



**ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY**  
**ONLINE CONFERENCE**  
**25 FEBRUARY 2021**  
**BOOK AT [RIA.IE/EVENTS](http://RIA.IE/EVENTS)**

# Achieving Ireland's climate action ambitions

## PLENARY SESSION

- 9.00a.m.** Welcome from President of the Royal Irish Academy, Dr Mary Canning
- 9.10a.m.** Conference Chair: Professor John Fitzgerald  
Chairperson of the Climate Change Advisory Council, 2015–21
- 9.30a.m.** Keynote Address: Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, and Transport.

## PANEL 1 POLICY OUTLOOK

- 10.00a.m.** Chair: Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President, Engineers Ireland, and Vice-President for Research Innovation and Impact, UCD
- 10.05a.m.** Brian Carroll, Assistant Secretary-General for Climate Action, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications: 'Ireland's Climate Action Plan'
- 10.20a.m.** Professor Peter Thorne, Director, Climate Analysis and Research Centre, Maynooth University: 'The Intergovernmental Climate Change Working Group predictions and likely outcomes'
- 10.35a.m.** Kerrie Sheehan, Head of Research and Technology, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland: 'Current progress on Ireland's climate targets'
- 10.50a.m.** Discussion, Q&A
- 11.15a.m.** Tea/Coffee Break

## PANEL 2 PLANNING ELECTRICITY AND HEAT

- 11.30a.m.** Chair: Dr Phil Hemmingway, Director of Energy Safety, Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- 11.35a.m.** Dr Damian Flynn, Associate Professor, UCD Energy Institute: 'Modelling and analysis of the electrical grid with a high share of renewables'
- 11.50a.m.** Mark Foley, Chief Executive, Eirgrid: 'Decarbonisation of the electricity grid in Ireland'
- 12.05p.m.** Donna Gartland, CEO, Codema: 'Planning of district heating in Ireland'
- 12.20p.m.** Discussion, Q&A
- 12.45p.m.** Lunch

## PANEL 3 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND BUILDINGS

- 1.45p.m.** Chair: Dr Frank McGovern, EPA Chief Climate Scientist
- 1.50p.m.** Dr Lisa Ryan, Assistant Professor in Energy Economics, UCD: 'The economics of decarbonisation in Ireland'
- 2.05p.m.** Professor Brian Norton, Head of Energy Research, Tyndall National Institute: 'Decarbonisation of buildings'
- 2.20p.m.** Dr Matt Kennedy, UCC on 'Building resilience for climate adaptation'
- 2.35p.m.** Discussion Q&A
- 3.00p.m.** Tea/Coffee Break

## PANEL 4 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

- 3.25p.m.** Chair: Margaret E. Ward, Leadership Consultant and CEO, Clear Ink
- 3.30p.m.** Dr Lorraine D'Arcy, School of Transport, Environment and Planning, TU Dublin: 'Low carbon transport and mobility'
- 3.45p.m.** Geraldine Herbert, Contributing Editor and Motoring Correspondent, Sunday Independent: 'Challenges of meeting electric car national targets'
- 4p.m.** Dr Eleanor Denny, Associate Professor of Economics, TCD: 'Nudging climate action using behavioural science'
- 4.15p.m.** Discussion, Q&A

## CONFERENCE SUMMARY

- 4.45p.m.** Conference Chair and Panel Chairs will discuss the conference theme
- 5.20p.m.** Conference Close