SDSN Ireland

Delivering Sustainable Development Policy Impact from Research

Case Studies from Ireland

Delivering Sustainable Development Policy

Impact from Research: Case Studies from Ireland

The U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. Much of the SDSN's work is led by National or Regional SDSNs, which mobilise 'knowledge generating institutions' around the Sustainable Development Goals. As of 2025, SDSN has over 2,000 members in 58 networks across 6 continents.

SDSN Ireland was formally launched on 23 February 2023 as an All-Island collaborative network currently comprising the 16 SDSN members in Ireland.

SDSN Ireland focuses on developing context-specific solutions and mobilising localised action to accelerate SDG implementation, by engaging universities, research centres, NGOs, civil society organisations, local authorities, and national governments.

This report compiles case studies that capture some of the achievements of SDSN Ireland members in acceleration progress towards sustainable development by delivering policy impact from their research. This involves undertaking research relevant to sustainable development, translating the research results into policy insights and then engaging with the policy systems to not only improve the evidence base for policy, but also to actively inform, underpin, co-produce and implement sustainable development policy.

This report was compiled by the SDSN Ireland Thematic Group on Research-Policy Interface and will be expanded and updated on a six-monthly basis to showcase the important role that research can play in policy development and to add to the knowledge base on how best to bridge between the research and policy ecosystems to advance sustainability.

Prof. Brian Ó Gallachóir, Chair, SDSN Ireland Thematic Group on Research-Policy Interface, February 2026

Policy Impacted: National Smoky Coal Ban

Statutory Instruments No. 529/2022 - Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022
https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2022/si/529/made/en/print

Academics associated with the work:

Patrick Goodman (Technological University Dublin) and Dublin City Council

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

- Yes, by the extension of the ban from a local level to a national level

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

- Effect of air-pollution control on death rates in Dublin, Ireland: an intervention study https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673602112815?via%3Dihub
- Assessing the Impact of Domestic Solid Fuel Burning on Ambient Air Quality in Ireland https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/air/Research_158_web_wrapped.pdf
- Effect of Air Pollution Control on Mortality and Hospital Admissions in Ireland https://www.healtheffects.org/publication/effect-air-pollution-control-mortality-and-hospital-admissions-ireland

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

Research supports and can drive the implementation of policy

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: JobPath Scheme

Evidence presented to an Oireachtas committee on the JobPath scheme to inform parliamentary debate and recommendations. As a result, new referrals to JobPath ended in June 2022 and the scheme was fully discontinued in June 2024.

Academics associated with the work:

The Waterford Un/Employment Research Collaborative (WUERC) Team: Dr Ray Griffin, Dr Aisling Tuite, Antoinette Jordan, Dr Zach Roche and Dr Kenny Doyle (South East Technological University), and Dr Tom Boland (University College Cork).

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Employment Affairs & Social Protection abolished JobPath in February 2019 based on WUERC evidence.

- Joint Committee on Employment Affairs and Social Protection díospóireacht - Thursday, 17 Jan 2019
- 2019-01-17_opening-statement-dr-ray-griffin-and-dr-tom-boland-waterford-institute-of-technology_en.pdf
- JobPath Programme: Motion [Private...: 5 Feb 2019: Dáil debates (KildareStreet.com)
- JobPath Programme – Tuesday, 19 Feb 2019 – Parliamentary Questions (32nd Dáil) – Houses of the Oireachtas

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

This evidence has informed numerous publications, policy papers, and Oireachtas submissions, establishing WUERC researchers as national opinion leaders on unemployment and welfare. A key output was the edited volume *The Sociology of Unemployment* (Manchester University Press, 2015).

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

- **Accessible dissemination:** Bringing evidence directly to policymakers is more straightforward and impactful than often assumed, especially when presented in clear and accessible formats.
- **Complementary perspectives:** The experience informed the WUERC team's later presentation to the same Oireachtas committee on means testing, underscoring the importance of lived-experience research as a complement to the customer service–oriented evaluations typically favoured by the Department of Social Protection.
- **Navigating media discourse:** The team also learned how highly reactive and politically charged media debate around social policy can be, and the importance of maintaining academic rigour and clarity when contributing to such public discussions.

SDGs impacted

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DCU Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath Dublin City University

Policy Impacted: STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026

Government of Ireland, Department of Education and Skills

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/stem-education-policy-statement-2017-2026-8dec26e8-5319-4138-a045-c90c71e633cb.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, School of STEM Education, Innovation & Global Studies, DCU, Ireland

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

No, but as a member of the STEM Education Policy Group (listed in the document) I emphasised the research outlining the import of teachers' pedagogical content knowledge on student achievement, particularly in Mathematics. I also ensured the policy focused not only on gender equality but also socioeconomic inequality in the education system

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

- Ni Shuilleabhain, A. (2016) Developing mathematics teachers' pedagogical content knowledge in lesson study: Case study findings. *International Journal for Lesson and Learning Studies* 5 (3): 212–226. https://doi.org/10.1108/IJLLS-11-2015-0036
- Ni Shuilleabhain, A. Cronin and M. Prendergast (2020). Maths Sparks engagement programme: investigating the impact on under-privileged pupils' attitudes towards mathematics," in Teaching Mathematics and Its Applications: International Journal of the IMA, vol. 40, no. 1, pp. 133-153 doi: 10.1093/teamat/hraa009

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

- It is important that, as academics, we participate in policy-making processes when possible. In these roles, it is incumbent on academic members of such policy groups to communicate research findings to the audience and to ensure that the policy drafting process is as research-informed as possible
- While it is important to have undertaken and understood research related to policy, academics should make this information available in an accessible way to non-academics.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education Institutions Implementation Plan, 2022-2024

Government of Ireland, Higher Education Authority.

https://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2021/04/HEA_ESVH_Implementation_Plan_FINAL.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, School of STEM Education, Innovation & Global Studies, DCU (Dublin City University), Ireland, & Craig Skerritt, Marino Institute, Ireland

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Minister for Higher Education, Research and Science, Simon Harris, acknowledged the contribution of this work in his address to the Seanad in November 2021:

https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/oireachtas-tv/video-archive/seanad-videos/4634

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

Ni Shuilleabhain, A., & Skerritt, C. (2024). 'I'm a troublemaker': the need to focus on early-career academics' experiences of sexual harassment in Ireland. *Journal of Gender-Based Violence*, *8*(1), 116-123. Retrieved Sep 17, 2025, from https://doi.org/10.1332/23986808Y2023D000000015

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

- Sexual harassment is a deterrent for many female academics and is a cause for them to leave academia, potentially contributing to the gender imbalance in senior academic roles across higher education institutions
- Rates and experiences of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence of early-career academics in Ireland are unknown, but likely more prevalent than commonly believed
- Early-career academics' experiences of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence should be a focus of future research in order to raise awareness of such issues and for more resources to be developed to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and violence in higher education in Ireland.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: Statutory Carbon Budgets

Ireland's Oireachtas approved Carbon Budgets on April 6 2022 for the period 2021-2025 (195 Mt CO_{2eq}) and 2026-2030 (100 Mt CO_{2eq}) https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/carbon-budgets.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Hannah Daly, Brian Ó Gallachóir, Andrew Smith (UCC), Lisa Ryan, Aoife Aherne, Paul Price (UCD) and David Styles (UL)

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes. The Government note on the agreed carbon budgets (referred to above) stated that *"Modelling and analysis undertaken by University College Cork, Teagasc and University of Limerick informed the CCAC's calculations for the carbon budgets. This modelling illustrated the quantity of GHGs that would be emitted under different scenarios that ultimately lead to Ireland meeting the overall target of 51% reduction in GHGs by 2030."*

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

The Climate Change Advisory Council established a Committee on Carbon Budgets that considered UCC modelling UCC on the energy system (https://tim-carbon-budgets-2021.netlify.app/scenarios) Teagasc modelling on agriculture and UL modelling on land use. This research is summarised in the Carbon Budget Technical Report, along with the proposed carbon budgets that were adopted (https://www.climatecouncil.ie/media/climatechangeadvisorycouncil/Technical%20report%20on%20carbon%20budgets%2025.10.2021.pdf)

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

The Climate Change Advisory Council Committee on Carbon Budgets effectively established an innovative mechanism for policy co-production between researchers, State Agencies and Government Departments. It highlights the fourth dimension of bridging between research and policy, from informing, engaging underpinning and co-producing policy. An additional dimension was the researchers being called before an Oireachtas (Parliamentary) Committee to provide evidence based on their research findings.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: EU Renewable Energy Directive 2018

The revised EU Renewable Energy Directive of 2018 increased the target for renewable energy share of overall energy use from 27% to 32% underpinned by UCC research. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018L2001

Academics associated with the work:

Paul Deane, Sean Collins, Brian Ó Gallachóir, UCC in collaboration with Dolf Gielen, Asami Miketa, Deger Saygin and Laura Guiterrez in IRENA (international Renewable Energy Association)

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes. The new EU Renewable Energy Directive referenced an EU-IRENA report (available from https://www.irena.org/publications/2018/Feb/Renewable-energy-prospects-for-the-EU) called *Renewable Energy Prospects for the EU*, which stated in the Executive Summary that *"A dispatch model based on Plexos software and developed in co-operation with University College Cork"*;

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

The authors modelled the EU power system and undertook a number of scenarios with different levels of renewable generated electricity. The results showed that the EU could integrate a 50% share of renewable electricity by 2030. This was published in the journal Energy Strategy Reviews (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211467X18300798). This research then underpinned the above mentioned collaborative EU IRENA report and the increase in RE target.

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

Collaboration and partnership with organisations is more impactful than individual research. The partnership between UCC and IRENA was hugely beneficial both from a research perspective and in terms of impact. IRENA hosted one of UCC's PhD researchers for six months, which enabled this collaboration.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: Climate Action Plan 2023

Climate Action Plan 2023: Government of Ireland implementation plan for the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and roadmap for future action

climate-action-plan-2023-8b7dba92-f397-4163-8293-3aea656f6b5f.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Hannah Daly, Fionn Rogan, Brian Ó Gallachóir, Olexander Balyk and Tomás MacUidhir Sustainability Institute, University College Cork

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes, on page 119, where it states *"DPER is currently working with UCC to revise the shadow price of carbon, informed by updated research on the marginal abatement cost of reaching our climate targets."* Also page 280 refers to Climate Ireland that was established by UCC. *"Climate Ireland … plays a key role in increasing awareness of, and building capacity for, adaptation planning through one-to-one support and the provision of tailored adaptation planning workshops and seminars."*

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

UCC energy systems modelling contributed quantification of analysis relating carbon budget pathways (Balyk et al. 2022 https://gmd.copernicus.org/articles/15/4991/2022/gmd-15-4991-2022.html), diffusion rates of different energy technologies (MacUidhir et al. 2022 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666278722000034) and role of local authorities in mobilising climate action https://publications.opr.ie/planning-issue-view-file/16KULCJAG5

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

Translating the research results into policy insights and engaging with policy makers is critically important in bridging between research and policy. An important mechanism utilised for Climate Action Plan 2023 was the establishment by the Department of Energy, Climate and Communications of working groups for a number of the chapters. These working groups include 6 researchers from UCC.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: National Hydrogen Strategy, 2023

Government of Ireland, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and Transport. https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/national-hydrogen-strategy.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Hannah Daly, Paul Deane, Fionn Rogan Sustainability Institute, MaREI, University College Cork.

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes, page 46 of the National Hydrogen Strategy states that *"Final Energy Demand for domestic sectors were taken from scenarios developed by MaREI to support the Sectoral Carbon Budgets Development in 2022."*

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

The MaREI Centre team at UCC developed energy systems modelling that quantified sectoral carbon budget development pathways using the TIMES Ireland Model (Balyk et al. 2022 https://gmd.copernicus.org/articles/15/4991/2022/gmd-15-4991-2022.html). In addition, UCC produced additional scenarios of *'low energy demand'* to assess the impact of reduced consumption trends on the mitigation pathways (Gaur et al. 2022 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667095X22000083).

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

Translating the research results into policy insights and engaging with policy makers is critically important in bridging between research and policy. Engagement here with the Department of Energy, Climate and Communications team that was developing the National Hydrogen Strategy was critically important in this case study. A number of meetings discussing UCC energy scenario results and the potential demands for hydrogen in different sectors (electricity, transport and heating) proved very useful in providing clear insights to the policy system.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: Ireland White Paper 2015 - Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/the-white-paper-irelands-transition-to-a-low-carbon-energy-future-2015-2030.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Paul Deane, Brian Ó Gallachóir, Fionn Rogan, Alessandro Chiodi, Sustainability Institute, UCC and John Curtis, ESRI.

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes, Page 34 of the White Paper states that *"During 2013, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) commissioned the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and University College Cork (UCC) to provide technical advice and guidance on the development of a Low Carbon Roadmap for Ireland."*

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

The UCC work in collaboration with ESRI focussed on developing Ireland's first low carbon energy roadmap (i.e. identifying ways of achieving long term deep [80% - 95%] reductions in energy related CO_2 Emissions) https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/BKMNEXT292%20%281%29.pdf This built on UCC's peer reviewed research using the Irish TIMES energy systems model (Chiodi et al. 2015 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421512009263) that built future energy scenarios for Ireland an compared the results in terms of energy technology, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

UCC academics met with Department officials over an eight week period of summer of 2015 to support the development of the White Paper, discussing energy security and energy affordability as well as emissions reduction. This engagement went beyond communicating research findings, but critically also about listening to the policy practitioners needs, and developing a clear understanding of the policy making process.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: National Energy Demand Strategy, 2023

Commission for Regulation of Utilities establish First National Energy Demand Strategy (NEDS) and set out the next steps for its development and implementation

NEDS_Decision_Paper_and_Annex.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Hannah Daly, Paul Deane and Fionn Rogan, MaREI, Sustainability Institute, University College Cork

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes, page 11 of the National Energy Demand Strategy states *"Analysis by the MaREI Research Centre concluded that … the power sector must urgently deploy renewable electricity generation and manage electricity demand growth and demonstrated that a quadrupling of renewable electricity generation would be required within the decade … in certain scenarios"* and also 118.

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

The research that informed this policy impact was future scenario analysis undertaken by a MaREI team at UCC led by Prof. Hannah Daly using the TIMES Ireland Model (Balyk et al. 2022 https://gmd.copernicus.org/articles/15/4991/2022/) that was supplemented with a policy brief that Prof. Daly prepared entitled *Prospects for Sectoral Emissions Ceilings* (https://www.marei.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Prospects-for-Sectoral-Emissions-Ceilings-October-2022.pdf), which the National Energy Demand Strategy cites on page 12.

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

The Commission for the Regulation of Utilities requested quarterly meetings from the UCC team to keep regularly informed about the policy insights arising from the energy systems modelling research being carried out. This is in part enabled by UCC securing a contract with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment for the CAPACITY (Climate Action Pathways & Absorptive Capacity) project, enabling UCC to enhance the absorptive capacity of the policy system to utilise the insights from UCC's energy modelling tools.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: Research and Innovation Strategy to 2030

Department of Environment Climate and Communications. department-of-the-environment-climate-and-communications-research-and-innovation-strat.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Brian Ó Gallachóir, Fionn Rogan, Paul Deane, Hannah Daly, Sustainability Institute, UCC

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes, page 15 of the strategy highlights the role of modelling in informing national energy and climate policy and highlights the significant contribution from UCC in this regard, *"changing Ireland's energy system is essential to meeting our emission reduction targets. The scale and timing of the changes required is very challenging with many open questions. To answer these the UCC team has developed and shared a series of findings over the past three years using their modelling techniques. Their findings have informed, for example, the emissions reductions targets in the Programme for Government, and the economywide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings which underpin the annual Climate Action Plans."*

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

The research referred to in this strategy is undertaken within the CAPACITY project, in which the UCC team use models they have developed over many years (TIM, LEAP and PLEXOS) to understand how changes in Ireland's energy system will impact meeting greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets for the Government. UCC has published research on how to achieve policy impact from research (Ó Gallachóir et al. 2024 https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-58897-6_15).

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

Pro-actively bridging between research and policy can be challenging but also very fulfilling. Seeing the impacts showcased in the national energy and climate innovation research strategy shines a light on this important work. Reflecting, publishing and presenting on the experiences of how to achieve policy impact from research can support the process and improve the methods.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: Public Expenditure Infrastructure Guidelines

Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform, 2024. Infrastructure Guidelines Supplementary Guidance: Measuring & Valuing Changes in Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Economic Appraisal (https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/infrastructure-guidelines-supplementary-guidance-changes-in-greenhouse-gas-emissions-i.pdf)

Academics associated with the work:

Hannah Daly

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes. The value for carbon in public investment appraisal now uses outputs from the TIMES-Ireland Model. *"Modelling to calculate the marginal abatement cost associated with the agreed sectoral emissions ceilings was undertaken by UCC MaREI using the TIMES Ireland Model (TIM), which is an optimisation model of the Irish energy system"* *https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/revising-the-shadow-price-of-carbon-used-in-public-sector-economic-appraisal.pdf*

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

Modelling of Ireland's energy system under legal carbon budgets was undertaken using the TIMES-Ireland Model https://gmd.copernicus.org/articles/15/4991/2022/

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

Following the conclusion of the modelling, engagement with Department official raised a number of key policy questions regarding the most appropriate way to translate the modelled marginal abatement costs into a practical shadow price of carbon for use in public economic appraisal.

1. One Value vs Separate ETS and Non-ETS Values
2. Post-2050 Shadow Price of Carbon

Applying the proposed approach to the policy questions outlined above to the modelling outputs provided by UCC, a schedule of shadow price of carbon values was derived.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: Your Journey Counts Campaign

Department of Transport Your Journey Counts public information campaign about the value of active modes of travel (e.g. walking, cycling, public transport).
https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-transport/campaigns/your-journey-counts/

Academics associated with the work:

Vera O'Riordan, Tomas Mac Uidhir, Fionn Rogan, Hannah Daly, Brian Ó Gallachóir

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes. https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-transport/publications/why-your-journey-counts/#benefits-of-sustainable-travel Quote from this webpage: *"The above insights have been distilled from a UCC study published in 2022 which calculated the CO_2 emissions from Irish passenger transport according to trip distance, mode and purpose"*

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

Vera O'Riordan, Fionn Rogan, Brian Ó Gallachóir, Tomás Mac Uidhir, Hannah Daly, (2022) How and why we travel – Mobility demand and emissions from passenger transport, Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment, Volume 104, 2022,103195, ISSN 1361-9209, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd.2022.103195

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

This research was published in 2022 and the team (listed above) made an effort to publicise the findings in the form of policy briefs and through other social media channels. This worked because subsequently the lead author (VOR) was invited (by D/Transport) to contribute insights from the paper to the public information campaign. At subsequent meetings about this, the value of the research being peer-reviewed and published in scientific journals was repeatedly cited as giving confidence to the D/Transport in relying on it. But it's also apparent that the initial outreach that the team did was crucial in bringing the research to the attention of D/Transport.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: Ireland's Green Public Procurement Strategy

Identification of Effective State-of-the-Art Green Public Procurement Policy and Practice for the Irish Public Sector (GAPS)

https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2022/si/529/made/en/print

Academics associated with the work:

Prof. Jamie Goggins and Danuka Anagipura (University of Galway), with the Ryan Institute and the School of Geography, Archaeology and Irish Studies. Funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

No, the Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024–2027 does not explicitly name the GAPS project, its priorities such as the development of GPP tools, integration of sustainability criteria, and focus on capacity building - mirror GAPS' recommendations and outputs. The close alignment indicates that the research directly informed the plan's development.

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

The GAPS project developed a *Green Public Procurement Toolkit*, conducted pilot studies, and compiled case studies, including those at the University of Galway.
Read about the GAPS research project here.

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

The importance of co-creation with public authorities, the need for clear procurement guidelines, and ongoing stakeholder engagement to embed sustainability into procurement processes. Also, the importance of engaging stakeholders early and real-world pilots are crucial to understanding procurement barriers.

SDGs impacted

Policy Impacted: Irish Fisheries Management

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/collections/fisheries-policy-quota-management/

Academics associated with the work:

Dr Ruth Brennan (Trinity College Dublin and European Parliament)

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

No

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

- POLICY REPORT: Managing for Diversity: keeping everyone afloat in Irish fisheries. Note Policy Recommendation 12 on QMAC minutes.
- PAPER: Making space for plural ontologies in fisheries governance: Ireland's disobedient offshore islands
- PAPER: Fishing For Survival in the 'Blue Economy'–Found Poems from the Irish Islands
- POLICY BRIEF: Critical reflections on 21 November 2019 Dáil Éireann Debate on the Island Fisheries (Heritage Licence) Bill 2017
- Opening Statement to Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine re: the Island Fisheries (Heritage Licence) Bill 2017
- ANIMATION: Managing for Diversity: keeping everyone afloat in Irish fisheries
- Project website: CO-SUSTAIN. Collaborative Sustainable Innovation: co-designing small-scale

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

Trying to bring about change in Irish fisheries governance to make it more equitable and inclusive for the small-scale fishing sector is a slow process. Change is impeded by a fisheries governance system constructed to reflect the realities of large-scale vessels, and that does not reflect the realities and heterogeneity of the small-scale vessels that form 87.5% of the Irish fleet. A policy that is well-intentioned (in this case, the policy on managing fishing opportunities as a public resource) does not necessarily translate into practice on the ground.

SDGs impacted

SDSN Ireland

DCU Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath Dublin City University

Policy Impacted: 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan

Government of Ireland, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/4th_National_Biodiversity_Action_Plan.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, School of STEM Education, Innovation & Global Studies, DCU, Ireland

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

Yes, in a number of places in the document. E.g. within the foreword of the Director of the National Parks & Wildlife Service (Niall Ó Donnchú), who publish and monitor the National Biodiversity Action Plan: "The NBAP also seeks to respond to the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, a milestone report on nature in Ireland."

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

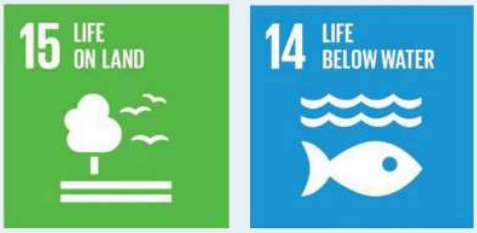
The author was Chair of the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss 2022-23 and co-wrote the report of the Citizens' Assembly with the secretariat. https://citizensassembly.ie/wp-content/uploads/Report-on-Biodiversity-Loss_mid-res.pdf

Under review: Ni Shuilleabhain, A (under review). Reflections on my Role as Chair: Learnings from Ireland's Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss. Journal of Deliberative Democracy: Reflections from the Field

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

- Deliberate democracy processes allow people to consider difficult societal issues and provide opportunity for policy to be further informed by society
- When given relevant, accessible information, members of society are passionate about protecting and restoring nature on land and sea

SDGs impacted



SDSN Ireland

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

National Biodiversity Action Plan

Sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/4th-national-biodiversity-action-plan.pdf

Academics associated with the work:

Jane Stout (Trinity College Dublin)

Evidence of policy outcome referencing the role of the research:

No specific reference to the research in the policy document itself, but research stimulated the inclusion of the following:

- Actions 2A7, 2B13, 3B9, 5A5 - specific reference to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan that was developed as a result of research into pollinator loss at Trinity College Dublin
- Action 36B aligns - with research on Bioeconomy through the BiOrbic Bioeconomy Research Centre (Jane Stout is TCD PI)
- Actions 4D informed by research on Natural Capital and developing Ecosystem Accounting methodologies, as well as establishment of Natural Capital Ireland

Research undertaken that informed or underpinned the policy outcome:

- See publications in Google Scholar
- Research » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and list of Publications » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
- and BiOrbic Research Ireland Centre for Bioeconomy, Home | INCASE, Home | FOR-ES, Nature+Energy - MaREI

Key learnings for you from this research-policy bridging process

- Body of work and collaboration needed, not just single studies, and this needs collating and translating for policy relevance
- Research often underpins/informs organisations that influence policy – it's rarely a piece of research itself that directly leads to policy changes
- Researchers need time and training to do the above – a direct line of communication needs facilitating between researchers and policy-makers, otherwise complex issues can be misinterpreted (on both sides)

SDGs impacted

SDSN Ireland

SDSN Ireland Member Institutions

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh
Atlantic Technological University

DCU

ISTAfrica

KEEP NORTHERN IRELAND BEAUTIFUL

MTU
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan
Munster Technological University

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

RCSI UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

SETU
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