



Dear colleagues,

We are delighted to circulate the sixth quarterly Climate Ireland Adaptation Network (CIAN) news update with a quick round up of recent national and international adaptation-related items which may be of interest to you.

**National & Regional:**

- *Invitation:* The EPA is looking for Irish adaptation case studies at a local, regional, or sectoral scale to publish on Climate Ireland. If you have an adaptation or resilience case study, please send us a link or short summary for our database.
- *Report:* The [Climate Change Advisory Council Annual Review 2025](#) was published in March on "Our Changing Climate in 2024".
- *Report:* A [cost-benefit analysis](#) commissioned by the Water Forum – An Fóram Uisce finds that making all new homes water efficient would save money, water and reduce emissions. By reducing water usage from an estimated baseline of 110 LPD to 90 LPD across the planned 303,000 new homes (3 bedroom, 2 bathroom with 4 person occupancy) could save 2.2 million cubic metres of water per year.
- *Case study:* Kildare County Council have opened a '[Show and Tell' DemoHouse](#) for the public to come visit and see Energy Upgrade & Retrofit works. The House also includes other concepts such as Universal Access, SuDS Sustainable drainage systems in a residential setting, biodiversity, Life Time Home and circular economy concepts. It is open for pre booked visits on Thursday mornings between 10am – 1pm.
- *Project:* Two Irish regions - Louth County Council and Tipperary County Council - have been selected to participate in the CLIMAAx project. [CLIMAté risk and vulnerability Assessment framework and toolboX \(CLIMAAx\)](#) is a 4-year Horizon Europe project that will provide financial, analytical, and practical support to improve regional climate and emergency risk management plans. Watch out for details of their work towards this over the coming months.
- *Case study:* [The Crescent/Sea Road Junction Upgrade](#) is a multifaceted active travel scheme initiated by Galway City Council and completed in December 2024 that addresses safety concerns, urban water management, and environmental sustainability. A critical element of this project is the installation of rainwater gardens. These systems are designed not only to mitigate surface

water flooding but also to enhance local biodiversity, contribute to the area's public realm and visual amenity, and support the long-term resilience of the urban fabric.

- *Project:* [Climateurope2](#) aims to develop future equitable and quality-assured climate services to all sectors of society by developing standardisation procedures for climate services; supporting an equitable European climate services community; and enhancing the uptake of quality-assured climate services to support adaptation and mitigation to climate change and variability.
- *Climate Risk Matrix:* The Department of Finance published a [Climate Change Risk Matrix](#) in March.
- *Lecture:* The EPA, as part of the National Dialogue on Climate Action, hosted an online lecture on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March with Prof. Karen O'Brien on [“Transformation in a Changing Climate: Insights from the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment”](#).

### **Upcoming events:**

- *Conference:* The EPA Annual Climate Change Conference will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in Dublin Castle. You can now register [here](#).
- *Event:* The 3rd Annual Sand Dune Gathering on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Galway, organised by The Beaches & Dunes Forum brings together people interested in the future of Ireland's beaches and dunes. This year's theme is sharing successes, best practice, innovative ideas & tips and you can sign up [here](#).
- *Event:* The Boyne Ripple Project is holding a regional network workshop for Meath, Louth, and Cavan in the Development Perspectives HQ in Drogheda on 17<sup>th</sup> May. See [here](#) for more information and how to attend.
- *Event:* [Dublin Climate Action Week 2025](#) is a one-week programme of events running from the 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025, which aims to inspire, share knowledge and highlight best practice on climate action, as we work towards creating a healthier, more sustainable Dublin.
- *Event:* Adaptation projects need to be financed, however, some are less quantifiable than mitigation projects and may involve novel technologies including NbS. Climate risk reduction benefits many people, companies, and assets and adaptation measures are wide and varied. Lenders will take part in 1-1 meetings with Climate Matters in June 2025, showcasing adaptation finance in other regions and inviting feedback on the current challenges, barriers and requirements to allow scale up of adaptation measures. Register [here](#). Following

that, in July 2025, an online workshop will be held where live adaptation projects will be discussed and how these can be financed.

#### **European:**

- *Paper:* [Decisive measures needed to meet EU's environmental, climate and sustainability objectives](#) – this EEA assessment takes stock of progress toward objectives set out under the so-called 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP). It sets the framework for EU environmental policy until 2030. Progress is assessed based on a set of 28 headline indicators and corresponding targets in areas that cover climate neutrality, a resource-efficient economy, reversing biodiversity loss and cutting pollution. The report found that the EU is not yet on track to meet many targets, with limited progress overall compared to the last report from 2023. This demonstrates the need for decisive action to ensure they can be met by 2030 by fully implementing the policies under the European Green Deal.
- *Policies:* [Resilience in the new EU policy - towards the European Climate Adaptation Plan](#): the European Climate Adaptation Plan (ECAP) will be released toward the end of 2026 to support the Member States on preparedness and resilience planning. However, climate resilience and preparedness have already been flagged for particular attention in several key EU policy documents including the Competitiveness Compass, Vision for Agriculture, and the Communication on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
- *Paper:* [Integrated risk analyses as part of national climate risk assessments](#): lessons learnt from the climate risk assessment of Germany
- *Strategy:* [EU Preparedness Union Strategy](#) to prevent and react to emerging threats and crises was published in March. It comprises 30 key actions and a detailed action plan which includes "enhancing climate adaptation and availability of critical natural resources such as water" as a key objective to protect Europe's essential societal functions.

#### **International:**

- *Article:* [National Adaptation Plans: Building Resilience in a Changing Climate](#) - more countries need to submit their National Adaptation Plans to UN Climate Change by 2025, to quantify their needs within them, and to drive collaboration across all sectors. Effective adaptation requires the engagement of global leaders, as well as the expertise and resources of philanthropic organizations, non-profits, academia, and the private sector.
- *Article:* [Three Decades of Climate Adaptation: Milestones and Progress](#): The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered

into force on 21 March 1994, marking the beginning of global commitment to tackling the climate crisis. As the process moves into its 31st year in 2025, the Adaptation Committee reflects on the evolution of climate adaptation, from early efforts to strategies for future action.

- *Report:* The [2024 European State of the Climate \(ESOTC\)](#) report, compiled by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) was released in April and provides description and analyses of climate conditions in Europe in 2024. It also provides an overview of climate conditions across the Arctic, and updates on the long-term evolution of key climate indicators.
- *Bulletin:* March 2025 was the warmest on record for Europe, the second-warmest globally, with marked dry and wet anomalies for Europe, according to the latest monthly [Climate Bulletin](#) of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). The month also saw the lowest sea ice extent for March in a dataset going back to 1979.
- *Report:* The UK Committee on Climate Change reported on [Progress in adapting to climate change: 2025 report to Parliament](#) in the UK stressing that preparations are inadequate.

## Research & Education:

- *Research:* [Addressing the Political Economic Barriers to Climate Adaptation in Ireland](#): Ireland's climate is experiencing significant changes that impact the economy, society, and environment. Historically, Ireland's climate policies have prioritised reducing emissions over adapting to unavoidable climate impacts. With climate-related costs projected to reach billions of euros annually by 2050, this new EPA-funded research by researchers at DCU assesses how current governance structures support or hinder adaptation. Using an innovative political economy approach, the research sought to uncover the interests, incentives, and institutional factors that shape adaptation decisions in the key sectors of agriculture, flood risk management, and water services. The research indicates that political, economic, and social factors hinder Ireland's climate adaptation progress. Barriers include a perceived lack of urgency and the competition between adaptation and immediate short-term priorities. This report provides a roadmap for policymakers, sector leaders, and communities to strengthen adaptation efforts.
- *Research:* [Just Resilience and Adaptation in Ireland \(JustAdapt\)](#): Both the impacts of climate change and the policy responses to mitigate emissions affect different sections of society in different ways. The EPA-funded JustAdapt research project by researchers at the ESRI is the first national-level study to

consider socioeconomic vulnerability alongside climate change impacts at a local level in Ireland. It includes modelling extreme weather events to identify where climate impacts and socioeconomic vulnerability coincide, assessing local economic impacts of climate policies, and developing guidelines for incorporating nature-based solutions, equity and justice into climate policy decision-making. Overall, the research offers policymakers, planners, and stakeholders' insights to design fair, effective, and sustainable climate adaptation policies and strategies, while considering socio-economic vulnerabilities and promoting nature-based solutions for a resilient future.

- *Research:* [Development of a social vulnerability index: Enhancing approaches to support climate justice](#): Climate change is causing increasing frequency and severity of various hazards such as flooding and extreme temperatures. Vulnerability analysis that broadens the focus beyond exposure to hazards is invaluable in supporting just climate action. This study carried out by researchers at MaREI and UCC as part of the REACHOUT project builds upon previous work to make the index hazard specific and applicable across a range of locations, with case studies in Ireland, Italy, Northern Ireland and Spain and by a variety of users.
- *Toolkit:* The European Commission-funded [REACHOUT Triple-A Toolkit and City Solutions](#) is a comprehensive and flexible set of resources designed to assist cities in understanding climate change risks and opportunities, prioritising adaptation measures, and developing effective adaptation strategies. It encompasses tools, visualisations, best practices, and learning modules, all aimed at building urban resilience, while also showcasing practical applications through city case studies, demonstrating its versatility across diverse urban contexts.

We would encourage you to circulate this newsletter to your contacts and don't forget to let us know about upcoming events, or other items that might be of interest to CIAN members. Also, please encourage your peers to join the CIAN by emailing us at [climateireland@epa.ie](mailto:climateireland@epa.ie).