

Health and the Environment



SYSTEMIC MESSAGES



Environment and Health & Wellbeing

Recognition of the benefits of a good quality environment to health and wellbeing.



Climate Change

Accelerate mitigation actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement adaptation measures to increase our resilience in dealing with adverse climate impacts.



Implementation of Legislation

Improve the tracking of plans and policies and the implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation to protect the environment.

TOPIC MESSAGES



Restore & Protect Water Quality

Implement measures that achieve ongoing improvements in the environmental status of water bodies from source to the sea.



Nature & Wild Places

Protect pristine and wild places that act as biodiversity hubs, contribute to health and wellbeing and provide sustainable tourism opportunities.



Sustainable Economic Activities

Integrate resource efficiency and environmental sustainability ideas and performance accounting across all economic sectors.



Community Engagement

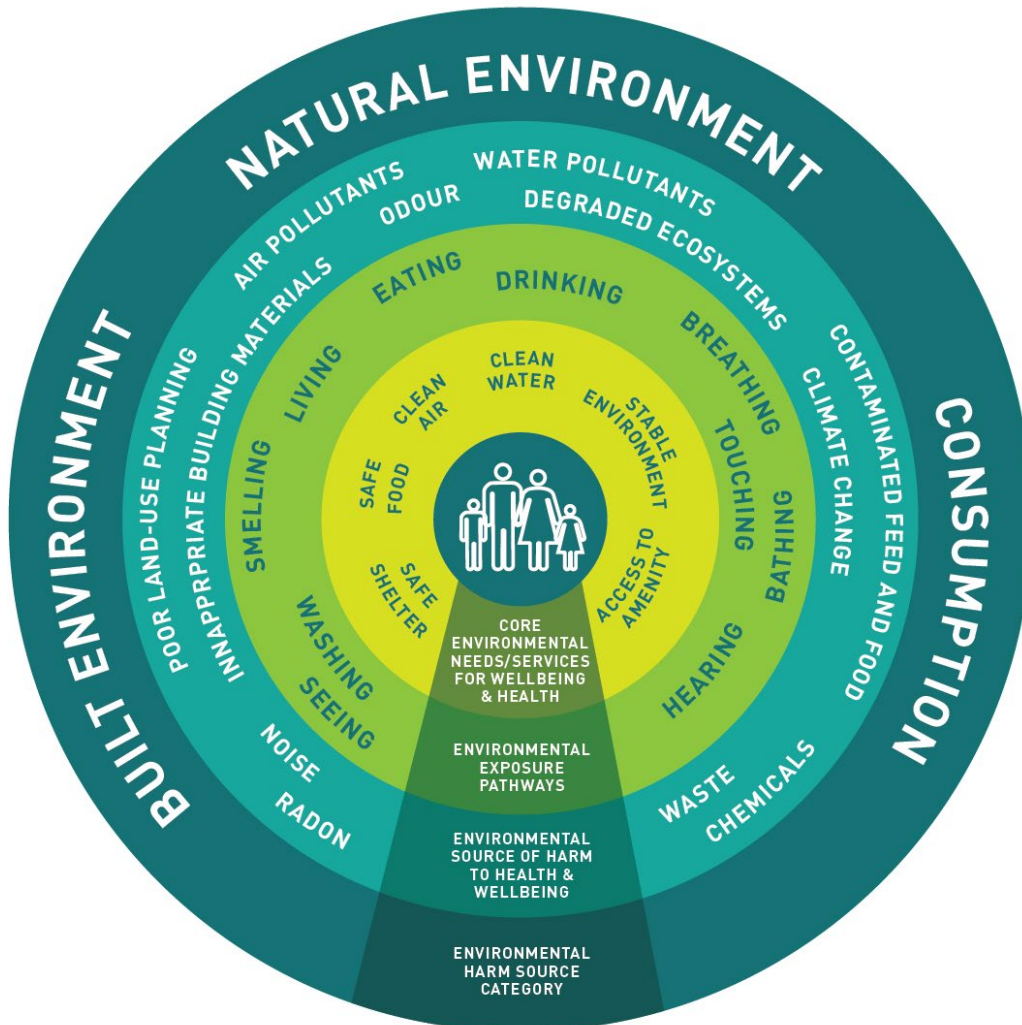
Inform, engage and support communities in the protection and improvement of the environment.

HEALTH IS RELEVANT TO ALL OF THESE ISSUES

Environment, Health and Well-Being Interconnections – The Wheel of Health



Figure 8.1 Health Model (Source: EPA)



‘Many of the environmental threats to our health are associated with our lifestyles and available choices. Our behaviours and consumption patterns clearly cause stress to the environment, leading to consequential poor health outcomes (for example, burning smoky fuels to heat our houses affects local air quality and people’s health). A proactive approach to environmental protection, partly through regulation but also by changing how we live, will deliver a safer, healthier place for us to live now and into the future’

“...a healthy environment is a prerequisite for good health.”

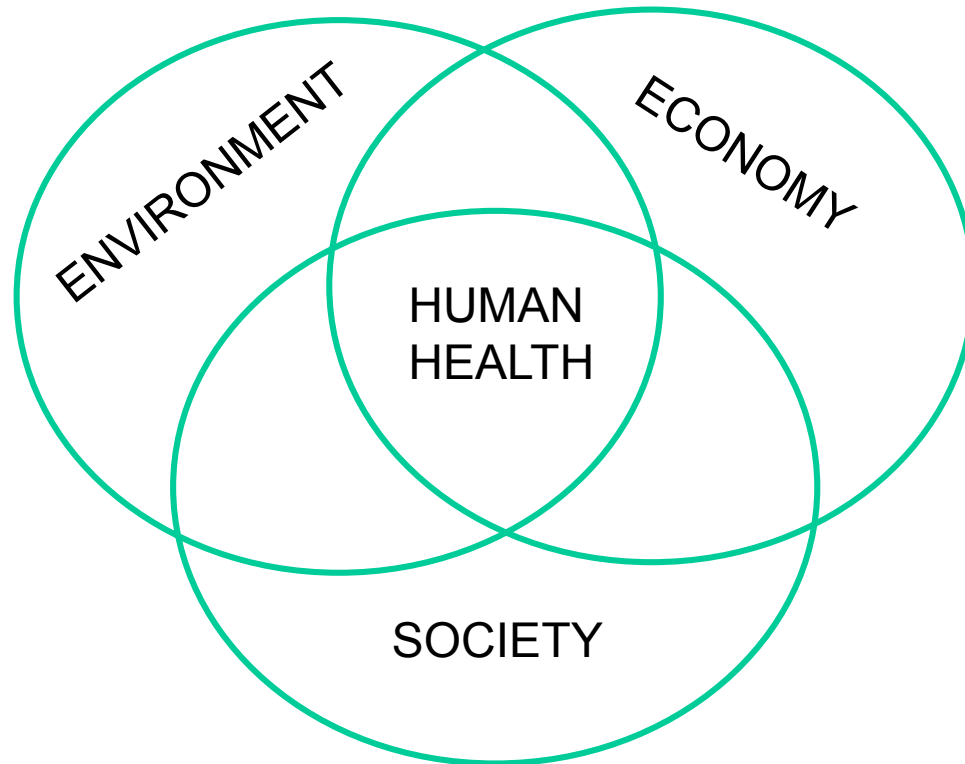
Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, World Health Organization

New Focus on Environment and Health



- ❑ New ESRI research programme a partnership between EPA, ESRI and HSE
- ❑ Annual EPA/HSE conference on environment and health – 2016-2018
- ❑ Both are building on a long history of collaboration and cooperation between EPA and ESRI and HSE
- ❑ ESRI Research programme focussing on the interconnections and interdependencies between environmental, economic, social and health issues
- ❑ Data and evidence driven – putting existing data to new uses
- ❑ Now starting to churn out results – today is a taster focusing on environment and health projects so enjoy!

E_{PA}



ES_{RI}

H_{SE}

- ❑ **Assembling **data** from many sources to characterise policies that affect the environment.**
 - ❑ Identifying and estimating the environmental effects of selected fiscal instruments
- ❑ **Transforming and combining existing **data** in new ways to allow more robust analysis.**
 - ❑ Health and well-being benefits of a clean and healthy environment and environmental amenities in Ireland
 - ❑ Picture or playground: valuing coastal amenities
 - ❑ Environmental market failures - spatial and land use planning
- ❑ **Collecting new **data** that relates human behaviour to environmental conditions and outcomes.**
 - ❑ Use of behavioural economics lab experiments to examine environmental influences on consumer behaviour
 - ❑ Behavioural and experimental tests of the long-term benefits of the Green Schools programme
 - ❑ Evaluating health benefits derived from Green and Blue spaces using a choice experiment survey