

How to ensure a just transition to a low carbon economy in Ireland

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Welcome



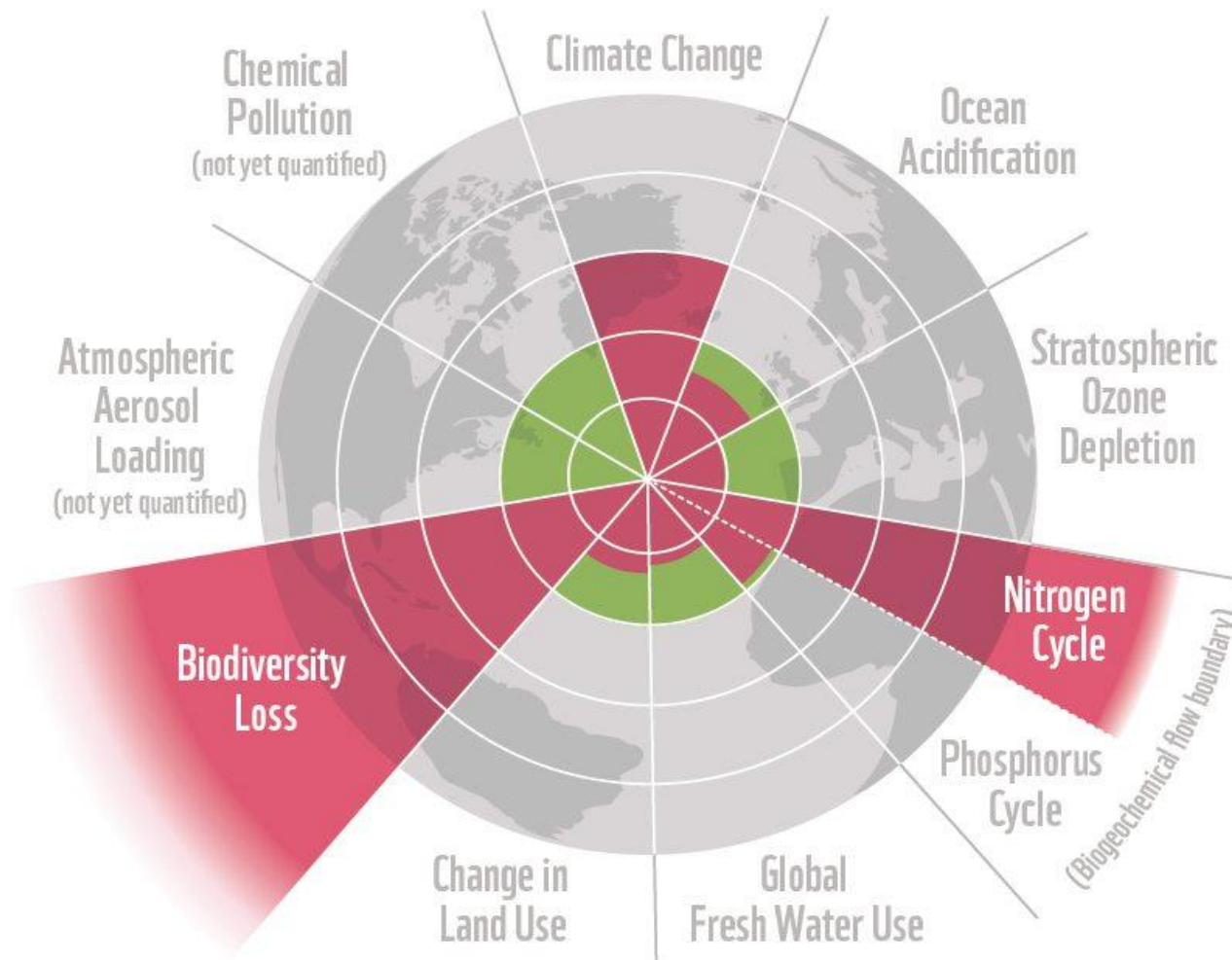
To the Anthropocene:

The current geological age in which human activity is the dominant influence on climate and the environment.

Paul J Crutzen, 2000

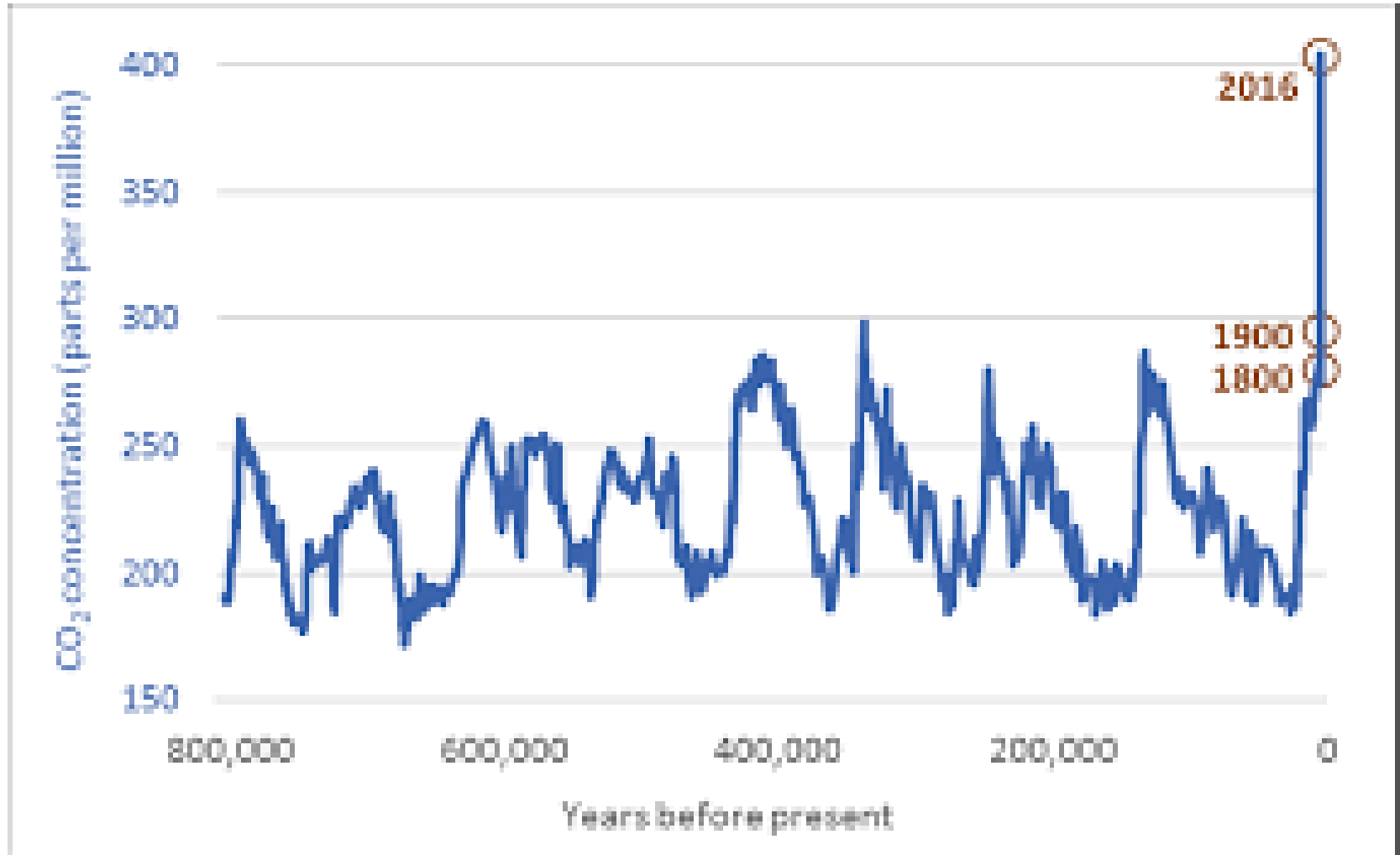
Requires a re-evaluation of man's relationship with our natural environment

Planetary Boundaries



Once human activity has passed certain tipping points there is a risk of "irreversible and abrupt environmental change: biodiversity loss & climate change (also nitrogen cycle)

CO₂ Emission Concentrations





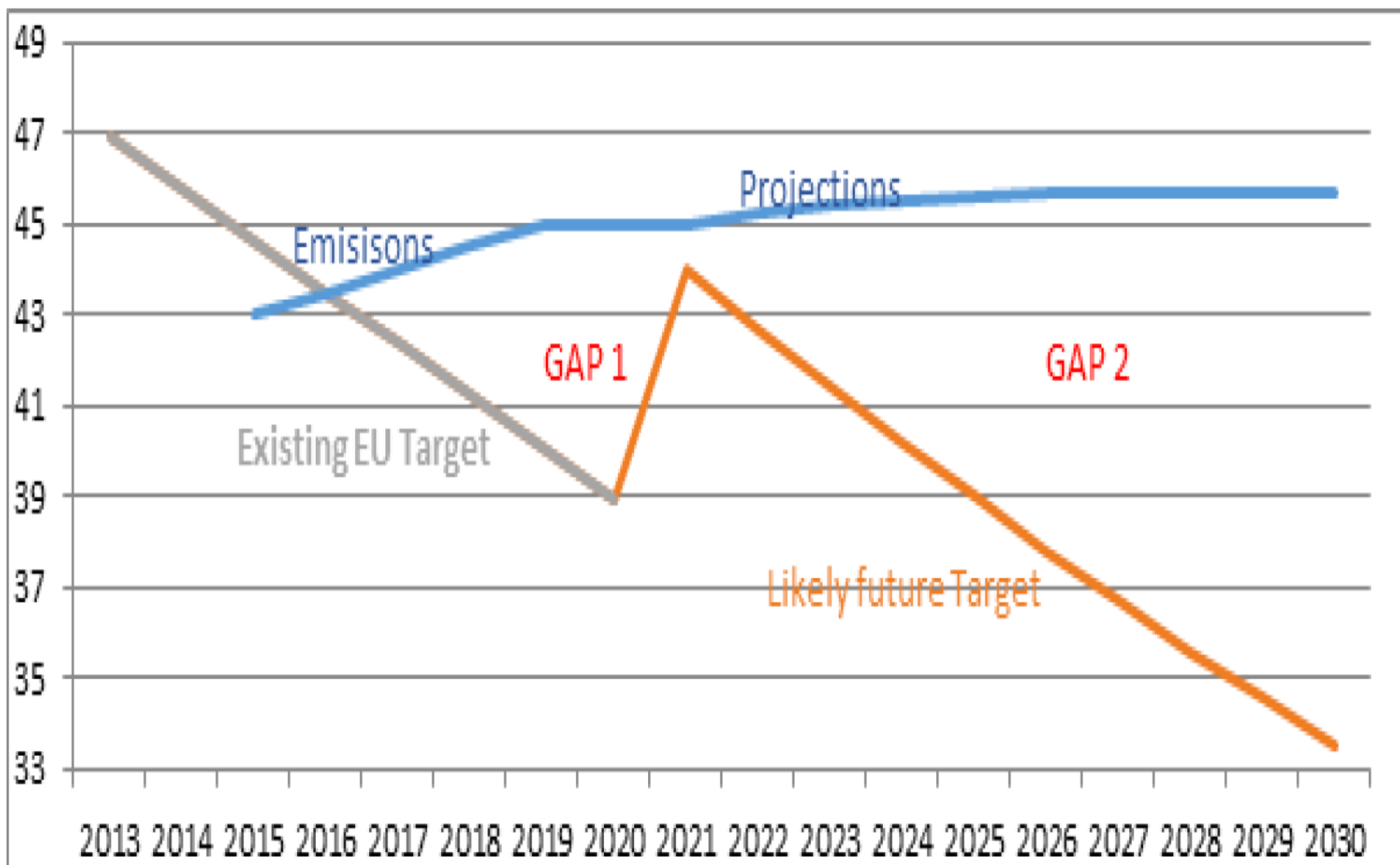


Not on Target

Table 1. Ireland's emission reduction commitments

DESCRIPTION	PERIOD	NATURE	STATUS
Reduce emissions from buildings, transport and agriculture 20% on 1990 levels	2020	Legally binding under EU	Not on target: emissions 12% below 1990 levels and increasing
16% of energy to come from renewables	2020	Legally binding under EU	Not on target: approximately 8% of energy from renewables and increasing slowly
Reduce emissions from buildings, transport and agriculture 30% on 1990 levels	2030	Under negotiation	Not on target: emissions 12% below 1990 levels and increasing
Reduce energy emissions 80% and achieve "carbon neutrality" in agriculture	2050	National commitment	Not on target: emissions from agriculture and energy both increasing

Non-ETS Sectors: Buildings, Transport and Agriculture



Why has Ireland's climate policy performance been so poor?

Politics

Government
Departments
and Agencies

Economic and
technical
barriers

Dominant
techno-
economic
paradigm

Communities
and civil
society





Jobs churn from decarbonisation

Jobs growth	Jobs decline
Building retrofit	Peat harvesting and generation
Renewables industries	Coal importing and distributions (later gas and oil)
Climate-smart agriculture	Marginal beef farming and processing
Smart-grids	Oil and gas exploration

A **Just** Transition Framework*

- 1. Support low-carbon transition as a priority*
- 2. Conditional on a fair distribution of the costs and benefits*

6 Pillars of a Just Transition (IMPACT)

- 1. *Considering social impacts in strategic policy formulation:*** Identify possible social impacts in NMP – not just techno-economic focus
- 2. *Delivering social and regional-proofing of all incentives and measures:*** Carbon tax, grants, tax incentives, soft loans and other subsidies should be designed with minimal barriers & social impacts managed
- 3. *Involving employee representatives in policy development:*** through social dialogue
- 4. *Focusing on skills and (re) training:*** An audit of the skills base required and training and retraining as required
- 5. *Ensuring social protection and security:*** Structural change and jobs churn underline requirement to ensure adequate social support
- 6. *Promoting a just transition globally:*** commitments to decarbonise, climate finance, technology transfer, loss and damage?

Social impacts of climate policy

Measures	Economic & environmental perspective	Social perspective
Carbon tax	+	Can negatively affect poor households Particular cohorts might be disproportionately affected
Energy efficiency grants	+	Multiple social benefits Who pays?
FIT/PSO levy for renewables	+	Are incentives accessible to community groups and local citizens?
Changes to VRT and car tax	+	Neutral

Conclusion

- Dominant paradigm is a least-cost approach
- Climate policy under a Just transition framework identifies potential vulnerable sectors, cohorts and workers, thereby adds a stronger social dimension
- Seeks ways to manage social issues thereby minimising opposition to low-carbon transition
- Not just good social policy but good climate policy

Thank You!



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