



ESRI Climate Action Roadmap 2026

(2026)

Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) | PSO-00153

Whitaker Square

Sir John Rogerson's Quay

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this Climate Action Roadmap is to highlight the Economic and Social Research Institute's (ESRI) commitment to reducing our environmental impact and demonstrating our responsibility as a sustainable organisation. This Roadmap outlines how we aim to meet the requirements of the Climate Action Mandate and recognise the legal requirements.

Our approach to environmental responsibility and sustainable practices is reflected in our commitment to robust governance arrangements, adherence to public sector standards, and implementation of policies that ensure effective, efficient, and ethical operations, as outlined in our Annual Report 2025.

The ESRI has an established Climate and Sustainability Committee and appointed a Climate and Sustainability Champion. The Committee monitors progress and performance on a regular basis and ensures that the ESRI Climate Action Roadmap is implemented and updated annually to align with the latest requirements of public bodies and best practices. The ESRI has appointed an Energy Performance Officer (EPO) and published its Energy Policy Statement to demonstrate our commitment to taking action to meet the Government's energy and greenhouse gas emissions targets. The Energy Policy Statement is in Appendix 1.

1.1. Organisational Context

1.1.1. ESRI Background

The ESRI is Ireland's leading not-for-profit economic and social research institute. The mission of the ESRI is to produce economic and social research that informs public policymaking and civil society. Through its research, it has played a critical role in Irish life and policymaking, and has a reputation for independence, academic excellence, and objectivity.

The ESRI's 2024–2028 strategy statement sets out how the ESRI will fulfil its mission to be a world-class research institute supporting the achievement of a more inclusive, prosperous, sustainable, and decarbonised Ireland. The ESRI Annual Report 2025 highlights our organisational sustainability actions and goals and also provides an overview of the ESRI's research outputs and activity including in the area of climate research. At 31 December 2025, the ESRI staff headcount was 115, the increase of 7 reflects requirements for additional research staff to support new projects and one temporary resource to support a systems implementation project.

1.1.2. ESRI Building

The ESRI has one office building at Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2. It was built in around 2005/2006 and is approximately 2,340 sq. m. The building's BER is E2. In line with Climate Action Plan requirements for public bodies,

the ESRI has completed the SEAI building register for this building. As this is our only building, it accounts for all of the ESRI's building energy use. Its energy-use data is recorded in the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system.

The wider Whitaker Square campus and the basement car park are owned by the landlord and are shared by all organisations on the estate. The ESRI has eight car parking spaces. One space is let to our tenant; the remaining spaces are available for booking (for a fee) by staff, tenants, visitors and contractors as needed. The ESRI has one bicycle cage and shares a second cage. The building also has shower facilities. In 2025 around one fifth of the building (c. 19%) was leased or shared with other organisations.

The ESRI outsources building and facilities management to a facilities management (FM) company, procured through the OGP Integrated Facilities Management Framework. The FM company maintains and services the building and provides services such as waste management, advisory and audit services.

In previous Climate Action Roadmap reports, we noted that it is challenging to meet public-sector targets due to the age and condition of the building's plant and equipment. Reduced occupancy due to hybrid working has also changed how the building is used. In this context, the ESRI plans to begin the process of disposing of the Institute's building in 2026. We will build sustainability into our future accommodation decisions and actions.

1.1.3. Compliance with legal requirement

The ESRI is aware of the legal requirements relating to energy and climate action and plan for compliance of these in its roadmap.

Section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021: Section 15(1) point (d) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021 states that: "A relevant body shall, in so far as is practicable, perform its functions in a manner consistent with the furtherance of the national climate objective." The Act applies to public bodies, who are required to adopt practices that support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the transition to a climate-neutral economy by 2050. The Climate Action Mandate applies to public bodies covered by the Climate Action Plan decarbonisation targets. The current Public Sector Climate Action Mandate was reviewed and updated as part of the preparation for Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25)¹.

- ESRI Response: The ESRI understands its obligations under the Act to contribute to Ireland's climate goals. We have developed this Climate Action

¹ The Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2025 was published in CAP25.

Roadmap, which outlines how we will achieve energy efficiency and emissions reduction targets. The Roadmap is reviewed and updated annually to ensure alignment with the updated Public Sector Climate Action Mandate.

SI393/2021 Energy Performance of buildings: This SI requires installation of Building Automation and Control by 2025 for buildings with HVAC rated output over 290kW; requires installation of electric vehicle charging points in carparks for new or refurbished buildings with more than ten car parking spaces.

- ESRI Response: The ESRI understands its obligation in this regard. The Institute confirms that the HVAC output is below 290 kW. The ESRI has less than 10 car parking spaces.

SI381/2021 Clean Vehicles Directive: This SI sets targets for the procurement of clean light and heavy-duty vehicles, with the first target falling in 2025 and the second in 2030. The definition of clean vehicle changes to zero emission vehicles in 2025.

- ESRI Response: This SI is not applicable to the ESRI. The ESRI does not procure or own vehicles.

SI4/2017 Energy Performance of Buildings: This SI requires all new public sector buildings built since 2018 to be “nearly zero emissions”.

- ESRI Response: This SI is not applicable. The ESRI building was built in 2006.

SI646/2016: This SI requires that public bodies only procure energy-using products and vehicles that are on the Triple E register.

- ESRI Response: The ESRI understands its obligation in this regard. The Institute confirms compliance regarding supplied products where it was possible to do so, noting that due to the building’s aged/end-of-life mechanical and electrical (M&R) systems, related products and parts may need to be replaced like for like”, if newer components cannot be installed into old equipment for compatibility reasons.

SI426/2014 - This SI requires the public sector to demonstrate exemplary energy management and requires public bodies to undertake energy audits every four years and also requires that the public sector can only lease or buy buildings with BER A3 or higher.

- ESRI Response: The ESRI understands its obligations under this SI. Our last building energy audit was completed in 2021, and the next audit was due in 2025. However, because the building’s plant and equipment is ageing and building occupancy has reduced due to hybrid working, the ESRI plans to

begin the process of disposing of the Institute’s building in 2026. We will include sustainability criteria and appropriate audit requirements in our future accommodation plans.

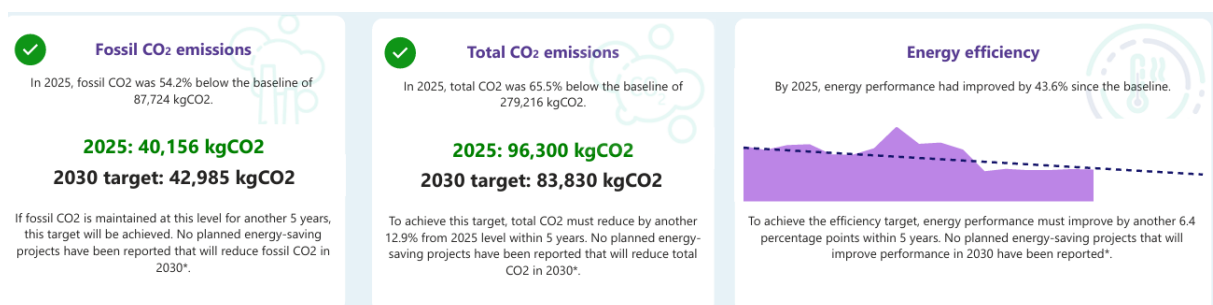
SI749/2024 - Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, banning public bodies from providing grants for fossil fuel boilers

- ESRI Response: Not applicable to the ESRI.

1.2. Summary - Energy and GHG Emissions Performance and Progress

The ESRI participates in the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system, which tracks the building energy consumption and carbon emissions and compares it with the baseline years. The ESRI’s performance in 2025, per the SEAI Gap-to-target report 2025, shows the ESRI’s progress towards achieving energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, i.e., **In 2025:**

- **Greenhouse gas emissions:**
 - Fossil CO₂ - 40,156 kgCO₂; **54.2% below the baseline** of 87,724kgCO₂. If fossil CO₂ is maintained at this level for another 5 years, the 2030 target (42,985 kgCO₂) will be achieved.
 - Total CO₂: total CO₂ was **65.5% below the baseline** of 279,216 kgCO₂.
 - To achieve the target (83,830 kgCO₂), total CO₂ must reduce by another **12.9%** from 2025 level within 5 years.
- **Energy Efficiency:** By 2025, energy performance had improved by 43.6% since the baseline. To achieve the efficiency target, energy performance must improve by another 6.4% within 5 years.
- **Total final energy consumption (kWh): 444,272kWh**, i.e., Electricity 248,144 kWh and Thermal (natural gas) 196,128 kWh. Baseline (2009) 620,000 kWh.



The main factors that contributed to the ESRI's energy and carbon savings include:

- A focus on effective operational management of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and lighting. This includes closer monitoring and control of these systems to optimise performance and reduce unnecessary

energy use. Additionally, periods of temporary downtime of the HVAC plant due to technical failures has resulted in reduced energy consumption

- Another contributing factor has been the shared use of building space with other organisations. By sharing facilities, consumption is spread across multiple occupants.
- The adoption of remote working practices and increased use of online meeting arrangements have also led to reductions in office-related energy consumption and emissions. With fewer staff present onsite and more activities conducted virtually, the ESRI's operational energy demand has decreased accordingly.

2. Our People - Leadership and governance

2.1. Senior Management Statement of Commitment

The ESRI's Management Committee (MC) acknowledges the critical importance of addressing climate change and demonstrates its commitment by striving to meet the requirements outlined in the Climate Action Mandate.

To provide effective oversight and guidance, the ESRI has established a robust governance framework for its climate and sustainability initiatives. This structure includes appointing a Climate and Sustainability Champion at the director level, who is responsible for driving the Institute's sustainability agenda. An Energy Performance Officer has also been designated to lead the efforts in improving energy efficiency and to monitor progress in this area.

In addition, ESRI has formed a Climate and Sustainability Committee as well as a Green Team. These groups are tasked with supporting and advancing the Institute's climate action strategies and sustainability projects. Through these measures, ESRI remains firmly committed to creating a sustainable future, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and achieving its climate and energy targets.

2.2. Governance Structures

The Institute's governance structures for decision making and management of climate and sustainability matters are as follows:

- ESRI Climate and Sustainability Champion: The Director of the Institute is the Climate and Sustainability Champion.
- ESRI Climate and Sustainability (C&S) Committee. The Committee has responsibility for compliance and overseeing the implementation of the ESRI Roadmap.
- The ESRI Energy Performance Officer (EPO) provides oversight and leadership to ensure that the climate action plan is implemented and that successes/challenges are communicated to the Committee.
- The Green Team, reporting to the C&S Committee, drives sustainability projects.

Terms of Reference are in place for the C&S Committee and the Green Team.

Climate and Sustainability Committee:

Climate and Sustainability Committee	Name
Climate and Sustainability Cttee Chair and Energy Performance Officer (EPO)	Hugh Nolan, Head of Governance and Corporate Resources
Climate and Sustainability Cttee deputy Chair and Cttee Member	Eleanor Bannerton, Operations Manager
Climate and Sustainability Cttee Members	Amanda Brennan; Claire Keane; Conor O'Toole

Green Team:

Position	Name	Roles and Responsibilities
Head of Governance and Corporate Resources	Hugh Nolan	Energy Performance Officer
Head of Operations	Eleanor Bannerton	Climate and Sustainability Manager
Environment & Energy Researcher	John Curtis	Green Team member
Head of IT (acting)	David Gorman	Green Team Member
Head of HR	Claire Buckley	Green Team Member
Operations Administrator	LeAnnie Wilson	Green Team member

3. Our People - Engaging our staff

The ESRI commits to engaging staff on sustainability and energy related emissions and wider climate matters by incorporating appropriate climate action and sustainability training into learning and development strategies for staff, as outlined below.

3.1. Staff training plans

Since 2025, climate and sustainability training for staff has been incorporated into the annual training plan.

3.2. Climate action and sustainability workshops

The ESRI delivered staff workshops on climate issues in the last 12 months. In addition, the Institute's ongoing research on energy, the environment and climate is presented at seminars and conferences, which staff are invited to attend. In 2025 these included a climate and energy policy seminar covering topics related to climate policy, residential energy use, and the electricity sector.

3.3. Senior Leadership Training

The ESRI investigated options for senior leadership training, which was delivered in Q1

2026.

No.	Action	By When	Status
3.1.1	Incorporate climate and sustainability training for staff, including technical, behavioural, and green procurement training, into the annual ESRI learning and development plan and make available to relevant staff as part of the ESRI's learning and development plans.	2026	Completed. Ongoing.
3.1.2	Incorporate climate and sustainability leadership training for senior ESRI managers and Council Members into the ESRI's learning and development plans.	2026	In progress: leadership training scheduled in 2026.
3.1.3	Investigate and deliver a climate action and sustainability workshop / continue to present research on energy, the environment and climate at seminars and conferences in the ESRI, which staff can attend	2026	Completed Workshop delivered in Q1 2026. SEAI training completed on an ongoing basis by staff involved in reporting

4. Sustainability and Energy Targets

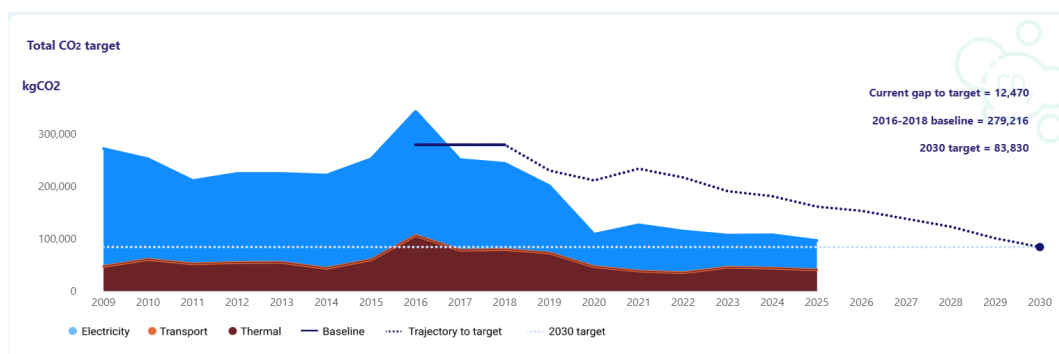
In accordance with the targets set by the government for the public sector, the ESRI's overall targets are as follows:

- Reduce GHG emissions by 51% in 2030 [from baseline].
- Improve energy efficiency by 50% [from baseline] by 2030.
- Update our Climate Action Roadmap annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan.

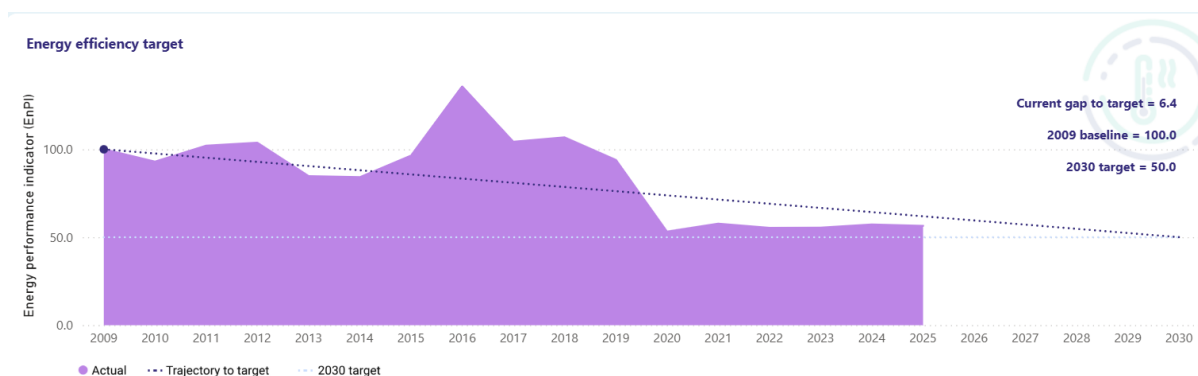
4.1. Carbon Emissions Analysis



- **Fossil CO₂ emissions in 2025: 40,156 kgCO₂** Kg CO₂.
The ESRI reduced its fossil CO₂ emissions by 54.2% since the baseline (87,724 Kg CO₂). 2030 target is 42,985 Kg CO₂. If fossil CO₂ is maintained at this level for another 5 years, this target will be achieved.
- **Total CO₂ emissions 2025: 96,300 kg CO₂**, i.e., electricity 56,145 kg CO₂, thermal = 40,156 kg CO₂. The ESRI reduced its total CO₂ emissions by 65.5 % since the baseline of 279,216kgCO₂ (2016-2018 average). 2030 Target: 83,830 KgCO₂. To achieve this target, total CO₂ must reduce by another 12.9% from 2025 level within 5 years. It is expected that the decarbonisation of the grid will surpass this.
- Trend by 2030 with no additional actions (Business As Usual (BAU) scenario): On track to meet total emissions target. Note: the ESRI is currently progressing plans to move premises, which will affect future reporting.



4.2. Energy efficiency analysis:



- Energy performance:** By 2025, energy performance had improved by 43.6% since the energy performance baseline (2009). To achieve the efficiency target, energy performance must improve by another 6.4% within 5 years. Trend with no additional action (i.e., Business As Usual (BAU)): On track to meet target.

4.3. Actions/projects to meet targets

No.	Action	By When	Status
4.3.1	Continue to engage with the SEAI and analyse data on performance via the M&R system, to establish Gap to Target - to guide the development of our initiatives	Annual per Mandate	Ongoing
4.3.2	Complete Roadmaps and 6-month updates based on validated data, within the timeframe required per the Mandate	May 2026; Oct. 2026. Ongoing	Ongoing
4.3.3	Report on progress to the ESRI Management Committee via the C&S Committee	2026 H1; 2026 H2. Ongoing	Ongoing
4.3.4	Explore potential avenues to improve energy efficiency in the current ESRI building and investigate registering for the 2025/2026 Reduce Your Use Campaign.	Ongoing	In progress / Ongoing
4.3.5	Commit to incorporating sustainability criteria into potential office refurbishments or in any new office	Ongoing	Not started - process of disposing of building has commenced
4.3.6	Implement internal communication campaigns as appropriate to help reduce our energy use through behaviour change.	2026 Ongoing	In progress / Ongoing
4.3.7	Continue to utilise OGP contracts for electricity and gas supply.	2026	In progress / Ongoing

5. OUR WAY OF WORKING

A key objective of this Roadmap is to maintain ongoing monitoring and reporting of our performance in order to achieve reductions in energy consumption and other resources. Progress has already been made in several areas, including our overall energy usage, waste generated, and minimising our reliance on paper.

5.1. Energy Management

In line with the Public Sector Energy Efficiency Strategy, the ESRI follows a structured approach to energy management, as follows:

- i. **Commitment** (senior management buy-in; staff empowerment to act)
- ii. **Identification** (of key areas and actions for improvement following energy performance report (from SEAI) and audits)
- iii. **Plan** (of action including setting annual energy saving targets in consultation with SEAI, plant life cycle reporting and replacement plan)
- iv. **Action** (implementation of projects, in consultation with SEAI)
- v. **Review** (measure results annually, continually improve, review/audit)

The ESRI's energy management programme focuses on monitoring, auditing, and maintaining its facilities. Through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) system, we track our energy consumption, ensuring transparency and facilitating targeted improvements.

The ESRI building's main energy consumers are HVAC systems, lighting, and IT servers. The ESRI's facilities management provider manages planned maintenance and advises on equipment life cycles and replacement programmes. The ESRI conducted formal energy efficiency audits every four years, plus technical assessments of the building to ensure the building operated efficiently. In light of the ongoing challenges associated with the current building and the review of office accommodation in the context of hybrid working arrangements, plant maintenance, replacement and energy audits are on hold but will recommence for future premises.

The ESRI is committed to taking specific actions in 2026. These commitments are informed by the considerations outlined earlier in this document and are intended to address the evolving needs of the Institute and its staff while maintaining operational effectiveness.

No.	Action	By When	Status
5.1.1	Report in the ESRI Annual Report: GHG emissions, implementation of the Mandate, sustainability activities, Compliance with Circular 1/2020: <i>Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel</i>	Annually	Completed.

5.1.2	Using SEAI’s Public Sector M&R System, report annually on implementation of the individual mandate requirements using a “comply and explain” approach	Annually	Completed.
5.1.3	Implement energy management programmes as per SEAI’s energy management guidance (S.I. 426 of 2014) where possible, and report to SEAI annually on its M&R system – Energy audit every four years	Every 4 years	On hold: to be implemented in new premises
5.1.4	The ESRI’s Energy Performance Officer oversee energy performance, and the Climate and Sustainability Committee reviews and sign off on the Energy Action Plan (Appendix 1).	Ongoing, annual	Complete.
5.1.5	Complete a technical assessment of the building	Q2 2025	Complete.

5.2. Green Public Procurement

The Institute follows Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Green Public Procurement guidelines, using relevant frameworks for sustainable purchasing.

In 2025 the ESRI took the following actions:

- the ESRI availed of OGP and HEAnet frameworks wherever relevant: the procurement process for integrated facilities management services was completed, via the OGP Framework, which included green criteria; IT hardware was bought through HEAnet Frameworks; ESRI building utilities continue to be procured via the OGP Energy Framework Agreements.
- The Institute complies with SI646/2016 by procuring energy-efficient products listed on the Triple E register, other than when replacing old mechanical or electrical parts - due to compatibility issues
- A minimum of 80% of ICT end user products (desktop computers) procured by the ESRI are certified to EPEAT Gold Standard (or equivalent), TCO Certified (or equivalent).

ESRI shall continue to implement green procurement as follows in 2026:

No.	Action	By When	Status
5.2.1	Publish the ESRI’s updated Procurement Policy with green criteria.	2025, Q4	Completed
5.2.2	Establish a system to gather and report data on GPP implementation.	2025, Q4	In progress
5.2.3	Incorporate green procurement training into learning and development strategies for staff	2025, Q4	Complete. See action

	who are involved in procurement.		3.1.1 above.
5.2.4	Source goods, services, and works with a reduced environmental impact as per the EPA Sustainable Procurement Guide.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5.2.5	Implement Green Public Procurement in accordance with the Green Public Procurement Implementation Mandate	Ongoing	Ongoing
5.2.6	Adhere to the circular 17/2025 where possible, regarding new Green Public Procurement obligations included in the GPP Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027.	Ongoing	Ongoing

5.3. Organic Food

Climate Action Mandate: A minimum of 10% by value (€) of food sought under new contract arrangements (including via contractors such as canteen service providers), is to be certified organic in each of the following categories of Cereals, fresh Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, Fish, Vegetables and Dairy products, where possible.

- *ESRI response: The ESRI included a certified organic food requirement in its recent catering procurement and plans to implement this for orders in 2026.*

5.4. Food waste

Public sector bodies are required to:

- measure and monitor the food waste generated on premises, using a standardised approach to food waste measurement set out in the EPA public sector guidance². This includes food waste from onsite canteens, office areas and kitchenettes.
- All new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, including events and conferences, to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste (with a specific focus on food waste prevention and food waste segregation, taking into account Ireland’s commitment to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030).

In 2025 the ESRI took the following actions:

- measured and monitored food waste generated on the premises, using the standardised approach as set out in the EPA public sector guidelines. 354kg of compost waste was recorded for 2025; note, the figure for 2024 (78kg) is inaccurate due to failure in delivery of the service in full.
- completed the procurement process for its facilities management services included waste services. The criteria included the requirement to address

² <https://foodwastecharter.ie/public-sector-offices/>

and reduce waste and to segregate waste. The successful tenderer commenced operations in July 2025.

- Initiated a procurement process for events catering which included food waste criteria.
- The ESRI does not have a canteen and does not produce canteen food waste. Where catering for events was provided, orders are based on the registered attendee numbers to reduce waste, and any leftover food is offered to staff to minimise potential waste.
- Staff share food leftovers with colleagues in a designated space in the kitchenette.
- To avoid doubling up on common items and reduce waste, the ESRI provides essentials, such as milk, sugar, tea, coffee.
- Centralised bins (3-bin system), including one for food waste, are clearly marked with appropriate signage for good food waste management. Staff are encouraged to segregate waste and bring to centralised bins – individual desk bins are not serviced. Food waste bins are available in the kitchenette areas.

The ESRI commits to continuing to support a reduction in food waste in 2026, as follows:

No.	Action	By When	Status
5.4.1	Continue to provide centralised waste bins with appropriate signage; communicate with staff on correct use of bins and waste reduction	Ongoing	Completed in 2025; Ongoing in 2026
5.4.2	Complete event catering procurement process including criteria that target food waste	2026	Completed in 2026 Q1
5.4.3	Ensure event catering contracts include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste prevention and food waste segregation, taking into account Ireland's commitment to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030	2026 Ongoing	Completed for 2025; Ongoing in 2026
5.4.4	C&S Cttee to consider ordering 10% less food than the expected attendees at events.	2026	Ongoing
5.4.5	Measure and monitor the food waste generated using a standardised approach to food waste measurement set out in the EPA Protocol/Pathway public sector guidance.	Ongoing	Completed for 2025; Ongoing in 2026
5.4.6	Green team to investigate reduction or elimination of single use compostable cups (see section 5.7 below)	2025 H2	Partly completed

5.5. Paper

Climate Action Mandate requirements:

- Review any paper-based processes and evaluate the possibilities for digitalisation so it becomes the default approach. Eliminate paper-based processes as far as is practicable. Where office paper for printing and photocopying must be procured, 100% of the paper must be recycled paper.
- Measure and monitor paper consumption.

The ESRI is conscious of its environmental footprint and seeks to reduce waste and promote sustainability. To reduce paper-based processes as far as is practicable, the ESRI implements the following practices:

- A “digital first” strategy, with the vast majority of ESRI reports and publications disseminated digitally only. With remote working the norm, old paper-based practices have largely been replaced by digital practices.
- The ESRI IT Department provides up-to-date digital tools and provide staff training as needed.
- Where printer paper is procured, recycled paper is the default, and is procured via the OGP framework.
- Paperless office management, with facilities management documents shared and stored digitally. Printing is discouraged, and “print on both sides” is the default setting on printers.
- The ESRI measures paper consumption. 150 reams of printer paper were consumed in 2025 compared to 120 reams of paper in 2024.
- Confidential paper waste is shredded, certified, and recycled. In 2025, 1,438 kg of confidential paper waste was shredded, compared to 1062 kg in 2024. The increase reflects the Institute’s ongoing project to dispose of paper files.

The ESRI commits to taking the following additional actions in 2026 and beyond to further reduce paper-based processes:

No.	Action	By When	Status
5.5.1	Investigate and commit to the implementation of a print management system in future ESRI premises, to reduce unnecessary printing and help track paper usage	In future building	On hold
5.5.2	Establish a printing policy to encourage reduction in printing and printer costs.	2026	On hold, pending move to new premises

5.6. Water

Climate Action Mandate:

- Provide suitable drinking water refill points for all staff and in any premises accessed by the public.
- Measure and monitor total water usage for the organisation as a whole.

The ESRI provides suitable filtered drinking water and water refill points for use by all in the building, and for the public at public events, and encourages staff to bring in and use their own water bottles.

It is currently not possible to measure and monitor water usage in the ESRI building. The ESRI is liaising with its facilities company and the superior landlord in this regard.

The ESRI commits to taking the following actions in 2026 and beyond:

No.	Action	By When	Status
5.6.1	In the refurbished or new ESRI premises, the ESRI commits to measuring and monitoring water usage where possible	When possible	On hold – pending move to new premises
5.6.2	Continue to provide drinking water refill points in the building, accessible by the public	Ongoing	Complete in 2025; Ongoing in 2026

5.7. Single Use

Climate Action Mandate:

- Cease using disposable cups, plates and cutlery in any public sector canteen or closed facility, excluding clinical (i.e., non-canteen healthcare) environments, and in publicly funded advertising or broadcasting.
- Eliminate all single use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded, or sponsored.

The ESRI had previously ceased purchasing single use non-recyclable plastic items for its premises. Staff are encouraged to use reusable / crockery cups and their own water bottles. However, with limited space, a small number of compostable cups for hot drinks are provided. In 2025:

- additional reusable cups and glasses were purchased
- a standalone cup washer machine was purchased, allowing faster turnaround of items.
- sustainability criteria was included in catering procurement, including reusable items at events.

The ESRI commits to taking the following actions in our new /reconfigured office:

No.	Action	By When	Status
5.7.1	Provide facilities to support the elimination of single use items where possible	2026/ ongoing	On hold – pending move to new premises
5.7.2	Design ESRI premises with canteen/kitchen facilities which supports the elimination of single use items	To be confirmed	On hold – pending move to new premises
5.7.3	Implement sustainability criteria in the procurement of catering for events, where possible.	2025/2026	Completed

5.8. Other Waste

Climate Action Mandate:

- Support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products including the Deposit Return Scheme.
- Contract waste collection services that are segregated into a minimum of three streams – residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/biowaste and monitor weights collected.

The ESRI endeavours to reduce its environmental impact through waste reduction projects, segregation, and recycling. In 2025:

- Waste continued to be segregated into a minimum of three streams – i.e., residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/bio waste.
- Electrical and electronic equipment waste (WEEE) was disposed of responsibly. 1,556 kg of used IT and WEEE (including batteries) were recycled in 2025 compared to 135 kgs in 2024 and 544 kgs in 2023 (in accordance with directive 2002/96/EC of the European Parliament. This large increase in 2025 was a result of a clear out of old printers and IT waste items which had accumulated over years; this WEEE waste is recycled.
- Other waste was recycled where possible, i.e., glass 60kg, skip waste 3,940kg, and print cartridges. Battery boxes and cartridge bins are provided on site.
- 2000kg of furniture waste was collected and recycled by an external contractor.
- The ESRI procures facilities management services via the OGP framework which includes sustainability criteria. The incumbent facilities management company confirms compliance with the relevant Producer Responsibility Initiative, where applicable to their service provision.
- The Green Team launched a new initiative “Return for Children” - a partnership with the operator of Ireland’s Deposit Return Scheme Re-Turn –

which reduces waste via designated Re-Turn bins, while supporting the charities.

In addition to the above, the ESRI commits to the following actions in 2026:

No.	Action	By When	Status
5.8.1	Investigate how to support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products including the Deposit Return Scheme.	Ongoing	Completed.
5.8.2	Work with the contracted facilities management company to monitor and report on waste and implement strategies to reduce waste on the ESRI site.	Ongoing	Completed 2025. Ongoing in 2026

5.9. Construction

Climate Action Mandate: Specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable as per guidance issued by Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024

- *ESRI Response: not applicable to the ESRI, the ESRI does not procure directly.*

Mandate: Adhere to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024

- *ESRI Response: not applicable to the ESRI, the ESRI does not procure directly.*

Mandate: A minimum proportion of construction materials procured by public bodies under new contract arrangements to comprise recycled materials, that is informed by a Circularity Roadmap for the Construction Sector and the 2nd Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy to be published in 2025

- *ESRI Response: not applicable to the ESRI.*

6. OUR BUILDINGS AND VEHICLES

Climate Action Mandate:

- Promote the use of bicycles (including push bikes, electric bikes, and cargo bikes) and shared mobility options as an alternative to car use among employees and visitors by creating and maintaining facilities (both inside and outside of buildings) that support such options, including secure and accessible bicycle

- parking, shared mobility parking, and charging stations, as appropriate, with a view to achieving the National Transport Authority's Smarter Travel Mark.
- Phase out the use of parking in buildings that have access to a range of public transport services and active/shared mobility options for the majority of staff/visitors, while providing that sufficient accessible parking is maintained for those with physical mobility issues.
 - Display an up-to-date Display Energy Certificate in every public building that is open to the public to clearly show energy use.
 - The public sector will not install heating systems that use fossil fuels after 2023, in (1) new buildings, and (2) "major renovation" retrofit projects as defined in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) unless at least one of the exceptions applies.
 - All tenders for the public procurement of energy-related products, heating equipment, or indoor and outdoor lighting to include a requirement for tenderers to specify recommendations and options for the product, when the product or components of the product comes to the end of life, that consider environmental sustainability, including options for reuse, repair, and recycling. Comply with SI 626 of 2016 to procure Triple E registered products or equivalent.
 - All tenders for the public procurement of indoor cleaning services to include a requirement for tenderers to specify the training that will be put in place to ensure that all staff involved in delivery of the contract have the knowledge and skills to apply cleaning methods, which will reduce the environmental impact of the services.

6.1. Existing Buildings

Climate Action Mandate:

- Building stock plans – all public bodies that have not yet completed a stage 1 Building Stock Plan should do so and submit to SEAI. Public bodies that have completed a BSP should update it regularly, minimum every two years. Public bodies are encouraged to include their BSPs in their Climate Action Roadmaps.
- National Estate Portfolio Leads are accountable for energy targets within their sectors and for developing pathways to achieve these targets. ESRI Response: Not applicable
- Small public sector bodies should include a basic building stock analysis or statement as part of their Climate Action Roadmap, in line with the guidance published by SEAI. ESRI Response: Completed.

6.2. Vehicles

Climate Action Mandate:

- Procure (purchase or lease) only zero-emissions vehicles from the end of 2022, enabling Ireland to go beyond the requirements of the EU Directive, amending

Directive 2009/33/EC on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles (EU Directive 2019/1161, the Clean Vehicle Directive) and act as an international leader in this area. An exception applies where the vehicle is exempt under European Communities (Clean and Energy-Efficient Road Transport Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations (S.I. 381 of 2021). Public sector procurement contracts for delivery and haulage should specify zero-emissions vehicles where possible.

ESRI Response: Not Applicable.

- As an enabler for the switch to zero-emissions vehicles and meeting Climate Action Plan targets, in 2024 public sector bodies with a vehicle fleet should develop a plan for installation of charging infrastructure in relevant locations. The plan should align installation of infrastructure with timelines for decarbonisation of the body's fleet. The plan should be included in the body's Climate Action Roadmap.

ESRI Response: Not Applicable.

The ESRI is committed to promoting alternative methods of transport for its staff, visitors, contractors, and tenants, such as the use of bicycles including push bikes, electric bikes, and cargo bikes. The ESRI implements policies which support sustainable travel.

The ESRI does not own or provide company vehicles to its staff. It is ESRI policy that staff use public transportation for business purposes whenever possible. A limited number of ESRI car parking spaces are available for staff, tenants, and visitors to book, with an associated charge to discourage car usage.

In 2024, the ESRI began its application for the Smarter Travel Mark and joined the Smarter Travel Programme in Q1, 2025. As a Smarter Travel Partner, the ESRI is committing to developing and implementing actions which promote sustainable and active travel initiatives and will work towards achieving the Smarter Travel Mark certification.

Upgrade works have been carried out by the landlord in the landlord areas to improve pedestrian and cyclist ways for safer access.

As described in earlier sections of this report, the ESRI faces challenges in achieving public-sector targets given the age and profile of the building's plant and equipment. In the context of these challenges, and reduced occupancy as a result of hybrid working, the ESRI is formally commencing the process of disposing of the Institute's building in 2026. The ESRI commits to incorporating sustainability criteria into its future building and accommodation plans and actions.

The ESRI building is not open to the public for service provision; In the ESRI's new offices, the Display Energy Certificate will be posted as appropriate.

The ESRI commits to taking the following actions in 2026:

No.	Action	By When	Status
6.1.1	Continue to work towards achieving the Smarter Travel Mark: provide and maintain facilities which promote the use of bicycles and shared mobility options as an alternative to car use, including secure and accessible bicycle parking, shared mobility parking, and shower facilities.	Ongoing	In progress
6.1.2	Continue to liaise with the landlord to explore the potential to enhance existing facilities in landlord areas to encourage active travel, including the provision of secure, lockable bike cages and extra wide cargo bike parking, and safer cycling initiatives in landlord areas.	Ongoing	On hold – pending move to new premises
6.1.3	Continue to discourage car parking in the building by implementing an appropriate charge for parking, and support the use of public transport by offering the Cycle to Work and TaxSaver schemes; continue to provide accessible parking for those with physical mobility issues	Ongoing	Completed in 2025; Ongoing in 2026
6.1.4	Implement the ESRI Travel Policy, where staff are required to use public transport wherever possible for business travel.	Ongoing	Completed
6.1.5	The ESRI building is not open to the public for service provision; in new premises, the Display Energy Certificate will be posted if appropriate.	Unknown	On hold – pending move to new premises
6.1.6	Ensure contracted facilities company implements Mandate requirements with respect to procurement; compliance with SI 626 of 2016 to procure Triple E registered products or equivalent; cleaning services	2025 H2	Confirmed
6.1.7	Incorporating sustainability criteria and energy and GHG emissions reduction criteria into the ESRI new offices project.	Ongoing	Not started
6.1.8	Review Building Stock Plan minimum every two years and reference in the Climate Action Roadmap.	2025H1 2027	Complete

7. Review and Approval

This Roadmap is reviewed by the Management Committee annually, amended as appropriate on an annual basis, and signed by the Director.

8. Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martina Lawless".

Martina Lawless, Director, ESRI

28 April, 2026

9. Appendix 1 ESRI Energy Policy Statement

The ESRI recognises its responsibilities to its staff, customers, contractors, and the public regarding sustainable and cost-efficient energy management and is committed to continual improvement in energy efficiency in its operations. To this end, the Institute commits, as far as is reasonably practicable, to managing its workplace to ensure its energy efficiency objectives are achieved.

Energy efficiency objectives:

- Commit to continuous improvement in energy efficiency.
- Promote and raise awareness of energy efficiency throughout the Institute.
- Ensure work activities, procurement, operations, and maintenance procedures include energy efficiency as a priority.
- Identify building plant, equipment, processes, and behaviours which account for the greatest energy usage, and which offer the most potential for energy savings, with a view to implementing cost effective solutions.

To help achieve these objectives, the ESRI Management Committee has appointed an Energy Performance Officer who is responsible for monitoring and reporting of energy consumption, obtaining advice and submitting proposals on potential energy saving projects, and reporting at least annually on energy consumption and the achievement of these objectives to the ESRI's Management Committee.

This policy is supported by the ESRI's Management Committee and by the Council of the ESRI, who commit the necessary resources to ensure that the objectives can be achieved.

These objectives will be reviewed by the Management Committee annually and updated as required and brought to the attention of all staff, at least annually.



Martina Lawless, Director

28 April 2026