i dtaca le bailiú sonraí taobh amuigh de na ceirtleáin le dea-chomhoibriú idir Bonneagar Iompair Éireann, an Oifig um Bainistiú Bóithre, an Ghníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil agus na húdaráis áitiúla. Cuireadh moill leis an obair laistigh de na trí cheirtleán in 2021 ach ba dul chun cinn dearfach é bainisteoir tionscadail a cheapadh i gComhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath chun an tionscadal mapála a bhainistiú ar son na trí cheirtleán. Leanfar den mhapáil torainn agus den obair mhúnlaithé ar feadh 2022.

Cuireadh seasca faoin gcéad de na tuarascálacha bliantúla ar dhul chun cinn i dtaca le Pleananna Gníomhaíochta Torainn a bhí le teacht ó na húdaráis áitiúla faoi bhráid an GCC I 2020. Is réimse é seo a mbeidh an GCC ag díriú air le linn 2022. Is ceist chasta í Pleananna Gníomhaíochta in aghaidh Torainn a chur i bhfeidhm, ina nglacann an-chuid eagraíochtaí páirt, lena n-áirítear: údaráis áitiúla, Bonneagar Iompair Éireann agus an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide.

## Úsáid talún

Is acmhainn luachmhar é talamh na hÉireann agus tá tábhacht bhunúsach leis dár ngeilleagar, dár gcomhshaoil agus dár bhfoláine. Mar sin, tá cur chuige córasach iomlánaíoch ag teastáil chun talamh a úsáid agus a bhainistiú le déileáil leis na héilimh ar fad atá á chur air ó dhúshláin chasta an athraithe aeráide, cháilíocht an uisce agus chailliúint na bithéagsúlachta. Chuir Gníomh 393 de Plean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide 2021 cúram ar an GCC ceannasaíocht a ghlacadh ar Chéim 1 d'Athbhreithniú Fianaiseach náisiúnta ar Úsáid Talún. Tá gníomhaireachtaí stáit agus ranna rialtais éagsúla ag cuidiú leis an obair sin agus í ag glacadh páirte i ngrúpa stiúrtha náisiúnta faoi chathaoirleacht na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus na Roinne Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide. Meastar go mbeidh Céim 1 den athbhreithniú fianaise a cuireadh tús leis i lár 2021, tugtha chun críche sa dara leath de 2022. Ceaptar go mbeidh na haischuir ina gcabhair le cinnteoireacht an Rialtais i dtaca le bearta úsáid talún, pleananna agus gníomhartha cuí a aithint i gcomhthéacs a chuid mórchuspóirí eacnamaíoch, sóisialta agus aeráide.

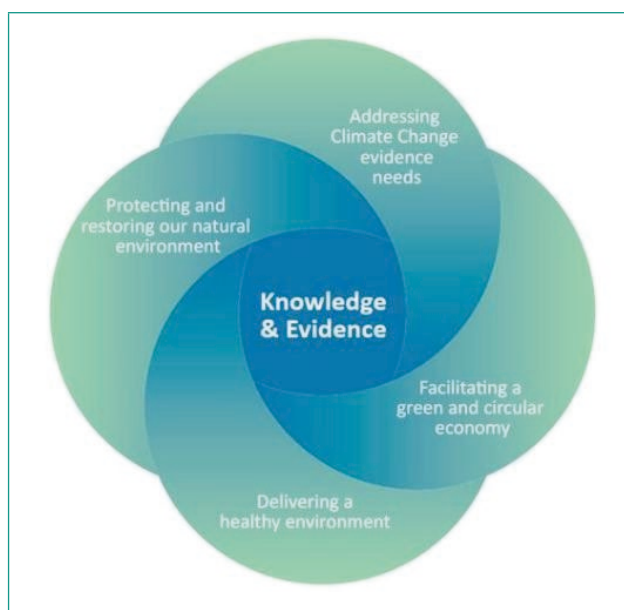
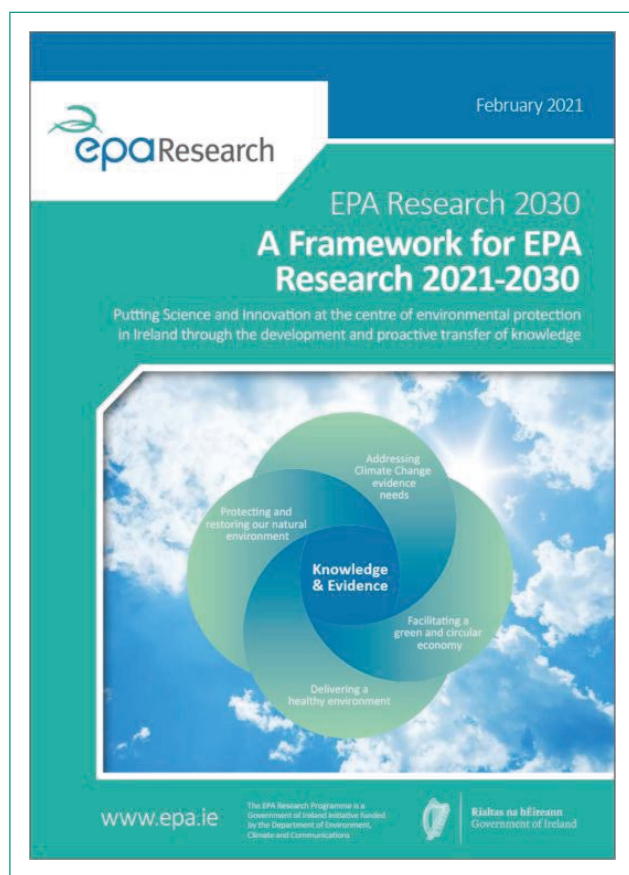


Tá bainistíocht éifeachtach an chomhshaoil á stiúradh ag an eolaíocht go méadaitheach. Tá an GCC ag cruthú an eolais agus an tsaineolais le brúnna a aithint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartas agus réitigh ar dhúshláin chomhshaoil a fhorbairt trína chlár taighde.

### 3.2 TAIGHDE

Tá freagracht reachtúil ar an GCC as taighde comhshaoil in Éirinn a chomhordú. Is mór an cuidiú é an taighde seo ionas go ndéanfaidh Éire na hoibleagáidí idirnáisiúnta atá ar an tír ag leibhéal an AE agus na Náisiún Aontaithe a shásamh, agus chun dul i ngleic leo, sna réimsí seo: an t-athrú aeráide, cáilíocht an uisce, cáilíocht an aeir, an inbhuanaitheacht, sláinte agus an comhshaoil, agus an bhithéagsúlacht.

Seoladh creat ardleibhéal nua deich mbliana ar mhaithe le ríomhchlárúchán taighde, 'Taighde na GCC 2030', i mí an Mhárta 2021. Tá an creat curtha i dtoll a chéile le go mbeadh sé gasta, freagrúil agus solúbtha agus tá sé mar chuspóir aige tacaíocht eolaíochta riachtanach a sholáthar ar mhaithe le bearta comhshaoil a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm agus ar mhaithe le cinnteoireacht níos leithne. Seoladh chomh maith i dteannta an Chreata, plean gníomhaíochta – a chuireann treoir ar fáil ar mhaithe le gníomhartha beartaithe Ríomhchlárúcháin Taighde na GCC – chomh maith le measúnú ar réimsí téamacha – a thugann achoimre ar na réimsí tosaíochta taighde gur gá díriú orthu le linn 2021-2023 – agus cuirfidh siad tacaíocht ar fáil agus feidhmeoidh siad mar acmhainn ar mhaithe leis an gcreat a chur i bhfeidhm.



Cuimsíonn struchtúr téamach Taighde na GCC 2030 ceithre mhol idirnasctha:

- Aghaidh a thabhairt ar riachtanais fianaise maidir le hathrú aeráide
- Geilleagar Ciorclach agus Glas a Éascú
- Comhshaoil sláintiúil a sheachadadh
- Ár gcomhshaoil nádúrtha a chosaint agus a athchóiriú

Déantar eolas do scóip an taighde atá maoinithe ag an GCC lena hábharthacht i leith beartais agus a ailíniú le príomhghníomhaíochtaí na GCC. Bainfear amach rialachas feabhsaithe agus straitéisí agus beartais chomhshaoil atá á gcur i bhfeidhm níos éifeachtaí má chuirfear na hidirghníomhaíochtaí idir tosca sóisialta, iompraíochta agus eacnamaíochta san áireamh mar ghné lárnach de thaighde comhshaoil.

#### Bainistíocht Taighde

Faoi mhí na Nollag 2021, bhí an GCC tar éis 238 tionscadal Taighde agus Comhoibríoch (i.e. trasnáisiúnta) a bhainistiú, agus 107 dámhachtain eile ó chomhpháirtíochtaí straitéiseacha agus scéim um shochar ócáide, a riar. Rinneadh Córas Bainistíochta Deontas agus Iarratas na GCC a atógáil agus a chur i bhfeidhm go céimneach i mí na Bealtaine 2021.

## Dámhachtainí Nua in 2021

In 2021, bronnadh 62 dámhachtain san iomlán, lena n-áirítear comhpháirtíochtaí straitéiseacha ar an leibhéal náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta:

- Rinneadh 30 dámhachtain a bhronnadh (tiomantas €7.49m) faoi Ghairm Taighde 2021 de chuid na GCC.
- Bronnadh maoiniú iomlán de €710k ar ocht dtionscadal faoi 'Ghairm ar Fhiontar Glas de chuid na GCC' 2021.
- Osclaíodh 'Scéim um Thacaíocht Imeachtaí Taighde na GCC' i mí Iúil 2021. Bronnadh maoiniú ar naoi dtionscadal arbh fhiú os cionn €26k iad.
- Osclaíodh 'Scéim nua Mear go Maoiniú Beartais na GCC' mar scéim phíolótach i mí Lúnasa 2021 – Bronnadh maoiniú ar dhá thionscadal.

## Comhpháirtíochtaí Straitéiseacha náisiúnta na GCC:

- Bronnadh trí dhámhachtain mar chuid de 'Dhámhachtainí Fullbright-GCC' 2021/2022.
- Rinneadh seacht scoláireacht a bhronnadh faoi 'Scéim larchéime na Comhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn-GCC' 2020/2021.
- Thug an GCC gealltanais chomh maith maidir le cómhaoiniú a chur ar fáil mar seo a leanas:
  - €400k le linn na tréimhse 2022-2027 le haghaidh dhá thionscadal bronnta faoi 'Ghairm an Gheilleagair Ghlais de chuid Fhoras na Mara' 2021.
  - €500k le linn na tréimhse 2022-2027 le haghaidh dhá thionscadal bronnta faoi 'Ghairm na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara' 2021.
- Leanadh le 'Céim III de Chlár Taighde Comhshaoil na GCC agus na hInstitiúide Taighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta' in 2021.
- Foilsíodh dhá Thuarascáil Taighde de chuid na GCC in 2021 faoi 'Chreat Taighde na GCC agus an Fhoras Riaracháin':
  - EPA Research Report 372: Using the OECD Water Governance Indicator Framework to Review the Implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021.
  - EPA Research Report 373: Using an Experimental Governance Lens to Examine Governance of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021.

## Comhpháirtíochtaí Straitéiseacha idirnáisiúnta na GCC:

- Tá cumraíocht na gCoistí Cláir faoi 'Fhís Eorpach' tagtha chun críche. Is rannpháirtí mar chuid de Chnuasghrúpa 5 í an GCC ina ról mar saineolaí náisiúnta/pointe teagmhála: Aeráid, Fuinneamh agus Soghluaisteacht agus Cnuasghrúpa 6: Bia, Bithghuilleagar, Acmhainní Nádúrtha, Talmhaíocht agus Comhshaoil. Foilsíodh Cláir Oibre 2021-2022 i Meitheamh 2021.
- Bhí an lá le trí thionscadal a raibh taighdeoirí Éireannacha ina mbun i gcomórtais mhaoinithe Eorpacha a raibh tacaíocht á sholáthar ag an GCC dóibh.

## Ceangail Taighde

Ghlac an GCC páirt ghníomhach i 'nGrúpa Forfheidhmithe um Nuálaíocht 2020' agus lean dá rannpháirtíochta le 'Fóram Náisiúnta um Shláine Taighde', 'Fóram Náisiúnta um Thaighde Oscailte' chomh maith le fóraim taighde 'Bainteach le hInscne' agus 'Gníomhach'.

## Comhordú taighde

Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar rialachas agus ar struchtúr ghníomhaíochtaí taighde comhordaithe na GCC in 2021 agus rinneadh na trí Ghrúpa Comhordaithe Taighde (Inbhuanaitheacht, Uisce agus Aeráid) a chomhcheangal i nGrúpa Náisiúnta Comhordaithe an Taighde Comhshaoil. Tá 44 eagraíocht i gceist le Grúpa Náisiúnta Comhordaithe an Taighde Comhshaoil i láthair na huaire. I measc bhaill bhreise an ghrúpa in 2021 bhí Roinn an Taoisigh agus an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha. Is fo-ghrúpa é Grúpa Comhordaithe an Taighde Náisiúnta go fóill agus is cuid dá oibleagáid faoin bPlean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide ná tuarascáil bhliantúil ar Thaighde Aeráide a chur ar fáil.

Foilsíodh an tríú 'Tuarascáil Bhliantúil ar Ghníomhaíochtaí (2020)' ar mhaithe le Grúpa Náisiúnta Comhordaithe an Taighde Comhshaoil i mí Iúil 2021 agus déantar cur síos inti ar ghníomhaíochtaí an ghrúpa ó mhí Eanáir go mí na Nollag 2020.

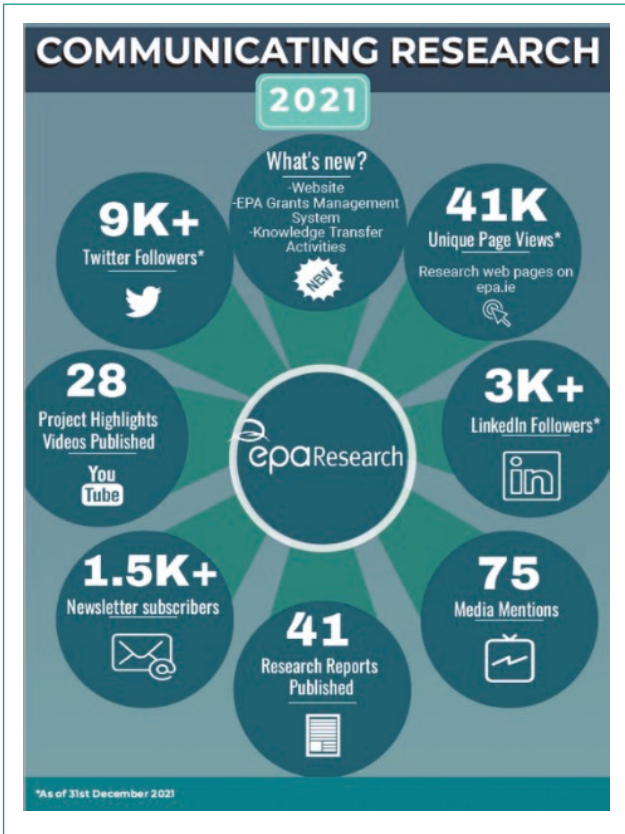




### Cumarsáid Taighde

D’fhoilsigh an GCC 41 tuarascáil nua taighde, trí staidéar mhion-scála agus 28 Físeán ar Bhuaicphointí Tionscadal. Tá siad ar fáil le híoslódáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa-funded-research/epa-research-publications/>.

Tá tús curtha le tionscadal nua maidir le hAistriú Eolais agus tá tacaíocht curtha ar fáil dó ag ERINN Innovation. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an gconradh tacú le haistriú eolais níos fearr ó thionscadail atá maoinithe ag an GCC chuig lucht déanta beartas agus gníomhaithe feidhmithe beartais. Cuireadh tús leis an tionscadal i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2021 agus mairfidh sé ar feadh dhá bhliain.





Eolas saincheaptha a chur ar fáil go tráthúil chun freastal ar shainriachtanais grúpaí páirtithe leasmhara.

### 3.3 FAISNÉIS THRÁTHÚIL AGUS INROCHTANA

Tugann an GCC faoi mhonatóireacht agus faoi thuairisciú ar chomhshaoil na nÉireann agus ar eintitis rialáilte. Ní hamháin go dtéann na sonraí a bhailítear agus a ndéantar anailís orthu chun leasa éifeachtúlachta na GCC agus iad siúd atá rialaithe aici, ach cuirtear faisnéis neamhspleách atá bunaithe ar thaighde ar fáil chomh maith, ar bhealach oscailte follasach, a chuireann bonn eolais faoin gcinnteoireacht buíochas le raon leathan páirtithe leasmhara, lena n-áirítear an rialtas, eagraíochtaí neamhrialtasacha, gníomhaireachtaí stáit, earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus an pobal. Cuirtear faisnéis ar fáil ar bhealach tráthúil agus inrochtana, ag úsáid áiseanna ar líne den chuid is mó.

#### Tuairisc ar Staid an Chomhshaoil

I ndiaidh don tuarascáil ar Staid an Chomhshaoil a dtugtar faoi gach ceithre bliana a fhoilsiú i ndeireadh na bliana 2020, lean an GCC lena torthaí a chur chun cinn; d'fhoilsigh sí leabhrán inar cuireadh faisnéis achomair, príomhtheachtaireachtaí, buaicphointí caibidil, gníomhartha, measúnú reatha agus ionchas i láthair.



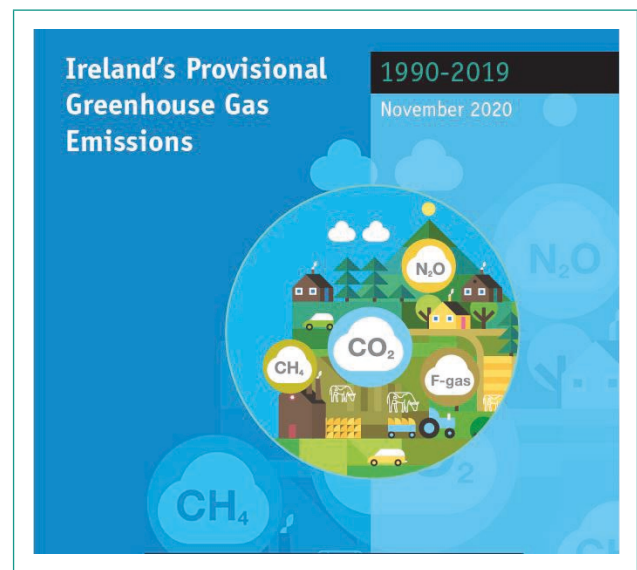
#### Áiseanna ar líne Comhshaoil na hÉireann

Cuireann acmhainn gréasáin Chomhshaoil na hÉireann ([www.epa.ie/irelands-environment](http://www.epa.ie/irelands-environment)) sonraí comhshaoil ar fáil ar ardán atá éasca a úsáid. Rinneadh an acmhainn gréasáin a nuashonrú go rialta le linn 2021 agus sonraí nua i dtaca le hocht dtéama chomhshaoil á gcur ar fáil, ó thuarascálacha de chuid na GCC: aeráid, aer, uisce, dramhaíl, dúlra, talamh agus ithir, comhshaoil agus folláine, agus geilleagar inbhuanaithe. Tá faisnéis ar fáil i bhformáidí inrochtana ar na leathanaigh, físeáin, cairteacha, grafaicí faisnéise, táscairí comhshaoil agus bileoga eolais san áireamh. Cuireann an t-ardán rochtain ar thuarascálacha i dtaca le Staid an Chomhshaoil ar fáil chomh maith, mar aon le táirgí atá foilsithe ag an GCC, an ceann is déanaí 'Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020' (Comhshaoil na hÉireann – Measúnú Comhtháite 2020) san áireamh.

#### Cáilíocht an aeir

Rinneadh uasghrádú ar leathanaigh ghréasáin na GCC a bhaineann le cáilíocht an aeir ([www.epa.ie/air/quality](http://www.epa.ie/air/quality)) in 2021 chun tuilleadh faisnéise maidir le cáilíocht an aeir san fhíor-ama a thaispeáint, an fhaisnéis sin faighte ón líonra náisiúnta monatóireachta atá leathnaithe go mór. Áirítear ar an acmhainn ghréasáin seo Innéacs Cáilíocht an Aeir don tSláinte atá bunaithe ar stáisiúin, a aistríonn sonraí tomhaiste chuig scála a chuireann in iúl cé chomh maith nó cé chomh holc is atá cáilíocht an aeir. Tá an scála nasctha le comhairle sláinte don phobal agus dóibh siúd atá leochaileach maidir le droch-cháilíocht aeir. Anuas ar an suíomh gréasáin, chuir an fotha @EPAAirQuality faisnéis suas chun dáta ar fáil don phobal go leanúnach maidir le cáilíocht an aeir ina réigiún Innéacs Cáilíocht an Aeir don tSláinte.

Leanadh de shonraí fíor-ama a chur ar fáil le haghaidh truaileáin aeir roghnaithe don Ghníomhaireacht Eorpach Comhshaoil (EEA) lena dtaispeáint ar léarscáileanna cáilíochta aeir na hEorpa.





## Fardail agus meastacháin ar astaíochtaí

Tá sonraí i dtaca le hastaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa agus truailléan aeir curtha ar fáil ar acmhainn gréasáin na GCC (<https://www.epa.ie/ghg>). Tá obair shuntasach curtha i bhfeidhm le roinnt blianta anuas chun rochtain agus soléiteacht na hacmhainne gréasáin agus na dtuarascálacha a choimre a fheabhsú. Rinne saineolaithe ábhair aithris ar ghearrthóga beochana a chuir príomhbhuaicphointí agus teachtaireachtaí ar fáil, agus tá sé mar aidhm ag na gearrthóga sin agus ag grafaic faisnéise, teachtaireachtaí soiléire maidir le feidhmíocht na tíre i dtaca le hathrú aeráide a chur in iúl.

## Staitisticí Náisiúnta Dramhaíola

Foilsíodh 'Tuarascáil Náisiúnta Achomair na Staitisticí Dramhaíola do 2019' i mí na Nollag 2021, agus tugadh achoimre inti ar na sonraí dramhaíola is deireanaí, ar phríomhthreochtaí agus ar dhul chun cinn na hÉireann agus spriocanna an AE á mbaint aici.

Leantar de na sonraí dramhaíola is úire i leith na hÉireann a chur ar fáil ar acmhainn ghréasáin Staitisticí Náisiúnta Dramhaíola na GCC ([www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/](http://www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/)), le hamharc orthu agus lena n-íoslódáil. Le linn 2021, foilsíodh eisiúintí sonraí ar líne le haghaidh réimse sruthanna dramhaíola, lena n-áirítear dramhaíl bhardais, dramhaíl tí, pacáistíocht, dramhaíl ghuaiseach, dramhaíl mhúirínithe, dramhthrealamh leictreach agus leictreonach (DTLL), feithiclí a bhfuil a ré caite, boinn agus dramhaíl tógála agus scartála.

Foilsítear figiúirí ráithiúla i dtaca le dramhaíl bhardais a nglactar léi ag líonta talún na hÉireann agus áiseanna cóireála teirmeacha sa mhír 'Céad Amharc' ar mhaithe le soláthar shonraí tráthúla agus inrochtana dramhaíola a fheabhsú.

## Radón

An GCC go príomha a thugann faisnéis agus treoir do pháirtithe leasmhara maidir le gás radóin. Le linn 2021, cuireadh comhairle chuiditheach phraiticiúil ar fáil fós ar an acmhainn ghréasáin i dtaca le radón ([www.epa.ie/radon](http://www.epa.ie/radon)) a bhain le tástáil agus leasúchán radóin do shealbhóirí tí, gnólachtaí agus gairmithe tógála. Breathnaíodh ar leathanaigh a bhaineann le radón níos mó ná 135,000 uair le linn 2021. Lena chois sin, tá uimhir shaorghlao le comhairle a fháil faoi radón á cur ar fáil ag an GCC 24 uair an chloig sa lá, seacht lá na seachtaine.



## Cáilíocht an uisce

Tá sonraí maidir le cáilíocht an uisce agus faisnéis faoi bhainistíocht dotharlach in Éirinn á gcur ar fáil fós ar an suíomh gréasáin roinnte poiblí a bhaineann leis an gCreat-Treoir Uisce ([www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)). Tá teacht go poiblí ar léarscáileanna, scáileáin eolais, treochtaí agus cairteacha le haghaidh beagnach 5,000 dotharlach, chomh maith le tuarascálacha, measúnuithe



agus scéalta i dtaca le gníomhartha a tugadh chun críche ag grúpaí pobail áitiúla. Tá na sonraí is déanaí faoi cháilíocht an uisce fós á soláthar ag an GCC, lena n-áirítear cáilíocht an screamhuisce in Éirinn. Is féidir na sonraí a íoslódáil ar Geoportal na GCC: <https://gis.epa.ie/GetData/Download>.

Lena chois sin, d'fhoilsigh an GCC 46 tuarascáil measúnaithe abhantraí aonair in 2021; tá na tuarascálacha sin ar fáil ar [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie), agus déantar an bonn fianaise náisiúnta a réigiúnú leo. Tá na tuarascálacha ag tacú le próiseas comhairliúcháin 'Dhréacht-Phlean Bainistíochta Abhantraí na hÉireann 2022-2027' agus cuirfidh siad an bonn le 46 plean bainistíochta abhantraí atá á dtreorú ag Clár Uisce na nÚdarás Áitiúil.

Seolann an GCC an nuachtlitir 'Catchments Newsletter' chomh maith chuig breis agus 3,000 síntiúsóir ríomhphoist, grúpaí áitiúla agus daoine aonair. Cuirtear ailt on nuachtlitir chun cinn freisin trínár gcainéil mhéan sóisialta.

D'fhoilsigh an GCC bileoga oibre sa bhreis in 2021 agus déantar cur síos iontu i dtéarmaí simplí ar an obair suirbhéanna bitheolaíochta atá déanta ag Aonad Monatóireachta agus Measúnaithe Éiceolaíochta na GCC agus ar thábhacht na hoibre maidir le measúnú a dhéanamh ar shláinte éiceolaíochta uisce dromchla na hÉireann. Baineann na bileoga eolais le: fitibheantós in aibhneacha agus lochanna, fiteaplanctón i lochanna agus inveirteabraigh bheantacha in aibhneacha, agus is féidir iad a íoslódáil ag <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/>.

## Leibhéil agus Sreabhadh Uisce



Cuireann an GCC sonraí hidriméadracha ar fáil maidir le sreafaí abhann agus leibhéil lochanna agus screamhuisce chun tacú le bainistíocht acmhainní uisce, bainistíocht riosca i gcás tuilte agus roinnt gníomhaíochtaí eile. Tá na sonraí ar fáil le léamh agus le híoslódáil ar leathanaigh ghréasáin HydroNet na GCC: <https://epawebapp.epa.ie/hydronet/>.

Tá an GCC ag leanúint d'Fheasacháin Náisiúnta Hidriméadrachta mhíosúla a fhoilsiú. Is achoimre fhíorasach é an feasachán ar shreafaí aibhneacha, leibhéil lochanna agus leibhéil screamhuisce le haghaidh sampla de stáisiún hidriméadracha uisce dromchla agus screamhuisce ar fud na hÉireann. Tá léarscáileanna san fheasachán freisin ina léirítear comparáid idir sreafaí agus leibhéil na stáisiún ar fud na tíre agus na meánluachanna don mhí: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/hydrology-bulletin/>.

## Uisce óil

Is éard atá i Liosta na mBeart Ceartaitheach de chuid na GCC ná liosta de na soláthairtí uisce phoiblí a mbaineann na fadhbanna is measa leo. Ní mór beart a dhéanamh ag na soláthairtí chun an baol a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann maidir le cáilíocht an uisce a laghdú. Déantar Liosta na mBeart Ceartaitheach a nuashonrú gach ráithe (<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/remedial-action-list/>) agus tugtar suíomh gach soláthair, an chúis a bhfuil an soláthar sin ar an liosta agus an dáta atá beartaithe faoina mbeidh na hoibreacha leasúcháin curtha i gcrích.

## Fuíolluisce

Is é atá i Liosta na gCeantar Uirbeach Tosaíochta de chuid na GCC ná liosta na gceantar ina bhfuil bearta ag teastáil chun an timpeallacht agus an tsláinte phoiblí a chosaint ar iarmhairtí díobhálacha an sceite fuíolluisce. Tá faisnéis faoi Liosta na gCeantar Uirbeach Tosaíochta ar fáil ar Léarscáileanna Cóireála Camrais na GCC: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SewageTreatment>.

## Tránna

Cuireann an acmhainn ghréasáin maidir le tránna ([www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie)) faisnéis



ar fáil faoi cháilíocht an uisce snámha ag tránna agus i lochanna na hÉireann. Tugann an suíomh réimse faisnéise snámha, lena n-áirítear an cháilíocht uisce is déanaí ag gach trá, aon srianta snámha atá i bhfeidhm, agus faisnéis aimsire agus taoide. Tá próifíl uisce snámha ar fáil chomh maith le haghaidh gach trá a thugann le fios na háiseanna, na brúnna aitheanta agus aon phleananna bainistíochta atá i bhfeidhm. In 2021 rinneadh nuashonrú ar an suíomh gréasáin chun sonraí monatóireachta maidir le huisc snámha lasmuigh den séasúr, a bhíonn á mbailiú ag na húdaráis áitiúla i mBaile Átha Cliath, a ghabháil agus a fhoilsiú. Déantar nuashonrú go rialta ar an suíomh le linn an tsamhraidh de réir mar a chuirtear torthaí monatóireachta ó údaráis áitiúla ar fáil. Cuirtear mionsonraí ar theagmhais thruaillithe agus bearta leasúcháin ar fáil chomh maith ar fhotha tiomnaithe Twitter (@EPABeaches).

## An Líonra Náisiúnta Monatóireachta Radaíochta

Tá an GCC i mbun Líonra Náisiúnta Monatóireachta Radaíochta a bhfuil trealamh ann atá lonnaithe ar fud na tíre. Má tharlaíonn teagmhas tromchúiseach i ngléasra núicléach thar lear, dearadh an trealamh sin d'fhonn radaighníomhaíocht in Éirinn a bhrath, má bhíonn a leithéid ann. Tá teacht go poiblí ar shonraí beo (Fíor 11 ar an leathanach thall) ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC agus Eorpacha.

## Radaíocht neamh-ianúcháin

In 2021 rinne an GCC a hábhar gréasáin ar Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha a chothabháil de dheasca fiosrúcháin maidir le teicneolaíocht 5G agus sásanna lámha fón póca. <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/radiation/emf/> agus ar Chlár Monatóireachta Náisiúnta ar Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha na GCC: <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/radiation/emf/emf-monitoring-programme/>. Lean an GCC ag freagairt do fhiosrúcháin ón bpobal i dtaca le Réimsí Leictreamaighnéadacha le linn 2021. (Féach ar an gcéad leathanach thall).

## Sonraí Oscailte

Is treoir nua an AE í an Treoir maidir le Sonraí Oscailte a spreagann ballstáit an AE an méid faisnéise is gur féidir leo ón earnáil phoiblí a chur ar fáil ar mhaithe athúsáide i bhformáid Sonraí Oscailte. Is sonraí gur féidir a úsáid gan srianta, a athúsáid agus a athdháileadh ag aon duine, formáid na sonraí oscailte – faoi réir amháin, den chuid is mó, an riachtanais chreidiúna agus roinnte araon. Cuireann an Treoir an coincheap maidir le tacair sonraí ardluacha i láthair, a shainítear mar dhoiciméid lena mbaineann sochair riachtanacha don tsochaí agus don gheilleagar lena n-athúsáid.

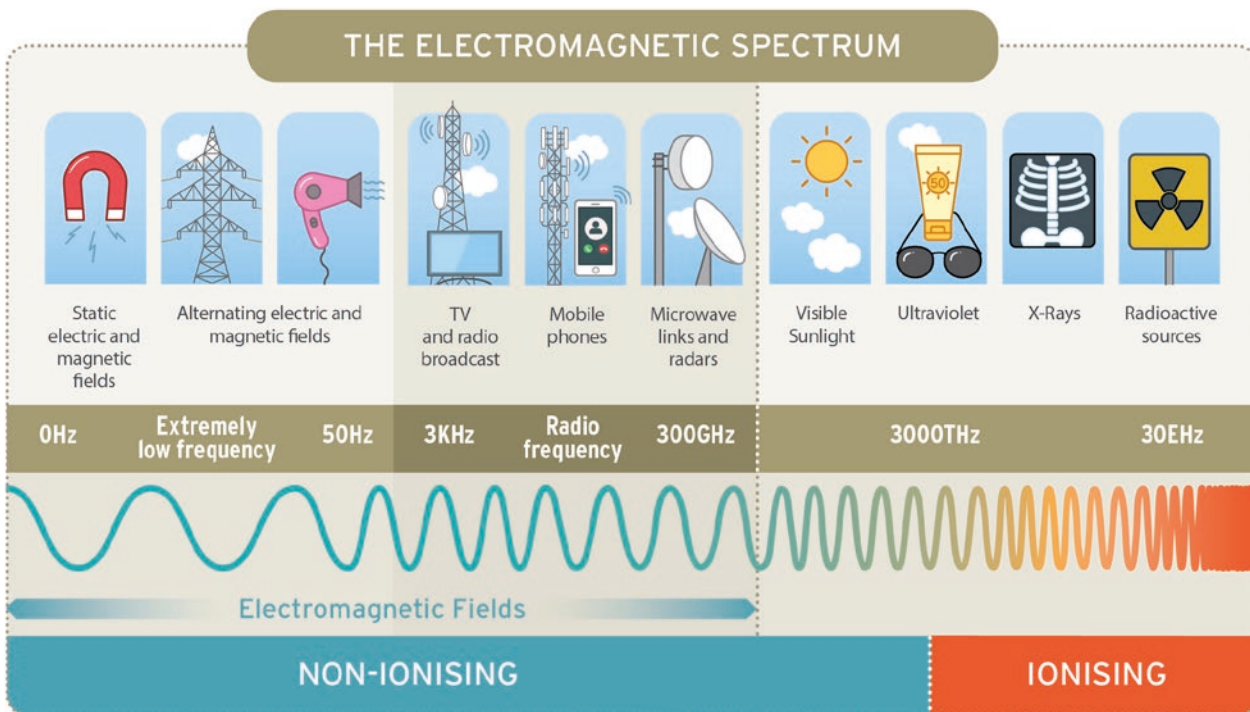
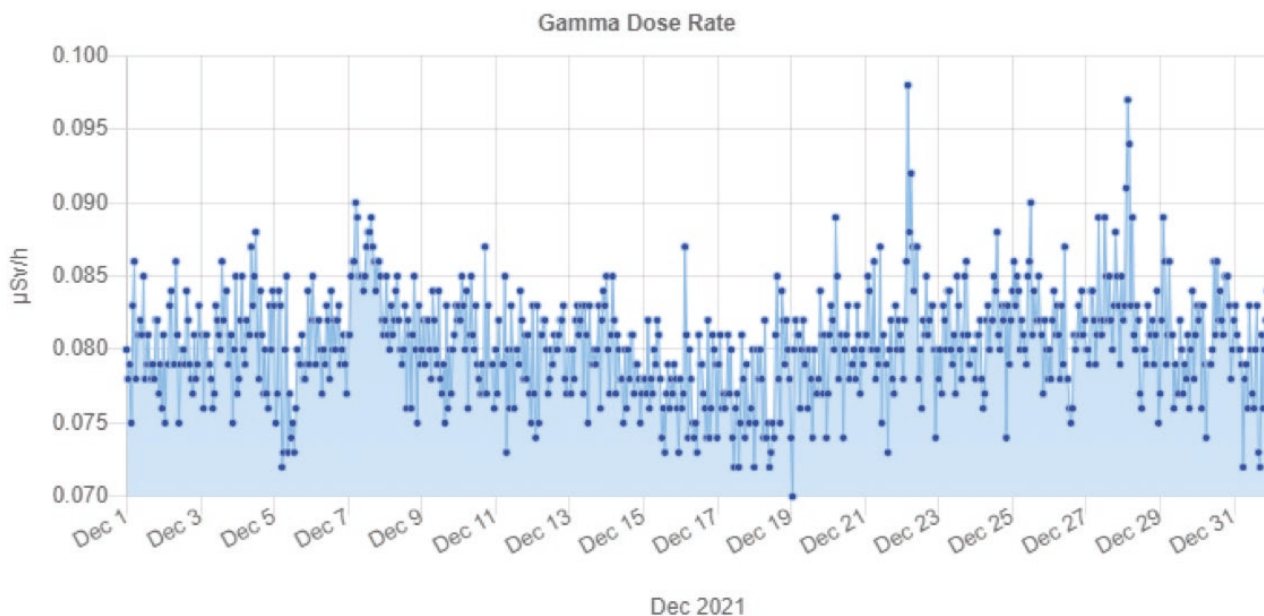
Baineann réimse rialacha ar leith le tacair sonraí ardluacha a chinntíonn go bhfuil teacht orthu i bhformáidí inléite ag meaisín, á gcur ar fáil le comhéadain fheidhmchláir (API) agus nuair atá riachtanais leis, mar oll-íoslódáil.

## Tairseach Sonraí Oscailte na GSS

Leanann an GCC de thacair sonraí éagsúla a thuirisciú faoi chatagóirí téamúla geospásúla agus téamacha comhshaoil. Is féidir iarratas a dhéanamh ar shonraí i bhformáid Sonraí Oscailte faoin treoir nua seo. Foilsíonn an GCC an méid faisnéise is gur féidir léi ar bhonn gnáthrialta ar a tairseach Córais Faisnéise Geografaí (<https://gis.epa.ie/>) a chuirtear ar fáil ansin ar Thairseach Sonraí Oscailte Comhshaoil na GCC (<https://data.epa.ie/>) agus Tairseach Sonraí Oscailte na hÉireann (<https://data.gov.ie/>) agus meas á léiriú ar phrionsabail na hoscailteachta, na trédhearachta, na hidir-inoibritheachta, agus formáidí saor in aisce agus in-athúsáidte.

Tá tairseach Sonraí Oscailte na GCC leagtha amach le go mbeadh sé níos éasca teacht ar sonraí comhshaoil, iad a úsáid, a bhrabhsáil agus a thuiscint. Go bunúsach is acmhainn an tairseach le haghaidh forbróirí bogearraí, a dteastaíonn uatha feidhmchláir a scríobh agus úsáid á baint acu as Sonraí Oscailte REST API na GCC. I láthair na huair, tá cúig API ar fáil ar an tairseach, idir Uisce Snámha agus Mhonoráireacht Radaíochta.

**Fíor 11.** Monatóireacht ar an Ráta Dáileoige Gáma Comhthimpeallach ag Aerfort na Sionainne, Co. an Chláir



Leanadh le clár Sonraí Oscailte na GCC le linn 2021 agus 291 tacar sonraí foilsithe ar Thairseach Sonraí Oscailte na hÉireann, (<https://data.gov.ie/>) go dtí seo agus os cionn 84,321 duine tar éis amhairc orthu, a thugann le fios méadú os cionn 73,000 ó 2018. Is é atá i gceist le coincheap na Sonraí Oscailte ná sonraí atá ag comhlachtaí poiblí a bheith ar fáil ar bhealach a bhfuil teacht orthu go héasca ar líne agus gur féidir iad a athúsáid agus a athdháileadh.

## Catalóg Sonraí na Seirbhíse Poiblí

Príomhghníomh a dtugtar achoimre air i Straitéis Sonraí na Seirbhíse Poiblí 2019-2023 ná Catalóg Sonraí na Seirbhíse Poiblí a chur i bhfeidhm (<https://datacatalogue.gov.ie/>) a foilsíodh i mí Feabhra 2021. Tá sé mar sprioc aici rialachas, bainistíocht agus athúsáid sonraí ar bhealach atá slán, éifeachtach agus trédhearcach, a fheabhsú. Catalóg sonraí a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le húsáid inmheánach agus phoiblí, a thabharfaidh faoi chatalógú ar phríomhshonraí pearsanta agus sonraí a bhfuil tábhacht leo i dtaca le cinntí gnó ar fud chomhlachtaí na seirbhíse poiblí.

Chuir an GCC rudaí i gcatalóg Oifig Phríomh-Oifigeach Faisnéise an Rialtais i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2021 agus lean den ghníomhú i dtaca leis an gcatalóg.

## An Clár um Scaoileadh agus Aistriú Truailleán

Soláthraíonn Clár Scaoilte agus Aistrithe Truailleán na hÉireann (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/PRTR>) bunachar sonraí inchoardaithe do bhaill an phobail, ar féidir leo úsáid a bhaint as chun saoráidí a chuardach ina mbíonn gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar leith ar siúl, agus óna scaoiltear truailleán nó óna n-aistrithe dramhaíl ag leibhéal níos airde ná na tairseacha sonraithe. Déanann an clár riachtanais Choinbhinsiún Aarhus a chomhlíonadh fosta, mar gur bealach simplí atá ann chun faisnéis a chur ar fáil maidir le hastaíochtaí agus aistrithe comhshaoil.

## Ceadúnú agus Ceadú

Mar chuid de pholasáí na GCC i leith na hoscailteachta agus na follasachta, agus i gcomhréir leis an Rochtain ar Fhaisnéis maidir leis na Rialacháin Chomhshaoil agus rialacháin éagsúla cheadúnaithe/cheada, tá comhaid cheadúnaithe ar fáil don phobal ar mhaithe lena n-íniúchadh. D'fhonn rochtain níos fearr a chur ar fáil do na páirtithe leasmhara ar fad, cuireann an GCC comhaid iarratais agus doiciméid ábhartha ar taispeáint gur féidir leis an bpobal féachaint orthu.

Tá faisnéis ar iarratais maidir le Rialú Comhtháite ar Thruailliú agus Astaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha a fuarthas ó Nollaig 2004, chomh maith le gach tuairisc de chuid na gcigirí agus na ceadúnais a eisíodh go dtí seo, ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC: [www.epa.ie/terminalfour/ipcc/index.jsp](http://www.epa.ie/terminalfour/ipcc/index.jsp). Ó Nollaig 2017 ar aghaidh, glactar leis na hiarratais ar fad ar líne agus déantar mórchuid den idirghníomhú leis na hiarratasóirí agus leis an bpobal go leictreonach, agus foilsítear ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC é, admháil na n-aighneachtaí agus na n-agóidí san áireamh.

Le linn 2021, bhí os cionn 336,000 amharc leathanaigh uathúil ar na leathanaigh ghréasáin um chuardach ceadúnas Rialaithe Chomhtháite ar Thruailliú agus Astaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha. Faoi dheireadh 2021, bhí breis is 5,300 aighneacht faighte ón bpobal inar baineadh úsáid as an gcomhéadan úsáideora.

## Faisnéis ar fhorfheidhmiú

In 2021, lean an GCC le rochtain an phobail ar fhaisnéis fhorfheidhmithe a sholáthar, agus chuige sin, d'fhoilsigh an GCC achoimre ar na príomhshonraí forfheidhmithe le haghaidh láithreán le ceadúnais thionsclaíocha agus dramhaíola ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC, agus rinne sí liosta na Láithreán Náisiúnta Tosaíochta le forfheidhmiú a nuashonrú. Déantar an fhaisnéis sin a nuashonrú gach ráithe. Aithnítear i Láithreán Náisiúnta Tosaíochta na láithreáin thionsclaíocha agus dramhaíola cheadúnaithe a raibh na taifid chomhlíonta is measa acu le sé mhí anuas. Soláthraíonn na sonraí forfheidhmithe achoimre ar chuartheanna láithreáin, gearáin, cigireachtaí comhlíonta, forálacha airgeadais, neamhchomhlíonadh agus teagmhais.

Leanadh ar aghaidh le príomhcháipéisí forfheidhmithe a fhoilsiú ar líne, cosúil le tuarascálacha iniúchta agus monatóireachta do láithreáin cheadúnaithe.



# 4

Obair a dhéanamh le dreamanna eile chun gníomhú ar son comhshaoil glan sláintiúil dea-chosanta agus iompraíocht inbhuanaithe i dtaca leis an gcomhshaoil.



## 4 ABHCÓIDEACHT

### 4.1 COMHPHÁIRTÍOCHT AGUS LÍONRÚ

Chun ár gcuid oibleagáidí agus cuspóirí straitéiseacha a chur i gcrích, leanfaimid d'obair a dhéanamh i gcomhpháirt le daoine agus le cabhair ó dhaoine chun torthaí dearfacha a bhaint amach ar mhaithe leis an gcomhshaoil.

#### Coistí Oireachtais

Cuireann an GCC fáilte roimh an deis teagmháil a dhéanamh le Comhchoistí agus Roghchoistí an Oireachtais agus faisnéis a thabhairt dóibh maidir lena bhfeidhmeanna maoirseachta reachtúla agus riaracháin. Le linn 2021, d'fhreastail an GCC ar: an gComhchoiste Oireachtais um Thithíocht, Rialtas Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht i dtaca le ceisteanna a bhain le soláthar uisce; agus ar an gComhchoiste Oireachtais um Thalmhaíocht, Bia agus Mara i dtaca leis an Treoir um Níotráití agus monatóireacht ar cháilíocht uisce.

#### An Comhaontú Maoirseachta

I gcomhréir leis na ceanglais sa Chód Cleachtais um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit, tá Comhaontú Maoirseachta a thugann sainmhíniú soiléir ar an gcaidreamh idir an Mháthair-Roinn agus an GCC i bhfeidhm leis an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil (DCCAE). Tugtar aitheantas sa Chomhaontú Maoirseachta go bhfuil freagracht ar an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht (DHPLG) as roinnt mhaith réimsí a bhfuil baint dhíreach acu le sainchúram an GCC, agus tugtar sainmhíniú ann ar chaidreamh an GCC leis an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht.

Tá Comhaontú Seachadta Feidhmíochta mar chuid den Chomhaontú Maoirseachta agus díríonn sé ar phríomhthosaíochtaí agus príomhspríocanna na GCC. Tugtar sainmhíniú sa chomhaontú ar úinéireacht agus cuntasacht seirbhísí shoiléir i ndáil le róil agus freagrachtaí gach comhpháirtí lena chinntiú go ndéanfar feidhmeanna reachtúla na GCC a chomhlíonadh ar bhealach éifeachtach éifeachtúil.

#### Meabhráin Tuisceana/Comhaontuithe Seirbhíse

Tá an GCC tar éis glacadh le Meabhráin Tuisceana agus Comhaontuithe Seirbhíse le heagraíochtaí éagsúla a bhfuil baint acu le cúrsaí a bhaineann leis an gcomhshaoil, nó atá páirteach sna cúrsaí sin. Foilsítear Meabhráin Tuisceana ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC nuair a dhéantar comhaontú faoi seo leis an bpáirtí eile.

#### An Ghníomhaireacht Eorpach Comhshaoil

Soláthraíonn an Ghníomhaireacht Eorpach Comhshaoil faisnéis thráthúil, spriocdhírthe, ábhartha agus iontaofa do ghníomhairí ceaptha beartas agus don phobal maidir le réimse leathan topaicí a bhaineann leis an gcomhshaoil. Tugtar an Gréasán Eorpach um Fhaisnéis agus um Fhaire ar an gComhshaoil ar a gréasán tíortha. Ghlac Bord Bainistíochta na Gníomhaireachta Eorpaí Comhshaoil, a dhéanann ionadaíocht ar son bhallstáit uile na gníomhaireachta, an Coimisiún Eorpach agus Parlaimint na hEorpa le Straitéis nua na Gníomhaireachta Eorpaí Comhshaoil agus an Gréasán Eorpaigh um Fhaisnéis agus um Fhaire ar an gComhshaoil do 2021-2030. Tá Laura Burke, Ard-Stiúrthóir na GCC, ina Cathaoirleach reatha fós ar Bhord Bainistíochta na gníomhaireachta.

De réir a cuid spriocanna straitéiseacha tá an Ghníomhaireacht Eorpach Comhshaoil tar éis tabhairt faoi phróiseas aistrithe ar mhaithe le líonra an Gréasáin Eorpaigh um Fhaisnéis agus um Fhaire ar an gComhshaoil chun saineolas tíortha i dtaca le bearta comhshaoil na hEorpa, amhail an Comhaontú Glas don Eoraip agus an 8ú Clár Gníomhaíochta don Comhshaoil, a neartú agus ceangal níos fearr a chruthú eatarthu. Ceaptar go mbeidh an Gréasán Eorpach um Fhaisnéis agus um Fhaire ar an gComhshaoil ar an bpríomhghrúasán i dtaca le heolas comhshaoil agus aeráide, bainteach le beartas, ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh agus ag leibhéal tíre. Le linn 2021 ghlac an GCC páirt ghníomhach i bpróiseas nuachóirithe na Gníomhaireachta Eorpaí Comhshaoil agus an Gréasáin Eorpaigh um Fhaisnéis agus um Fhaire ar an gComhshaoil ina ról mar Lárionad Náisiúnta chomh maith le bheith rannpháirteach ina ngníomhartha leanúnacha.

Ghlac an GCC páirt ghníomhach chomh maith i Líonra um Cheannairí na nGníomhaireachtaí um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil. Is líonra neamhfhoirmiúil é seo, a áiríonn ceannairí agus stiúrthóirí gníomhaireachtaí um chosaint comhshaoil agus comhlachtaí cosúla ar fud na hEorpa, agus bíonn siad ag dréim le tuairimí agus eispéiris a chomhroinnt maidir le ceisteanna ar díol spéise dóibh uile iad i dtaca le cur i bhfeidhm praiticiúil laethúil beartas comhshaoil.

#### Athrú aeráide

D'oibrigh an GCC ar roinnt ceisteanna aeráide idirnáisiúnta i rith 2021. Ghlac an GCC ceannasaíocht ar rannpháirteachas na hÉireann i dtaca le tabhairt chun críche agus le foilsiú ábhar Ghrúpa Oibre I den Phainéal Idir-Rialtasach ar an Athrú Aeráide maidir leis an 6ú Tuarascáil Mheasúnaithe i mí Lúnasa.

Ghlac an GCC páirt i gcruinnithe “fo-chomhlachtaí” de Chreat-Choinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe ar an Athrú Aeráide, cruinnithe a tionóladh go fíorúil le linn na tréimhse 31 Bealtaine go dtí 17 Meitheamh agus duine le duine ag an 26ú Comhdháil na bPáirtithe i nGlaschú.

Tá cathaoirleacht ag an GCC ar na Tionscnaimh Chomhphleanála – Aeráid a ghníomhaíonn ar mhaithe le taighde ar athrú aeráide a ailíniú agus a chomhordú sa Limistéar Taighde Eorpach. Ar na himeachtaí suntasacha a thit amach in 2021 bhí Comhdháil Eorpach um Oiriúnú don Athrú Aeráide i mí an Mheithimh agus an Chéad Fóram um Neodracht Aeráide i mí Mheán Fómhair. Bhailigh siad seo le chéile an taighde Eorpach is déanaí i dtaca le hoiriúnú/athléimneacht athrú aeráide agus neodracht aeráide.

Tugann an GCC tacaíocht rúnaíochta don Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide maidir leis an Idirphlé Náisiúnta um Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide a chur i bhfeidhm go céimneach agus a sholáthar.

I rith 2020, rinne an GCC a ról laistigh de struchtúr an Idirphlé Náisiúnta um Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide a aistriú ar mhaithe le 'mol saineolais' a fhorbairt agus a chur ar bun i ndáil le gníomhú ar son na haeráide. Ba é an aidhm leis sin ná tuiscint dhomhain a fhorbairt ar thuairimí agus iompraíocht phobal na hÉireann i leith an athraithe aeráide ag an leibhéal náisiúnta, eanála agus áitiúil. Táthar tar éis Clár Cumarsáide um an Athrú Aeráide Ollscoil Yale a choimisiúnú chun taighde a dhéanamh sa réimse seo, agus a modheolaíocht ar leith siúd á húsáid acu chun tuairisc a chur ar fáil ar 'Athrú Aeráide i Meon Mhuintir na hÉireann'. Ba cheart go mbeadh torthaí na hoibre sin ina bpríomhacmhainn náisiúnta le haghaidh forbairt feachtas rannpháirtíochta agus gníomhaithe, arna gcur i bhfeidhm ag leibhéal éagsúla. Tá taighde fós idir lámha ar mhodhanna pléghrúpa i dtreo rannpháirtíochta pobail tríd an tionscadal IMAGINING 2020 agus an tionscadal C-Change i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh.

## Eolaíocht saoránach

Lean an GCC ar aghaidh ag obair le heagraíochtaí comhpháirtíochta ar thionscadail éagsúla a bhain leis an eolaíocht saoránach. Mar chuid den Chlár GLOBE a cuireadh i bhfeidhm i gcomhpháirtíocht le hAonad Oideachais Comhshaoil An Taisce, rinneadh dé-ocsaíd nítrigine (NO<sub>2</sub>) a thomhas in áiteanna éagsúla thart ar scoileanna. In 2021 ghlac 112 scoil páirt i bhfeachtas mhí an Aibreáin (24 contae) agus chláraigh 152 scoil ar mhaithe le feachtas mhí Dheireadh Fómhair 2021 agus ionadaíocht ag gach ceann de na 26 contae. Go dtí seo, tá beagnach 300 scoil tar éis páirt iomlán a ghlacadh sa tionscadal.

De dheasca ar an rath a bhí le GLOBE, d'eagraigh an GCC agus Aonad Oideachais Comhshaoil An Taisce tionscadal monatóireachta dé-ocsaíd nítrigine ar mhórsála agus í bunaithe ar shaoránaigh, ar mhaithe le feachtas agus rannpháirtíocht an phobail ar an ábhar a bhaineann le cáilíocht aeir a mhéadú: "Clean Air Together" (Aer Glan le Chéile). Cuireadh tús le hearcaíocht ar son an tionscadail i mí Lúnasa 2021 agus bhain ró-éileamh an-mhór leis. Ceapadh os cionn 1000 saoránach agus thug siad faoi shampláil ar mhaithe le NO<sub>2</sub> (truailleán aeir a bhaineann le trácht) le linn mhí Dheireadh Fómhair agus na Samhna 2021. Déanfar torthaí na samplála a fhoilsiú go luath in 2022. Tá céim den tionscadal beartaithe do Chorcaigh ina dhiaidh seo in 2022.

D'oibrigh an GCC i gcomhpháirt le Seirbhís Leabharlaine Chomhairle Contae Chontae Loch Garman chun an fáil atá ar scéim iasachta na monatóirí radóin digiteacha a leathnú go baill leabharlaine ar fud leabharlanna uile Loch Garman. Comhcheangailte le scéim iasachta leabharlanna Loch Garman, déanfaidh fo-thasc de thionscadal RadoNorm an AE scrúdú ar úsáid na heolaíochta saoránach chun feabhsúchán radóin a spreagadh ag sealbhóirí tí. Is í an chéad chéim ná foireann uirlisí feabhsúcháin Déan féin é a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le sealbhóirí tí. Déanfaidh an GCC agus sealbhóirí tí Loch Garman

a bhfuil leibhéal radóin os cionn an leibhéal tagartha tomhaiste acu ach nár thug faoi aon obair ar mhaithe lena nochtadh dó a laghdú, an fhoireann uirlisí a chomh-dhearadh. Beidh fiseán teagaisc chomh maith leis an trealamh atá de dhíth don fheabhsúchán i dteannta na foirne uirlisí.

Lean an GCC dá comhoibriú leis an Ionad Náisiúnta le Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta ar an suirbhé 'Dragonfly Ireland', a bhfuil mar aidhm aige atlas nuashonraithe snáthaide móire agus béchuile d'Éirinn a chur ar fáil. Bhain titim 20% leis an líon taifead snáthaide móire agus béchuile a cuireadh isteach in 2021, cé gur tháinig méadú 78% ar líon na suirbhéanna láithreán a tugadh chun críche ag deonaithe. Tá taifid snáthaide móire agus béchuile faighte anois ó thrí cheathrú de limistéar talún na hÉireann agus rinneadh 27 speiceas snáthaide móire agus béchuile a thaifeadh in 2021.

D'oibrigh an GCC i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Ionad Náisiúnta le Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta freisin ar an suirbhé 'Explore Your Shore' (Taiscéalaíocht Trá), agus é mar chuspóir sa suirbhé cumhacht agus tacaíocht a thabhairt d'eolaithe deonacha saoránaigh suirbhéireacht a dhéanamh ar speicis mhara idirthaoideacha agus chósta, agus taifead a dhéanamh díobh. Beidh na taifid a bhaileofar ina gcuidiú leis an eolas ar dháileadh speiceas mara a fheabhsú agus ar úsáid astu a fhiosrú mar bhith-tháscairí ar cháilíocht an uisce agus ar an athrú aeráide. Tá an tionscadal ag dul chun cinn go fóill agus tá ardú 52% ar thaifid i dtaca le speiceas mara a cuireadh ar fáil i gcomparáid le 2020. Cuireadh 5,625 taifead i dtaca le speiceas mara faoi bhráid an Ionaid Sonraí in 2021 agus rinneadh 406 speiceas mara a dhearbhu.



Ceardlann 'Explore Your Shore', Oileán an Bhulla, Co Bhaile Átha Cliath

## Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta

Déanann an GCC rannpháirtíocht eanála a chur chun cinn maidir le Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta agus deachleachtas ina leith a chur i bhfeidhm i ngach údarás poiblí. Thug an GCC faoi mheasúnú agus freagairtí i dtaca le 107 fógra a bhain le Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta in 2021. San áireamh bhí aighneachtaí i dtaca le príomhphleananna/príomhchláir/príomhstraitéisí náisiúnta agus réigiúnacha agus Measúnachtaí Straitéiseacha Timpeallachta gaolmhara amhail Straitéis Agraibhia 2030, an Bille um Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide agus um Fhorbairt Íséalcharbóin (Leasú), 2021 agus Plean Straitéiseach an Chomhbheartais Talmhaíochta 2023-2027.

Tháinig an Fóram Náisiúnta um Measúnachtaí Straitéiseacha Timpeallachta le chéile faoi dhó in 2021 le comhoibriú agus comhroinnt ar fhaisnéis níos fearr idir údaráis um Measúnachtaí Straitéiseacha Timpeallachta a éascú.

## Comhairliúcháin Mheasúnaithe ar Bheartas Comhshaoil

Tugtar cuireadh go rialta don GCC tabhairt faoi chomhairliúcháin straitéise agus faoi fhorbairt eile beartais i dtaca le réimse leathan de chomhlachtaí seirbhísí poiblí go háitiúil, go réigiúnach, go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta. In 2021 bhunaigh an GCC réimse oibre Measúnaithe agus Comhordaithe Beartas Comhshaoil chun na cumais riachtanacha a bhaineann go sáinúil le topaicí a tharraingt le cheile ar fud na gníomhaireachta ar mhaithe le haighneachtaí na GCC a ullmhú. Tá an tionscnamh seo ag teacht le moladh in Athbhreithniú 2020 na hEagraíochta um Chomhar agus Fhorbairt Eacnamaíochta ar an GCC a bhaineann le “deiseanna na GCC feidhmiú ar bhealach níos réamhghníomhaí maidir le forbairt agus luacháil beartais”. Cuireann sé le tionchar chumais sonraí, feasachta agus measúnaithe na GCC chun freagraí comhairliúcháin comhtháite a chur ar fáil a chinntíonn go bhfuil comhshochair chomhshaoil agus folláine á n-uasmhéadú. Foilsíodh aon aighneacht déag ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC: [www.epa.ie/publications/corporate/submissions--position-papers/](http://www.epa.ie/publications/corporate/submissions--position-papers/).

## NIECE

Cuireann an Líonra um Chomhlíonadh agus Fhorfheidhmiú Comhshaoil na hÉireann fóram ar fáil a thugann spreagadh agus tacaíocht d’eagraíochtaí agus do dhaoine aonair obair le chéile le feabhsúcháin a chur i bhfeidhm i réimsí comhshaoil tosaíochta. I measc bhaill an Líonra tá, den chuid is mó, údaráis áitiúla, gníomhaireachtaí stáit agus ranna rialtais, a bhfuil baint acu le reachtaíocht chomhshaoil a fhorfheidhmiú agus a chur chun cinn, agus le rannpháirtíocht maidir leis an reachtaíocht sin.

Bhí Líonra um Chomhlíonadh agus Fhorfheidhmiú Comhshaoil na hÉireann an-ghníomhach fós le linn na paindéime agus go leor de na gníomhartha ag dul ar líne. D’fheidhmigh 15 Líonra agus cúig Ghrúpa Oibre faoi choirce an bhratcomhlachta in 2021. Leanadh ar aghaidh le cumarsáid agus líonrú, agus cruinnithe fíorúla, ceardlanna, imeachtaí oiliúna, ullmhúcháin treorach agus tairseach ar líne Líonra um Chomhlíonadh agus Fhorfheidhmiú Comhshaoil na hÉireann á réachtáil. Bhí foireann oibre na n-údarás áitiúil rannpháirteach chomh maith sna comhdhálacha i dtaca le hAer Náisiúnta, an Geilleagar Ciorclach agus Uisce Náisiúnta. Ar na réimsí a léiríodh an imní is mó fúthu bhí cigireachtaí talmhaíochta agus forfheidhmiú aeir agus tá grúpaí nua oibre sna réimsí seo á mbreithniú.

Thacaigh Líonra um Chomhlíonadh agus Fhorfheidhmiú Comhshaoil na hÉireann le forbairt na dTosaíochtaí Comhshaoil Náisiúnta nua trí bliana ar mhaithe le hÚdarás Áitiúla i dtaca le Dramhaíl, Aer/Torann agus Uisce. Bhain rannpháirtíocht shuntasach leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, le hÚdarás Áitiúla, le seirbhísí comhroinnte agus leis an gCoiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta um Fhorfheidhmiú Dramhaíola i dtaca leis an obair seo. Rinneadh ceardlann um pleanáil feidhmíochta a réachtáil le hÚdarás Áitiúla i dtaca leis na Tosaíochtaí Comhshaoil Náisiúnta agus ‘Creat Feidhmíochta na nÚdarás Áitiúla’ leasaithe.

## Colún Comhshaoil

Tá 26 eagraíocht neamhrialtasach náisiúnta chomhshaoil sa Cholún Comhshaoil, a bhíonn ag obair le chéile chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar son na tuairimíochta in earnáil chomhshaoil na hÉireann. Bíonn cruinniú ag an GCC le Líonra Comhshaoil na hÉireann ar a laghad uair amháin sa bhliain. In 2021 thug Líonra Comhshaoil na hÉireann faoi luacháil lár téarma ar a Phlean Straitéiseach 2018-2023 agus thug sé cuireadh don GCC a bheith rannpháirteach sa phróiseas agus aiseolas a chur ar fáil chomh maith le meon na GCC ar an líonra. Ina theannta sin bhuaill an GCC le Líonra Comhshaoil na hÉireann i Márta 2021 mar chuid de chomhairliúchán na bpáirtithe leasmhara i dtaca le hathbhreithniú ar an ‘bPlean Náisiúnta Cigireachta um Chórais Cóireála Fuíolluisce Tí (dabhcha séarachais).

## Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta na hÉireann um Fhrithsheasmhacht in Aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbach 2021-2025

Lean an GCC de bheith rannpháirteach sa Choiste Náisiúnta Feidhmithe do ghrúpa Phlean Gníomhaíochta um Fhrithsheasmhacht in Aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbach agus í ag freastal ar chruinnithe idir-rannacha agus idirghníomhaireachta i dtaca le gníomhartha na chéad phlean náisiúnta gníomhaíochta (iNAPD1) a chur chun cinn agus clabhsúr a chur leo, agus plean gníomhaíochta a cheapadh ar mhaithe leis an dara plean náisiúnta gníomhaíochta. Ghlac an GCC páirt i gcomhdháil ardleibhéil, a bhí tionóla ag an Aontas Eorpach, i dtaca le Fhrithsheasmhacht in Aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbach, comhdháil a bhí faoi cheannasaíocht na hArd-Stiúrthóireachta um Shláinte agus Sábháilteacht Bia, ar mhaithe le taithí náisiúnta agus tosaíochtaí Eorpacha don réimse ábhair seo a chomhroinnt. Ag an gcomhdháil seo thug an GCC faoi chur i láthair i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Roinn Sláinte agus an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara i dtaca le dul chun cinn náisiúnta.

## Cáilíocht an uisce

Tá an GCC an-ghníomhach le sainghrúpaí oibre éagsúla atá faoi cheannasaíocht na Roinne Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta. Airítear orthu seo an clár beartais i dtaca leis an tríú babhta den Phlean Bainistíochta Abhantraí a fhorbairt, measúnú a dhéanamh ar an bhféidearthacht taisteal éisc in Abhainn na Sionainne a fheabhsú, uisce óil ag a fhoinsé a chosaint agus treoirlínte ar mhaithe leis an gCreat-Treoir Uisce a ionchorprú sa chreat pleanála a fhorbairt.

Bíonn an GCC gníomhach le Coiste Chomhairliúcháin na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara i dtaca leis an gComhbheartas Talmhaíochta agus le Sainghrúpa Níotráite na Roinne agus leanann sí den rannpháirtíocht dhearfach leis an Roinn i dtaca leo seo agus meicníochtaí eile. Príomhtheachtaireacht na GCC ná go gcaithfear astaíochtaí a théann isteach san uisce ón talmhaíocht a laghdú agus go gcaithfear bearta a chomhtháthú i gcur chuige pleanála uile-fheirme, chun spriocanna cáilíochta uisce, bithéagsúlachta, aeráide, aeir agus comhshaoil eile a bhaint amach. Tá feidhm á baint as bonn fianaise na GCC ar mhaithe le heolas a dhéanamh do ghníomhartha faoi Chlár



Gníomhaíochta na Níotráití agus do bhearta na Scéime nua um Chomhshaoil Talmhaíochta agus Aeráid faoin gComhbheartas Talmhaíochta. Chuir an GCC, i gcomhar le Feirmeoirí Aontaithe na hÉireann, gearrthóg físe ghearr ar fáil in 2021, chun eolas a sholáthar do fheirmeoirí ar conas úsáid a bhaint as Léarscáileanna d'Acmhainneacht Tionchair Truailithe, atá curtha i dtoll a chéile ag an GCC (<https://www.catchments.ie/ifa-smart-farming-sources-and-solutions-the-link-between-our-soils-water-quality-and-how-to-use-the-pip-maps-on-catchments-ie/>).

Bíonn cruinnithe ag an GCC le Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann le faisnéis a phlé agus a chomhroinnt maidir le monatóireacht, aicmiú agus tuairisciú i ndáil leis an gCreat-Treoir Uisce, lena n-áirítear stádas na ndobharlach uisce trasteorann agus úsáid modhanna mearmheasúnaithe.

## Cáilíocht an aeir

Bhí an GCC mar chathaoirleach ar an nGrúpa Oibre Faisnéise Sláinte ar Cháilíocht Aeir agus rinne sí éascaíocht air le linn 2021, grúpa oibre a chuir fóram ar fáil ar mhaithe le tacaíocht a sholáthar: do chur ar fáil feabhsaithe na faisnéise inrochtana san fhíor-am i dtaca le samhaltú cháilíocht agus sláinte an aeir – agus baint aige le fairsingiú an líonra monatóireachta; agus do ghníomhaíochtaí eolaíoch na saoránach. Tá páirtithe leasmhara i réimsí an chomhshaoil agus na sláinte sa ghrúpa seo, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte san áireamh, grúpa a chumasaíonn plé ar thopaicí sláinte a bhaineann le cáilíocht an aeir.

## Sábháilteacht núicléach

Tá ról gníomhach ag an GCC i gcoistí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta a bhíonn ag plé le sábháilteacht núicléach, a fhágann gur féidir leis an GCC a cuid freagrachtaí a chomhlíonadh maidir le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar shuiteálacha núicléacha agus sábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus comhairle a chur ar an Rialtas faoi impleachtaí forbairtí den chineál sin d'Éirinn. In 2021 san áireamh leis seo bhí aighneacht a ullmhú ar mhaithe leis an gcomhairliúchán poiblí trasteorann i dtaca le Measúnacht Tionchair Timpeallachta ar an síneadh saolré deich mbliana go 2025 a bhí molta do Stáisiún Chumhachta Núicléacha Doel-1 agus 2 sa Bheilg. Bhí an GCC páirteach chomh maith le i nGrúpa Airteagal 37 Euratom de Shaineolaithe ar Dhramháil Radaighníomhach agus aighneachtaí ón Ríocht Aontaithe agus ón Ungáir a scrúdú i dtaca le stáisiúin núicléacha Sizewell C and Paks II araon, a bhí molta.

## Ceannairí na nÚdarás Inniúil Eorpach um Chosaint ar Radaíocht

Is cumann de na húdarás sábháilteachta radaíochta san Eoraip é Ceannairí na nÚdarás Inniúil Eorpach um Chosaint ar Radaíocht (HERCA) a dhíríonn ar fhuascailtí praiticiúla comhoiriúnaithe a éascú i gcás fadhbanna tábhachtacha rialúcháin a bhaineann leis an gcosaint ar radaíocht. Tugann HERCA fóram tábhachtach d'údarás náisiúnta inar féidir leo eolas agus taithí a roinnt maidir le reachtaíocht Eorpach agus caighdeán idirnáisiúnta a chur i bhfeidhm.

Tá ról gníomhach ag an GCC san obair sin, agus tá ionadaithe aige ar Bhord Ceannairí d'Údarás Inniúla na hEorpa um Chosaint Raideolaíoch, mar aon leis na Grúpaí Oibre ar radaighníomhaíocht nádúrtha, éigeandálaí, feidhmeanna leighis, foinsí agus cleachtais neamhliachta, agus oideachas agus oiliúint. Is leaschathaoirleach an GCC ar an nGrúpa Oibre d'Éigeandálaí.

## Grúpa Rialtóirí Sábháilteachta Núicléach na hEorpa

Déanann an GCC ionadaíocht ar son na hÉireann i bhfóram Eorpach agus idirnáisiúnta ar cheisteanna maidir le sábháilteacht núicléach. Glacann an GCC páirt ghníomhach i nGrúpa Rialtóirí na hEorpa um Shábháilteacht Núicléach, agus sna grúpaí oibre bainteacha ar Shábháilteacht Núicléach & Comhar Idirnáisiúnta agus Trédhearcacht & Cumarsáid. Bhí ullmhúcháin ar mhaithe leis an dara Athbhreithniú Piaráí Téamach san áireamh anseo le linn 2021, ina ndíreofar ar chosaint ar dhóiteáin ag saoráidí núicléacha agus ar chruinniú fíorúil idirghníomhaíochta le páirtithe leasmhara a reáchtáil chun faisnéis a chur ar fáil i dtaca le spriocanna an athbhreithnithe.

## Cruinnithe déthaobhacha leis an Ríocht Aontaithe agus leis an bhFrainc maidir le saincheisteanna raideolaíoch agus núicléacha

Bíonn cruinnithe rialta ag an GCC leis an nGníomhaireacht Comhshaoil agus an Oifig um Rialú Núicléach sa RA chun ceisteanna raideolaíoch agus núicléacha a phlé. In 2021, dhírigh na cainteanna sin ar shocruithe um shábháilteacht núicléach na RA tar éis di an AE agus an Conradh Euratom a fhágáil, gníomhaíochtaí ag Sellafield, Measúnú ar Dhearadh Cineálach ar mhaithe le measúnú sábháilteachta agus slándála i dtaca le himoibreoirí núicléacha nua-thógtha, lena n-áirítear Imoibreoirí Modúlacha Beaga, forbairt Saoráide um Dhiúscairt Gheolaíoch agus forbairt idirnáisiúnta maidir le sábháilteacht núicléach agus radaíochta agus pleanáil núicléach éigeandála. In 2021 shínigh an GCC agus an Oifig um Rialú Núicléach, Comhaontú um Malartú Faisnéise nua chun éascaíocht a dhéanamh ar mhalartú faisnéise ar an rialú a bhaineann le sábháilteacht saoráidí núicléacha agus ábhar núicléach.

Anuas air sin, tacaíonn an GCC leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide maidir le cruinnithe an Ghrúpa Teagmhála ar Chúrsaí Radaíochta RA-Éireann, a thionóltar faoi dhó sa bhliain. Áiríodh ar na cainteanna in 2021 beartas fuinnimh na RA, an fhaisnéis is déanaí faoi ghléasra nua núicléach a thógáil ag Hinkley point C and Sizewell C, díchoimisiúnú ar shaoráidí núicléacha na RA agus diúscairt gheolaíochta ar dhramháil núicléach.

Bhuail an GCC agus Rialtóir Núicléach na Fraince, ASN, le chéile in 2021 ar mhaithe le rialáil radaíochta ianúcháin san dá thír a phlé, chomh maith le tionchar COVID-19, pleananna gníomhaíochta náisiúnta radóin, ullmhacht éigeandála agus deiseanna ar mhaithe le malartú san am atá le teacht idir an dá eagraíocht.

## Dualgais Idirnáisiúnta maidir le Sábháilteacht Núicléach agus Bainistíocht Dramhaíola Radaighníomhaí

Is coinbhinsiún idirnáisiúnta é an Comhchoinbhinsiún ar Shábháilteacht Breosla Núicléach Spíonta agus ar Shábháilteacht Bhainistíocht na Dramhaíola Radaighníomhaí, agus téann sé i ngleic le saincheist an bhreosla spíonta agus le sábháilteacht bainistíocht na dramhaíola radaighníomhaí ar bhonn domhanda. Déanann sé é sin trí bhunphrionsabail sábháilteachta a bhunú agus próiseas athbhreithnithe a chruthú. Gach trí bliana, ní mór do na tíortha ar fad a shínigh an Coinbhinsiún, Éire san áireamh, a léiriú go bhfuil an coinbhinsiún á chomhlíonadh acu, agus ní mór dóibh dul faoi athbhreithniú piaraí arna chur i bhfeidhm ag na páirtithe eile a shínigh an conradh. Cuireadh an seachtú cruinniú athbhreithnithe den Choinbhinsiún ar athló in 2021 le comhthoil na bpáirtithe conarthacha. Tá cruinniú athbhreithnithe fisiciúil pleanáilte in 2022, leis an méid is mó rannpháirtithe gur féidir a bheith i láthair ar mhaithe le piarmheasúnú éifeachtach agus beacht a chinntiú. In 2021, thug an GCC faoi mheasúnú ar roinnt tuarascálacha náisiúnta éagsúla maidir le comhlíonadh le hoibleagáidí an Choinbhinsiúin, na cinn ón RA, ón bhFrainc agus ón tSeapáin san áireamh.

## Pleanáil éigeandála

In 2021 ghlac an GCC páirt i seacht gcleachtadh idirnáisiúnta éigeandála a bhí eagraithe ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach agus ag an nGníomhaireacht Idirnáisiúnta do Fhuinneamh Adamhach. Anuas air sin, ghlac an GCC páirt i gcleachtadh a d'eagraigh an Roinn Gnó, Fuinnimh agus Straitéise Tionsclaíche sa Ríocht Aontaithe chun tástáil a dhéanamh ar shocruithe praiticiúla chun tacú le comhaontú déthaobhach na Ríochta Aontaithe agus na hÉireann maidir le fógra luath dá dtarlódh timpiste núicléach nó eachtra a mbeadh tábhacht raideolaíoch ag baint léi. Bhí cleachtadh práinnfhreagartha ag an GCC i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2021 ar a fhreastail go leor foirne agus a nósanna imeachta práinnfhreagartha á gcur i bhfeidhm acu, ag freagairt d'éigeandálaí éagsúla a d'eascair as drochstoirm. Tá forbairt sa bhreis déanta ar phlean gníomhaíochta na GCC ag eascairt as na ceachtanna foghlamtha sa chleachtadh.

Lean an GCC de bheith rannpháirteach sa Tascfhórsa Rialtais ar Phleanáil Éigeandála agus i bhfoghrupaí an tascfhórsa. Lean an GCC ag tacú leis an Gníomhaireacht um Fuinneamh Núicléach agus leis an nGníomhaireacht Idirnáisiúnta do Fhuinneamh Adamhach agus í comhpháirteach i ngrúpaí oibre teicniúla agus ag glacadh páirte i gcomhdhálacha.



Má chuirimid eolas inrochtana ar fáil go tráthúil dár bpáirtithe leasmhara, feabhsóidh sin rannpháirtíocht an phobail i gcinnteoireacht maidir leis an gcomhshaoil, agus beidh an t-eolas riachtanach ar a dtail ag daoine le gur féidir leo roghanna fiúntacha a dhéanamh i dtaca leis an gcomhshaoil.

## 4.2 FEASACHT A MHÚSCAILT

### Ár bpríomhtheachtaireachtaí a chur in iúl

Is é suíomh gréasáin na GCC ár bpríomhuirlis chumarsáide chun faisnéis a scaipeadh ar an bpobal, agus breis is 722,000 cuairt tugtha air in 2021. Tharla buaiceanna gníomhaíochta le linn na bliana a bhí ag teacht le clúdach sna meáin ar shaincheistanna comhshaoil agus le foilsiú tuarascálacha. Tugadh go leor cuairteanna ar an suíomh gréasáin i ndáil le haisghabháil faisnéise ar láithreáin arna gceadúnú ag an GCC; foilseacháin a íoslódáil; teacht ar fhaisnéis faoi cheadúnú agus forfheidhmiú; gairmeacha beatha sa GCC agus teacht ar fhaisnéis faoi réimsí téamacha comhshaoil, lena n-áirítear: athrú aeráide, aer, uisce, dramhaíl agus radón.

Le linn 2021 sheol an GCC suíomh gréasáin nua, rud a chuir le huasghrádú suntasach i dtaca le hinúsáidteacht, le hinrochtaineacht agus le teicneolaíocht. Diríonn ailtireacht faisnéise nua an tsuímh ghréasáin ar úsáideoirí poiblí agus ar a gcuid riachtanas.

Lean an GCC ag cur lena láithreacht ar na meáin shóisialta agus í mar aidhm aici ábhar mealltach a sholáthar le teachtaireachtaí spriocdhírthe a chur in iúl thar raon ardán éagsúil. Mar thoradh, lean cuntais na GCC ar na meáin shóisialta (@EPAIreland) ar Twitter, Linked-In, Instagram agus You Tube ag fás le linn 2021.

### Caidreamh leis na meáin

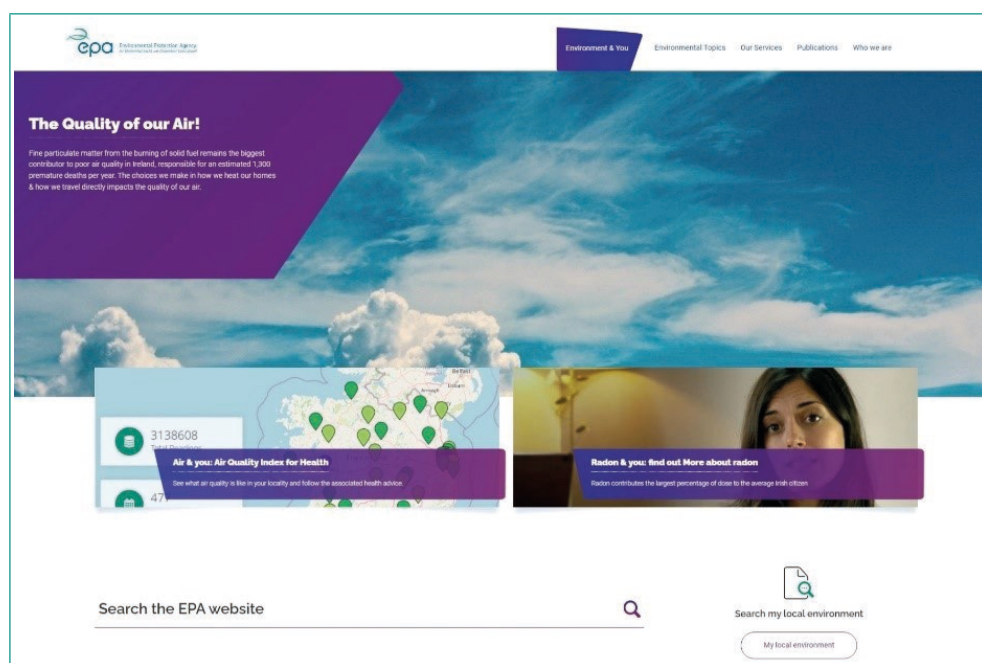
Cuireann an GCC seirbhís 24 uair an chloig ar fáil do na meáin agus i rith 2021, rinne sí 671 fiosrú ó na meáin a láimheáil agus 37 preaseisiúint a fhógairt. Bhí scéalta nuachta i réimse an chomhshaoil mar pháirt de 32,000 alt nuachtáin ó cheann ceann na bliana.

### Gníomhaíochtaí for-rochtana

Tá ról tábhachtach ag an GCC i gcónaí maidir le leibhéil feasachta a ardú agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do thionscnaimh a dhéanann rannpháirtíocht an phobail le cúrsaí comhshaoil a mhéadú, go háirithe tionscnaimh atá dírithe ar phobal níos óige.

Déanann Seachtain na hEolaíochta daoine ar gach aois agus ó gach cúlra a spreagadh le go gcuirfí ar an eolas iad, go spreagfaí iad agus go mbeidís páirteach in imeachtaí ETIM. Chomh maith leis sin, ghlac an GCC páirt in imeachtaí éagsúla in 2021, lena n-áiríodh seoladh cheacht ar an athrú aeráide na GCC, mar chuid dár gcomhpháirtíocht le Junior Achievement Ireland.

In 2021 chuir an GCC tacaíocht ar fáil arís don chlár teilifíse “10 Things to Know About...” a craoladh ar RTÉ. Bhí sé chlár i gceist leis an seachtú séasúr agus chuir an séasúr béim ar chuid den sárboair atá idir lámha ag taighdeoirí eolaíochta Éireannacha ar fud réimse disciplíní, lena n-áirítear Cónaí Amuigh Faoin Spéir, Fuil, Feamainn, Geoghuaiseacha, Bailte Sláintiúla agus Sláinte Putóige.





I dtaca le dualgais na GCC maidir le hurraíocht chorparáideach, cuireadh tacaíocht ar fáil do thionscnaimh áitiúla a mhúscloinn feasacht maidir le ceisteanna comhshaoil nó obair na GCC. Chuaigh an GCC i gcomhar arís in 2021 le ECO UNESCO agus chuir sí tacaíocht ar fáil do Ghradaim na gComhshaoilaithe Óga agus do thionscnaimh eile. Spreag an GCC teachtaireachtaí comhshaoil le linn Fhéile Ceoldráma Loch Garman agus in 2021 sheol sí comórtas ar na meáin shóisialta ar mhaithe le teacht ar an ‘gcuilath éide ceoldráma is glaise’. Rinne an GCC urraíocht ar an Dúshlán ‘Upcycle’ (Uaschúrsáil), comórtas a bhí á stiúradh ag na Réigiúin Phleanála um Bainistíocht Dramhaíola chun gníomhaíochtaí geilleagair chiorclaigh amhail athúsáid, deisiú agus uaschúrsáil a spreagadh i measc an phobail. Bhí 262 iontráil sa chomórtas agus fógraíodh buaiteoirí le haghaidh na naoi gcatagóir i mí na Samhna 2021.

### Scéal maidir le do chuid Rudaí

Tugadh an cúigiú comórtas de ‘Scéal maidir le do chuid Rudaí’ do mheánscoileanna chun clabhsúir le himeacht fíorúil ar líne in Aibreán 2021. In ainneoin shrianta COVID-19 rinneadh 330 iarratas ar an gcomórtas, ó 76 scoil, an líon is airde ó cuireadh tús leis an gcomórtas in 2017. Tharraing na hiontrálacha aird ar an tionchar comhshaoil a bhíonn ag earraí nó gníomhaíochtaí laethúla, agus d’inis na mic léinn a gcuid scéalta go cruthaitheach agus úsáid á baint acu as meáin amhairc. Cuireann an comórtas faisnéis faoin gcomhshaoil chun tosaigh, atá ar fáil ar Thairseach Comhshaoil na hÉireann ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC. Bhuaigh Robert Urquhart ó Choláiste na Toirbhearta, Baile Átha an Rí, Gaillimh an chéad duais lena fhiseán tráthúil, ‘Scéal na masc aghaidhe aon uaire’. Is féidir teacht ar na hiarratais bhuaicacha ar fad, lena n-áirítear an duais ar son thopaic na haeráide chomh maith leis an duais don iarratas Ghaeilge ar shuíomh gréasáin ‘Scéal maidir le do chuid Rudaí’ (<https://www.thestoryofyourstuff.ie/>).



Robert Urquhart (Coláiste na Toirbhearta, Baile Átha an Rí, Gaillimh) – Buaiteoir Chomórtas ‘Scéal maidir le do chuid Rudaí’ 2021

### Clár Junior Achievement Ireland

Lean an GCC leis an gcomhpháirtíocht le Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) in 2021 agus rinne 16 bhall foirne réimse clár JAI ar mhaithe le 520 mac léinn i 14 scoil a sheachadadh. Don dara bliain as a chéile, rinneadh ceacht na GCC ar athrú

aeráide a sheachadadh le linn Sheachtain na hEolaíochta i mí na Samhna. Chuir 23 saorálai GCC an cheardlann ar fáil do 610 mac léinn ó 23 scoil in 12 chontae. Don chéad bhliain rinne saorálaithe ó eagraíochtaí eile ceacht na GCC ar an athrú aeráide a chur ar fáil, agus ochtar saorálai gnó ó shé eagraíocht éagsúla ag cur an cheachta ar fáil do 282 mac léinn. Rinne an GCC ceangal díreach le breis is 1,400 mac léinn ar fud na hÉireann mar chuid den chomhpháirtíocht seo, rud a thug an deis dúinn príomhtheachtaireachtaí comhshaoil agus eolas a chur ar fáil, chomh maith le tábhacht an oideachais a chur i gcuimhne do na mic léinn.

### Ceisteanna faoin gcomhshaoil

Cuireann an GCC Seirbhís Fiosruithe Comhshaoil ar fáil dár bpáirtithe leasmhara, lena n-áirítear an pobal, mic léinn, údarás áitiúla agus ranna rialtais. Feidhmíonn an tseirbhís i gcomhréir leis na gealltanais atá leagtha amach i gCairt Custaiméirí na GCC. Phléigh an tseirbhís le 2940 fiosrúchán le linn 2021. Bhí imní ar an bpobal faoi na rudaí seo a leanas den chuid is mó: dramhaíl (diúscairt líon beag de dhramhaíl ghuaiseach); cáilíocht an aeir (an tionchar atá ag úsáid breoslái faoi leith ar cháilíocht an aeir); athrú aeráide (astaíochtaí CO<sub>2</sub> a ríomh, gnólaichtaí a bheith níos glaise); agus fuíolluisce (obair leasúcháin a dhéanamh ar na dabhcha séarachais atá ann cheana féin agus an scéim deontas).

### Comhdhálacha agus taispeántais

Ba ar líne a rinne an GCC an chuid is mó do na himeachtaí a reáchtáil le linn 2021. Is deis iad na himeachtaí seo le daoine den phobal a chur ar an eolas faoi agus iad a spreagadh a bheith gníomhach maidir le ceisteanna comhshaoil, lena n-áirítear Taispeántas Eolaí Óg & Teicneolaíochta BT, áit ar chuir an GCC urraíocht ar fáil don Duais Speisialta Comhshaoil.

### Comhdháil Náisiúnta Aeráide na GCC

De dheasca shrianta COVID-19, ba ar líne a bhí Comhdháil Náisiúnta Aeráide na GCC in 2021, agus is dhá leath lae a bhí i gceist léi, ar an 23 agus 24 Meitheamh. Ba é teideal na comhdhála ná “Climate Solutions for a Better Tomorrow” (Réitigh Aeráide ar mhaithe le Todhchaí Níos Fearr). Rinneadh sonraí na GCC maidir le Réamh-Mheastacháin Astaíochtaí Gás Ceaptha Teasa a sholáthar mar chuid den ócáid.

### Sraith Léachtaí ar an Athrú Aeráide

De dheasca shrianta COVID-19, ba ar líne a bhí an tSraith Léachtaí ar an Athrú Aeráide in 2021. Eagraíodh dhá léacht: an chéad cheann ar an 24 Feabhra le Kirsten Dunlop, POF Climate-KIC. Rinneadh an gaol idir airgeadas agus athrú aeráide a scrúdú le linn na léachta. Ba é an Dr John Bowman a thug faoi mhodhnóireacht ar an léacht. Is féidir féachaint ar thaifead den léacht ar cainéal YouTube na GCC anseo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZv2MOpBcas>



Imeacht ar líne a bhí i gceist leis an dara léacht chomh maith, a bhí ar siúl ar an 15 Samhain. Ba é Ollamh Clúiteach na hEolaíochta Atmaisféaraí agus Stiúrthóir Earth System Science Center, Michael Mann, a thug an léacht. Labhair an tOllamh Mann faoi thorthaí COP26, Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 6 an Phainéil Idir-Rialtasaigh ar an Athrú Aeráide, a leabhar “The New Climate War” agus na himpleachtaí domhanda agus impleachtaí d’Éirinn. Ba é an Dr John Bowman a thug faoi mhodhnóireacht ar an léacht. Is féidir féachaint ar thaifead den léacht ar cainéal YouTube na GCC anseo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6VTnnpUFx8>

## Comhdháil ar Gheilleagair Ciorclach

Rinne an Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc ar Dhramhaíl óstáil ar Chomhdháil an Gheilleagair Chiorclaigh de chuid na GCC. Ba é an tAire Ossian Smyth a d’oscail an imeacht agus, le linn na himeachta, seoladh treoir nuashonraithe maidir le Soláthar Poiblí Glas. Áiríodh ar an gcéad lá cuir i láthair ag an Eagraíocht um Chomhar agus Fhorbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Fondúireacht Ellen MacArthur, agus díriodh ar bheartas agus ar dheiseanna don earnáil phoiblí. Díriodh ar na deiseanna a chuireann an geilleagar ciorclach ar fáil do ghnó agus ciorclaíocht na mórshráide ar an dara lá.

## Fóram ar Chur Amú Bia

Ba é téama an Fhórait dhébhliantúil ar Chur Amú Bia 2021 ná ‘Feasacht a chruthú ar mhaithe le níos lú dramhaíola’. Labhraíodh le linn an Fhórait ar chosc ar bhia a chur amú ag an leibhéal domhanda agus Eorpach chomh maith le leibhéal na hÉireann, agus bhí cuir i láthair ó réimse cainteoirí éagsúla, Bord Bia, Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan agus an tionscal san áireamh. Tugadh taithí phraiticiúil sna cuir i láthair maidir le tomhas agus laghdú chur amú an bhia ar fud shlabhra an tsoláthair.

## Comhdháil na GCC ar Uisce

Reáchtáil an GCC a Comhdháil bhliantúil ar Uisce ar líne i Meitheamh. Ba é téama na comhdhála ná “Uisce: Beartas agus Cleachtas a Chomhtháthú” agus bhí réimse leathan cainteoirí ón earnáil uisce i láthair a chomhroinn a saineolas maidir le dul i ngleic le buanna agus dúshláin a bhaineann le hathchóiriú uiscí na hÉireann. Áiríodh ar na topaicí deiseanna ar mhaithe le sochair iolracha; brúnna agus réitigh; agus a bheith ag obair le pobail. Tá cuir i láthair ar fáil ar chainéal YouTube na GCC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjOgDqSTBV4>

## Ócáid Náisiúnta Aeir

Reáchtáil an GCC a hImeacht Aeir Náisiúnta bhliantúil “Rud éigin san aer”, ar líne in 2021 agus bhí painéal i stiúideo agus rinneadh í a bheoshruithú le linn mhaidineacha an 10 agus 11 de mhí na Samhna. Fóram a bhí san imeacht le faisnéis phraiticiúil a sholáthar agus a chomhroinnt maidir le cáilíocht an aeir agus forfheidhmiú. D’fhreastail ionadaithe ón GCC, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, na húdaráis áitiúla, an earnáil tionsclaíochta, sainchomhairleoirí, grúpaí taighde tríú leibhéal, eagraíochtaí neamhrialtasacha agus daoine ón bpobal ar an bhfóram. Tá cuir i láthair ar fáil ar chainéal YouTube na GCC: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFesobjWT1Fj8qaL4Z4-qxxSiGFLDZfTp>

## An Chomhdháil um Sláinte agus Folláine Comhshaoil

D’óstáil an GCC, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte agus an Institiúid Taighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta an chomhdháil bhliantúil ar an tsláinte agus folláine comhshaoil i mí na Samhna agus theastaigh uatha foghlaim ón bpaindéim. Bhain na toscairí le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, an Institiúid Taighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta agus an GCC, agus bhí toscairí eile i láthair a oibríonn sa réimse sláinte, folláine agus rannpháirtíocht saoránach, chomh maith le hionadaithe ó eagraíochtaí neamhrialtasacha agus ón lucht léinn. Tá cuir i láthair ar fáil ar chainéal YouTube na GCC: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFesobjWT1FhV74QBHfMJvL8\\_aBkG\\_CRa](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFesobjWT1FhV74QBHfMJvL8_aBkG_CRa)

## An Chomhdháil um Chomhshaoil agus Dlí

Á gairm ag Ionad na hÉireann um an Dlí Comhshaoil agus an GCC, rinneadh an comhdháil chomhpháirteach a reáchtáil ar líne ar an 17 agus 18 de mhí na Samhna 2021. Chuir Ms. Laura Burke, Ard-Stiúrthóir na GCC agus an Breitheamh Onórach An tUasal Donal O’Donnell, an Príomh-Bhreitheamh, tús leis an gcaint a chuir an t-eolas ar fáil. Phléigh saineolaithe dlí roinnt mhaith téamaí comhaimseartha i dtaca le forfheidhmiú an dlí comhshaoil lena n-áirítear: sceithireacht agus coireacht chomhshaoil; measúnacht tionchair timpeallachta leasúcháin sa phróiseas i dtaca le toiliú ionaid; an prionsabal i dtaca le comhoibriú ionraic agus rialacháin AE maidir leis an dúlra; taighde dlí comhshaoil atá ag teacht chun cinn; na dualgais atá ar chomhlachtaí poiblí i dtaca le halt 15 de na Achtanna um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide agus um Fhorbairt Ísealcharbóin 2015 to 2021; agus an treoir um Dhliteanas Comhshaoil.

## Ceardlann Torainn

Reáchtáladh ‘Ceardlann Torainn le haghaidh Údaráis Áitiúla’ i mí na Nollag 2021. Ba ar mhaithe leis na húdaráis áitiúla a thabhairt suas chun dáta i dtaca le Babhta 4 den phróiseas um mapáil torainn agus lena gcuid riachtanas maidir le ról, freagrachtaí agus tuairisciú, a bhí an cheardlann ar líne seo ar siúl.

## Sraith Léachtaí GCC/IIEA

Don dara bliain as a chéile, d’oibrigh an GCC i gcomhar leis an Institiúid Gnóthaí Idirnáisiúnta agus Eorpacha ar shraith léachtaí dar teideal ‘Athléimneacht Chomhshaoil’. Sa tsraith seo, chuaigh saineolaithe idirnáisiúnta i ngleic leis na ceisteanna comhshaoil is práinní dá bhfuil ann dúinn sa lá atá inniu ann, lena n-áirítear: ciorclaíocht, deardh gan dramhaíl, airgeadas inbhuanaithe agus todhchaí an uisce. Rinne Virginijus Sinkevičius, an Coimisinéir Eorpach um an gComhshaoil, um na hAigéin agus um an lascach cur síos chomh maith ar straitéis an AE ar mhaithe le téarnamh comhshaoil.

Ár bhFís: Éire a chruthú, áit a gcinntíonn an Geilleagar Ciorclach go bhfuil úsáid á baint ag gach duine as níos lú acmhainní agus go bhfuil cosc ar dhramhaíl chun fás geilleagrach inbhuanaithe a bhaint amach

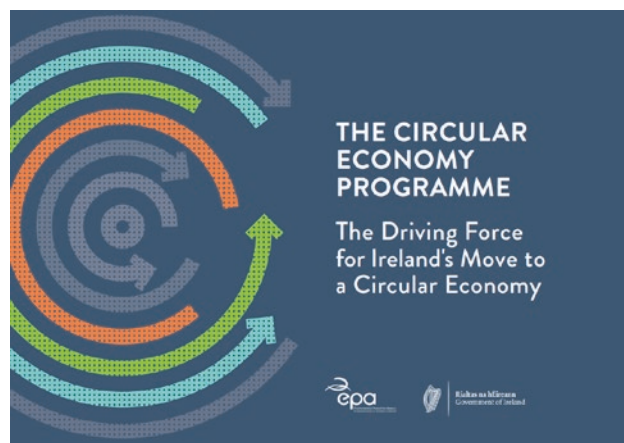
### 4.3 IOMPRAÍOCHT INBHUANAITHE A CHUR CHUN CINN

#### An Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc Dramhaíola

Seoladh Clár an Gheilleagair Chiorclaigh (2021-2027) i ndiaidh tréimhse comhairliúcháin le linn 2021. Beidh an GCC i bhfeighil an Chláir seo, clár a dhéanann Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc ar Dhramhaíl na GCC a ionchorprú agus a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le tacú le cláir straitéiseacha le dramhaíl a chosc ag leibhéal náisiúnta. Cuireann sé le ceannaireacht cúig bliana déag na GCC i dtaca le dramhaíl a chosc. Beidh Clár an Gheilleagair Chiorclaigh mar cheann feadhna agus Éire ag aistriú go geilleagar ciorclach, áit a ndéanfaidh gnólachtaí, saoránaigh agus an earnáil phoiblí úsáid acmhainní a laghdú, dramhaíl a chosc agus fás eacnamaíoch inbhuanaithe a bhaint amach. Beidh an Clár ag tacú le Straitéis Geilleagair Chiorclaigh an Rialtais Uile.

Baineann dlúthpháirt le comhoibriú le heagraíochtaí náisiúnta agus Clár an Gheilleagair Chiorclaigh á sheachadadh. Cuimsíonn sé sin na comhpháirtíochtaí seo a leanas:

- Lárionad na hAthfhionnachtana – Lárionad Náisiúnta na hÉireann don Gheilleagar Ciorclach. Sa lárionad seo tugtar le chéile in aon ionad amháin scileanna agus saíneolas ealaíontóirí, eolaithe, dearthóirí agus ceardaithe, agus iad ceangailte le chéile ag cuspóir comhchoiteann na hinbhuanaitheachta.
- CIRCULÉIRE – Is é atá san Ardán Náisiúnta um Dhéantúsaíocht Chiorclach ná comhpháirtíocht phoiblí-phríobháideach thionscalteoraithe a oibríonn le déantúsóirí na hÉireann chun a samhlacha gnó a fhorbairt nó go ndéanfar múnlaí ciorclacha seachas múnlaí líneacha díobh agus úsáid á baint as tagarmharcáil, iniúchóireacht agus tionscadail nuála. Cuireadh maoiniú ar fáil ar mhaithe le cúig thionscadal in 2021.
- Lean Líonra Coiscthe na nÚdarás Áitiúil de chabhair theicniúil a chur ar fáil, chomh maith le maoiniú le haghaidh éifeachtúlacht acmhainne agus cosc dramhaíola a chur chun cinn ag leibhéal na gcontaetha. Cuireadh maoiniú ar fáil ar fud 16 n-údarás áitiúil in 2021 ar mhaithe le tabhairt faoi thionscadail a thacaíonn le hathúsáid agus a spreagann deisiú, ag laghdú an úsáid a bhaintear as earraí aon úsáide.
- Is gníomhaireacht Stáit í SOLAS a bhfuil cúram uirthi earnáil Breisoideachais agus Oiliúna na hÉireann a fhorbairt. Tá an GCC ag obair le SOLAS agus le heagraíochtaí eile ar mhaithe le deiseanna oiliúna i dtaca le Scileanna Glasa a fhorbairt. Bhí béim a gcuid oibre in 2021 ar chlár oiliúna a fhorbairt i dtaca le hinbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil san Ionad Oibre agus Feasacht ar Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil ar mhaithe le Foghlaimoírí Breisoideachais agus Oiliúna.



## Deireadh a Chur le Cur Amú Bia

Is fadhb mhór ar fud na tíre agus an AE é an Cur Amú Bia – i dtéarmaí cosc ar dhramhaíl agus athrú aeráide araon. An GCC atá i gceannas ar iarrachtaí Éireann maidir le cosc ar chur amú bia, agus bíonn sí ag díriú ar ghealltanas na hÉireann a chomhlíonadh chun an cur amú bia a laghdú 50% faoi 2030. Chun é sin a bhaint amach, beidh athrú meoin ag teastáil i measc an phobail, chomh maith le hathrú ar ár n-íompraíocht i dtaca le bia; agus beidh freagairt láidir de dhíth freisin feadh gach céim den slabhra soláthair bia.

Leanann feachtas ‘Cuir Stop le Cur Amú an Bhia’ de chuid na GCC ag idirghníomhú le pobail agus cumarsáid fianaisebhunaithe á cur i bhfeidhm aici. Léiríodh suim

shuntasach san ábhar seo ar na meáin shóisialta le linn 2021. Rinneadh nuashonrú ar shuirbhé náisiúnta 2020 maidir le hiompar agus dearcaí ar chur amú bia le linn 2021. Déanfar aiseolas a úsáid ar mhaithe le spriocphobail agus príomhtheachtaireachtaí a aithint, agus ar mhaithe le héifeachtacht ghníomhaíochtaí an chláir a mheas. Tugadh faoi thionscadal ar mhaithe le modheolaíocht a fhorbairt chun comhdhéanamh na dramhaíola bia teaghlaigh a thomhas agus leanadh chomh maith ag cabhrú le cosc a chur ar chur amú an bhia sna hearnálacha seirbhísí fáilteachais agus bia. Ar na gníomhartha tosaigh beidh an bhéim ar modheolaíocht chaighdeánaithe tomhais a chur ar fáil agus ar uirlisí agus acmhainní a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le huasóiliúint i dtaca le gníomhú ar chosc ar chur amú bia san earnáil.







# 5

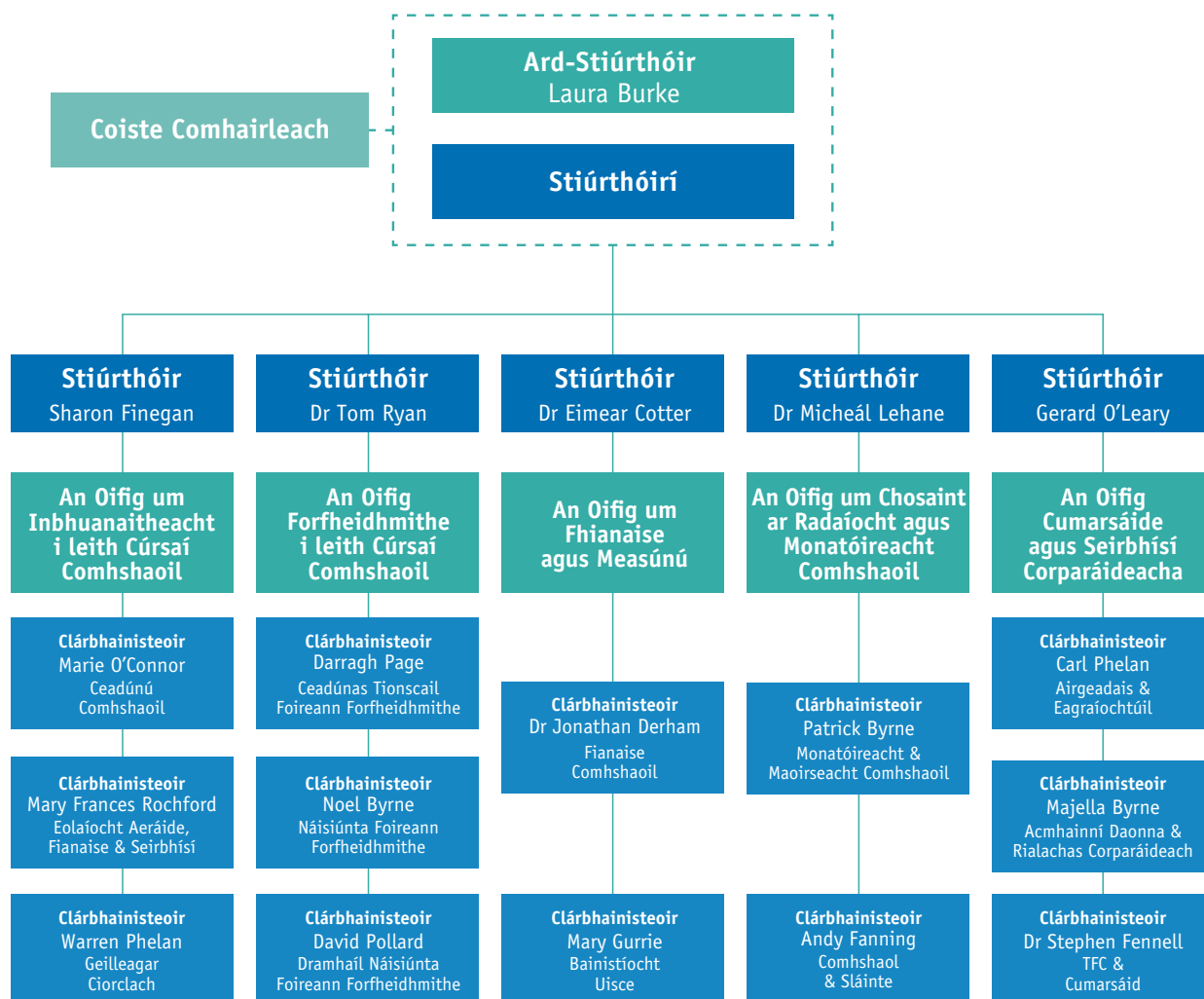
Forbróimid ár mbaill foirne agus déanfaimid ár n-eagraíocht a ailíniú chun torthaí den scoth don chomhshaoil a sheachadadh, agus chuige sin, díreoimid ar fhorbairt agus ar chur chun cinn sláinte, folláine agus sábháilteacht eagraíochta ag an obair, agus cothóimid cultúr ceannaireachta, athchóirithe agus nuálaíochta.





# 5 FEABHAS NA HEAGRAÍOCHTA

## 5.1 STRUCHTÚR NA HEAGRAÍOCHTA



## 5.2 COISTÍ BOIRD AGUS COMHAIRLIÚCHÁIN

### Bord Stiúrthóirí na GCC



Sa phictiúr (ó chlé go deas): An Dr Micheál Lehane (Stiúrthóir, an Oifig um Chosaint Radaíochta agus Monatóireacht Chomhshaoil), an tUasal Gerard O'Leary (Stiúrthóir, an Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha), Ms Laura Burke (Ard-Stiúrthóir), an Dr Tom Ryan (Stiúrthóir, an Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil), an Dr Eimear Cotter (Stiúrthóir, an Oifig um Fhianaise agus Mheasúnú) agus Ms Sharon Finegan (Stiúrthóir, an Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil).



Cailleadh an Dr Ciara McMahon ar an 15 Eanáir 2021 agus tháinig Ms Sharon Finegan i gcomharba uirthi ar an mBord.

### Cruinnithe boird

Tá seisear Stiúrthóirí Feidhmiúcháin lánaimseartha ar Bhord na GCC. Tionóladh 51 cruinniú den Bhord in 2021 ar an iomlán: 12 chruinniú ginearálta inar pléadh ceisteanna a bhain le beartas corparáideach, rialachas, straitéis, airgeadas agus pleanáil, chomh maith le 39 cruinniú teicniúil inar pléadh iarratais ar cheadúnais, ionchúisimh agus ceisteanna oibríochta.

### Coiste Comhairleach na GCC

Cabhraíonn Coiste Comhairleach leis an GCC, ag a bhfuil téarma oifige trí bliana. Is eagraíochtaí forordaithe a dhéanann na 12 bhall a ainmniú, agus is é an tAire Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide a cheapann iad. Bíonn Ard-Stiúrthóir na GCC ina bhall agus ina Chathaoirleach ar an gCoiste de bhrí oifige. Ceapadh naoi mball nua ar an gCoiste an 18 Feabhra 2021, de bhreis ar an mbeirt bhall nua a ceapadh ar an gCoiste ar an 1 Iúil 2019. Tá réimse leathan feidhmeanna comhairleacha ag an gCoiste Comhairleach, lena n-áirítear moltaí a dhéanamh don GCC agus/nó don Aire.

### Bail ceaptha ó chomhlachtaí forordaithe

An tOllamh John Wenger

(ainmnithe ag Institiúid Ceimice na hÉireann)

An tOllamh Frances Lucy

(ainmnithe ag Cumann Eolaíochtaí Comhshaoil na hÉireann)

Ms Sadhbh O'Neil

(ainmnithe ag Líonra Comhshaoil na hÉireann)

An tUasal Thomas Cooney

(ainmnithe ag Feirmeoirí Aontaithe na hÉireann)

An Dr Brendan Dunford

(ainmnithe ag Oidhreacht Éireann)

Ms Elaine Mahon

(ainmnithe ag The Wheel)

An Dr Laure Marignol

(ainmnithe ag Cumann Taighde Radaíochta na hÉireann) a ceapadh ar an 1 Iúil 2019

## Baill Ceaptha ag an Aire

Ms Yvonne Mullooly

Ms Elaine Nevin

An Dr Aoife Foley

Ms Aebhin Cawley, a ceapadh ar an 1 Iúil 2019

## Cathaoirleach

Ms Laura Burke, Ard-Stiúrthóir, GCC

## Coistí Comhairleacha Eile

### An Coiste Comhairleach um Dhumpáil ar Muir

Reáchtáladh cruinniú amháin den Choiste Comhairleach um Dhumpáil ar Muir (2020-2023) in 2021 agus cuireadh baill an Choiste ar an eolas faoin Acht nua um Dhumpáil ar Muir (Alt 5(12)) (Tosach Feidhme) 2021 (I.R. 92 de 2021) i dtaca le suiteálacha amach ón gcósta, agus phléigh siad é, acht a tháinig i bhfeidhm ar an 1 Aibreán 2021. Cuireann sé seo ar chumas na GCC ceadúnas lena n-údaraitear suiteáil amach ón gcósta a dhiúscairt ar muir, a bhronnadh, nó diúltú é a bhronnadh, de réir fhorálacha an Achta. Tugadh cuireadh do bhaill an Choiste faisnéis a chomhroinnt i dtaca le díchoimisíúinú suiteálacha amach ón gcósta agus le rialú an díchoimisíúnaithe sin i ndlínsí eile. Tugadh cuireadh do na baill chomh maith barúlacha nó tuairimí a chur isteach maidir le hiarratais ar cheadúnais agus ar leasú a bhí idir lámha.

## An Coiste Comhairleach ar Orgánaigh Ghéinmhodhnaithe

Chuaigh an GCC i gcomhairle leis an 9ú Coiste Comhairleach ar Orgánaigh Ghéinmhodhnaithe (2020-2023) i ndáil leis na rudaí seo a leanas in 2021:

- Trí fhógra um údarú margaióchta a fuarthas ón nGníomhaireacht Leigheasra Eorpach maidir le táirgí leighis do dhaoine ina bhfuil orgánaigh ghéinmhodhnaithe nó atá déanta as orgánaigh ghéinmhodhnaithe,
- Measúnuithe riosca a fuarthas maidir le fógra i dtaca le húsáid shrianta de mhicrorgánach géinmhodhnaithe d'Aicme 3, agus
- Fógra faoi thriail chliniciúil ghéinmhodhnaithe.

Tionóladh cruinniú den Choiste Comhairleach ar Orgánaigh Ghéinmhodhnaithe le linn mhí na Nollag 2021, áit inar cuireadh torthaí athbhreithnithe sheachtraigh ar an bpróiseas ceadúnaithe d'orgánaigh ghéinmhodhnaithe i láthair, agus inar pléadh iad. Rinneadh na buan-orduithe a bhí ann cheana féin a nuashonrú agus cuireadh faoi bhráid bhaill an Choiste Chomhairligh iad agus rinneadh iad a chomhaontú, le linn an chruinnithe.

## An Coiste Comhairleach um Shláinte

Bunaíodh an Coiste Comhairleach Sláinte in 2011 chun comhairle a chur ar an GCC agus cabhrú léi i ndáil le himpleachtaí sláinte poiblí aon chúrsaí a bhaineann le cosaint an chomhshaoil. Tá ionadaithe ar an gcoiste ó chomhlachtaí poiblí a bhíonn ag obair ar cheisteanna comhshaoil agus sláinte, lena n-áirítear Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, an tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta, an Bord Taighde Sláinte, an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, an Roinn Sláinte, an Bord Pleanála, Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann, an tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte, an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht agus Cumann na mBainisteoirí Cathrach agus Contae. Bhuail an coiste le chéile uair amháin le linn 2021 agus áiríodh ar na hábhair a scrúdaíodh, an léarscáil nuashonraithe radóin, taighde maidir le héifeacht na n-umar éighníomhach agus obair na GCC i dtaca le ceimiceáin sa chomhshaoil.

## An Coiste Comhairleach um Chosaint Raideolaíoch

Bunaíodh an dara Coiste Comhairleach um Chosaint Raideolaíoch in 2019 le haghaidh téarma oifige trí bliana. Tá 16 mball ar an gCoiste, iad ainmnithe ag eagraíochtaí a bhfuil an saineolas ábhartha acu i dtaca le feidhmeanna cosanta raideolaíocha na GCC. De dheasca shrianta COVID-19, ní raibh deis ag an gcoiste bualadh le chéile ach aon uair amháin in 2021, áit ar ndearnadh na rudaí seo a leanas a mheas: trialacha allamuigh i dtaca le héifeacht na n-umar éighníomhach i dtithe cónaithe na hÉireann torthaí an tsuirbhé ar líne maidir le meon an phobail ar radaíocht in Éirinn; agus Misean Artemis go hÉirinn.

## 5.3 ACMHAINNÍ DAONNA

Chuir an GCC le tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha Acmhainní Daonna agus gníomhaíochtaí i dtaca le Cláir Oibre le linn 2021. Lean sí de thacaíocht a chur ar fáil agus de chomhairle agus treoir maidir le sláinte phoiblí a chur i bhfeidhm ar mhaithe le sábháilteacht, sláinte agus leas na mball foirne a chosaint le linn phaindéim COVID-19. Díríodh go háirithe ar fholláine na mball foirne agus ainmníodh an GCC in innéacs IBEC agus Business & Finance nua-bhunaithe: ‘Leading in Wellbeing – Top 100 Companies’ (Chun tosaigh maidir le Folláine – An 100 Cuideachta is Fearr) 2021.

### Earcaíocht

Léiríodh ardleibhéal suime sna 31 post a d’fhógair an GCC le linn 2021. Bhain cuid mhaith dúshlán leis an bpróiseas earcaíochta de dheasca shrianta COVID-19 agus rinneadh agallaimh ar líne agus cuireadh ionduchtú fíorúil ar fáil ar mhaithe le baill foirne nua.

Faoi dheireadh na bliana, bhí líon ceadaithe ball foirne de 448 ag an GCC (lena n-áirítear 28 post nua a ceadaíodh in 2021), a raibh 173 díobh lonnaithe sa Cheannoifig i Loch Garman, agus 125 sa Chigireacht Réigiúnach i mBaile Átha Cliath, agus gach duine eile lonnaithe i gceithre Chigireacht Réigiúnacha eile agus in dhá Oifig Hidriméadrachta ar fud na tíre.

### Intéirneachtaí agus Socrúcháin

Lean an GCC dá rannpháirtíocht i réimse leathan institiúidí oideachais tríú leibhéal faoi chlár intéirneachta le go mbeidh deis ag mic léinn oibriú leis an GCC agus taithe agus saineolas a fháil. Tugadh cúig n-intéirneacht déag agus aon shocrúchán déag mic léinn chun críche le linn 2021.

### Ceannaireacht láidir

Tá an Líonra Bainistíochta Sinsearaí, a chuimsíonn gach Stiúrthóir agus Clárghainisteoir, i bhfeidhm ó bhí 2014 ann, agus buaileann sé le chéile sé huair in aghaidh na bliana ar a laghad. In 2021, bhuaíl an líonra le chéile ocht n-uair. Tá ról maoirseachta ag an líonra i ndáil le cur i bhfeidhm Spriocanna Straitéiseacha na GCC, agus chun go mbeadh sé ina n-eiseamláir, taispeánann sé go gníomhach cén chaoi a gcuireann sé tréithe cultúrtha na GCC i bhfeidhm sa saol laethúil: “Comhoibríoch”, “Tacúil” agus “Diongbháilte” i ngach ceann dá bhearta agus ina phlé le baill foirne. Le linn 2021, dhírigh an líonra ar Phlean Straitéiseach Corparáide nua cúig bliana a fhorbairt. Ina theannta sin, ghlac an líonra páirt in athbhreithniú ar chóras bainistíochta agus forbartha feidhmíochta agus socruithe ullmhachta éigeandála na GCC. Chomh maith leis sin, lean sé le ceannaireacht bainistíochta sinsearaí a fhorbairt agus a thacú ar fud na GCC.

### Comhpháirtíocht

Lean Meitheal, Coiste Comhpháirtíochta na GCC, le linn 2021, ag cinntiú go raibh cur chuige comhoibríoch ann ar mhaithe le hionad oibre níos táirgiúla agus níos nuálaí a chruthú. Tá rithábhacht ag baint le cultúr atá comhoibríoch ar mhaithe le cuspóirí na GCC a bhaint amach, .i. ionad oibre atá dírithe ar chustaiméirí, a fhreagraíonn do riachtanais fostaithe agus atá éagsúil go réamhghníomhach. Lean Meitheal go fóill lena chuid tacaíochta do rannpháirteachas na GCC le Junior Achievement Ireland agus le tionscnaimh fhor-rochtana eile agus le himeachtaí ina raibh baill foirne rannpháirteach.

### Sábháilteacht, sláinte agus leas ag an obair

Tuigeann an GCC go bhfuil sábháilteacht, sláinte agus leas ina riachtanais bhunúsacha dá cuid oibríochtaí. I ndáil leis sin, is é polasaí na GCC a gnó a dhéanamh ar bhealach a dhéanann sábháilteacht, sláinte agus leas a chosaint do bhaill foirne, cuairteoirí, conraitheoirí agus daoine den phobal a mbeadh baint acu le gníomhaíochtaí na GCC. Soláthraíonn an GCC áit oibre shábháilte agus córas oibre sábháilte dá cuid ball foirne, chomh fada agus is féidir go praiticiúil, i gcomhréir leis an Acht um Shábháilteacht, Sláinte agus Leas ag an Obair, 2005 agus na rialacháin ghaolmhara.



## 5.4 TEICNEOLAÍOCHT FAISNÉISE AGUS CUMARSÁIDE

Leagtar amach i straitéis chorparáideach na GCC an mhian atá san eagraíocht an cumas agus an úsáid a bhaintear as Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide (TFC) a fheabhsú chun tacú le hathchóiriú agus nuálaíocht. Maoirsíonn fochoiste an Bhoird rialachas agus treoir straitéiseach an athraithe TFC-chumasaithe. Ó thaobh infheistíocht TFC de, tá tús áite ag réimsí amhail soláthar faisnéise, bainistíocht sonraí, seirbhísí ar líne agus comhroinnte, slándáil, teicneolaíochtaí ar thús cadhnaíochta, agus cumais TFC inmheánacha a fhorbairt.

### Slándáil faisnéise

Is príomhshócmhainn de chuid na GCC an fhaisnéis. Tá cosaint a chur ar fáil maidir le faisnéis, teicneolaíochtaí agus feidhmchláir na GCC criticiúil chun cur ar chumas na GCC leanúint ag comhlíonadh a cuid feidhmeanna. Taobh istigh den GCC, clúdaíonn cleachtais um shlándáil faisnéise trí phríomhchuid: rúndacht, ionracas agus infhaighteacht. Dá réir sin, tá beartais agus teicneolaíochtaí tugtha isteach ag an GCC le cúpla bliain anuas chun a sócmhainní a chosaint agus chun freastal ar na héilimh sa réimse slándála faisnéise, atá ag síorfhás. Déantar athbhreithniú orthu siúd go tráthrialta.

In 2021 d'éirigh leis an GCC gach gníomh a thabhairt chun críche go sásúil, a d'éascair as iniúchadh a rinneadh ar a Faisnéis Slándála TFC, a cuireadh i bhfeidhm de réir chaighdeán idirnáisiúnta dian ISO 27001 in 2020. Neartaíonn na bearta, a cuireadh i bhfeidhm chun tabhairt faoi na gníomhartha seo, athléimneacht na GCC i gcoinne cibirionsaithe a d'fhéadfadh titim amach.

Tharla cibirionsaithe suntasacha rathúla in Éirinn agus ar fud an domhain araon in 2021. D'oibrigh an GCC go dlúth leis an Lárionad Náisiúnta Cibearshlándála le linn na bliana ar mhaithe lena cuid cosaintí a neartú agus d'éirigh léi treoir an lárionaid i dtaca le cibirimeachtaí suntasacha agus cibearfholáirimh a chur i bhfeidhm le linn na bliana, lena n-áirítear cibirionsaí ar Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte i mí na Bealtaine agus leochaileacht 'Apache Log4j' domhanda i mí na Nollag.

### Córais agus teicneolaíochtaí nua TFC

Tá athrú agus feabhas ag teacht ar theicneolaíochtaí faisnéise agus cumarsáide an t-am ar fad. Déanann an GCC iarracht a bheith cothrom le dáta leis an gcleachtas is fearr in TFC; le cinntiú go ndéanfar na roghanna teicniúla is fearr, leis an úsáid is mó a bhaint as an teicneolaíocht nua, agus le cinntiú go mbainfear luach ar airgead amach in infheistíochtaí TFC.

Cuireadh obair shuntasach i gcrích in 2021 le teicneolaíochtaí cumarsáide nua a chur in ionad na sean-teicneolaíochtaí cumarsáide agus leis na seirbhísí TFC a d'úsáideadh baill foirne agus conraitheoirí GCC a fheabhsú. Chinntigh rath na dtionscnamh go raibh baill foirne agus conraitheoirí in ann leanúint ar aghaidh go fóill ag tabhairt faoi chianobair, rud a bhí riachtanach de dheasca shrianta COVID-19.

Dhírigh an GCC a haird i rith na bliana chomh maith ar obair ullmhúcháin ar mhaithe le feidhmchláir inmheánacha sa 'Cloud' a fhorbairt a chuirfidh seirbhísí níos fearr, níos sláine, agus níos athléimní ar fáil d'fhoirne ar fud na GCC.



## 5.5 CÓRAS BAINISTÍOCHTA COMHSHAOIL

Tá an GCC tiomanta do cheannaireacht a thabhairt le dea-shampla agus do bhainistíocht agus cleachtas maith comhshaoil a ionchorprú inár ngníomhaíochtaí laethúla. Cuireann an GCC Córas Bainistíochta Comhshaoil, atá deimhnithe de réir chaighdeán idirnáisiúnta ISO 14001:2015, i bhfeidhm. Tá sé mar sprioc ag an GCC an tionchar comhshaoil atá ag gníomhaíochtaí a laghdú, agus an caighdeán seo i bhfeidhm aici, chun na rudaí seo a leanas a bhaint amach: feabhsúchán leanúnach comhshaoil, cosc ar thruailliú, tomhas agus laghdú ar astaíochtaí gás cheaptha teasa, oiriúnú don athrú aeráide agus spreagadh feasacht i leith an chomhshaoil taobh istigh den eagraíocht.

### Forléargas fuinnimh

D'éirigh go han-mhaith leis an GCC coigilteas éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh eárnála poiblí a bhaint amach mar atá leagtha amach sa Phlean Náisiúnta Gníomhaíochta um Éifeachtúlacht Fuinnimh, rud a laghdaigh an t-éileamh ar fhuinneamh níos mó ná 50% ó bhí 2006 ann. Leanann an GCC ag cur leis an rath seo agus clár uailmhianach aici ar mhaithe le breis laghdaithe a chur le héileamh fuinnimh agus modhanna níos éifeachtaí a chur i gcrích chun fuinneamh a bhainistiú ar fud láithreáin uile na GCC. Tá rithabhacht ag baint le monatóireacht ar úsáid fuinnimh i dtaca le rath na hoibre go dtí seo. Thug an GCC faoi iniúchtaí fuinnimh beachta ar gach láithreán dá cuid in 2021 agus beidh torthaí na hiniúchtaí seo mar bhonn eolais do bheart fuinnimh uailmhianach a chuirfidh tuilleadh feabhais ar sholáthar agus inbhuanaitheacht fuinnimh, ar aon dul leis an bPlean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide. Leanann an GCC ag cur feabhais ar éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a cuid foirgneamh agus í ag tabhairt faoi infheistíocht i dtaca le réitigh teasa inathnuaite, córais éifeachtúla foirgnimh amhail soilsiú LED agus féinghiniúint leictreachais ag baint úsáid as PV Gréine. Tá feabhas curtha ag an GCC ar a flít iompair chomh maith, agus aistriú déanta go feithiclí leictreacha agus feithiclí hibrideacha, agus pointí luchtaithe feithiclí leictreacha suiteáilte ag a láithreáin oifige go léir.

Baineann an GCC leas as foinsí fuinnimh éagsúla chun a fhoirgnimh a chumhachtú agus a théamh. Ar na foinsí a úsáidtear, tá bithmhais, gás nádúrtha, fuinneamh gréine teirmeach, fuinneamh fótavoltach (PV), gás bithpheitriam (Bio-LPG), ceirisín agus leictreachas (teaschaidéil aer go huisce). Ceannaítear leictreachas anois ó fhoinsí atá céad faoin gcéad inathnuaite. Baintear leas as díosal chun gineadóirí cultaca a chumhachtú.

Áirítear le Plean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide Éireann laghduithe agus athruithe uailmhianacha maidir le húsáid fuinnimh trí chonair dhícharbónaithe, agus dáiríre tá GCC iomlán réidh le leanúint de charbón agus d'fhuinneamh a laghdú trí thuilleadh feabhsúchán a dhéanamh, mar shampla, nuashonrú soilsithe trí LED a úsáid atá tíosach ar fhuinneamh, úsáid fuinneamh gréine fhótavoltaigh a mhéadú, agus fócas leantach ar a astaíochtaí carbóin.

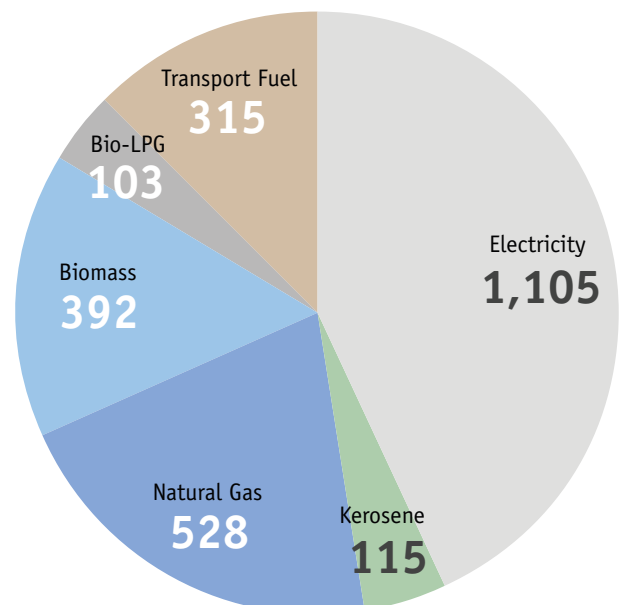
### Úsáid fuinnimh

An chuid is mó d'éileamh fuinnimh na GCC, baineann sé le téamh spáis, soilsiú, cumhacht, uisce te agus iompar. In 2021, ba é 2595 meigeavatuair (MWh) ídiú iomlán fuinnimh na GCC (Fíor 12), a léiríonn laghdú 2.4% san iomlán i rith na tréimhse 2020 go dtí 2021.

Tháinig laghdú 7% ar ár bhfoinse fuinnimh is mó, an leictreachas, i rith na tréimhse sin, laghduithe a tharla tar éis feabhsúcháin foirgnimh amhail uasghrádú soilsithe LED. Rud eile a raibh tionchar aige ar chúrsaí ná níos lú daoine a bheith in oifigí in 2021 mar gheall ar COVID-19. Tháinig laghdú 16% ar ár bhfuinneamh teirmeach mar thoradh, go príomha, ar áitíocht laghdaithe inár bhfoirgnimh. Tháinig laghdú 23% ar ár nIompar Flít mar thoradh, go príomha, ar ghníomhaíocht laghdaithe mar gheall ar na srianta COVID-19 i rith 2021.

I gcomparáid le 2019 (Roimh-Covid) tháinig laghdú 12% in 2021 ar éileamh uile fuinnimh na GCC, teas san áireamh.

Fíor 12. Úsáid fuinnimh na GCC (MW h) 2021



## 5.6 RIALACHAS

### Rialachas corparáideach

Tá ríthábhacht ag baint leis an rialachas corparáideach don GCC i dtaobh a sainchúram reachtúil a chomhlíonadh go héifeachtach. Déanann an rialachas corparáideach a chinntiú go bhfuil creatlach struchtúr agus próiseas ann a fhágann gur féidir le baill an Bhoird measúnú a dhéanamh ar an mbainistíocht agus ar fheidhmíocht chorparáideach, agus san am céanna a chinntiú go gcomhlíonann na baill a gcuid freagrachtaí rialachais féin go hoibiachtúil agus go héifeachtach. Is é polasaí na GCC oibleagáidí rialachais agus freagrachta a chomhlíonadh ina n-iomláine agus an dea-chleachtas a leanúint agus é sin á dhéanamh.

Tá an Cód Cleachtais chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú 2016 (an Cód) riachtanach do gach Comhlacht Stáit agus tháinig sé i bhfeidhm ar an 1 Meán Fómhair 2016. Le linn 2021, lean an GCC de riachtanais rialachais a chur i bhfeidhm agus a chomhlíonadh i dtaca leis an gCód. Tá Aonad Rialachais Chorparáidigh i bhfeidhm agus tá sé freagrach as maoirseacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm agus ar chomhlíonadh an Chóid.

De réir na riachtanas a eascraíonn as larscríbhinn an Chóid maidir le Cothromaíocht Inscne, Éagsúlacht agus Ionchuimsiú, moltar go léireofaí ionadaíocht 40% de mhná agus fhir ar Bhoird Stáit. Ar an 31 Nollaig 2021, bhí cothromaíocht inscne de 50% baineann agus 50% fireann ar Bhord na GCC.

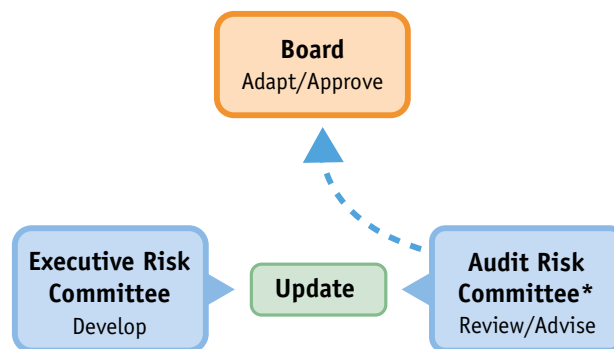
### Bainistíocht riosca

Tá an GCC tiomanta dá rioscaí a bhainistiú agus tá creat bainistíochta ar rioscaí i bhfeidhm a dhéanann na forálacha atá sa Chód Cleachtais chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a rialú a chomhlíonadh.

Cheadaigh an Bord Beartas Bainistíochta Riosca na GCC in 2018. Tá Coiste Feidhmiúcháin Riosca ann (a ndéanann an Príomhoifigeach Riosca cathaoirleacht air) ar a bhfuil beirt Stiúrthóirí agus cúigear Clárghainisteoirí. Chomh maith leis sin, tá Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca ann ar a bhfuil seisear baill sheachtracha agus bainisteoir sinsearach amháin ón GCC. Tá freagracht ar an gCoiste Feidhmiúcháin Riosca agus ar an gCoiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca, i dteannta a chéile, as dearbhú a thabhairt do Bhord na GCC agus comhairle a chur air faoi bhainistíocht riosca (féach Fíor 13). Bíonn cruinnithe rialta ag an gCoiste Feidhmiúcháin Riosca agus tháinig na baill le chéile ceithre huair in 2021. Bíonn cruinnithe rialta ag an gCoiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca agus tháinig na baill le chéile cúig huair in 2021. Is buanmhír í Bainistíocht Riosca ag cruinnithe an Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca.

Aithníonn an Clár Rioscaí Corparáideacha na rioscaí lárnacha atá os comhair na GCC agus tugtar sonraí ann faoi na rialuithe agus na gníomhartha is gá chun rioscaí a mhaolú nuair a thugtar freagracht do bhaill foirne sonracha as oibriú rialuithe dá leithéid. Déanann an Coiste Feidhmiúcháin Riosca monatóireacht, cothabháil agus tuairisciú ar an gClár Rioscaí Corparáideacha, déanann an Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca é a athbhreithniú agus cuirtear faoi bhráid Bhord na GCC é lena fhaomhadh.

**Fíor 13.** Caidreamh idir an Coiste Feidhmiúcháin Riosca, an Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca agus Bord na GCC



\*External independent advisory role constituted in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Rinne an GCC measúnú ar rioscaí na GCC trí úsáid a bhaint as na próisis atá leagtha amach ina Beartas Bainistíochta Riosca. Déantar achoimre ar na príomhrioscaí a ndearna an EPA bainistíocht orthu in 2021 i dTábla 10:

**Tábla 10.** Achoimre ar Rioscaí

Líon.	Riosca	Rialuithe
1	An riosca atá ann do Shláinte, Sábháilteacht agus Leas ár mball foirne agus do chumas na GCC a cuid feidhmeanna a chomhlíonadh.	D'fhán Foireann Freagartha Paindéime na GCC i bhfeidhm chun freagairt na Gníomhaireachta do COVID-19 a chomhordú. Mar gheall ar chomhairle sláinte poiblí agus bearta sábháilteachta, thug an chuid is mó de bhaill foirne na GCC faoi chianobair agus obair fhíorúil. Tugadh faoi athbhreithnithe sábháilteachta réamhghníomhacha i réimsí ina raibh rioscaí féideartha, agus sainaitníodh bearta le cur i gcrích ina dhiaidh sin. Forbraíodh prótacail chun sábháilteacht, sláinte agus leas fhoireann, chonraitheoirí, cheadúnaithe, chustaiméirí agus pháirtithe leasmhara na GCC a chosaint, ionas go ndéanfaí an cur isteach a rinne COVID-19 ar obair na GCC a theorannú.
2	An riosca go ndéanfar cibirionsaí slándála rathúil ar ár gcórais TFC	Bíonn an GCC ag plé i gcónaí leis an Lárionad Náisiúnta Cibearshlándála sa Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide maidir le nithe a bhaineann leis an gcibearshlándáil. Tá Oifigeach Cibearshlándála ag an GCC agus tá rochtain aici chomh maith ar chomhairle agus seirbhísí slándála faisnéise ó dhíoltóirí seachtach. Lena hais sin, cuireann an Gníomhaireacht Beartas agus Nósanna Imeachta Slándála na Teicneolaíochta Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide i bhfeidhm agus déanann sí infheistíocht leanúnach san oiliúint agus i gcosaintí slándála a nuashonrú.

### Iníúcháireacht inmheánach

Le linn 2021, cuireadh an clár inmheánach iníúcháireachta chun cinn go gníomhach agus cuireadh moltaí ó iníúchtaí roimhe sin i bhfeidhm. I gcomhréir leis an gCód, rinneadh athbhreithniú ar éifeachtacht an Choiste Iníúcháireachta agus Riosca in 2021.

Cuireadh na hiniúchtaí seo a leanas i gcrích in 2021:

- Iníúchadh Inmheánach ar Bhainistíocht Comhlíonta (Reachtaíocht Corparáide) 2021
- Athbhreithniú ar Bhainistíocht agus Comhlíonadh Bheartas Urraíochta na GCC
- Athbhreithniú ar Nósanna Imeachta an Chláir um Cheadúnú Comhshaoil
- Athbhreithniú ar Rialuithe Airgeadais Inmheánacha 2021.

### Plean Straitéiseach

Tugadh Plean Straitéiseach cúig bliana 2016-2020 na GCC (*Ár gComhshaoil – Ár bhFolláine*) chun críche ag deireadh 2020. Cé gur cuireadh tús le Plean nua a fhorbairt in 2020, bhain moilleanna suntasacha leis an tionscadal de dheasca shrianta COVID-19. De thoradh na moille seo, cuireadh síneadh ama bliana amháin le Plean 2016-2020. Bhí na cúig sprioc straitéiseacha a leagadh amach sa phlean ábhartha go fóill agus threoraigh siad obair na GCC le linn 2021:

- Gur Rialtóir Iontaofa Comhshaoil é
- Gur Ceannaire sa Réimse Fianaise agus Eolas Comhshaoil é
- Gur Urlabhraí agus Comhpháirtí Éifeachtach é
- A bheith in ann Freagairt do Príomhdhúshláin Chomhshaoil
- Feabhas na hEagraíochta

Cuireadh tús in athuair leis an obair in 2021 chun Plean nua cúig bliana a fhorbairt, faoi cheannasaíocht an Líonra Bainistíochta Sinsearaí, agus rinne Bord na GCC dréachtphlean a cheadú don chomhairliúchán poiblí go luath in 2022.

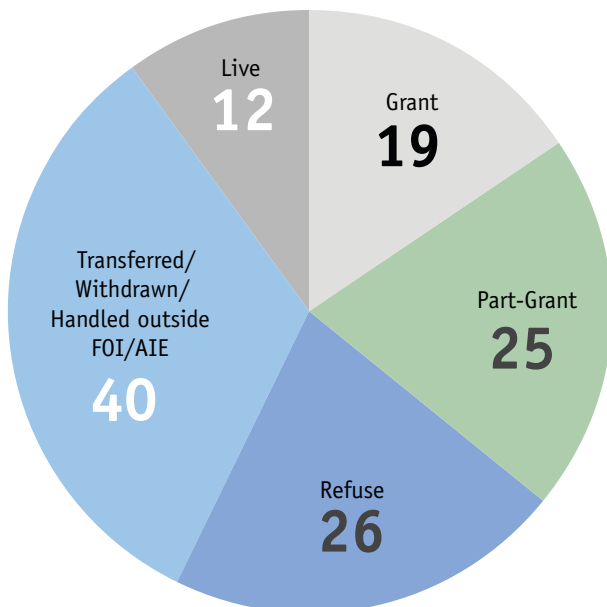


## Rochtain ar fhaisnéis

Tá an GCC tiomanta do bheith ina eagraíocht oscailte agus inrochtana. Tá dhá mhodh ar fáil do dhaoine den phobal nach bhfuil ábalta teacht ar an bhfaisnéis atá de dhíth orthu ar bhealaí eile go dtí seo: an tAcht um Shaoráil Faisnéise, 2014, arna leasú, agus na Rialacháin maidir le Rochtain ar Fhaisnéis ar an gComhshaoil. Foilsíonn an GCC an méid faisnéise agus is féidir ar bhealach oscailte agus inrochtana, ar bhonn rialta, lasmuigh den tSaoráil Faisnéise, ar mhaithe le hoscailteacht, trédhearcacht agus freagracht. Dá réir sin, ceadáítear taifid a fhoilsiú nó a thabhairt lasmuigh den phróiseas saorála faisnéise, chomh fada is nach bhfuil cosc ar fhoilseachán nó ar bhronnadh rochtana de réir dlí.

Le linn 2021, fuair an GCC 60 iarratas saorála faisnéise agus bhí ocht gcinn eile a tugadh ar aghaidh ó 2020. Faoi na Rialacháin maidir le Rochtain ar Fhaisnéis ar an gComhshaoil, fuair an GCC 52 iarratas agus tugadh ceann amháin ar aghaidh ó 2020. I bhFíor 14, léirítear na Cinntí a eisíodh bunaithe ar na hiarratais a próiseáladh le linn 2021. I gcás gur diúltaíodh d'iarratais, bhí an fhaisnéis a diúltaíodh di: pearsanta; gan a bheith ina fhaisnéis chomhshaoil; curtha le chéile ar bhealach róginearálta; gan a bheith i seilbh na GCC; ina fhaisnéis a bhféadfadh dochar a dhéanamh d'ionchúiseamh; in easnamh; nó na hiarratais iomarcach nó míréasúnta go follasach.

Fíor 14. Cinntí gaolmhara Eanáir go Nollaig 2021



## Nochtuithe cosanta

De réir Alt 22 den Acht um Nochtadh Cosanta 2014 tá sé ina cheangal tuarascáil bhliantúil a fhoilsiú a bhaineann le líon na nochtuithe cosanta a rinneadh sa bhliain roimhe agus aon bhearta a glacadh mar fhreagra ar na nochtuithe sin.

Deimhníonn an GCC go ndearnadh nochtadh faisnéise amháin don GCC mar fhostóir, faoi Alt 6 den Acht, in 2021.

Fuair Ard-Stiúrthóir na GCC ocht nochtadh ó pháirtithe seachtracha le linn na bliana, i gcomhthéacs an róil atá aici mar Dhuine Forordaithe maidir le héagóracha ábhartha a nochtadh i ngach ní a bhaineann le cosaint an chomhshaoil sa Stát.







# 6

## Aguisíní





## 6 AGUISÍNÍ

### 6.1 AN TACHT UM ÍOC PRAS CUNTAS 1997

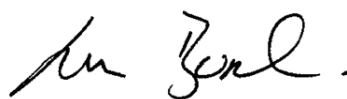
Tagann an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil faoi chúram an Achta um Íoc Pras Cuntas 1997, arna leasú ag Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Íocaíochtaí Déanacha in Idirbhearta Tráchtála) 2002.

Is é beartas an GCC ná féachaint chuige go n-íoctar gach sonrasc go pras. Cuireadh córais agus nósanna imeachta ar leith i bhfeidhm le go bhféadfaí sonraisc a thaifeadh agus lena chinntiú go ndéanfaí íocaíochtaí roimh an dáta dlite. Déantar sonraisc cheannaigh a thaifeadh ar bhonn laethúil i Rannóg na gCuntas, agus fiosraítear iad go córasach lena chinntiú go ndeimhnítear lena n-íoc iad gan mhoill. Eisítear íocaíochtaí de réir mar is gá chun íoc pras a chinntiú.

Tá na srianta seo leagtha amach ar mhaithe le cinnteacht réasúnta, ach ní iomlán, a sholáthar i gcoinne neamhchomhlíonadh ábhartha an Achta.

Bhí íocaíocht dhéanach amháin le luach os cionn €317 le linn 2021 agus ba sárú 118 lá os cionn an dáta íocaíochta dlite é seo. Ba é luach na híocaíochta déanaí seo ná €3,536.99.

Ar an iomlán, b'ionann íocaíochtaí déanacha agus 0.009% de luach iomlán na n-íocaíochtaí atá clúdaithe ag an Acht, agus bhí ús pionóis gaolmhar de €91.48 ann.



**Laura Burke**  
Ard-Stiúrthóir an GCC

24 Bealtaine 2022



## 6.2 SAINCHOMHAIRLEOIRÍ AGUS COMHAIRLEOIRÍ A CEAPADH

Apem Teo.	ERINN Innovation Teo.
Behaviour & Attitudes	Fieldfisher Ireland
ByrneWallace	Fintan Valentine
CAAS Environmental Services Teo.	Gartner Ireland Teo.
Camp Dresser & McKee (Ireland) Teo.	Geosyntec Consultants Teo.
Carr Communications Teo.	Halloran HR Resolutions Teo.
CDM Smith	Ipsos MRBI
CBEC Eco-engineering Teo.	Réitigh Comhtháite Riosca
Compass Informatics	Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants
Complete Laboratory Solutions Teo.	Mason Hayes & Curran
An Lárionad Éiceolaíochta agus Hidreolaíochta, Ríocht Aontaithe	RPS Consulting Engineers Teo.
CERC (GBP)	Smith & Williamson
Certification Europe Teo.	Synergy Environmental Teo t/a Enviroguide Consulting
Cpl Occupational Healthcare	Think HR
An Dr Robbie Meehan	VITO (An Institiúid Phléimeannach um Thaighde Teicneolaíochta)
eir evo	





## 6.3 FOILSEACHÁIN NA GCC 2021

Tá foilseacháin na GCC ar fáil le híoslódáil óna suíomh gréasáin: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/>

### Aer

Tá an tuarascáil aeir seo a leanas ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/>

- Air Quality in Ireland 2020

### Tuarascálacha Corparáideacha

Tá na tuarascálacha corparáideacha seo a leanas ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/corporate/>

- EPA Annual Report & Accounts 2020
- Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Cuntais 2020
- EPA Evidence Framework
- EPA Year in Review 2020
- Infographic on public attitudes to environmental issues
- Athbhreithniú ar 2020

### Radaíocht

Tá an tuarascáil radaíochta seo a leanas ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/radiation/>

- Survey on attitudes to radiation in Ireland 2020

### Údarás Poiblí

Tá na tuarascálacha údarás poiblí seo a leanas ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/public-authorities/>

- Focus on Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Activity report 2020
- How to join the NIECE Network
- Focus on Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Activity report 2019

### Dramhaíl

Tá an tuarascáil dramhaíola seo a leanas ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/waste/>

- National Waste Statistics Summary Report for 2019

### Circular Economy

Tá tuarascálacha an gheilleagair chiorclaigh seo a leanas ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/>

- The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027
- The Circular Economy Programme 2021-2027
- Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects
- NWPP Annual Report 2020
- Nature and Extent of Post-Consumer Textiles in Ireland
- Green Public Procurement, Guidance for the Public Sector
- Nature and Extent of Food Waste in Ireland

### Uisce

Tá na tuarascálacha fionnuisce agus muirí seo a leanas ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/>

- National Hydrometric Monitoring Programme 2022-2027
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – December 2021
- Register of Hydrometric Stations in Ireland 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – November 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – October 2021
- Water Quality Monitoring Report on Nitrogen and Phosphorus Concentrations in Irish Waters in 2020.
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – September 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – August 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – July 2021
- Water Quality in 2020 – an Indicators Report
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – June 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – May 2021
- Bathing Water Quality Map 2020
- Bathing Water Quality Infographic 2020
- Bathing Water Quality in Ireland Report 2020
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – April 2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – March 2021
- River Monitoring – Aquatic Invertebrates Fact Sheet
- River and Lake Monitoring – Phytobenthos Fact Sheet
- Lake Monitoring Phytoplankton fact sheet
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – February 2021
- Ireland's National Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme, 2019-2021
- Hydrology Summary Bulletin – January 2021
- Assessment of the Catchments that need Reductions in Nitrogen Concentrations to Achieve Water Quality Objectives.

## Uisce Óil

Tá na tuarascálacha seo a leanas maidir le huisce óil ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/>

- Drinking Water Quality in Public Supplies 2020
- Focus on Private Water Supplies 2019

## Fuíolluisce

Tá na tuarascálacha seo a leanas maidir le fuíolluisce ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/waste-water/>

- National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022-2026
- Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Inspections 2020
- 2021 Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

Tá an tuarascáil fuíolluisce seo a leanas ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/waste-water/>

- Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2020

## Measúnú

Tá na tuarascálacha seo a leanas ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/>

- SEA Screening Good Practice 2021
- Ireland's Environment: An Integrated Assessment 2021 – Key messages booklet
- Good Practice Note on SEA for the Energy Sector
- SEA Action Plan 2021-2025
- SEA Action Plan 2018-2020 – Progress Update 2021

## Tuarascálacha ar thaighde comhshaoil

Tá foilseacháin ar Thaighde na GCC ar fáil le híoslódáil ó shuíomh gréasáin na GCC ar: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa-funded-research/epa-research-publications/>

## Aghaidh a thabhairt ar riachtanais fianaise maidir le hathrú aeráide

- Research 360: Methodologies for Financing and Costing of Climate Impacts and Future Adaptation Actions: Transport Networks in Ireland
- Research 362: Evaluating Ireland's Climate Policy Performance
- Research 369: CIVIC: Critical Infrastructure Vulnerability to Climate Change
- Research 371: Climate Change and Land Use in Ireland
- Research 376: From Source to Sink: Responses of a Coastal Catchment to Large-scale Changes (Golden Strand Catchment, Achill Island, County Mayo)
- Research 379: Policy Coherence in Adaptation Studies: Selecting and Using Indicators of Climate Resilience
- Research 384: ClimAtt: Tools for Climate Change Attribution of Extreme Weather Events
- Research 385: Air Pollution Sources in Ireland
- Research 386: The Status of Ireland's Climate, 2020
- Research 397: Framework for Achieving the Environmental Sustainable Development Goals

## Comhshaoil sláintiúil a sheachadadh

- Research 361: The State of the Art on the Potential Human Health Impacts of Microplastics and Nanoplastics
- Research 365: Developing Ireland's Greenhouse Gas and Transboundary Air Pollution Monitoring Network
- Research 367: Particulate Matter from Diesel Vehicles: Emissions and Exposure
- Research 370: Potential Health Impact of Phthalates: An Irish Perspective
- Research 377: Impacts of Microplastics in the Irish Freshwater Environment
- Research 380: Innovative Water Monitoring
- Research 382: Transitioning to Strategic Noise Mapping under CNOSSOS-EU (Noise-Adapt)
- Research 383: Towards a Good Practice Guide for Implementing CNOSSOS-EU in Ireland

- Research 387: GRACE Monitoring of Groundwater over Ireland – A Feasibility Study
- Research 395: Cumulative Health Effects of Metal(loids) through Aggregate Environmental Pathways
- Research 398: Eco-driving: Trends and Potential Impacts for Irish Heavy-duty Vehicles
- Research SHEER: Our Environment, Our Health, Our Wellbeing: Access to Blue/Green Spaces in Ireland

### Geilleagar ciorclach agus glas a éascú

- Research 363: No Home for Plastic
- Research 366: An Investigation into WEEE Arising and Not Arising in Ireland (EEE2WEEE)
- Research 374: Piloting Innovative Approaches in Sustainable Communities towards Achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Ireland
- Research 375: Development of Quality Standards for Compost and Digestate in Ireland
- Research 381: An Irish Nutrient Platform to Underpin Sustainable Development
- Research 388: Circular Economy Opportunities – Raw Materials Ireland Project
- Research 393: Estimating the Quantity of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) Exported from Ireland As Used EEE
- Research 394: Identifying Interactions for Sustainable Development Goal Implementation in Ireland

### Ár gcomhshaoil nádúrtha a chosaint agus a athchóiriú

- Research 364: Learning from Group Water Schemes: Community Infrastructures for Sustainable Development
- Research 368: Prevention, Control and Eradication of Invasive Alien Species
- Research 372: Using the OECD Water Governance Indicator Framework to Review the Implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021
- Research 373: Using an Experimental Governance Lens to Examine Governance of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021
- Research 378: Towards the Quantification of Blanket Bog Ecosystem Services to Water

- Research 389: Evaluating the Multiple Values of Nature – ESDecide: from an Ecosystem Services Framework to Application for Integrated Freshwater Resources Management
- Research 390: Nitrogen–Sulfur Critical Loads: Assessment of the Impacts of Air Pollution on Habitats
- Research 391: Tiering of Environmental Assessment – The Influence of Strategic Environmental Assessment on Project-level Environmental Impact Assessment
- Research 392: Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment–Environmental Impact Assessment Tiering
- Research 396: Catchment Models and Management Tools for Diffuse Contaminants (Sediment, Phosphorus and Pesticides): DiffuseTools Project
- Research 399: Mapping Green Dublin: Strategic Pathways to Community-led Greening
- Research 400: Use of Constructed Wetlands for Treating Mine Waste Leachates: Assessment of Longevity and Management Implications

# 7

## Na Ráitis Airgeadais



## 7 NA RÁITIS AIRGEADAIS

### 7.1 RÁITEAS RIALACHAIS AGUS TUARASCÁIL NA STIÚRTHÓIRÍ 2021

#### Rialachas

Bunaíodh an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (an Ghníomhaireacht/GCC) faoin Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992, arna leasú (an tAcht). De réir Alt 19 den Acht tá an Ghníomhaireacht comhdhéanta d'Ard-Stiúrthóir agus de chúigear Stiúrthóirí.

Ceaptar an tArd-Stiúrthóir agus na Stiúrthóirí eile ag an Rialtas i gcomhréir le hAilt 21 agus 24 den Acht. Tá feidhmeanna na GCC leagtha amach i gCuid III den Acht. Tá an tArd-Stiúrthóir agus na Stiúrthóirí freagrach don Aire Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide agus don Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta. Tá an tArd-Stiúrthóir agus na Stiúrthóirí freagrach as dea-rialachas a chinntiú agus comhlíonann siad an cúram sin trí chuspóirí agus spriocanna straitéiseacha a shocrú agus cinntí straitéiseacha a ghlacadh maidir le gach príomh-shaincheist gnó. Tá an tArd-Stiúrthóir agus na Stiúrthóirí freagrach as bainistiú, smacht agus rialú rialta laethúil na GCC.

Ní bhaintear úsáid as an téarma 'Bord' san Acht chun comhlacht rialaithe na heagraíochta a ainmniú; seachas sin, tagraítear don 'Gníomhaireacht' san Acht agus do 'Stiúrthóirí na Gníomhaireachta' mar atá ainmnithe. Feidhmíonn an tArd-Stiúrthóir mar Chathaoirleach an Bhoird Fheidhmiúcháin agus mar phríomhfheidhmeannach oibríúcháin na GCC, agus ról rialachais agus bhainistíochta araon á gcomhlíonadh, agus é freagrach as an nGníomhaireacht a réachtáil. Tá an tArd-Stiúrthóir freagrach don Oireachtas tríd an gCoiste um Chuntais Phoiblí.

Tugtar 'Baill an Bhoird Fheidhmiúcháin' ar Stiúrthóirí na Gníomhaireachta agus tugtar 'an Bord' ar chomhlacht rialachais na Gníomhaireachta. Comhlíonann an Bord ról bhainistíochta agus rialachais araon agus tá a chuid gníomhaíochtaí eagraithe i gcúig Oifig, agus freagracht oibríochtúil ag gach Stiúrthóir as Oifig.

#### Freagrachtaí an Bhoird

Tá raon leathan cumhachtaí agus dualgas deonaithe don GCC faoin Acht don Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992, mar atá leasaithe agus reachtaíocht ábhartha eile i leith an chomhshaoil agus chosaint radaíochta.

Is é ról an Bhoird i gcomhlacht poiblí ná ceannaireacht straitéiseach, stiúradh, tacaíocht agus treoir a thabhairt don chomhlacht agus tiomantas dá chuid luachanna, beartais agus cuspóirí lárnacha a chur chun cinn. I dteannta le freagrachtaí speisialta an Bhoird atá leagtha amach sa Chód Cleachtais chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú (an Cód) agus san Acht, tá freagrachtaí sonracha rialachais agus bainistíochta ar Bhord Feidhmiúcháin na GCC mar Bhord Comhlachta Stáit, lena n-áirítear:

- déanamh cinnte go gcomhlíonann an comhlacht a chuid freagrachtaí mar atá leagtha amach le reacht nó in ord aireachta
- ceannaireacht, fíis agus treoir a thabhairt don chomhlacht
- misean an chomhlachta a shainiú, cinneadh ar a chuspóirí straitéiseacha agus na beartais a fhorbairt a theastaíonn chun na spriocanna sin a bhaint amach
- dea-bhainistíocht a chinntiú, monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar éachtaí na bainistíochta agus déanamh cinnte go mbaintear amach cothrom ceart idir ról an bhoird agus ról na bainistíochta faoi seach
- spriocanna feidhmíochta a shocrú, lena n-áirítear príomhspriocanna airgeadais agus, go háirithe, aontú ar an mbuiséad agus dlúthmhonatóireacht a dhéanamh air
- déanamh cinnte go n-iompraíonn an comhlacht é féin go heiticíúil agus ar bhealach a réitíonn le luachanna lárnacha an chomhlachta
- ról an chomhlachta sa phobal a shainiú agus a chur chun cinn trí mheicníochtaí a fhorbairt chun tuairimí custaiméirí agus páirtithe leasmhara a bhailliú agus trí dhaoine a choimeád ar an eolas ar bhealach oscailte, freagrúlach agus freagrach.

Ó thaobh na reachtaíochta de, tá freagracht ar an mBord as bainistíocht na GCC, ach le haghaidh cuspóirí praiticiúla tá cumhacht aige freagracht a tharmligean do bhaill foirne eile le haghaidh cuspóirí oibríúcháin. Faoi réir Alt 25(6) den Acht, féadfaidh an Ghníomhaireacht aon cheann dá feidhmeanna a chomhlíonadh nó a fheidhmiú trí aon stiúrthóir nó trí aon duine eile nó aon chomhlacht a bheidh údaraithe go cuí ag an nGníomhaireacht chun na críche sin.

Ó bunaíodh an GCC, tá cumhachtaí lánroghnacha tarmligthe ag an mBord do leibhéal éagsúla san GCC. Tá tarmligean na gcumhachtaí á méadú i gcónaí de réir mar a shanntar tuilleadh freagrachtaí reachtúla don Ghníomhaireacht le himeacht ama.

Leagtar amach i bPlean Straitéiseach na GCC na gníomhartha tosaíochta a nglacfaidh an GCC chun ár misean a chomhlíonadh i dtaca lenár gcomhshaoil a chosaint agus a fheabhsú. Tá an obair ar an gcéad Phlean Straitéiseach eile beagnach curtha i gcrích agus tá dul chun cinn maith déanta ag an GCC chun ár gcéad Phlean Straitéiseach eile a fhoilsiú go luath in 2022.

Tá obair agus freagrachtaí GCC leagtha amach: i bPlean Straitéiseach an GCC; i gClár Oibre an GCC; agus sa Chomhaontú Maoirseachta leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide agus leis an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta.

Gach mí, bíonn cruinniú tiomnaithe ag an mBord Feidhmiúcháin faoi cheisteanna rialachais agus bainistíochta a chuimsíonn, ach nach bhfuil teoranta do na rudaí seo a leanas:

- Leasanna a dhearbhu
- Tuarascálacha um dhul chun cinn ar cheisteanna oibríúcháin ó Oifigí aonair
- Bainistíocht airgeadais
- Pleanáil straitéiseach

- Bainistíocht cumarsáide
- Saincheistanna rialachais chorparáidigh (iniúchadh inmheánach san áireamh)
- Acmhainní daonna agus saincheistanna soláthair foirne
- Bainistíocht Riosca

Ceanglaítear le hAlt 50 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992, arna leasú, go gcoimeádfaidh an GCC, i gcíbe foirm a cheadódh an tAire Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide le toiliú ón Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe, na cuntais go léir is cuí agus is gnách ar an airgead a gheobhaidh agus a chaithfidh an GCC.

Agus an GCC ag ullmhú na ráiteas airgeadais sin, ní foláir dó:

- beartais oiriúnacha chuntasaíochta a roghnú agus iad a chur i bhfeidhm go seasta
- breithiúnais a thabhairt agus meastacháin a dhéanamh atá réasúnta agus ciallmhar
- na ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú ar bhonn an ghnóthais leantaigh mura bhfuil sé mí-oiriúnach a cheapadh go leanfaidh sé ar aghaidh ag oibriú
- dearbhú gur leanadh nó nár leanadh caighdeán chuntasaíochta infheidhme, faoi réir aon neamhchomhlíonta ábhartha a nochtadh agus a míníodh sna ráitis airgeadais.

Tá an GCC freagrach as taifid chuntasaíochta dhóthanacha a choinneáil a nochtann, le cruinneas réasúnta am ar bith, a staid airgeadais, agus a chuireann ar a cumas a chinntiú go gcloíonn na ráitis airgeadais le hAlt 50 den Acht. Baineann an fhreagracht i dtaca le cothabháil agus iomláine na faisnéise corparáide agus airgeadais leis an Ard-Stiúrthóir agus na Stiúrthóirí.

Tá freagracht ar an mBord as an bplean bliantúil agus an buiséad a cheadú. Déantar monatóireacht ar bhonn míosúil ar fheidhmíocht na GCC trí thuairiscí ar an dul chun cinn maidir le hEochairtháscairí Feidhmíochta na GCC a chur faoi bhráid an Bhoird. Rinneadh meastóireacht ag deireadh na bliana ar Gníomhaíochtaí Cláir Oibre na GCC in 2021 agus cuireadh an Tuairisc dheireadh bliana ar Bhainistiú Airgeadais 2021 faoi bhráid an Bhoird i bhFeabhra 2022.

Tá an GCC freagrach freisin as a chuid sócmhainní a chosaint agus céimeanna réasúnta a ghlacadh le calaíocht agus mírialtachtaí eile a chosc agus a bhrath.

Is í tuairim an Bhoird go dtugtar léargas fíor agus cóir ar fheidhmíocht agus staid airgeadais na GCC ar an 31 Nollaig 2021 i ráitis airgeadais na GCC.

## Struchtúr an Bhoird

Tá an Bord Feidhmiúcháin comhdhéanta d’Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí eile, duine amháin díobh a ghníomhaíonn mar Leas-Ardstiúrthóir, agus iad go léir ceaptha ag an Rialtas. Ceaptar an tArd-Stiúrthóir ar feadh tréimhse seacht mbliana agus ceaptar na Stiúrthóirí eile ar feadh tréimhse cúig bliana. Féadfar an tArd-Stiúrthóir agus na Stiúrthóirí faoi seach a athcheapadh ag an Rialtas ar feadh dara tréimhse oifige nó tréimhse oifige eile ina dhiaidh sin.

Leis na riachtanais a eascraíonn ón larscríbhinn a ghabhann leis an gCód Cleachtais chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú 2016, ar Chothromaíocht Inscne, Éagsúlacht agus Ionchuisiú, moltar go ndéanfaidh Boird Stáit ionadaíocht 40% idir mhná agus fhir a bhaint amach ar Bhoird Stáit. Leagtar amach in Ailt 21 agus 24 den Acht GCC faoi seach na nósanna imeachta a bhaineann le Ard-Stiúrthóir agus le Stiúrthóirí na GCC a cheapadh. Roghnaíonn coiste, de réir mar atá forordaithe in Acht GCC, Ard-Stiúrthóir agus Stiúrthóirí na GCC agus ceapann an Rialtas iad trí phróiseas earcaíochta oscailte. Agus na hiarrthóirí á roghnú, cuireann an coiste eolas agus taithí san áireamh, lena n-áirítear taithí ábhartha maidir le hábhair chomhshaoil agus raideolaíochta. An 31 Nollaig 2021, bhain cothromaíocht inscne leis an mBord: mná ab ea 50% de bhaill an Bhoird, fir ab ea an 50% eile.

Tháinig an Bord le chéile le haghaidh cruinnithe ginearálta Boird dhá huair déag in 2021. Tugtar mionsonraí sa tábla thíos maidir leis an dáta ar ceapadh baill a bhí ar an mBord le linn 2021.

Ball den Bhoird	Ról	Dáta Ceaptha
Laura Burke	Ard-Stiúrthóir	8 Samhain 2011*
Gerard O’Leary	Leas-Ardstiúrthóir	8 Bealtaine 2012*
Micheál Lehane	Stiúrthóir	1 Bealtaine 2016*
Eimear Cotter	Stiúrthóir	1 Meán Fómhair 2017
Tom Ryan	Stiúrthóir	25 Lúnasa 2018
Ciara McMahon	Stiúrthóir	15 Meán Fómhair 2020**
Sharon Finegan	Stiúrthóir	19 Aibreán 2021

\* dara téarma

\*\* Cailleadh an Dr Ciara McMahon ar an 15 Eanáir 2021

## An Coiste um Iniúchóireacht & Riosca

Tá Coiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca bunaithe ag an GCC ar a bhfuil seisear baill sheachtracha agus aon bhall amháin ó Lucht Bainistíochta Sinsearaí na GCC. Ról an Choiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca ná tacaíocht a thabhairt don Bhord maidir lena chuid freagrachtaí as ceisteanna riosca, rialaithe agus rialachais, agus an chinnteacht a bhaineann leo. Tá an Coiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca neamhspleách ó bhainistíocht airgeadais na heagraíochta. Ach go háirithe, cinntíonn an Coiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca go ndéantar monatóireacht ghníomhach agus neamhspleách ar chórais rialaithe inmheánacha, gníomhaíochtaí iniúchóireachta san áireamh. Bíonn cruinnithe rialta ag Cathaoirleach an Choiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca agus an tArd-Stiúrthóir agus tugann an Cathaoirleach tuairisc don Bhord ar fheidhmíocht an choiste uair amháin sa bhliain ar a laghad.

Bhí cúig chruinniú ag an gCoiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca in 2021. Rinneadh an Coiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca a athcheapadh ar feadh tréimhse eile trí bliana go dtí an 11 Feabhra 2025, ar an 23 Samhain 2021. Is iad baill reatha an Choiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca ná:

Ball CIR	Athrú ar Théarma le linn 2021
Tom Barry (Cathaoirleach)	Gan Athrú
Allan Reid	Gan Athrú
Caroline Bocquel	Gan Athrú
Nuala Bannon	Gan Athrú
John Maher	Gan Athrú
Áine Ryall	Gan Athrú
Raymond Smith	Gan Athrú
Philomena Poole	A ceapadh Samhain 2021*

\* Ceapadh Philomena Poole ar an gCoiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca i Samhain 2021 agus é i gceist leis go bhfreastalódh sí ar chruinnithe an choiste ag tosú in 2022.

## Fochoistí an Bhoird

Tá dhá Fhochoiste Boird bunaithe ag an mBord.

**1. Fochoiste TFC an Bhoird:** ar a bhfuil triúr baill den Bhord agus a fhaigheann tacaíocht ó Chlár bhainisteoirí sinsearach, an fhoireann shinsearach TFC agus ionadaí ón bhFoireann shinsearach anailísíochta. Is iad baill an Bhoird den choiste seo ná: an Dr Micheál Lehane (Cathaoirleach), an Dr Eimear Cotter agus an tUas. Gerard O'Leary. Bhí seacht cruinniú ag Fochoiste TFC an Bhoird in 2021.

## 2. Fochoiste an Bhoird ar Shábháilteacht, Sláinte agus

**Leas:** ar a bhfuil triúr baill den Bhord ag deireadh 2021. Is iad na baill den choiste seo ná: An tUas. Gerard O'Leary (Cathaoirleach), An Dr Micheál Lehane agus an Dr Tom Ryan. Bhí sé chruinniú ag Fochoiste an Bhoird ar Shábháilteacht, Sláinte agus Leas in 2021.

## Coistí Comhairleacha/Comhairliúcháin Seachtracha

Chomh maith leis sin, cuirtear comhairle ar an mBord ag na coistí seachtracha lárnacha seo a leanas, ar bunaíodh gach ceann díobh faoi reachtaíocht:

- Coiste Comhairleach na GCC\*
- An Coiste Comhairleach um Dhumpáil ar Muir\*
- An Coiste Comhairleach ar Orgánaigh Ghéinmhodhnaithe (OGM)
- An Coiste Comhairleach um Shláinte\*
- An Coiste Comhairleach um Chosaint Raideolaíoch\*

\* bunaithe faoi Alt 41 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992, arna leasú.

## Sceideal an Fhreastail, na dTáillí agus na Speansas

Tionóladh 12 chruinniú den Bhord Ginearálta in 2021. Leagtar amach thíos sceideal an fhreastail ar chruinnithe den Bhord Ginearálta do 2021. Tionóladh aon déag as na 12 chruinniú den Bhord Ginearálta i gceanncheathrú na GCC agus tionóladh an cruinniú eile i gCigireacht na GCC, Baile Átha Cliath.

Líon na gCruinnithe	An Bord:		Costais 2021 €
	I láthair/As a d'fhéadfadh bheith i láthair	Táillí €	
Laura Burke	12/12	0	289
Gerard O'Leary	12/12	0	0
Micheál Lehane	12/12	0	0
Eimear Cotter	12/12	0	0
Tom Ryan	11/12	0	0
Sharon Finegan*	8/9	0	0
<b>Iomlán</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>289</b>

\* A Ceapadh Aibreán 2021

Leagtar amach thíos sceideal an fhreastail ar chruinnithe an Choiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca do 2021, agus na táillí agus na costais a fuair gach ball:

Líon na gcrúinnithe	An Coiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca:		Táillí 2021 €	Costais 2021 €
	I láthair/As a d'fhéadfadh bheith i láthair			
Tom Barry (Cathaoirleach)	5/5		6,626	135
Nuala Bannon	5/5		0	0
Caroline Bocquel	5/5		0	0
John Maher	5/5		0	0
Áine Ryall	5/5		0	0
Raymond Smith	5/5		0	0
Allan Reid*	4/5		0	0
<b>Iomlán</b>			<b>6,626</b>	<b>135</b>

\* Íocadh na costais go léir go díreach le Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil na hAlban.

## COVID-19

Tháinig athrú suntasach ar bhealach oibre na GCC go luath in 2020 de thoradh COVID-19. Chuaigh an GCC in oiriúint go tapa don timpeallacht oibre athraithe agus ba ghnáthchleachtas an chianobair i measc fhormhór d'fhoireann na GCC. Lean Foireann Freagartha Paindéime na GCC ag freagairt do phaindéim COVID-19 le linn 2021. Tá an Leas-Ardstiúrthóir ag feidhmiú mar Chathaoirleach ar an bhFoireann Freagartha Paindéime agus tá ionadaithe ó gach oifig de chuid na GCC inti. Tá an Fhoireann Freagartha Paindéime tar éis tabhairt faoi an-chuid imeachtaí ar mhaithe le sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas bhaill foirne, chonraitheoirí agus chuariteoirí na GCC a chosaint. Lean an GCC le cleachtais oibre a bheachtú in 2021, lena n-áirítear an úsáid a bhaintear as teicneolaíochtaí TFC, agus tá an chianobair níos éifeachtúla agus níos éifeachtaí mar thoradh.

Lean rialuithe ionsuite laistigh de Chórais Airgeadais na GCC ag feidhmiú mar is gnách le linn phaindéim COVID-19 agus ní raibh gá aon nósanna imeachta ná Príomhrialaithe a shárú chun gach rud a choimeád mar a bhí. Ina n-athbhreithniú ar Rialuithe Airgeadais Inmheánacha 2021 thug Iniúchóirí Inmheánacha na GCC an méid seo faoi deara: 'Léiríonn ár dtorthaí iniúchóireachta

gur féidir cinnteacht shuntasach a chur ar dhóthanacht agus éifeachtacht oibriúcháin na rialuithe atá ann, chun rioscaí airgeadais, ar féidir leo cur isteach ar an GCC, a mhaolú agus/nó a bhainistiú. Tá creatlach maith de chóras ar rialú airgeadais ann agus tá na rialuithe á gcur i bhfeidhm go comhsheasmhach chun cinntiú go bhfuil na rioscaí á mbainistiú go héifeachtach, rud a chinnteoidh go mbainfear amach na cuspóirí go hiomlán.'

## Nochtuithe Éilithe ag an gCód Cleachtais chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú (2016)

Tá an Bord freagrach as a chinntiú gur chomhlán an GCC riachtanais uile an Chóid, mar a d'fhoilsigh an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe i mí Lúnasa 2016. Éilíonn an Cód na nochtuithe seo a leanas:

## Mionsonrú ar Shochair na bhFostaithe Gearrthéarmacha

Tá sochair ghearrthéarmacha fostaithe a sháraíonn €60,000 leagtha amach i Nóta 8 (c) leis na ráitis airgeadais.

## Costais Sainchomhairliúcháin

Cuimsíonn costais chomhairliúcháin costas na comhairle eachtraí a thugtar don bhainistíocht ach ní chuimsíonn siad feidhmeanna 'gnó mar is gnách', oiliúint foirne agus soláthraithe forbartha.

	2021 €	2020 €
Comhairle Díl, Soláthar Airgeadais Gníomhaíochtaí Ceadúnaithe san áireamh.	1,049,287	1,040,088
Luacháil Achtúireach ar Scéim na bPinsean	5,843	4,797
Comhairleachtaí Acmhainní Daonna	50,411	29,066
Caidrimh Phoiblí	79,412	76,413
Iniúchadh Inmheánach & Rialachas Corparáideach	78,845	73,463
Comhairleacht agus Comhairle maidir le Soláthar	56,208	24,295
Forbairt agus Cur i bhFeidhm Straitéise	69,264	45,802
<b>Costais Chomhairliúcháin Iomlána</b>	<b>1,389,270</b>	<b>1,293,924</b>



## Costais Dlíthiúla agus Socruithe

Déantar miondealú sa tábla thíos ar na méideanna a aithnítear mar chaiteachas sa tréimhse thuairiscithe maidir le costais dlíthiúla, socraíochtaí agus imeachtaí idir-réitigh agus eadrána a bhaineann le conarthaí le tríú páirtithe. Ní chuimsíonn sé seo caiteachas a thabhaítear maidir le comhairle dlí ghinearálta a fuair an GCC a nochtar sna Costais Comhairleachta thuas.

	2021 €	2020 €
Táillí dlí – imeachtaí dlí	369,606	282,917
Íocaíochtaí idir-réitigh agus eadrána	0	0
Socraíochtaí	0	0
<b>Iomlán</b>	<b>369,606</b>	<b>282,917</b>

## Caiteachas Taistil agus Cothabhála

Déantar caiteachas taistil agus cothabhála a aicmiú mar seo a leanas:

	2021 €	2020 €
<b>Intíre</b>		
– Bord	23,091	22,792
– Fostaithe	330,005	382,185
<b>Idirnáisiúnta</b>		
– Bord	0	2,301
– Fostaithe	12,758	36,698
<b>Iomlán</b>	<b>365,854</b>	<b>443,976</b>

## Caiteachas Fáilteachais

Cuimsítear sa Chuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais an caiteachas fáilteachais seo a leanas:

	2021 €	2020 €
Fáilteachas foirne*	17,429	13,547
Fáilteachas eile	0	0
<b>Iomlán</b>	<b>17,429</b>	<b>13,547</b>

\* Áirítear ann ranniocaíochtaí le clubanna Spóirt agus Sóisialta foirne agus Clár Cúnaimh d'Fhostaithe.

## Ráiteas Comhlíontachta

Ghlac an Bord leis an gCód Cleachtais chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú (2016), agus tá nósanna imeachta curtha i bhfeidhm aige chun comhlíonadh leis an gcód a chinntiú. Chloígh an GCC leis an gCód Cleachtais chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú le haghaidh 2021.

Sínithe thar ceann an Bhoird.



**Laura Burke**  
Ard-Stiúrthóir

Dáta: 24 Bealtaine 2022

## 7.2 RÁITEAS AR RIALÚ INMHEÁNACH 2021

### 1. Raon na Freagrachta

Thar ceann na Gníomhaireachta um Caomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) glacaim gurb é freagracht chomhchoiteann na Stiúrthóirí é go ndéantar córas éifeachtach rialaithe inmheánaigh a chothabháil agus a fheidmiú, chun cuntais na GCC a ullmhú agus chun na hoibleagáidí reachtúla uile a bhaineann leis an GCC a chomhlíonadh. Cuirtear san áireamh i dtaca leis an bhfreagracht seo, na riachtanais i dtaca leis an gCód Cleachtas chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú (2016).

### 2. Cuspóir an Chórais Rialaithe Inmheánaigh

Tá an córas rialaithe inmheánaigh deartha chun riosca a bhainistíú ag leibhéal inghlactha seachas fáil réidh leis. Mar sin, ní féidir leis an gcóras ach cinnteacht réasúnta seachas cinnteacht iomlán a thabhairt go bhfuil sócmhainní á gcosaint agus idirbhearta á n-údarú agus á dtaifeadadh i gceart agus go seachnaítear earráidí ábhartha nó neamhrialtachtaí nó go mbraitear iad go tráthúil. Cé gur féidir le héifeachtúlacht an chórais rialaithe inmheánaigh athrú le himeacht ama, déanann an GCC athbhreithniú agus nuashonrú ar na córais sin mar is gá.

Tá an córas rialaithe inmheánaigh, atá ag teacht le treoir a d'eisigh an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe, i bhfeidhm sa GCC don bhliain dar críoch 31 Nollaig 2021 agus suas go dtí an dáta a rinneadh na ráitis airgeadais a cheadú.

### 3. Príomhnósanna Imeachta Rialaithe chun Rialú Inmheánach Éifeachtach a Sholáthar

#### i) Athbhreithniú Bliantúil ar Éifeachtúlacht an Rialaithe

Rinne an Bord Feidhmiúcháin (an Bord) athbhreithniú bliantúil ar éifeachtúlacht na rialuithe inmheánacha a tháinig chun críche i bhFeabhra 2022. Agus iad ag tabhairt faoin athbhreithniú seo rinne na Stiúrthóirí an méid seo a leanas a phlé:

- Sonraí faoi chóras na rialuithe inmheánacha in 2021, lena n-áirítear Bainistíocht Riosca, Bainistíocht Airgeadais, Iniúchadh Inmheánach, Eitic, Córais Faisnéise, Pleanáil agus Tuairiscí Gnó
- Tuairisc ar an Athbhreithniú ar Éifeachtacht na Rialuithe Airgeadais Inmheánacha 2021
- Tuarascáil an Oifigigh Chomhlíontachta 2021
- Tuarascáil ar Chomhlíonadh TF 2021
- Ráiteas Dearbhaithe ar Shláinte, Sábháilteacht & Leas 2021
- Ráitis Dhearbhaithe ar Bhainistíocht Riosca 2021

Síníodh Ráitis Bhliantúla Urrúis maidir le Freagrachtaí Buiséadacha 2021 agus cuireadh faoi bhráid an Ard-Stiúrthóra iad, i gcomhréir le forálacha Lámhleabhar Airgeadais na GCC. Tháinig athrú suntasach ar bhealach oibre na GCC go luath in 2020 de thoradh COVID-19. Chuaigh an GCC in oiriúint go tapa don timpeallacht oibre athraithe agus ba ghnáthchleachtas an chianobair i measc fhormhór d'fhoireann na GCC. Lean Foireann Freagartha Paindéime na GCC ag freagairt do phaindéim COVID-19 le linn 2021. Tá an Leas-Ardstiúrthóir ag feidhmiú mar Chathaoirleach ar an bhFoireann Freagartha Paindéime agus tá ionadaithe ó gach oifig de chuid na GCC inti. Tá an Foireann Freagartha Paindéime tar éis tabhairt faoi an-chuid imeachtaí ar mhaithe le sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas bhaill foirne, chonraitheoirí agus chuariteoirí na GCC a chosaint. Lean an GCC le cleachtas oibre a bhechtú in 2021, lena n-áirítear an úsáid a bhaintear as teicneolaíochtaí TFC, agus tá an chianobair níos éifeachtúla agus níos éifeachtaí mar thoradh.

#### ii) Sárúithe ar Rialú

Níor tuairiscíodh aon sárúithe ar rialú in 2021.

#### iii) Cailteanais Ábhartha nó Calaois

Níor tuairiscíodh aon chailteanais ábhartha ná calaois in 2021.

#### iv) Athbhreithniú ar an Ráiteas ar Rialú Inmheánach

Rinne Iniúchóirí Inmheánacha na GCC, Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca na GCC agus na Stiúrthóirí athbhreithniú ar an Ráiteas ar Rialú Inmheánach 2021 i bhFeabhra 2022 lena chinntiú go dtugtar léargas cruinn ar an gcóras rialaithe le linn 2021 ann.

#### v) Céimeanna a glacadh chun timpeallacht chúil rialaithe a chinntiú

Tá céimeanna glactha ag Stiúrthóirí na GCC chun timpeallacht chúil rialaithe a chinntiú laistigh den GCC leis na nithe seo a leanas:

- Plean Straitéiseach 2016-2020 – Ár gComhshaoil, Ár bhFolláine de chuid na GCC a chur i bhfeidhm. Sa Straitéis seo leagtar amach Fis, Misean, Luachanna, Spriocanna agus trí cinn déag de Chuspóirí Straitéiseacha na GCC. Is é an Líonra Bainistíochta Sínearaí, ina bhfuil Stiúrthóirí agus Clárghainisteoirí páirteach, a dhéanann monatóireacht ar chur i bhfeidhm na Straitéise, agus cuirtear tuairiscí chuig Bord na GCC ina leith seo ó am go chéile. Tá a céad straitéis eile á forbairt ag an GCC, atá le foilsiú go luath in 2022.

- Moltaí athbhreithniú na hEagraíochta um Chomhar agus Fhorbairt Eacnamaíochta ar bhunú institiúideach agus eagraíochtúil na GCC a chur i bhfeidhm. Rinneadh scrúdú san athbhreithniú ar struchtúir, cuntasacht, próisis ghnó, tuairisciú agus bainistíocht feidhmíochta na GCC chomh maith le soiléireacht róil, caidrimh agus dáileadh cumhachtaí agus freagrachtaí le comhlachtaí rialtais agus neamh-rialtais eile. Ba é toradh iomlán an athbhreithnithe ná gur *“bhunaigh an GCC í féin mar ghníomhaireacht iontaofa a bhfuil ardmheas uirthi maidir le cosaint an chomhshaoil agus cosaint raideolaíoch agus aithnítear í de dheasca a sláine eolaíochta”*.
- Clár oibre mionsonraithe a chomhaontú gach bliain agus monatóireacht agus meastóireacht a dhéanamh go míosúil ar dhul chun cinn in aghaidh an chláir oibre sin.
- Cruinnithe Boird a reáchtáil go rialta, lena n-áirítear cruinnithe bainistíochta míosúla ina mbíonn ceisteanna straitéiseacha ar an gClár Oibre, amhail Rialachas Corparáideach, Bainistíocht Airgeadais, Straitéis Chorporáideach agus gnóthaí foirne.
- Lámhleabhar Airgeadais na GCC a ghlacadh chomh maith le sraith de bheartais agus de nósanna imeachta airgeadais chun na gnéithe airgeadais tábhachtacha de ghnó na GCC a rialú.
- Lámhleabhar ar Rialachas Corparáideach a ghlacadh chun achoimre shoiléir chuimsitheach a thabhairt ar na príomhghnéithe de rialachas corparáideach le haghaidh na Stiúrthóirí agus na mbainisteoirí sinsearach.
- Sceideal cuimsitheach árachas a choimeád chun leasanna na GCC a chosaint.
- Coiste Iníúcháireachta agus Riosca a bhunú agus a chothabháil. (Féach ar Chuid 3(ix) Monatóireacht ar Éifeachtacht an Chórais um Rialú Inmheánach)
- Beartas agus Creat Bainistíochta Riosca a bhunú agus a fheidhmiú, Coiste Feidhmiúcháin Riosca agus Príomhoifigeach Riosca a cheapadh. (Féach ar Chuid 3(vi) Creat Riosca agus Rialaithe)
- Monatóireacht agus measúnú a dhéanamh ar chloí le reachtaíocht chorparáideach i gcomhréir le Beartas GCC.
- Freagrachtaí bainistíochta a shainmhíniú, feidhmeanna oiriúnacha a tharmligean, agus polasaithe agus nósanna imeachta uile GCC a athbhreithniú agus a fhaomhadh.
- Cód lompraíochta Gnó maidir le Stiúrthóirí agus Baill Foirne a ghlacadh de réir na gceanglas sa Chód Cleachtais chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú.
- A chinntiú go gcomhlíontar riachtanais na nAchtanna um Eitic in Oifigí Poiblí agus Ailt 37 agus 38 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil 1992, a bhaineann le Dearbhú agus Nochtadh Leasanna.

- Meicníochtaí a bhunú chun leordhóthanacht shlándáil a chóras teicneolaíochta faisnéise agus cumarsáide (TFC) a chinntiú, lena n-áirítear;
  - bunú beartas cuí agus nósanna imeachta cuí um rialú,
  - struchtúir eagraíochtúla éifeachtacha lena n-áirítear dealú cúraimí
  - freagracht as athbhreithnithe agus measúnachtaí sonracha ar chórais TFC a tharmligean chuig an aonad iniúchta inmheánaigh trí phróiseas na bPleananna Bliantúla um Iniúchadh Inmheánach.
- Foireann Freagartha Paidéime a bhunú chun freagairt na GCC do COVID-19 a chomhordú.

Ó thaobh na reachtaíochta de, tá freagracht ar an mBord as bainistíocht na GCC, ach tá cumhacht aige freagracht a tharmligean do bhaill foirne eile ar mhaithe le cuspóirí oibriúcháin. Faoi réir Alt 25(6) den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, féadfaidh an GCC aon cheann dá feidhmeanna a chomhlíonadh nó a fheidhmiú le haon Stiúrthóir nó le haon duine eile nó aon chomhlacht a bheadh údaraithe go cuí ag an GCC chun na críche sin. Tarmligtear freagracht oibriúcháin as obair na GCC a dhéanamh ar na Clár bhainisteoirí atá i gceannas ar fheidhmeanna éagsúla.

Ó bunaíodh an GCC, tá cumhachtaí lánroghnacha tarmligthe ag Bord na Gníomhaireachta do leibhéil éagsúla sa GCC. Tá tarmligean na gcumhachtaí á mhéadú i gcónaí de réir mar a shanntar tuilleadh freagrachtaí reachtúla don GCC le himeacht ama. Coimeádann an GCC clár cuimsitheach de reachtaíocht chomhshaoil ábhartha, clár de chumhachtaí tarmligthe ag an mBord agus Feidhmeanna Forchoimeáda an Bhoird. Déanann an Bord athbhreithniú ar na cláir seo agus déanann sé iad a cheadú de réir mar is gá.

## vi) Creat Riosca agus Rialaithe

Tá córas bainistíochta riosca curtha i bhfeidhm ag an GCC a aithníonn agus a thugann tuairisc ar phríomhrioscaí agus ar na gníomhartha bainistíochta atá á nglacadh chun déileáil leis na rioscaí sin agus, a oiread agus is féidir, iad a mhaolú.

Tá Beartas Bainistíochta Riosca forbartha ag an GCC chomh maith ina leagtar amach an méid riosca a nglacann sé leis agus an próiseas bainistíochta riosca atá i bhfeidhm, agus ina dtugtar mionsonraí faoi róil agus freagrachtaí na foirne maidir le riosca. Comhlíonann Beartas agus Struchtúir Bainistíochta Riosca na GCC an Cód Cleachtais chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú (2016).

I rith 2021, thug an GCC faoi athbhreithniú ar a Próisis Bainistíochta Riosca. Mar chuid den athbhreithniú seo, tugadh faoi athbhreithniú ar gach Clár Riosca ar Leibhéal na hOifige agus ar an gClár Rioscaí Corparáideacha. Mar thoradh ar an tionscadal seo, cruthaíodh Clár Rioscaí Corparáideacha atá níos dinimiciúla agus a fhreastalaíonn níos fearr ar riachtanais na heagraíochta.

Aithnítear sa Chlár Rioscaí Corparáideacha na rioscaí lárnacha atá os comhair na GCC agus tugtar sonraí ann faoi na rialuithe agus na gníomhartha atá riachtanach chun rioscaí a mhaolú, chomh maith leis an bhfreagracht as oibriú rialuithe a shanntar do bhaill foirne shonra. Déantar an Clár Rioscaí Corparáideacha a fhorbairt agus a bhainistiú ag an gCoiste Feidhmiúcháin Riosca agus a athbhreithniú ag an gCoiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca, agus cuirtear i láthair do Bhord na GCC é lena cheadú. Chomh maith leis sin, rinneadh measúnú riosca ar sheirbhísí criticiúla mar chuid de Thionscadal um Leanúnachas Gnó.

Cuireann gach Stiúrthóir ráitis urrúis leathbhliantúla ar fáil don Bhord ina nglactar le freagracht as nuashonrú, monatóireacht agus athbhreithniú leanúnach ar an gClár Rioscaí dá nOifig féin agus as a chinntiú go gcuirtear an Beartas Bainistíochta Riosca i bhfeidhm.

Dearbhaim go bhfuil timpeallacht smacht ag coinneáil na heilimintí seo a leanas i bhfeidhm:

- taifead déanta ar nósanna imeachta um próisis ghnó lárnacha,
- freagrachtaí airgeadais sannta ar leibhéal bainistíochta agus cuntasacht chomhfhreagrach ag gabháil leo,
- córas buiséadaithe cuí agus buiséad bliantúil atá á athbhreithniú go leanúnach ag na bainisteoirí sinsearach,
- córais atá dírithe ar shlándáil na gcóras teicneolaíochta faisnéise agus cumarsáide a chinntiú,
- córais chun cosaint a thabhairt do na sócmhainní;
- córas um rialú ar chaiteachas clár, lena n-áirítear nósanna imeachta um cheadú agus íocaíocht deontas agus próisis chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an dul chun cinn maidir leis na cuspóirí a bhaint amach.

### vii) Faisnéis Airgeadais agus Bhuiséadach

Tá córas na rialuithe inmheánacha bunaithe ar chreat d'fhaisnéis bainistíochta rialta, ar chóras tarmligin agus cuntasachta, agus ar thacar nósanna imeachta airgeadais agus riaracháin, lena n-áirítear deighilt na ndualgas. Áirítear leis go háirithe:

- Córas buiséadaithe cuimsitheach ina bhfuil buiséad bliantúil, a dhéanann an Bord é a athbhreithniú agus a cheadú. Áirítear leis an gcóras buiséadaithe chomh maith, dhá bhuiséad athbhreithnithe fhoirmiúla a ullmhú i mí an Mheithimh agus i mí Mheán Fómhair, a chuirtear faoi bhráid an Bhoird lena gceadú.

- Sannadh na mbuiséad agus an údarás maidir le buiséadú agus na freagrachta as feidhmeanna sonra, do bhainisteoirí faoi leith.
- Socruithe chun an ceannach ar fad a bheith déanta agus rialaithe le córas agus nósanna imeachta bainistíochta airgeadais na GCC.
- Athbhreithnithe míosúla ag an mBord ar thuarascálacha bainistíochta airgeadais.
- Glacadh le Plean Corparáideach Soláthair bliantúil agus le ceapadh Oifigeach an tSoláthair.

Lean rialuithe ionsuite laistigh de na Córais Airgeadais ag feidhmiú mar is gnáth le linn 2021 agus ní raibh gá le haon nósanna imeachta ná Príomhrialaithe a shárú chun gach rud a choimeád mar a bhí.

### viii) Nósanna imeachta chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na himpleachtaí airgeadais a bhaineann le rioscaí móra gnó

Rinneadh na himpleachtaí airgeadais a bhaineann le rioscaí gnó a mheas tríd an bpróiseas measúnaithe riosca gnó foirmiúil agus nuair a rinneadh Pleananna na GCC um Iniúcháireacht Inmheánach a ullmhú. Déantar tuilleadh measúnaithe agus meastóireachta orthu agus Plean na GCC um Iniúcháireacht Inmheánach á chur i bhfeidhm go céimneach.

### ix) Monatóireacht ar éifeachtacht an Chórais um Rialú Inmheánach

Bhunaigh agus choimeád an GCC Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca, atá comhdhéanta de sheisear baill sheachtracha, duine amháin díobh atá ina Chathaoirleach, agus bainisteoir sinsearach GCC amháin, mar chuid den athbhreithniú córasach leanúnach ar an timpeallacht rialaithe agus ar nósanna imeachta rialachais laistigh den GCC. Rinneadh é sin chun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fheidhm na hiniúcháireachta inmheánaí agus chun comhairle a thabhairt don Bhord maidir le feidhmiú agus forbairt na feidhme sin.

Tá feidhm iniúcháireachta inmheánaí bunaithe ag an GCC ag a bhfuil dóthain acmhainní agus a chuireann clár oibre i gcrích a n-aontaítear air leis an gCoiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca. Baineann an GCC feidhm as saineolas seachtrach ar mhaithe le tabhairt faoi hiniúchtaí inmheánacha.

Cuireadh Plean Iniúcháireachta Inmheánaí 2021-2022 de chuid na GCC i bhfeidhm i rith na bliana agus rinneadh athbhreithniú go tréimhsiúil ar an dul chun cinn maidir le cur i bhfeidhm na ngníomhartha a theastaíonn de thoradh gach iniúchta, agus tugadh tuairisc don Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca ag gach ceann dá chruinnithe agus don Bhord maidir leis sin.

Rinneadh an Plean Iniúcháireachta Inmheánaí 2022-2023 a fhorbairt le linn 2021 agus tugann sé léargas ar na rioscaí corparáideacha a shainaithin an Coiste Feidhmiúcháin Riosca don GCC, ar na hiniúchtaí a shainaithin Bainistíocht na GCC agus an Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca, agus ar na forbairtí agus na ceisteanna i dtaca le Rialachas Corparáideach atá tagtha chun cinn san Eanáil Phoiblí go ginearálta. Rinne an Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca athbhreithniú ar an bPlean Iniúcháireachta Inmheánaí agus rinne Bord na GCC an plean a cheadú i nDeireadh Fómhair 2021.



#### 4. Soláthar

Deimhním go bhfuil nósanna imeachta curtha i bhfeidhm ag an GCC chun déanamh cinnte go gcloítear le rialacha agus treoirlínte reatha i leith an tsoláthair. Ní raibh aon chásanna ann a bhí bainteach le soláthar neamhchomhlíontach in 2021.

#### 5. Maoiniú Taighde

I gCiorclán 13/2014 ón Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe, Bainistíocht agus Cuntasacht i leith Deontas ó Fhoinsí Stáitchiste, leagtar amach na prionsabail, na nósanna imeachta agus na riachtanais tuairiscithe bhreise um bainistíocht airgeadais phoiblí atá le leanúint agus maoiniú deontais a sholáthraítear ó airgead poiblí á bhainistiú.

Tá nósanna imeachta ag an GCC um cheadú agus íocaíocht deontas agus tá próisis aici chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an dul chun cinn maidir le cuspóirí taighde a bhaint amach.

In Eanáir 2021, chuir an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide in iúl don GCC gurbh fhéidir léi leanúint leis na socruithe réamh-mhaoinithe a bhí ann cheana faoi Chlár Taighde na GCC, ag brath ar cheadú foirmiúil a fháil ón Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe le haghaidh 2021.

#### 6. Athbhreithniú ar Éifeachtúlacht

Deimhním go bhfuil nósanna imeachta curtha i bhfeidhm ag an GCC chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar éifeachtúlacht a nósanna imeachta bainistíochta riosca agus rialaithe. Le monatóireacht agus athbhreithniú na GCC ar éifeachtúlacht chóras an rialaithe inmheánaigh cuirtear san áireamh obair na n-iniúcháirí inmheánacha agus seachtracha, an Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca agus an lucht ardbhainistíochta sa GCC atá freagrach as forbairt agus cothabháil chreat an rialaithe inmheánaigh.

Deimhním go ndearna na Stiúrthóirí athbhreithniú bliantúil ar éifeachtúlacht na rialuithe inmheánacha do 2021 in Eanáir agus i bhFeabhra 2022 araon, agus go bhfuil siad sásta go bhfuil an córas rialaithe inmheánaigh iontaofa.

Tugadh faoi Iniúchadh Inmheánach ar an Athbhreithniú ar Éifeachtúlacht na Rialuithe Airgeadais Inmheánacha i mí na Samhna agus i mí na Nollag 2021 agus in Eanáir 2022 i gcomhréir leis an bPlean Iniúcháireachta Inmheánaí 2021/2022. Léiríonn torthaí ón Iniúchadh Inmheánach gur féidir cinnteacht réasúnta a chur ar leordhóthanacht agus éifeachtúlacht oibriúcháin na rialuithe chun rioscaí airgeadais a mhaolú agus/nó a bhainistiú.

#### 7. Ceisteanna maidir le Rialú Inmheánach

Ní aithníodh aon sárúithe ar rialuithe inmheánacha maidir le 2021 a bhfuil gá iad a nochtadh sna ráitis airgeadais.

Sínithe thar ceann an Bhoird.



**Laura Burke**  
Ard-Stiúrthóir

Dáta: 24 Bealtaine 2022

## 7.3 TUARASCÁIL AN ARD-REACHTAIRE CUNTAIS AGUS CISTE LE CUR FAOI BHRÁID THITHE AN OIREACHTAIS

### Tuairim maidir leis na Ráitis Airgeadais

Tá iniúchadh déanta agam ar ráitis airgeadais na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil don bhliain dar críoch an 31 Nollaig 2021 de réir mar a cheanglaítear faoi fhorálacha alt 50 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil 1992. Cuimsíonn na ráitis airgeadais

- an ráiteas ar ioncam agus caiteachas agus ar chúlchistí ioncaim coinnithe
- an ráiteas ar ioncam cuimsitheach
- an ráiteas faoi staid airgeadais
- an ráiteas ar shreabhadh airgid agus
- na nótaí gaolmhara lena n-áirítear achoimre ar bheartais chuntasáiochta thábhachtacha.

I mo thuairimse, tugtar léargas fíor agus cruinn sna ráitis airgeadais ar shócmhainní, ar dhliteanais agus ar staid airgeadais na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil ar an 31 Nollaig 2021 agus ar a hioncam agus a caiteachas le haghaidh 2021 i gcomhréir leis an gCaighdeán Tuairiscithe Airgeadais (CTA) 102 – *An Caighdeán Tuairiscithe Airgeadais infheidhme sa RA agus i bPoblacht na hÉireann*.

### Bunús na tuairime

Rinne mé m'iniúchadh ar na ráitis airgeadais i gcomhréir leis na Caighdeáin Idirnáisiúnta ar Iniúchadh (CIIInna) mar a chuirtear i bhfeidhm ag an International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. Cuirtear síos san aguisín leis an tuarascáil seo mo chuid freagrachtaí de réir na gcaighdeán sin. Táim neamhspleách ón nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil agus tá mo chuid freagrachtaí eiteiciúla eile comhlíonta agam i gcomhréir leis na caighdeáin.

Creidim gur leor agus oiriúnach an fhianaise iniúchta atá faighte agam chun bonn a chur ar fáil do mo thuairim.

### Tuairisc ar Fhaisnéis seachas na ráitis airgeadais, agus i dtaca le hábhair eile

Tá faisnéis áirithe eile curtha i láthair ag an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil i dteannta leis na ráitis airgeadais. Cuimsíonn an fhaisnéis sin an tuarascáil bhliantúil, an ráiteas rialachais agus tuarascáil na Stiúrthóirí agus an ráiteas ar rialú inmheánach. Cuirtear síos ar mo chuid freagrachtaí as tuairiscí i leith na faisnéise sin, agus ar ábhair áirithe eile a dtugaim tuairisc orthu trí heisceacht, san aguisín leis an tuarascáil seo.

Níl aon ní le tuairisciú agam chuige sin.



**Andrew Harkness**

Le haghaidh agus thar ceann an Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste

3 Meitheamh 2022

## AGUISÍN A GHABHANN LEIS AN TUARASCÁIL

### Freagrachtaí na Stiúrthóirí

Mar a shonraítear sa ráiteas rialachais agus i dtuarascáil na Stiúrthóirí, tá na Stiúrthóirí freagrach as

- na ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú san fhoirm atá forordaithe faoi alt 50 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil 1992
- a chinntiú go dtugann na ráitis airgeadais léargas fíor agus cóir i gcomhréir le CTA 102
- rialtacht na n-idirbheart a chinntiú
- measúnú a dhéanamh ar cibé acu an cuí bonn cuntasaióchta an ghnóthais leantaigh a úsáid, agus
- pé rialú inmheánach a mheasann siad gur cuí é le go mbeidh siad in ann ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú atá saor ó mhíríteas ábhartha, cibé acu de thoradh calaoise nó earráide.

### Freagrachtaí an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste

Ceanglaítear orm faoi alt 50 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil 1992 iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar ráitis airgeadais na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil agus tuairiscíú air sin do Thithe an Oireachtais.

Is é an cuspóir atá agam agus an t-iniúchadh á chur i dtoll a chéile agam ná cinnteacht réasúnta a fháil maidir le cibé acu an bhfuil na ráitis airgeadais ina n-íomlán saor ó mhíríteas airgeadais de thoradh calaoise nó earráide. Leibhéal ard cinnteachta atá i gceist le cinnteacht réasúnta, ach ní hionann í agus gealltanas go mbraithfear i gcónaí míráiteas ábhartha más ann dó in iniúchadh arna dhéanamh i gcomhréir leis na Cllna. Féadann míráitis teacht chun cinn de thoradh calaoise nó earráide agus meastar gur míráitis ábhartha iad más féidir a bheith ag súil go réasúnta go mbeadh tionchar acu, ina n-aonar nó le chéile, ar chinntí eacnamaíocha úsáideoirí arna nglacadh ar bhonn na ráiteas airgeadais sin.

Mar chuid d'iniúchadh i gcomhréir le Cllna, feidhmím breithiúnas gairmiúil agus coimeádam amhras gairmiúil le linn an iniúchta. Agus é sin á dhéanamh,

- Aithním agus déanaim measúnú ar rioscaí an mhíríteas ábhartha maidir leis na ráitis airgeadais cibé acu de thoradh calaoise nó earráide; déanaim nósanna imeachta iniúchta a dhearadh agus a fheidhmiú mar fhreagra ar na rioscaí sin; agus faighim fianaise iniúchta ar leor agus ar cuí í chun bonn a sholáthar do mo thuairim. Tá an baol nach mbraithfear míráiteas ábhartha mar thoradh ar chalaos níos airde ná an ceann a eascraíonn as earráid, toisc go bhféadfadh claonpháirteachas, brionnú, easnaimh d'aon ghnó, mífhaisnéis nó sárú ar rialú inmheánach a bheith i gceist le calaois.

- Faighim tuiscint ar rialú inmheánach a bhaineann leis an iniúchadh chun nósanna imeachta iniúchta a dhearadh atá oiriúnach sna cúinsí, ach ní ar mhaithe le tuairim a thabhairt ar éifeachtúlacht na rialuithe inmheánacha.
- Déanaim measúnú ar oiriúnacht na mbeartas cuntasaióchta arna n-úsáid agus ar réasúntacht na meastachán cuntasaióchta agus na nochtaí gaolmhara.
- Tugaim conclúid faoi oiriúnacht úsáid bhonn cuntasaióchta an ghnóthais leantaigh agus, bunaithe ar an bhfianaise cuntasaióchta arna fáil, faoi cibé acu gurb ann d'éiginnteacht ábhartha maidir le himeachtaí nó coinníollacha a d'fhéadfadh amhras suntasach a chaitheamh ar chumas na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil leanúint ar aghaidh mar ghnóthas leantach. Má thagaim ar an gconclúid gurb ann d'éiginnteacht ábhartha, ceanglaítear orm aird a tharraingt i mo thuarascáil ar na nochtaí bainteacha sna ráitis airgeadais nó, murar leor na nochtuithe sin, mo thuairim a leasú. Tá mo chuid conclúidí bunaithe ar an bhfianaise iniúchta arna fáil suas go dtí dáta mo thuarascála. D'fhéadfadh, mar gheall ar imeachtaí nó ar choinníollacha sa todhchaí, áfach, go stadfadh an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil de bheith ina gnóthas leantach.
- Déanaim measúnú ar chur i láthair, struchtúr agus ábhar na ráiteas airgeadais, lena n-áirítear na nochtaí agus cibé acu an léirítear na hidirbhearta agus na himeachtaí bunúsacha sna ráitis airgeadais ar bhealach ina mbaintear amach cur i láthair cóir.

Déanaim cumarsáid leo siúd a bhfuil cúram leagtha orthu as rialachas maidir le, i measc ábhar eile, scóip agus tráthú beartaithe an iniúchta agus fionnachtana tábhachtacha an iniúchta, lena n-áirítear aon easnaimh mhóra sa rialú inmheánach a aithním le linn m'iniúchta.

Tugaim tuairisc trí eisceacht más rud é, i mo thuairim,

- nach bhfuair mé an fhaisnéis agus na míniúcháin go léir a theastaigh uaim don iniúchadh, nó
- nárbh leor na taifid chuntasaióchta le go bhféadfaí na ráitis airgeadais a iniúchadh go héasca agus i gceart, nó
- mura réitíonn na ráitis airgeadais leis na taifid chuntasaióchta.

## Faisnéis eile seachas na ráitis airgeadais

Ní chuimsíonn mo thuairim ar na ráitis airgeadais an fhaisnéis eile arna cur i láthair in éineacht leis sna ráitis sin, agus ní thugaim aon chonclúid chinnteachta maidir leis sin.

Maidir le m'iniúchadh ar na ráitis airgeadais, ceanglaítear orm faoi CIlInna an fhaisnéis eile a léamh atá curtha i láthair agus, é sin á dhéanamh agam, a mheas cibé acu an bhfuil neamhréir ábhartha idir an fhaisnéis eile agus na ráitis airgeadais nó faisnéis arna fáil le linn an iniúchta, nó má tá cuma air ar bhealach eile go bhfuil sí míshonraithe go hábhartha. Má thagaim ar an gconclúid, bunaithe ar an obair a rinne mé, go bhfuil an fhaisnéis eile sin míshonraithe go hábhartha, ceanglaítear orm an fhíríc sin a thuairisciú.

## Tuairisciú ar ábhair eile

Déantar m'iniúchadh agus aird á tabhairt ar na comaoineacha speisialta a ghabhann le comhlachtaí Stáit maidir lena mbainistiú agus a bhfeidhmiú. Tugaim tuairisc má aithním ábhair ábhartha maidir leis an mbealach ina ndearnadh gnó poiblí.

Féachaim chuig fianaise a fháil faoi rialtacht idirbheart airgeadais le linn an iniúchta. Tugaim tuairisc má aithním aon chás ábhartha, áit nár cuireadh airgead poiblí i bhfeidhm do na cuspóirí dá raibh sé beartaithe nó áit nár chloígh idirbhearta leis na húdaráis a rialaíonn iad.



## 7.4 RÁITEAS AR IONCAM AGUS CAITEACHAS AGUS AR CHÚLCHISTÍ COINNITHE IONCAIM DON BHLIAIN DAR CHRÍOCH AN 31 NOLLAIG 2021

<b>Ioncam</b>	<b>Nóta</b>	<b>2021 €'000</b>	<b>2020 €'000</b>
Deontais Oireachtais – DECC	2(a)	48,636	43,048
Deontais faoin gCiste Comhshaoil	2(b)	0	2,992
Deontais Oireachtais – DHLGH	2(c)	6,352	6,808
Costais Aisghafa maidir le Trádáil ina Astúcháin	3	1,542	1,727
Ioncam ó Ghníomhaíochtaí Raideolaíocha	4	764	824
Gníomhaíochtaí Ceadúnaithe	5	674	579
Gníomhaíochtaí Forfheidhmithe	6	10,133	9,884
Fáltais Ilghnéitheacha	7	698	342
Glan Chistiú Shochair Iarchurtha	23(c)	7,942	7,123
<b>Ioncam Iomlán</b>		<b>76,741</b>	<b>73,327</b>
<b>Caiteachas</b>			
Luach Saothair	8	27,373	27,064
Costais Sochair Scoir	23(a)	11,052	10,150
Speansais Taistil	9	466	555
Costais Saotharlainne agus Allamuigh	10	1,494	1,701
Costais Chóiríochta	11	1,916	1,913
Costais Riaracháin	12	8,826	8,541
Sainchomhairleoirí	13	285	364
Deontais, Conraitheoirí agus Soláthraithe Seirbhíse Seachtracha	14	9,673	9,107
Íocaíochtaí maidir leis an gClár Taighde Comhshaoil	15	8,784	8,660
Dímheas	16	5,762	5,902
<b>Caiteachas Iomlán</b>		<b>75,631</b>	<b>73,957</b>
<b>Barrachas/(Easnamh) don Bhliain roimh Leithghabhálacha</b>		<b>1,110</b>	<b>(630)</b>
Aistriú go dtí/(ó) an Cuntas Caipitil	17	145	449
(Easnamh)/Barrachas ar Dhiúscairt Sócmhainní Seasta		(16)	15
<b>Barrachas/(easnamh) don bhliain tar éis leithghabhálacha</b>		<b>1,239</b>	<b>(166)</b>
Barrachas amhail an 1 Eanáir		3,496	3,662
Barrachas amhail an 31 Nollaig		<b>4,735</b>	<b>3,496</b>

Baineann an t-ioncam agus an caiteachas ar fad don bhliain le gníomhaíochtaí leanúnacha ag an dáta tuairiscithe.

Is cuid de na ráitis airgeadais seo iad an Ráiteas ar Shreabhadh Airgid agus na nótaí 1 go 28.

Thar ceann Bhord na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil:



**Laura Burke**  
Ard-Stiúrthóir



**Gerard O'Leary**  
Leas-Ardstiúrthóir

Dáta sínithe: 24 Bealtaine 2022

## 7.5 RÁITEAS MAIDIR LE HIONCAM CUIMSITHEACH DON BHLIAIN DAR CRÍOCH AN 31 NOLLAIG 2021

	Nóta	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Barrachas/(Easnamh) tar éis leithghabhálacha</b>		<b>1,239</b>	<b>(166)</b>
Gnóthachain/(Cailteanais) ó thaithí ar oibleagáidí sochair scoir	23(d)	3,143	3,606
Athruithe ar an mbonn tuisceana maidir le luach reatha oibleagáidí sochar scoir		(23,421)	(23,428)
<b>(Cailteanas)/Gnóthachan Achtúireach le linn na bliana</b>		<b>(20,278)</b>	<b>(19,822)</b>
<b>Coigeartú ar Mhaoiniú Sochar Scoir Iarchurtha</b>		<b>20,278</b>	<b>19,822</b>
<b>Ioncam Cuimsitheach Eile don Bhliain</b>		<b>1,239</b>	<b>(166)</b>

Is cuid de na ráitis airgeadais seo iad an Ráiteas ar Shreabhadh Airgid agus na nótaí 1 go 28.

Thar ceann Bhord na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil:



**Laura Burke**  
Ard-Stiúrthóir



**Gerard O'Leary**  
Leas-Ardstiúrthóir

Dáta sínithe: 24 Bealtaine 2022

## 7.6 RÁITEAS AR STAID AIRGEADAIS AR AN 31 NOLLAIG 2021

	Nóta	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Sócmhainní Seasta – Réadmhaoín, Gléasra agus Trealamh	19	37,882	38,027
<b>Sócmhainní Reatha</b>			
Infháltais	20	3,252	3,225
Airgead tirim agus coibhéisí airgid tirim	21	10,350	9,445
		<b>13,602</b>	<b>12,670</b>
<b>Dlíteanais Reatha (Méideanna dlite laistigh de bhliain amháin)</b>			
Suimeanna iníoctha	22	(8,873)	(9,180)
<b>Glansócmhainní Reatha</b>		<b>4,729</b>	<b>3,490</b>
<b>Sócmhainní Iomlána lúide Dlíteanais Reatha roimh Shochair Scoir</b>		<b>42,611</b>	<b>41,517</b>
<b>Sochair Scoir</b>			
Oibleagáidí sochar scoir	23(b)	(334,807)	(306,587)
Sócmhainní maoinithe sochar scoir iarchurtha	23(c)	334,807	306,587
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Glansócmhainní Iomlána</b>		<b>42,611</b>	<b>41,517</b>
<b>Mar ionadaí do:</b>			
<b>Cuntas caipitil</b>	17	<b>37,876</b>	<b>38,021</b>
<b>Cúlchistí ioncaim coinnithe</b>		<b>4,735</b>	<b>3,496</b>
		<b>42,611</b>	<b>41,517</b>

Is cuid de na ráitis airgeadais seo iad an Ráiteas ar Shreabhadh Airgid agus na nótaí 1 go 28.

Thar ceann Bhord na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil:



**Laura Burke**  
Ard-Stiúrthóir



**Gerard O'Leary**  
Leas-Ardstiúrthóir

Dáta sínithe: 24 Bealtaine 2022

## 7.7 RÁITEAS FAOI SHREABHADH AIRGID DON BHLIAIN DAR CRÍOCH AN 31 NOLLAIG 2021

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Glansreabhadh Airgid ó Gníomhaíochtaí Oibriúcháin</b>		
Barrachas/(Easnamh) Ioncaim thar Chaiteachas	1,239	(166)
Dímheas agus Bearnúchán ar Shócmhainní Seasta	5,762	5,902
(Méadú) ar Infháltais	(27)	(57)
(Laghdú)/Ardú i Suimeanna Iníochta	(307)	804
Ús Íochta	64	41
(Easnamh)/Barrachas ar Dhiúscairt Sócmhainní Seasta	16	(15)
Aistriú (ón)/chuig an gCuntas Caipitil	(145)	(449)
<b>Glan-insreabhadh Airgid ó Gníomhaíochtaí Oibriúcháin</b>	<b>6,602</b>	<b>6,060</b>
<b>Sreabhadh Airgid ó Gníomhaíochtaí Infheistíochta</b>		
Íocaíochtaí chun Réadmhaoin, Gléasra agus Trealamh a fháil	(5,633)	(5,453)
Fáltais ó dhiúscairt sócmhainní seasta	0	15
<b>Glansreabhadh Airgid ó Gníomhaíochtaí Infheistíochta</b>	<b>(5,633)</b>	<b>(5,438)</b>
<b>Sreabhadh Airgid ó Gníomhaíochtaí Airgeadais</b>		
Ús Bainc Íochta	(64)	(41)
Iasacht Sócmhainne Seasta díscríofa	0	(23)
<b>Glansreabhadh Airgid ó Gníomhaíochtaí Airgeadais</b>	<b>(64)</b>	<b>(64)</b>
<b>Glanardú/(Glanlaghdú) in Airgead Tirim agus Coibhéisí Airgid Tirim</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>558</b>
Airgead tirim agus coibhéisí airgid thirim ar an 1 Eanáir	9,445	8,887
<b>Airgead tirim agus coibhéisí airgid thirim ar 31 Nollaig</b>	<b>10,350</b>	<b>9,445</b>



## 7.8 NÓTAÍ A GHABHANN LEIS NA RÁITIS AIRGEADAIS DON BHLIAIN DAR CRÍOCH AN 31 NOLLAIG 2021

### 1 Beartais Chuntasaíochta

Tá an bonn cuntasaíochta agus na bearta suntasacha cuntasaíochta a ghlac an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil leagtha amach thíos. Cuireadh i bhfeidhm iad ar fad go seasta i rith na bliana agus don bhliain roimhe.

#### a) Faisnéis Ghinearálta

Bunaíodh an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil faoin Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992, agus tá a ceanncheathrú ag Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin, Co. Loch Garman.

Príomhchuspóirí – tá cur síos ar oibríochtaí agus ar phríomhghníomhaíochtaí na GCC leagtha amach sa Tuarascáil Bhliantúil a ghabhann leis na Ráitis Airgeadais seo.

Is Aonán Sochair Poiblí (ASB) í an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil.

#### b) Ráiteas Comhlíonta

Ullmhaíodh ráitis airgeadais na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil don bhliain dár críoch an 31 Nollaig 2021 de réir FRS 102, an caighdeán tuairiscithe airgeadais atá infheidhme sa RA agus in Éirinn, arna eisiúint ag an gComhairle Tuairiscithe Airgeadais.

#### c) Bunús an Ullmhúcháin

Ullmhaíodh na ráitis airgeadais faoi choinbhinsiún an chostais stairiúil agus ar an mbealach atá ceadaithe ag an Aire Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, le comhthoilú an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe faoi Alt 50 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992. Cuireadh na beartais chuntasaíochta seo a leanas i bhfeidhm go seasta nuair a bhíodhas ag déileáil le míreanna a cheaptar a bheith ábhartha.

#### d) Ioncam

##### Deontais Stáit

Aithnítear ioncam go ginearálta ar bhonn fabhráithe; eisceacht amháin air seo is ea Deontais Stáit, a aithnítear ar bhonn fháltais airgid thirim.

##### Ioncam Gníomhaíochta Ceadúnais

Éilítear ar iarratasóirí ar cheadúnais chomhshaoil táille iomlán an iarratais ar cheadúnas a íoc nuair a dhéantar an t-iarratas. Cionroinntear na suimeanna a fhaightear don Chuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais agus do Chúlchistí Ioncam Coinnithe nuair a thugtar na céimeanna seo a leanas den phróiseas ceadúnaithe chun críche:

An Treoir maidir le hAstaíochtaí Tionsclaíochta, Ceadúnais um Chosc agus Rialú Comhtháite ar Thruailliú agus Ceadúnas Bainistithe Dramhaíola:

Iarratas	30%
Cinneadh Beartaithe	50%
Eisiúint Ceadúnais	20%

Ceadúnais do Sceitheadh Fuíolluisce:

Iarratas	10%
Admháil an iarratais iomláin	40%
Cinneadh a Eisiúint faoi Cheadúnas	50%

##### Ioncam eile

Aithnítear ioncam eile ar bhonn fabhráithe.

### e) An tAonad Trádála Astaíochtaí

Bunaíodh an tAonad Trádála Astaíochtaí laistigh den Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil in 2003. Déanann an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide na costais a bhaineann leis an scéim trádála astaíochtaí a riaráil aisíoc leis an GCC, ó fháltais dhíol lamháltas a íoctar go díreach leis an Roinn.

### f) Íocaíochtaí um Dheontais Taighde

Glacann an GCC gealltanais ar láimh maidir le tionscadail taighde dá ndéantar maoiniú a bhronnadh. Gearrtar caiteachas i leith na dtionscadal taighde seo sna ráitis airgeadais ar bhonn na n-íocaíochtaí tosaigh a rinneadh ar shíniú dhámhachtaí an deontais, ar bhonn na n-íocaíochtaí eatramhacha a d'fhéadfadh a bheith faoi réir ag feidhmíocht shásúil agus ar bhonn íocaíochtaí breise arna n-eisiúint ar ghlacadh agus ar fhíorú éileamh maidir le hobair a críochnaíodh. Gearrtar costais a thabhaíonn an GCC i bhfeidhmiú na gclár taighde sna ráitis airgeadais de réir mar a thabhaítear iad.

### g) Réadmhaoin, Gléasra agus Trealamh

Déantar réadmhaoin, gléasra agus trealamh a shonrú ag costas lúide dímheas carntha, agus é coigeartaithe d'aon fhoráil le haghaidh bearnúcháin. Soláthraítear dímheas ar gach réadmhaoin, gléasra agus trealamh ag rátaí a mheastar go nglanfaidh siad na costais lúide an luach iarmharach measta ar gach sócmhainn ar bhonn líne dhíreach thar a saol úsáideach measta, mar seo a leanas:

Foirgnimh	2% in aghaidh na bliana
Troscán agus Feistis	10% in aghaidh na bliana
Trealamh Saotharlainne agus Allamuigh	15% in aghaidh na bliana
Trealamh	20% in aghaidh na bliana
Trealamh TF agus Ríomhaireachta	25% in aghaidh na bliana
Mótarfheithiclí	20% in aghaidh na bliana

Déantar dímheas ar fheabhsuithe léasacha i rith shaol an léasa.

Is ionann an luach iarmharach agus an méid measta a d'fhéadfaí a fháil faoi láthair ó dhiúscairt na sócmhainne, tar éis costais mheasta a bhaint as, á mbeadh an tsócmhainn ar an aois agus sa staid a mbeifí ag súil leis ag deireadh a shaoil úsáideach.

### h) Caipitliú Bogearraí a Forbraíodh go hInmheánach

Déantar caipitliú ar chostais sheachtracha na mbogearraí a fhorbraíonn an Ghníomhaireacht, áit ar féidir iad a aithint go leithleach mar bhogearraí ar féidir leis an GCC úsáid a bhaint astu agus áit a bhfuil súil go mbeidh buntáistí gnó ag eascairt astu ar feadh roinnt blianta amach anseo. Déantar costais tuarastail bhaill foirne fhorbairt na mbogearraí a chaipitliú chomh maith.

### i) Maoiniú Caipitil

Déantar sócmhainní seasta GCC agus réamhíocaíochtaí chun obair atá ar siúl a mhaoiniú ó mheascán de dheontais chaipitil, iasachtaí ceadaithe agus cionrannta as ioncam reatha. Aistrítear maoiniú a thagann ó dheontais (lena n-áirítear iad sin a úsáidtear le hiasachtaí a aisíoc) chuig cuntas caipitil a amúchtar i gcomhréir le dímheas na sócmhainní gaolmhara.

### j) Fardal

Díscríobhtar iomlán na bhfardal, lena n-áirítear stoic inchaite, sa bhliain ina gceannaítear iad.

### k) Infháltais

Déantar infháltais a thomhas ar phraghas idirbhirt ar dtús agus ansin tugtar anonn iad ag an méid sin, lúide soláthar d'aon fhiachais amhrasacha. Bunaítear soláthar d'fhiachais amhrasacha nuair atá fianaise oibiachtúil ann nach mbeidh an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil in ann na méideanna go léir atá ag dul di a bhailiú. Aithnítear sa Ráiteas ar Ioncam agus Caiteachas agus ar Chúlchistí Coinnithe loncaim na gluaiseachtaí go léir ar sholáthar d'fhiachais amhrasacha.

### l) Léasanna Oibriúcháin

Aithnítear caiteachas cíosa faoi léasanna oibriúcháin sa Ráiteas ar Ioncam agus Caiteachas agus ar Chúlchistí Coinnithe loncaim thar shaolré an léasa. Aithnítear caiteachas ar bhonn an mhéid chothroim thar thréimhse an léasa, ach amháin nuair atá méaduithe léasa ceangailte le ráta ionchais boillsicthe; sa chás sin aithnítear na méaduithe nuair a thabhaítear iad. Aithnítear aon dreasacht léasa a fhaightear thar shaol an léasa.

## m) Sochair Fostaí

### Sochair Gearrthearma

Aithnítear sochair gearrthearma ar nós pá saoire tríd an bhliain, agus cuimsítear sochair atá fabhráithe ag deireadh na bliana i bhfigiúr na Suimeanna Iníoctha sa Ráiteas Staid Airgeadais.

### Sochair Scoir

Bhunaigh an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil a cuid scéimeanna pinsin féin le sochar sainithe roimhe seo, scéimeanna a mhaoinítear go bliantúil ar bhonn 'foc mar a thuillir' ó shuimeanna airgid atá ar fáil di, lena n-áirítear airgead arna sholáthar ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, agus ó ranníocaíochtaí a bhaintear de thuarastail foirne agus comhaltaí. Oibríonn an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil Scéim Pinsin Aonair na Seirbhísí Poiblí (Scéim Aonair) freisin, ar scéim le sochar sainithe é d'fhostaithe inphinsin sa tseirbhís phoiblí a ceapadh ar an 1 Eanáir 2013 nó ina dhiaidh sin. Íoctar ranníocaíochtaí bhail na Scéime Aonair leis an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe (RCPA).

Léiríonn costais phinsin sochair phinsin a bhíonn tuillte ag fostaithe agus taispeántar iad mar ghlanmhéid ranníocaíochtaí pinsin foirne i gcás fostaithe a gcoinníonn an Gníomhaireacht a ranníocaíochtaí. Glactar le méid a chomhfhreagraíonn don táille pinsin mar ioncam sa mhéid is gur féidir é a aisghabháil, agus go ndéanann deontais a fhaightear i rith na bliana é a fhritháireamh sa chaoi gur féidir íocaíochtaí pinsin a urscaoileadh.

Léirítear gnóthachain nó cailteanais achtúireacha a eascraíonn as dlíteanais scéime sa Ráiteas ar Ioncam Cuimsitheach, agus aithnítear coigeartú comhfhreagrach sa mhéid in-aisghabhála ón Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide.

Léiríonn na ráitis airgeadais, ag luach cóir, na sócmhainní agus na dlíteanais is toradh ar oibleagáidí pinsin na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil agus aon mhaoiníú gaolmhar, agus aithníonn siad na costais a bhaineann le sochair phinsin a chur ar fáil sna tréimhsí cuntasíochta ina saothraíonn na fostaithe iad. Déantar dlíteanais na Scéime Pinsean a thomhas ar bhonn achtúireach agus modh na n-aonad réamh-mheasta creidmheasa á úsáid.

Is ionann na dlíteanais phinsin agus luach láithreach na n-íocaíochtaí pinsin todhchaí atá tuillte ag baill foirne go dtí seo. Is éard atá i maoiníú pinsin iarchurtha ná an tsócmhainn chomhfhreagrach a dhéanfar a aisghabháil amach anseo ón Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide.

## n) Breithiúnais agus Meastacháin Chriticiúla maidir le Cuntasaíocht

Éilíonn ullmhúchán na ráiteas airgeadais go ndéanfadh an lucht bainistíochta breithiúnais, meastacháin agus toimhdí a mbeidh tionchar acu ar na méideanna a tuairiscíodh mar shócmhainní agus dlíteanais ar dháta an Ráitis ar an Staid Airgeadais agus na méideanna a tuairiscíodh mar ioncain agus speansais le linn na bliana. Mar sin féin, is é an nádúr atá le meastacháin go bhféadfadh an toradh iarbhír a bheith difriúil ó na meastacháin. Tá an toradh is suntasaí ag na breithiúnais seo a leanas ar na méideanna a aithnítear sna ráitis airgeadais.

### Oibleagáid sochair scoir

Déantar nuashonrú go bliantúil ar na toimhdí atá mar bhunús ag na luachanna achtúireacha dá gcinntítear na méideanna a aithnítear sna ráitis airgeadais (ar a n-áirítear rátaí lascaine, rátaí ardaithe i leibhéil cúitimh amach anseo, rátaí báis agus treocht sna rátaí costais cúram sláinte) bunaithe ar thosca eacnamaíochta reatha, agus ar aon athrú ábhartha ar théarmaí agus ar choinníollacha na bpleananna pinsin agus iar-scoir.

D'fhéadfadh tionchar a bheith acu seo a leanas ar na boinn tuisceana:

- (i) an ráta lascaine, athruithe ar an ráta brabúis ar bhannaí ardchaidheáin corparáideacha.
- (ii) leibhéil chúitimh sa todhchaí, tosca mhargadh an lucht oibre sa todhchaí.

## 2 Deontais Stáit

		2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Deontais ón Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide:</b>			
<b>(a) Deontas Oireachtais – Deontais ó Vóta na Roinne:</b>			
Reatha	Fotheideal – E3	32,603	28,441
Caipiteal	Fotheideal – E3	15,521	13,910
Cláir Eile	Fotheideal – E3	512	697
<b>Deontais Iomlána Oireachtais ón Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide</b>		<b>48,636</b>	<b>43,048</b>
<b>Tá an Deontas reatha atá léirithe glan ar ranníocaíochtaí fostaithe sa scéim aonair de €307K (2020: €264K) íoctha leis an DPER.</b>			
<b>(b) Deontais Chiste Comhshaoil</b>			
Neamhphá		0	0
Taighde		0	0
Cláir Eile		0	2,992
<b>Iomlán na nDeontas Chiste Comhshaoil</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2,992</b>
<b>Deontais ón Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta:</b>			
<b>(c) Deontas Oireachtais – Deontais ó Vóta na Roinne:</b>			
Reatha	Fotheideal – B3	5,655	5,871
Caipiteal	Fotheideal – B3	697	937
<b>Deontais Iomlána Oireachtais ón Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta</b>		<b>6,352</b>	<b>6,808</b>
<b>Iomlán na nDeontas ón Stát</b>		<b>54,988</b>	<b>52,848</b>

Maoiniú Taighde de €10M (2020: €7.999M) arna chur ar fáil ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide mar leithdháileadh speisialta chun freastal ar chostas taighde comhshaoil. Caitheadh €11.437M ar na gníomhaíochtaí taighde seo in 2021 (2020: €11.134M). Féach Nóta 15.



### 3 Gníomhaíochtaí an Aonaid Trádála Astaíochtaí

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Costais an Aonaid Trádála in Astaíochtaí a aisghabhadh ó Chistí Ceantála, etc.	1,542	1,727
<b>Maoiniú Iomlán Chostais an ETU</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>1,727</b>

### 4 Ioncam ó Gníomhaíochtaí Raideolaíocha

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Seirbhís Chalabrucháin	28	20
Seirbhís Mhonatóireachta ar Radaíocht	227	269
Ceadúnú agus Forfheidhmiú Raideolaíoch	497	535
Ilghnéitheach	12	0
<b>Ioncam Iomlán ó Gníomhaíochtaí Raideolaíocha</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>824</b>

### 5 Gníomhaíochtaí Ceadúnaithe – An Treoir maidir le hAstaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha agus Rialú Comhtháite ar Thruailliú, Dramhaíl agus Sceitheadh Fuíolluisce

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Táillí Ceadúnais réamhíochta amhail an 1 Eanáir	1,412	1,427
Táillí a Fuarthas	831	570
Lúide Aisiocaíochtaí Íochta	(128)	(6)
Táillí Ceadúnais réamhíochta ar an 31 Nollaig (féach Nóta 22)	(1,441)	(1,412)
<b>An tsuim a cuireadh chun sochair don Ráiteas ar Ioncam agus Caiteachas agus do na Cúlchistí Ioncaim Coinnithe</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>579</b>

Ceadúnú: An Treoir maidir le hAstaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha (TAT), Cosc Comhtháite ar Thruailliú (CCT) agus Dramhaíl Faoi Alt 83 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992, tá an GCC freagrach as ceadúnú a dhéanamh ar phróisis tionsclaíocha mhóra/chasta nó eile a bhféadfadh truailliú mór tarlú dá mbarr. Faoi Alt 40 den Acht um Bainistiú Dramhaíola, 1996 tá an GCC freagrach as ceadúnú a dhéanamh ar gach mórgníomhaíocht aisghabhála dramhaíola agus diúscartha atá á bhfeidhmiú ag na húdaráis áitiúla agus ag fiontair phríobháideacha.

Ceadúnú: Sceitheadh Fuíolluisce

Déantar foráil sna Rialacháin um Sceitheadh Fuíolluisce (Údarú) 2007 chun sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbigh a cheadúnú. Ní mór ceadúnas ón GCC a fháil le haghaidh sceite ó limistéir ina bhfuil breis agus 500 duine. Ní mór do limistéir ina bhfuil níos lú ná 500 duine deimhniú a fháil ón GCC. Eascraíonn ioncam ceadúnaithe na GCC as táillí a ghearrtar as iarrtais ar cheadúnú dá leithéid a phróiseáil.

## 6 Gníomhaíochtaí Forfheidhmithe – An Treoir maidir le hAstaíochtaí Tionsclaíocha agus Rialú Comhtháite ar Thruailliú, Dramhaíl, Sceitheadh Fuíolluisce agus Uisce Óil

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Muirir Fhorfheidhmithe ar gearradh sonrasc orthu	9,907	9,711
Ioncam Forfheidhmithe ó Ionchúisimh	226	173
<b>Ioncam Iomlán ó Gníomhaíochtaí Forfheidhmithe</b>	<b>10,133</b>	<b>9,884</b>

Faoi Alt 96 d'Acht na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992, tá an GCC freagrach as rialú a dhéanamh ar phróisis tionsclaíocha mhóra/chasta nó eile a bhféadfadh mórthruailliú tarlú dá mbarr. Faoi Alt 15 den Acht um Bainistiú Dramhaíola, 1996, tá an GCC freagrach as rialú a dhéanamh ar gach mórghníomhaíocht aisghabhála dramhaíola agus diúscartha a bhíonn ar siúl ag na húdaráis áitiúla agus ag fiontair phríobháideacha. Faoi na Rialacháin um Sceitheadh Fuíolluisce (Údarú) 2007, tá an GCC freagrach as sceitheadh fuíolluisce a rialú. Faoi rialacháin (Uisce Óil) an Aontais Eorpaigh 2014, is féidir leis an GCC táille a ghearradh as monatóireacht a dhéanann sé ar cháilíocht sholáthair uisce óil an phobail. Is as táillí a ghearrtar maidir leis an obair fhorfheidhmithe seo a bhfaigheann an GCC a ioncam forfheidhmithe.

## 7 Fáltais Ilghnéitheacha

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Ilghnéitheach	698	342
	<b>698</b>	<b>342</b>

## 8 Luach Saothair

### (a) Sochair Fostaithe Chomhbhailithe

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Sochair ghearrthéarmacha do bhaill foirne	25,039	24,807
Sochair foirceanta	0	0
Ranníocaíocht an fhostóra le leas sóisialta ÁSPC	2,396	2,323
<b>Costais Iomlána Tuarastal</b>	<b>27,435</b>	<b>27,130</b>
Costais Tuarastail Fhorbairt TF caipitlithe	(62)	(66)
<b>Gearrtar Costais Tuarastail ar an Ráiteas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais agus ar na Cúlchistí Ioncaim Coinnithe</b>	<b>27,373</b>	<b>27,064</b>

Áirítear le costas iomlán an tuarastail €27.4M fabhrú de €934,000 (2020: €980,000) maidir le teidlíochtaí carntha i dtaca le saoire bhliantúil foirne. €307,000 (2020: €264,000) de ranníocaíochtaí pinsin bhaill na Scéime aonair a rinneadh a bhaint agus a íoc leis an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe. Ba é líon iomlán na mball den Scéim Aonair ag deireadh na bliana ná 151 (2020: 141).

Tugadh an Ranníocaíocht Aoisliúntais Bhreise isteach in ionad na hAsbhainte a Bhaineann le Pinsean le héifeacht ón 1 Eanáir 2019. In 2021, €943,000 de Ranníocaíocht Aoisliúntais Bhreise (2020: €916,000) a asbhaineadh de bhaill foirne agus a íocadh leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide.

## (b) Anailís foirne de réir láthair:

	2021	2020
Ceanncheathrú	183	168
Cigireacht Réigiúnach Caisleán an Bharraigh	28	26
Cigireacht Réigiúnach Corcaigh	59	56
Cigireacht Réigiúnach Baile Átha Cliath	134	125
Cigireacht Réigiúnach Cill Chainnigh	24	25
Cigireacht Réigiúnach Muineachán	14	14
Oifigí Réigiúnacha	6	6
	<b>448</b>	<b>420</b>

## (C) Anailís ar chostais tuarastail foirne sa bhreis ar €60,000:

Is iad seo a leanas líon na bhfostaithe ar thit a gcuid sochar fostaí laistigh de gach banda €10,000 ó €60,000:

	2021	2020
€60,000 go €70,000	78	81
€70,000 go €80,000	52	48
€80,000 go €90,000	15	29
€90,000 go €100,000	24	6
€100,000 go €110,000	6	7
€110,000 go €120,000	3	1
€130,000 go €140,000	0	3
€140,000 go €150,000	3	0
€150,000 go €160,000	1	1
€160,000 go €170,000	0	0
€170,000 go €180,000	1	1

Ba é líon iomlán na mball foirne a bhí fostaithe ag deireadh na bliana ná 415.9 (2020: 411.5).

## (d) Sochair Ghearrthéarmacha Foirne

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Pá Bunúsach	24,974	24,742
Ragobair	0	0
Liúntais	65	65
	<b>25,039</b>	<b>24,807</b>

### (e) Príomhphearsanra bainistíochta

Is Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear baill den Bhord Stiúrthóirí atá mar príomhphearsanra bainistíochta ag an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil. Is Stiúrthóirí feidhmiúcháin lánaimseartha iad Stiúrthóirí na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil. Íoctar tuarastal cuimsitheach leo agus dá bharr sin ní íoctar aon táillí Stiúrthóirí ná Boird leo. Tá luach iomlán na sochar fostaí don phríomhphearsanra bainistíochta leagtha amach thíos:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Tuarastal	860	804
Liúntais	11	11
	<b>871</b>	<b>815</b>

Ní áirítear leis sin luach na sochar scoir arna dtuilleamh sa tréimhse sin. Tá an príomhphearsanra bainistíochta ina mbaill de scéim pinsin foirne na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil agus ní shíneann a gcuid teidlíochtaí chuige sin thar théarmaí shamhail scéim na bpinsean seirbhíse poiblí.

### (f) Tuarastal agus Sochair an Ard-Stiúrthóra

Seo a leanas pacáiste luach saothair an Ard-Stiúrthóra don tréimhse airgeadais:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Tuarastal	175	172

Ní áirítear leis sin luach na sochar scoir arna dtuilleamh sa tréimhse sin. Tá an tArd-Stiúrthóir ina bhall de scéim pinsin foirne na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (Ard-Stiúrthóir agus Stiúrthóir) agus ní théann a theidlíochtaí chuige sin thar théarmaí shamhail na scéime pinsin seirbhíse poiblí.

## 9 Speansais Taistil

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Taisteal agus Cothú	366	452
Speansais Mhótarfheithiclí	100	106
Aisíocaíochtaí Taistil	0	(3)
	<b>466</b>	<b>555</b>

Áirítear leis sin caiteachas taistil an Bhoird Fheidhmiúcháin de €23,091 (2020: €25,093).



## 10 Costais Saotharlainne agus Allamuigh

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Speansais Saotharlainne agus Allamuigh	912	992
Deisiúcháin ar Threalamh agus Cothabháil	541	655
Éadaí Cosanta	41	54
	<b>1,494</b>	<b>1,701</b>

## 11 Costais Cóiríochta

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Cíos agus Rátaí	744	758
Cumhacht, Solas agus Téamh, Glantóireacht	631	643
Deisiúcháin, Cothabháil, Slándáil	541	512
	<b>1,916</b>	<b>1,913</b>

## 12 Costais Riaracháin

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Teileafón agus Postas	462	401
Cló Foilseachán agus Soláthairtí Stáiseanóireachta	384	465
Árachas	195	194
Muirir Ríomhairí agus Próiseála Sonraí	4,050	3,912
Táillí Iniúchóireachta	29	29
Rialachas Corparáideach agus Costais Iniúchóireachta Inmheánaí	84	81
Táillí dlí, comhairle agus costais a bhaineann leo	1,419	1,323
Speansais Cruinnithe, Coiste Sheachtraigh agus Aoi-chainteoirí	210	151
Ceapachán Foirne agus costais ghaolmhara eile	218	130
Ús agus Muirir Bhainc	74	57
Leabhair, Tréimhseacháin, agus Leabharlann	88	101
Costais Forbartha agus Oiliúna Foirne	424	408
Fógraíocht	80	153
Cumarsáid	961	958
Ilghnéithigh	148	178
	<b>8,826</b>	<b>8,541</b>

### 13 Costais Chomhairleachta

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Sainchomhairleoirí	285	364
	<b>285</b>	<b>364</b>

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Ar na hOifigí GCC a bhain leas as na comhairliúcháin seo, bhí:		
An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha	108	143
An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil	5	58
An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú	86	66
An Oifig um Chosaint ar Radaíocht agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil	17	39
Oifig an Ard-Stiúrthóra/Trasoifig	69	58
	<b>285</b>	<b>364</b>

### 14 Deontais, Conraitheoirí agus Soláthraithe Seirbhíse Seachtracha

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Conraitheoirí agus Soláthraithe Seirbhísí Seachtracha	7,201	6,585
Deontais	2,472	2,522
	<b>9,673</b>	<b>9,107</b>

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Seo a leanas na hOifigí GCC inar tabhaíodh costais faoin gceannnteideal seo:		
An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha	622	642
An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil	3,032	2,451
An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú	3,873	4,169
An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil	926	762
An Oifig um Chosaint ar Radaíocht agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil	1,220	1,083
	<b>9,673</b>	<b>9,107</b>

## 15 Taighde Comhshaoil

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Clár Taighde na GCC – Íocaíochtaí Deontais	10,109	9,361
Clár Taighde na GCC – Aisíocaíochtaí Deontais	(15)	(87)
Ioncam Taighde Cómhaoinithe	(1,310)	(614)
Íocaíochtaí maidir leis an gClár Taighde	<b>8,784</b>	<b>8,660</b>

Seoladh clár reatha na GCC um thaighde comhshaoil in 2021. Tá sé á chómhaoiniú le meascán de mhaoiniú ón Státchiste agus cómhaoiniú a sholáthraíonn eagraíochtaí maoinithe taighde eile. Tá sé mar aidhm ag Clár Taighde na GCC an eolaíocht agus an nuálaíocht a chur i gceartlár chosaint an chomhshaoil in Éirinn agus feasacht á forbairt agus á haistriú go réamhghníomhach.

### Cómhaoiniú Taighde

De bhreis ar an maoiniú a chuir an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide ar fáil, fuarthas an comh-mhaoiniú seo a leanas:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara	346	185
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte	211	43
An Roinn Iompair	166	50
Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann	147	0
Foras na Mara	138	50
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta na hÉireann	87	26
An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra	63	0
Met Éireann/An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht	55	103
Bio Diversa	25	0
Agence Nationale de la Recherche	21	90
Líonraí Gáis Éireann	0	39
REPAK	0	20
Ilghnéitheach/Eile	51	8
Cómhaoiniú Iomlán	<b>1,310</b>	<b>614</b>

In 2021, ba é caiteachas na GCC ar Chláir Taighde ná €11.11M lenar áiríodh Íocaíochtaí Deontais de €10.109M, mar a thaispeántar thuas, agus costais um chur i bhfeidhm agus gníomhaíochta de €1,001K, atá tuairiscithe faoi na ceannteidil costais seo a leanas: Taisteal, Saotharlann agus Allamuigh, Riarachán agus Conraitheoirí.

In 2020, ba é caiteachas na GCC ar Chláir Taighde ná €10.790M lenar áiríodh Íocaíochtaí Deontais de €9.361M, mar a thaispeántar thuas, agus costais um chur i bhfeidhm agus gníomhaíochta de €1,430K, atá tuairiscithe faoi na ceannteidil costais seo a leanas: Taisteal, Saotharlann agus Allamuigh, Riarachán agus Conraitheoirí.

Tá €327K breise d'íocaíochtaí deontais (2020: €343K) le haghaidh clár taighde san áireamh san fhiigiúr a bhaineann le Deontais i Nóta 14.

Ar an 31 Nollaig 2021, b'ionann na gealltanais a bhí déanta ach nach raibh gearrtha go fóill ar na ráitis airgeadais maidir le Tionscadail taighde agus €24.841M (2020: €24.391M) leis an miondealú seo a leanas:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Gealltanais Deontais le hóc amhail an 1 Eanáir	24,391	27,551
Deontais a Ceadáíodh le linn na bliana	11,166	8,015
Deontais Dídhílsithe le linn na bliana	(295)	(1,558)
Íocaíochtaí Deontais a rinneadh sa bhliain	(10,436)	(9,704)
Aisíocaíochtaí íocaíochtaí Deontais a fuarthas sa bhliain	15	87
<b>Gealltanais le hóc amhail an 31 Nollaig</b>	<b>24,841</b>	<b>24,391</b>

Ní chuirtear san áireamh sna figiúirí seo costais GCC maidir le Cláir taighde a chur i bhfeidhm.

## 16 Dímheas ar Shócmhainní Seasta

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Dímheas Réadmhaoine, Gléasra agus Trealaimh (Nóta 19)	5,762	5,902
	<b>5,762</b>	<b>5,902</b>

## 17 Cuntas Caipitil

	€'000	€'000
Ar an 1 Eanáir 2021		38,021
Aistriú ón gCuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais:		
Ioncam Leithdháilte chun críche Caipitil – Breisithe Sócmhainní Seasta		5,633
<b>Lúide:</b>		
Diúscairtí ar chostas	(4,196)	
Lúide dímheas roimhe sin ar dhiúscairtí	4,180	
	<b>(16)</b>	
Muirear dímheasa don bhliain	(5,762)	
Aistriú glan (go dtí)/ón gCuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais		(145)
<b>Ar an 31 Nollaig 2021</b>		<b>37,876</b>

Ar an 31 Nollaig 2021, cuimsíonn iarmhéid an Chuntais Caipitil €15,662 (2020: €15,662) maidir le réamhíocaíochtaí as sócmhainní seasta (féach Nóta 20 – Infháltais).



## 18 Cánachas

Tá an GCC díolmhaithe go sonrach faoi fhorálacha Alt 32, agus Sceideal 2, den Acht Airgeadais, 1994. Dá réir sin, níl aon mhuirir chánachais curtha san áireamh sna cuntais.

## 19 Sócmhainní Seasta – Réadmhaoín, Gléasra agus Trealamh

	Iomlán	Foirgnimh	Troscán & Feistis	Trealamh TF agus CE	Trealamh Saotharlainne agus Allamuigh	Mótarfheithiclí
Costas	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Ar an 1 Eanáir 2021	91,865	43,572	6,231	28,077	12,750	1,235
Breiseanna	5,633	901	399	2,943	1,390	0
Diúscairtí	(4,196)	(5)	(475)	(2,125)	(1,591)	0
<b>Ar an 31 Nollaig 2021</b>	<b>93,302</b>	<b>44,468</b>	<b>6,155</b>	<b>28,895</b>	<b>12,549</b>	<b>1,235</b>
<b>Dímheas</b>						
Ar an 1 Eanáir 2021	53,838	15,223	4,408	23,686	9,491	1,030
Muirear don Bhliain	5,762	858	734	2,954	1,122	94
Ar Dhiúscairtí	(4,180)	(1)	(475)	(2,116)	(1,588)	0
<b>Ar an 31 Nollaig 2021</b>	<b>55,420</b>	<b>16,080</b>	<b>4,667</b>	<b>24,524</b>	<b>9,025</b>	<b>1,124</b>
<b>Glanluach Leabhair</b>						
<b>Ar an 31 Nollaig 2021</b>	<b>37,882</b>	<b>28,388</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>4,371</b>	<b>3,524</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Ar an 31 Nollaig 2020</b>	<b>38,027</b>	<b>28,349</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>4,391</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>205</b>

Thóg Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí foirgneamh cigireachta réigiúnaí na GCC ag Lóiste Seville, Cill Chainnigh, ar shuíomh a fuarthas don GCC. Tá Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí ag próiseáil aistriú dlíthiúil an tsuímh chuig an GCC agus táthar á dhéanamh seo trí Oifig an Phríomh-Aturnae Stáit.

In 2021, rinne an GCC caipitliú de €2.288M (2020: €2.29M) maidir leis an gcostas seachtrach agus €62K (2020: €66K) maidir le costas an tuarastail inmheánaigh a bhain le forbairt bogearraí ar mhaithe le húsáid inmheánach. Tá sé seo ag teacht lenár mBeartas Cuntasaíochta maidir le Caipitliú Bogearraí a Forbraíodh go hInmheánach.

## 20 Infháltais

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Féichiúnaithe	1,727	1,982
Réamhíocaíochtaí	1,509	1,227
Réamhíocaíochtaí i leith Sócmhainní Seasta	16	16
	<b>3,252</b>	<b>3,225</b>

## 21 Airgead tirim agus coibhéisí airgid thirim

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Airgead Tirim agus Iarmhéideanna Bainc	10,350	9,445

## 22 Suimeanna iníochta

Méideanna dlite laistigh de bhliain amháin:	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Táillí Ceadúnas Réamhíochta	1,441	1,412
Ioncam Iarchurtha Eile	586	615
Trádáil agus Speansais Eile	6,846	7,153
	<b>8,873</b>	<b>9,180</b>

Tá na suimeanna seo a leanas atá dlite do na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim san áireamh i dTrádáil agus Speansais Eile thuas:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Cáin Shiarchoinneálach i leith Seirbhísí Gairmiúla	364	388
ÍMAT/ÁSPC/MSU	769	764
CBL	371	349
Cáin Chonarthaí Iomchuí	2	0
	<b>1,506</b>	<b>1,501</b>

## 23 Costais Sochair Scoir

(a) Anailís ar chostais iomlán sochair scoir a ghearrtar ar an Ráiteas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais agus ar Chúlchistí Coinnithe Ioncaim

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Costas Seirbhíse Reatha	9,945	8,237
Ús ar dhliteanais scéime sochair scoir	2,438	3,191
Ranníocaíochtaí Fostaí	(1,331)	(1,278)
	<b>11,052</b>	<b>10,150</b>

(b) Gluaiseacht sna glanoibleagáidí sochair scoir le linn na bliana airgeadais

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Glanoibleagáid shochair scoir ar 1 Eanáir	306,587	279,642
Costais seirbhíse reatha	9,945	8,237
Costais Úis	2,438	3,191
(Gnóthachan)/Caillteanas achtúireach	20,278	19,822
Pinsin a íocadh sa bhliain	(4,441)	(4,305)
<b>Glanoibleagáid shochair scoir ar 31 Nollaig</b>	<b>334,807</b>	<b>306,587</b>

## (c) Maoiniú Iarchurtha do Shochair Scoir

Aithníonn an GCC gur sócmhainní a fhreagraíonn do dhliteanas iarchurtha neamh-mhaoinithe le haghaidh sochair scoir atá sna suimeanna sin ar bhonn na mbonn tuisceana a ndéantar cur síos orthu thíos agus roinnt teagmhas san am atá thart. Ar na himreachtaí seo tá an bonn reachtúil um bunú na scéimeanna aoisliúntais, agus an beartas agus an cleachtas atá i bhfeidhm faoi láthair i ndáil le maoiniú pinsean na seirbhíse poiblí, lena n-áirítear ranníocaíochtaí fostaithe agus an próiseas bliantúil meastacháin. Níl aon fhianaise ag an GCC nach leanfaidh leis an mbeartas maoinithe sin chun suimeanna den chineál sin a chlúdach i gcomhréir le cleachtas reatha.

Ba é seo a leanas an glanmhaoiniú iarchurtha i gcomhair aoisliúntais a aithníodh sna Cuntais Ioncaim agus Caiteachais agus sna Cúlchistí Ioncaim Coinnithe:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Maoiniú In-aisghabhála maidir le costais aoisliúntais na bliana reatha	12,383	11,428
Acmhainní curtha i bhfeidhm chun sochair scoir a íoc	(4,441)	(4,305)
	<b>7,942</b>	<b>7,123</b>

B'íonann agus €334.8M an tsócmhainn mhaoiniúcháin iarchurtha le haghaidh sochair scoir ar an 31 Nollaig 2021 (2020: €306.6M).

#### (d) Stair na n-oibleagáidí sochair sainithe

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
	€ M	€ M	€ M	€ M	€ M
Oibleagáidí sochar sainithe	335	307	280	248	247
Gnóthachain/(caillteanas) ó thaithí ar dhliteanas scéime sochair sainithe:					
Méid (€ M)	3.143	3.606	7.264	(0.688)	(6.240)
Céatadán na nDlitéanas Scéime	0.9%	1.2%	2.6%	(0.3%)	(2.5%)

Is ionann an caillteanas achtúireach carnach a aithnítear sa Ráiteas maidir le hloncam Cuimsitheach agus **€159.1M (2020: €138.8M)**.

#### (e) Cur Síos Ginearálta ar na Scéimeanna

Is socruithe pinsin sochair sainithe bunaithe ar an tuarastal deiridh iad na scéimeanna, ina sainítear na sochair agus na ranníocaíochtaí a bhaineann leo trí thagairt do “shamhail” reatha na rialachán i dtaca le scéimeanna earnála poiblí. Soláthraíonn na scéimeanna pinsean do na baill foirne (1/80 in aghaidh na bliana seirbhíse), mar aon le haisce nó cnapshuim (3/80 in aghaidh na bliana seirbhíse) agus pinsin céilí agus leanaí. Is é breithlá 65 bliain Gnáthaois Scoir na mball, agus tá baill a bhí mar bhaill roimh 2004 i dteideal éirí as gan laghdú achtúireach ó haois 60. Soláthraíonn na scéimeanna pinsean do bhaill an Bhoird (1/48 in aghaidh na bliana seirbhíse), mar aon le haisce nó cnapshuim (1/32 in aghaidh na bliana seirbhíse) agus pinsin céilí agus leanaí. Tá baill an Bhoird i dteideal dul ar scor nuair a thagann deireadh lena gconradh. De ghnáth, tagann méadú ar phinsin atá á n-íoc (agus á n-iarchur) ag teacht leis an mboilsciú tuarastail ginearálta san earnáil phoiblí.

Tá an luacháil a úsáidtear le haghaidh nochta faoi FRS 102 bunaithe ar luacháil achtúireach iomlán a rinne achtúire cáilithe neamhspleách ar an 29 Márta 2022, agus riachtanais an FRS á gcur san áireamh, d’fhonn dliteanas na scéime a mheasúnú ar an 31 Nollaig 2021.

Ba iad seo a leanas na príomhthoimhdí achtúireacha:

	2021	2020
Arduithe tuarastail amach anseo	3.20%	2.45%
Arduithe sochair scoir amach anseo	2.70%	1.95%
Arduithe sa phinsean stáit amach anseo	2.20%	1.45%
Ráta lascaine	1.20%	0.80%
Boilsciú amach anseo	2.20%	1.45%
Athluacháil iarchuir	2.70%	1.95%



## Mortlaíocht

Mortlaíocht Réamhscoir – Náid.

Mortlaíocht larscoir – Fireann: 58% ILT15, Baineann 62% de ILT15.

Leis an mbonn mortlaíochta a glacadh, ceadaítear go sainráite forbairtí in ionchas saoil le himeacht ama, a chiallaíonn go mbraithfidh ionchas saoil ar an mbliain ina mbaineann ball aois an scoir amach. Léirítear sa tábla thíos an t-ionchas saoil a bheidh ag baill a bhainfidh 65 bliain d'aois amach in 2021 agus 2041.

An bhliain ina slánoidh an duine 65 bliain d'aois	2021	2041
Ionchas saoil – fir	86.8	89.1
Ionchas saoil – mná	89.2	91.2

## 24 Gealltanais Léasa

Ar an 31 Nollaig 2021, bhí na hiocaíochtaí íosléasa seo a leanas, agus iad faoi léasanna oibriúcháin neamhchealaithe, ag an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil le haghaidh gach ceann de na tréimhsí thíos:

	2021	2020
	€'000	€'000
Iníochta laistigh de bhliain amháin	639	719
Iníochta laistigh de dhá go cúig bliana	2,004	2,338
Iníochta tar éis cúig bliana	2,000	2,489

B'ionann luach na n-iocaíochtaí léasa oibriúcháin a aithníodh mar chostas agus €720K (2020: €723K).

## 25 Nochtuithe Páirtithe Gaolmhara

Tá modhanna oibre maidir le teacht ar chinneadh glactha ag an GCC de réir an Achta fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992, agus de réir an Achta um Eitic in Oifigí Poiblí, 1995 agus na rialacháin a ritheadh faoi. Chloígh an GCC leis na nósanna imeachta sin i gcaitheamh na bliana.

Ar phríomhphearsana bainistíochta na GCC tá an tArd-Stiúrthóir agus baill an Bhoird Stiúrthóirí. Íocadh €894K san iomlán leis an bpríomhphearsana bainistíochta, lena n-áirítear tuarastail Stiúrthóirí, costais dhearbhair agus luach saothair an Ard-Stiúrthóra (2020: €840K).

I ngnáthchúrsaí gnó d'fhéadfadh an Gníomhaireacht deontais a cheadú agus dul isteach i socrúithe conarthacha eile le gnóthais ina bhfuil leas ag Príomhphearsana Bainistíochta na GCC.

Rinneadh na hidirbhearta seo a leanas le páirtithe gaolmhara:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Ceannach Earraí agus Seirbhísí:</b>		
Páirtithe Gaolmhara Eile	28	46
	<b>28</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Iníoctha le páirtithe gaolmhara:</b>		
Páirtithe Gaolmhara Eile	3	0
	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

Eascaíonn na hiníocthaigh ó idirbhearta ceannaigh.

I gcás coimhlintí leasa féideartha, ní bhíonn baill an Bhoird i láthair agus ní ghlacann siad páirt i bplé maidir leis na hábhair sin.

## 26 COVID-19

Tháinig athrú suntasach ar bhealach oibre na GCC go luath in 2020 de thoradh COVID-19. Chuaigh an GCC in oiriúint go tapa don timpeallacht oibre athraithe agus ba ghnáthchleachtas an chianobair i measc fhormhór d'fhoireann na GCC. Lean Foireann Freagartha Paidéime na GCC ag freagairt do phaindéim COVID-19 le linn 2021. Tá an Leas-Ardstíúrthóir ag feidhmiú mar Chathaoirleach ar an bhFoireann Freagartha Paidéime agus tá ionadaithe ó gach oifig de chuid na GCC inti. Tá an Fhoireann Freagartha Paidéime tar éis tabhairt faoi an-chuid imeachtaí ar mhaithe le sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas bhaill foirne, chonraitheoirí agus chuariteoirí na GCC a chosaint. Lean an GCC le cleachtais oibre a bheachtú in 2021, lena n-áirítear an úsáid a bhaintear as teicneolaíochtaí TFC, agus tá an chianobair níos éifeachtúla agus níos éifeachtaí mar thoradh. Lean rialuithe ionsuite laistigh de Chórais Airgeadais GCC ag feidhmiú mar is gnáth le linn phaindéim COVID-19 agus ní raibh gá aon nósanna imeachta ná Príomhrialaithe a shárú chun gach rud a choimeád mar a bhí. Ní chreideann an Gníomhaireacht go bhfuil COVID-19 ag cur isteach ar a cumas oibriú mar ghnóthas leantach.

## 27 Figiúirí Inchomparáide

Rinneadh roinnt athruithe ar chur i láthair míreanna sna ráitis airgeadais agus rinneadh na figiúirí inchomparáide a athaicmiú áit ba ghá, ar bhonn atá ar aon dul le cur i láthair na bliana reatha.

## 28 Faomhadh na Ráiteas Airgeadais

Cheadaigh Bord na Stiúrthóirí na Ráitis Airgeadais ar an 24 Bealtaine 2022.

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The EPA is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

## The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

**Regulation:** *Implementing regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

**Knowledge:** *Providing high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making.*

**Advocacy:** *Working with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental practices.*

## Our responsibilities include:

### Licensing

- Large-scale industrial, waste and petrol storage activities;
- Urban waste water discharges;
- The contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms;
- Sources of ionising radiation;
- Greenhouse gas emissions from industry and aviation through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

### National Environmental Enforcement

- Audit and inspection of EPA licensed facilities;
- Drive the implementation of best practice in regulated activities and facilities;
- Oversee local authority responsibilities for environmental protection;
- Regulate the quality of public drinking water and enforce urban waste water discharge authorisations;
- Assess and report on public and private drinking water quality;
- Coordinate a network of public service organisations to support action against environmental crime;
- Prosecute those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

### Waste Management and Chemicals in the Environment

- Implement and enforce waste regulations including national enforcement issues;
- Prepare and publish national waste statistics and the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan;
- Develop and implement the National Waste Prevention Programme;
- Implement and report on legislation on the control of chemicals in the environment.

### Water Management

- Engage with national and regional governance and operational structures to implement the Water Framework Directive;
- Monitor, assess and report on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, bathing waters and groundwaters, and measurement of water levels and river flows.

### Climate Science & Climate Change

- Publish Ireland's greenhouse gas emission inventories and projections;
- Provide the Secretariat to the Climate Change Advisory Council and support to the National Dialogue on Climate Action;
- Support National, EU and UN Climate Science and Policy development activities.

## Environmental Monitoring & Assessment

- Design and implement national environmental monitoring systems: technology, data management, analysis and forecasting;
- Produce the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports;
- Monitor air quality and implement the EU Clean Air for Europe Directive, the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and the National Emissions Ceiling Directive;
- Oversee the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive;
- Assess the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment.
- Environmental Research and Development
- Coordinate and fund national environmental research activity to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions;
- Collaborate with national and EU environmental research activity.

## Radiological Protection

- Monitoring radiation levels and assess public exposure to ionising radiation and electromagnetic fields;
- Assist in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents;
- Monitor developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety;
- Provide, or oversee the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

## Guidance, Awareness Raising, and Accessible Information

- Provide independent evidence-based reporting, advice and guidance to Government, industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics;
- Promote the link between health and wellbeing, the economy and a clean environment;
- Promote environmental awareness including supporting behaviours for resource efficiency and climate transition;
- Promote radon testing in homes and workplaces and encourage remediation where necessary.

## Partnership and networking

- Work with international and national agencies, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, representative bodies and government departments to deliver environmental and radiological protection, research coordination and science-based decision making.

## Management and structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by advisory committees who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.

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