



Impact Assessment for a Just Transformation

Perspectives from the EPA

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Vision

'We live sustainably in a healthy environment that is valued and protected by all'

30 years on and still evolving

- Established in 1993 to provide robust and independent environmental regulation
- Driver for establishment was regulatory frameworks for multinationals
- *It is no longer an issue of jobs or the environment. In the 1990s it is going to be an issue of jobs because of the environment (Mary Harney, 1991)*

What led to the establishment of Ireland's EPA 30 years ago?

Updated / Wednesday, 7 Feb 2024 17:17

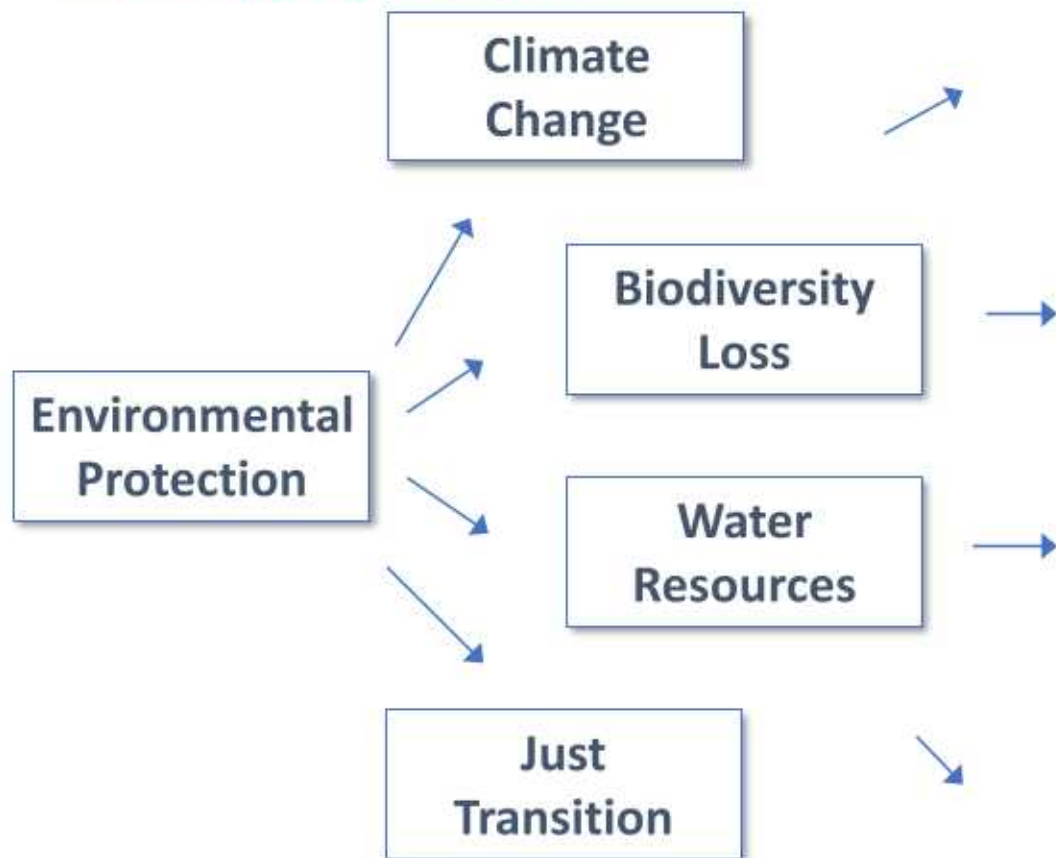


'For over three decades, the EPA has been responsible for protecting, improving and restoring Ireland's environment through regulation, scientific knowledge and collaboration'

Environmental Protection Agency



A changing context



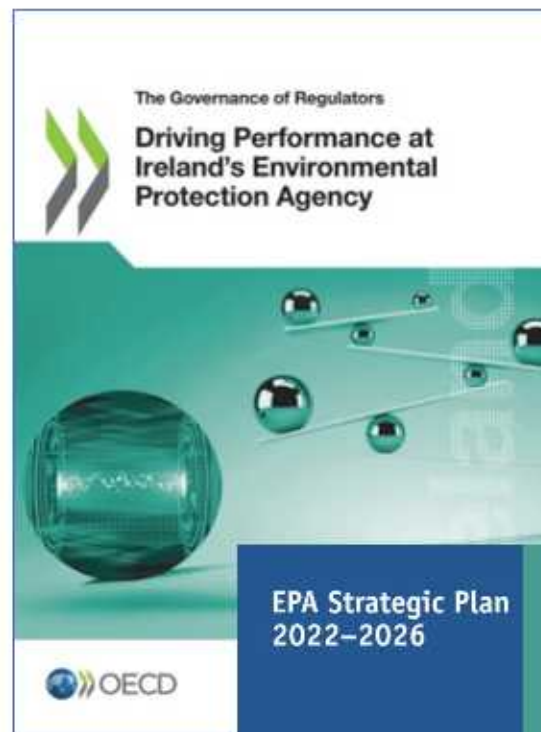
Taking stock and looking to the future

OECD Report on the EPA commissioned

- The EPA delivers a broad mandate across
 - Regulation
 - Knowledge
 - Advocacy
- *...established itself as a trusted and respected body with a strong culture of independence*

Updated Strategic Plan

- **EPA's Vision: We live sustainably in a healthy environment that is valued and protected by all**



State of the Environment Report



- Comprehensive four-year integrated assessment
- 8th edition for Ireland will be published in 2024
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government
- An essential resource for conducting assessments



Ireland's Environment

An Integrated Assessment 2020

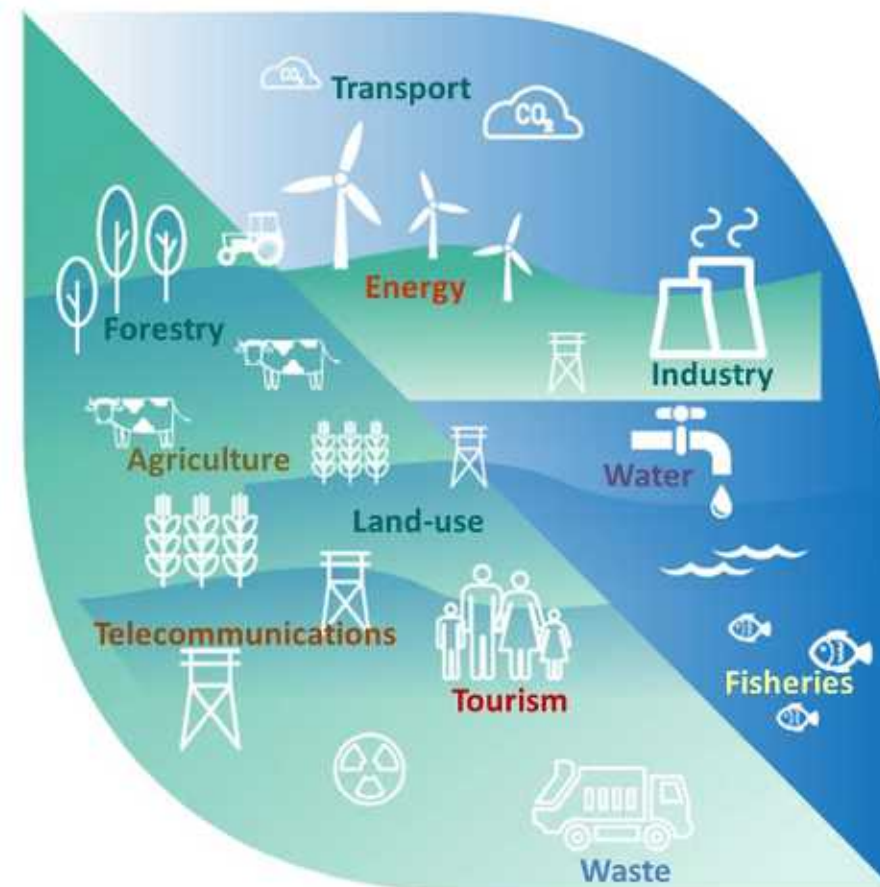
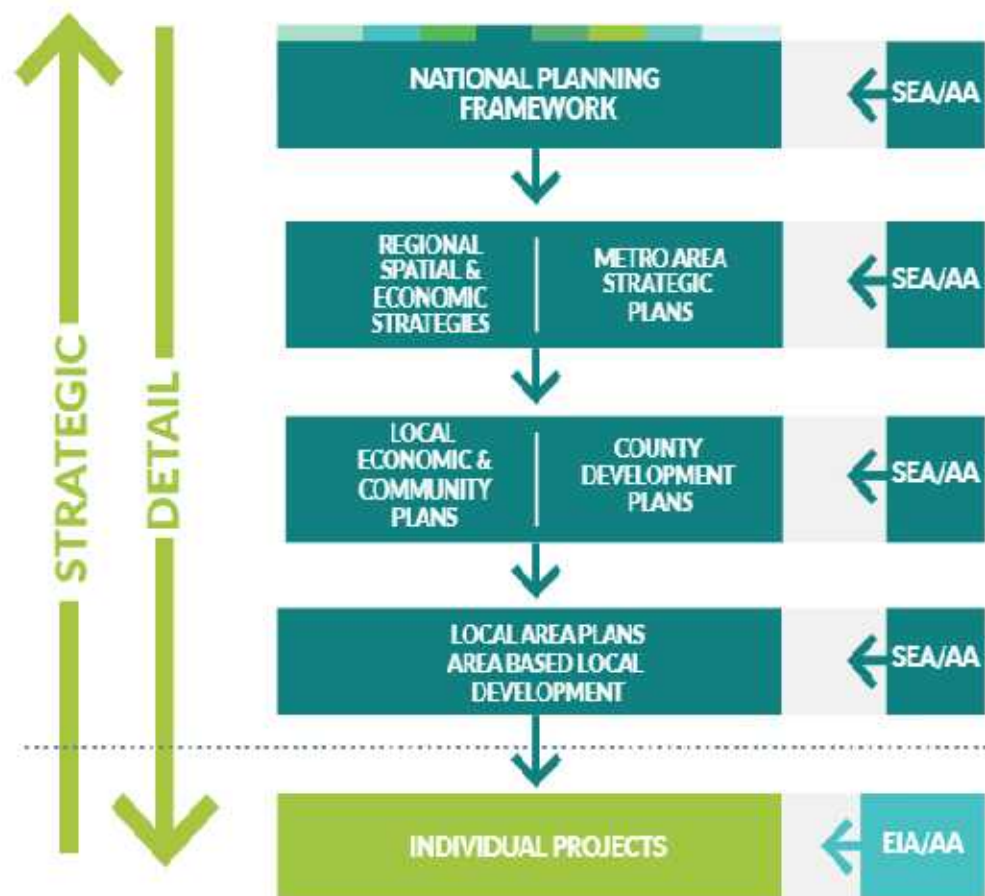


Impact of SOER

- Unique resource of environmental information in one place
- Utilised by a multitude of different stakeholders (individual, policy makers, enterprise, NGOs, etc)
- Clear policy impact and referenced across a range of national plans and policies in all sectors



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive

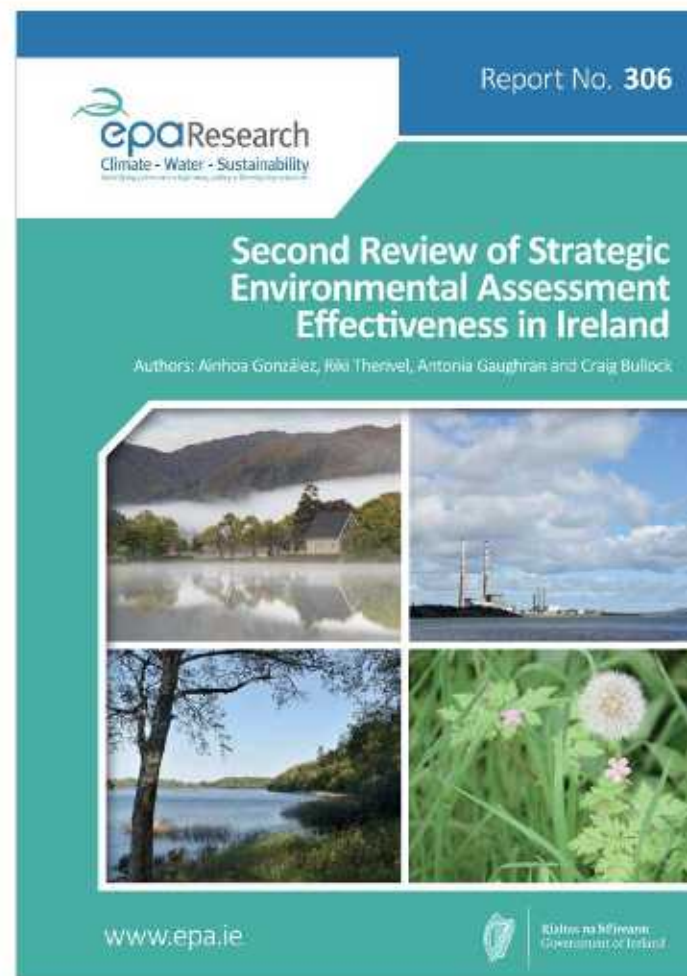


Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)



Enhancing effectiveness

- Two SEA Effectiveness Reviews undertaken to enhance delivery
- Acting on recommendations:
 - SEA Action Plan established setting out priorities and responsibilities
 - 14 sets of SEA Guidance developed
 - Training modules for SEA practitioners
- Ongoing research projects to further enhance delivery of SEA



Kerdiffstown Landfill

From Illegal Landfill to Community Park

- 2003: EPA licence
- 2008/9: raided, injunctive proceedings
- 2010: company liquidated
- 2011: fire on site, prosecutions of directors
- 2015: Company found guilty, €20m fine
- EU Arrest Warrant issued and Company Director found guilty
- Remediation of site to community park



2011

Today



Ireland's Peatlands



Extraction to remediation

- Peat extraction licensed by EPA
- Sustained and on-going investment in research has demonstrated value of peatlands to society for climate, water, biodiversity.
- Bord na Mona only licensed operator and no longer extracting
- Peatlands being rehabilitated and restored resulting in significant impacts for climate, biodiversity and society



Work still to be done...

- Illegal peat extraction continues
- Significant reductions since EPA injunctions



Image taken from Mount Lucas Windfarm website

Climate Change



Irish Climate Change Assessment

- Provides first assessment of understanding of climate change in Ireland in four volumes
- Based on scientific research and systematic observations in Ireland, linked to EU and global analysis
- Comprehensive evidence to provide actionable information
- Identify opportunities for Ireland in the transformation to a climate neutral, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economy and society

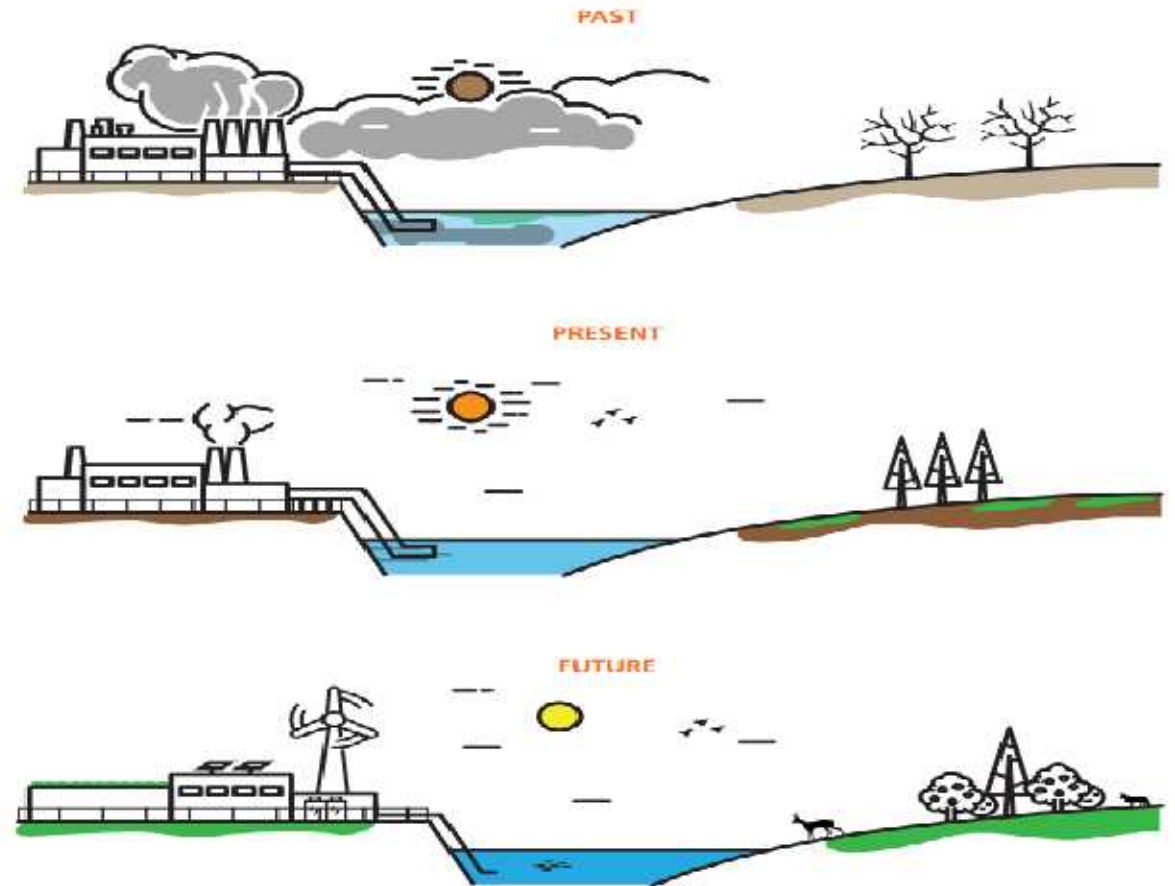


A Just Transformation



EPA is part of the transformation

- Use the best evidence and assessment to protect, restore, and ensure a healthy environment for all
- Work with others across all sectors to achieve better outcomes
- Committed to being an effective voice and trusted leader for the environment





"The greatest threat
to our planet
is the belief that
someone else
will save it."

Robert Swan OBE

