

RTÉ

**RTÉ on
Climate**
2023–2025



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RTÉ and Environmental Sustainability





Foreword by Dee Forbes, Director General RTÉ

As Ireland's principal public service media organisation, RTÉ plays a trusted and vital role in informing our audiences about the key issues which concern us and in shaping national debate. Climate change is one of these issues, now more than ever. Given the urgency in addressing climate change, we in RTÉ are mindful of the need to do more, to be a positive influence, not just within our own industry, but also across the public sector and across Irish society as a whole.

RTÉ has been working hard in recent years to increase energy efficiency in our operations, make more sustainable programmes and produce a rich mix of engaging and informative climate change-themed programming and content across our television, radio and online services, with a particular focus on younger audiences.

Over the past two years, in particular, we've seen some significant results.



In 2021 RTÉ became the first broadcaster in Ireland and the UK to achieve the international ISO 50001 certification for energy management.

This important achievement provides recognition of RTÉ's efforts to successfully integrate energy management into our overall operations and drive greater efficiency. Through a dedicated team we have worked in partnership with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for many years to implement best practice standards in energy management.

A number of RTÉ programmes have now been certified by albert as sustainable productions.

These include *Prime Time*, *Today*, a range of sport and Irish language programmes and *The Late Late Show*. One of the benefits of albert is that certified programmes can use the albert sustainable production logo on the end credits. These certifications mean that we are doing many things right to help our planet, supported in no small part by the fact that across the organisation - through procurement, on-site energy consumption, how we operate our studios and buildings, and how we use transport - we are taking sustainability very seriously.

Coverage of climate change and environmental issues is embedded in RTÉ News and Current Affairs coverage,

as evidenced by the level of reporting from the COP27 climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt by our Environment and Science Correspondent, George Lee. Our dedicated website RTE.ie/climate includes news reports, clips, articles and opinion pieces, as well as a section dedicated to the European perspective through RTÉ's partnership with the European Broadcasting Union. Between March 2021 and March 2022, more than 560 articles themed around climate change were published on rte.ie achieving almost 17.5 million views

Climate change programming and content is also ever-present across RTÉ's television, radio and online services

through recurring series, important documentaries, themed podcasts and radio specials. From Science Week on RTÉ to the recent Nature Nights week-long special series on RTÉ Radio 1, to the ground-breaking, *What Planet Are You On?* and award-winning *Ecolution* podcast for kids who want to make a difference in the fight against climate change, there is a lot to be proud of.

Still, given the scale and urgency of the challenges facing us, we must endeavour to do more. While ongoing financial uncertainty makes it challenging for RTÉ to plan into the future, we are aware of our responsibility to do everything we can to improve public understanding of the issues and recognition of the need for urgent action and help deliver meaningful change.

Dee Forbes

Director General RTÉ

RTÉ Sustainability Credentials

92% of the population use one or more of RTÉ services each week.¹

RTÉ is the most trusted news organisation in the country with **78% of the public trusting our services**, according to the 2021 Reuters Digital News Report.

RTÉ is one of only 60 organisations in the country to have **achieved Business in the Community Business Working Responsibly Mark** – the leading independently audited standard for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and sustainability in Ireland.

RTÉ is one of 71 companies in Ireland to have **committed to the Business in the Community Low Carbon Pledge**. This means we will be setting science-based targets and measuring annually against Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

RTÉ has been **a winner and finalist in The Pakman Awards**, Ireland's leading National Environmental Awards that recognise excellence in recycling and waste management in Ireland.

RTÉ is a signatory to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland's (BAI) Sustainability Roadmap, dedicated to working on a sector-wide basis to demonstrate and show leadership in environmental, social and economic best practice.

In alignment with the ambitions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, RTÉ is **committed to the highest level of energy reduction and sustainability**, and acting responsibly to make a meaningful contribution to the climate crisis.



¹ Weekly reach for all RTÉ services, among adults 18+ in calendar year 2021 was 92%. Source: Red C Brand Tracker, for RTÉ.

2021

ISO 50001

RTÉ accredited to the ISO 50001 standard

Pakman Awards

Finalist – Waste Prevention Business Award

2020

Business in the Community Business Working Responsibly Mark

RTÉ was successful in recertification of the Mark, one of only 60 companies in the country to be accredited to this standard.

2019

All Ireland Community and County Council Awards

Finalist – Best Waste Management Programme



Pakman Awards

Winner – Recycling Champion

2018

Pakman Awards

Finalist – Professional Services Award

Finalist – Waste Prevention Award

2017

Business Working Responsibly Mark

Following independent audit – RTÉ awarded this prestigious accreditation.

Green Awards

Finalist – Green Public Services Organisation of the Year

Finalist – Green Large Organisation of the Year

Finalist – Sustainability Team of the Year

Facility Management Awards

Finalist -Excellence in Sustainability



Pakman Awards

Overall Winner

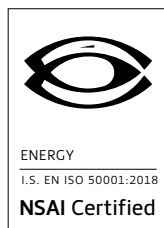
Winner – Professional Services Award

Finalist – Food Waste Management

2016

Pakman Awards -

Finalist – Professional Services Award

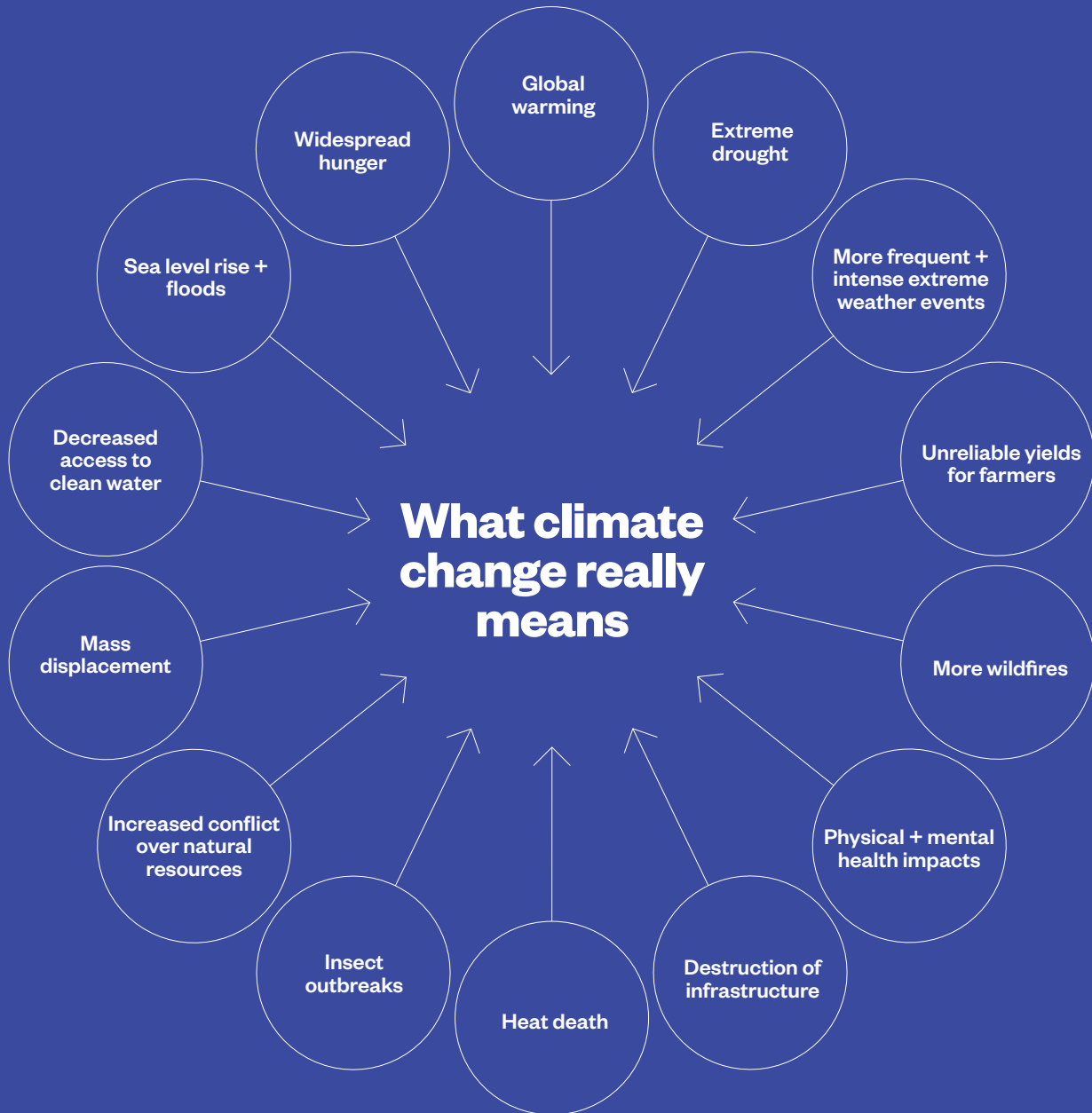


The Climate Crisis

World temperatures are rising because of human activity, and climate change now threatens every aspect of human life.

Left unchecked, humans and nature will experience catastrophic warming, with worsening droughts, greater sea level rise and mass extinction of species.

Climate change affects everyone, everywhere.



“If we can rapidly & strongly reduce our emissions of CO₂ & greenhouse gases we can potentially limit the degree of global warming.”

IPCC's Piers Forster

The Role of Media in Climate Action

It's a fact: media shapes the public discourse about climate change and how to respond to it. Even the UN's own Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC) warned clearly of this for the first time in the latest of its landmark series of reports.

As raised by the IPCC report, the media sector has a role in elevating public understanding; “this “shaping” power can usefully build public support to accelerate climate mitigation – the efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of the greenhouse gases that are heating our planet – but it can also be used to do exactly the opposite.”

This places a huge responsibility on media companies and journalists.

Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as set out in the Climate Act 2021.

As outlined in the national Climate Action Plan, the public sector will lead by example, inspiring the necessary climate action in wider society to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 51% by 2030, and to become climate neutral no later than 2050.

As part of this responsibility the public sector should ‘stimulate and inspire action across wider society’. In addition to its own climate action measures, RTÉ will embrace its role in informing and engaging the public on this critical issue.

“We are entering the most critical decade of human existence. By the end of the ‘20s we will have largely decided the quality of life on this planet for centuries to come. There has never been a more urgent need for the superpower of media companies. The time to use it is now.”

Christiana Figueres Founding Partner, Global Optimism and Former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2010-2016).

RTÉ Climate Action Governance & Leadership

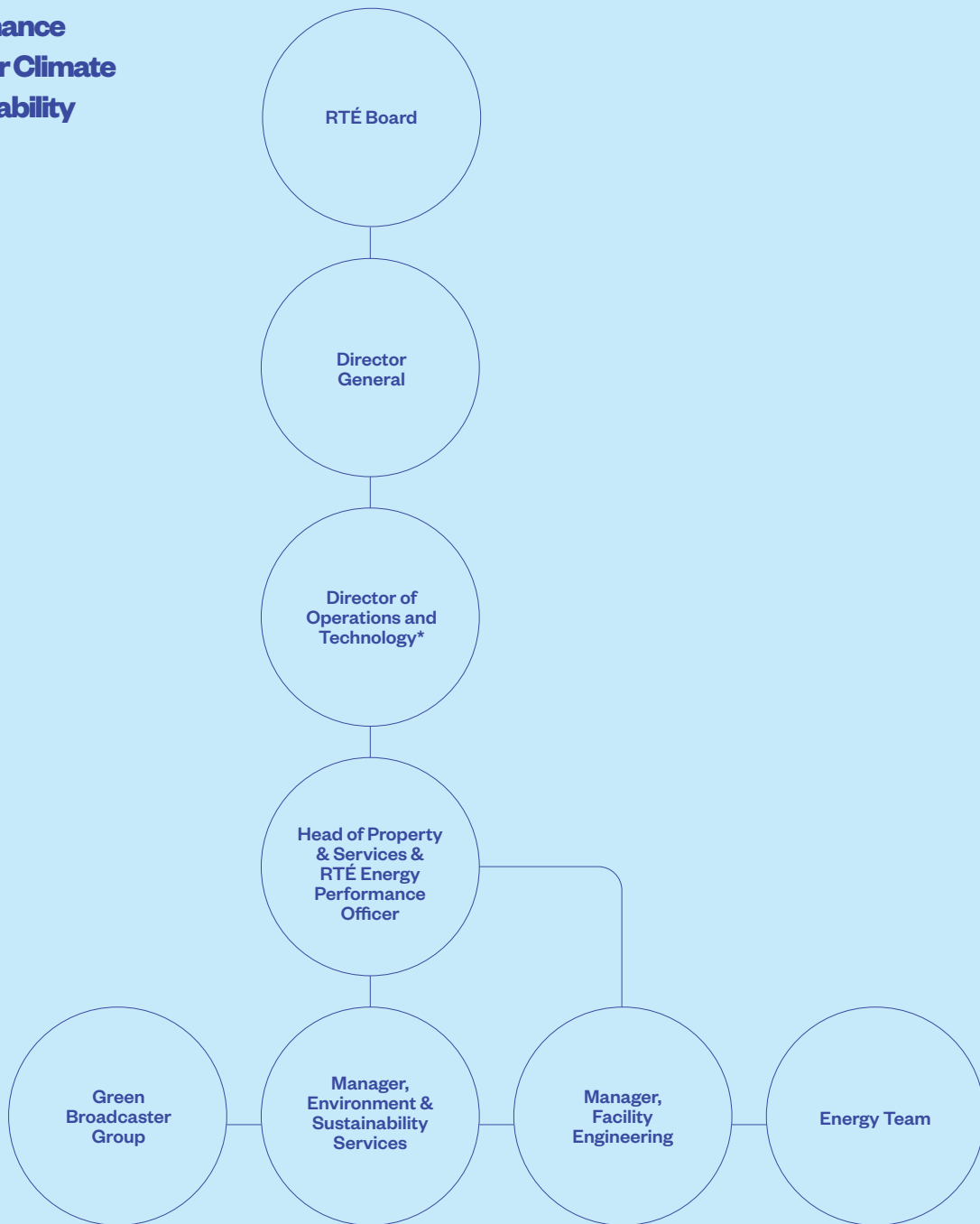




Governance Structure for Climate and Sustainability

RTÉ will be driving performance on climate action from the most senior levels of management. Targets and progress will be regularly reviewed by the RTÉ Board, and RTÉ's Director of Operations will ensure that the Executive Board of the organisation are involved and engaged in key strategic decisions and investments as required.

RTÉ Governance Structure for Climate and Sustainability



* Director of Operations, Richard Waghorn, is RTÉ's Climate & Sustainability Champion at the Executive Board level.

RTÉ Green Broadcaster Group

In order to drive continual improvements in environmental performance, RTÉ established a Green Broadcaster Group – a group of colleagues from across the organisation (including finance, public affairs, communications, procurement, operations, technology and editorial) and external agencies (such as the Environmental Protection Agency) and external partners (such as Greenstar). The group's area of focus includes energy consumption, carbon reduction, waste management and prevention, water conservation, biodiversity and pollution prevention. The group helps to set targets

and plan to the highest standards possible, and leverages external support or ratification where appropriate.

RTÉ anticipates that we will make significant progress in the rollout of albert within the organisation, and collectively within the broadcasting sector this year.

The RTÉ Green Broadcaster Group promotes an integrated and strategic approach to environmental and energy management across the business, in our approach to production, and all operations.

Keeping our employees informed and engaged

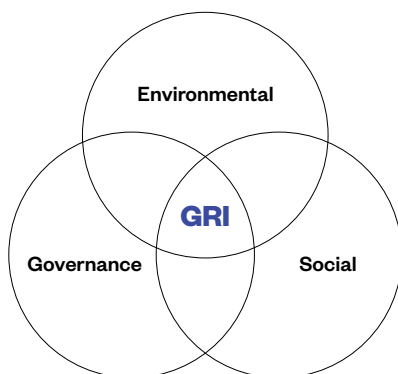
RTÉ is committed to the highest level of energy reduction and sustainability, both in the management of existing infrastructure and the development of new infrastructure. Communicating with our employees and informing them of RTÉ's efforts and achievements, as well as encouraging them to play their part in helping reduce our energy consumption, is central to this commitment.

- Staff briefings - both face-to-face and virtual, via Teams
- Signage – on site signs to promote recycling, highlight pollinator areas and encourage walking

RTÉ is also supporting staff education and engagement on this topic through a variety of training and learning initiatives which include:

- All-staff emails from the Director General and other members of the RTÉ Executive.
- The RTÉ intranet includes news and updates from across the organisation and is updated daily with the most significant stories also being published in the spotlight carousel where they remain for as long as they are relevant.
- The energy team's SharePoint site where staff can leave their ideas for energy reduction
- Staff events - both physical and virtual via Teams
- In-house albert production certification training for production teams
- Promotion of relevant external events and training initiatives as offered by BAI, BAFTA, European Broadcasting Union, SEAI and others
- The inclusion of climate education and ways of working more sustainably (technically, editorially and behaviourally), as an element of RTÉ's overall portfolio of staff development opportunities.

Disclosures in Financial and Performance Reporting



RTÉ will publicly report on its performance against the targets outlined within this action plan, and commits to a comprehensive overview of performance in future Annual Reports.

RTÉ will implement reporting standards which are in full compliance with the Corporate Sustainable Reporting Directive, and any sustainable performance standards specified by the incoming Media Commission, and other government agencies. As a national media leader, in whom the public have great trust, RTÉ aims to operate to the highest standards of performance and transparency.

RTÉ's Climate Action Plan is a reflection of our achievements and ambitions in terms of environmental and climate corporate leadership standards. Performance measures relating to our overall governance standards and contribution to societal equality will be reflected in other reports.

Within the next two years, RTÉ will explore options to evolve its corporate reporting to better align with the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) Environmental Social and Governance framework, and ensure that we are operating to both national and global best practice standards of sustainability reporting.

Emissions Measurement And Reduction Targets





Climate Action Plan 2021: 51% emissions reduction by 2030 for the Public Sector

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, in conjunction with the SEAI, has developed a methodology that will initially include Scope 1 and Scope 2 and some elements of Scope 3. The Climate Action Plan's 2030 targets will be based on 2016-18 average emissions. RTÉ's Scope 1 and Scope 2 data is an audited dataset from SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system. 2019 was chosen as the base year for the inclusion of the Scope 3 dataset.

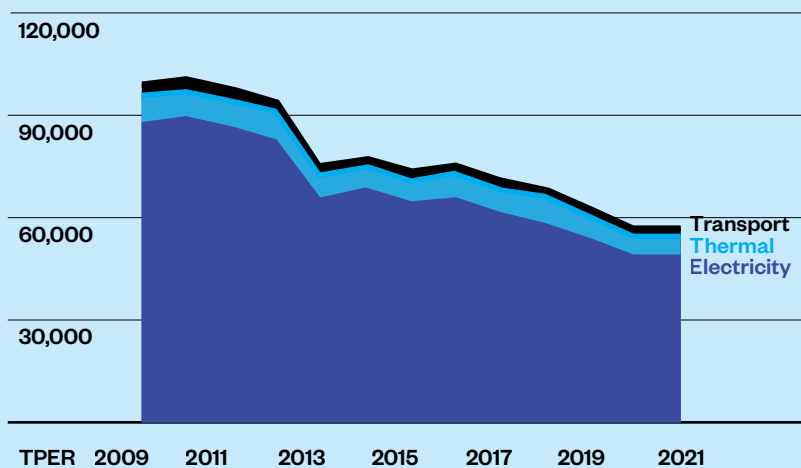
RTÉ Emissions from Energy Consumption

A significant proportion of RTÉ's emissions emanate from energy consumption. The Climate Action Plan 2023 sets a target of 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

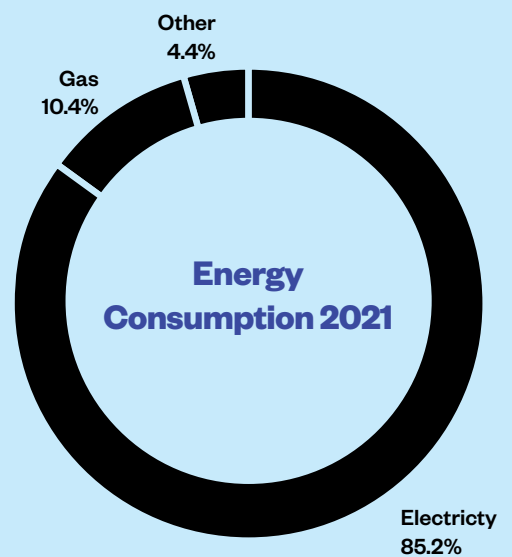
The SEAI has stated that '*Indicative values subject to revision as target methodology is finalised.*' However, assuming the target requires a 30% reduction in energy consumption from the 2016-18 baseline, the graph below outlines the challenge for RTÉ given the progress made to date.

Energy Efficiency Baseline

Energy Consumption Since Energy Efficiency Baseline TPER (MWh)



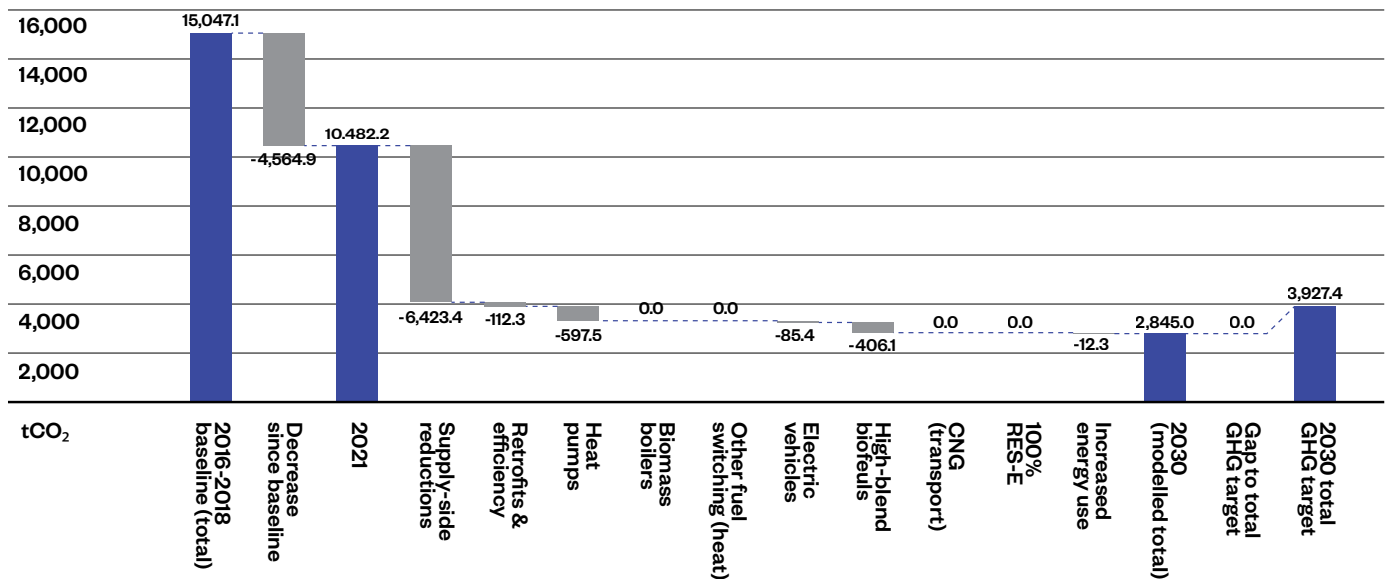
Energy Consumption - 2021 (TPER)



RTÉ Emissions from Energy Consumption

The graphs below indicate a pathway based on energy reduction projects currently forecast as part of the current property strategy which in turn is based on the current organisational strategy. As the organisational strategy develops, so too will the property strategy and the projects required to deliver targets will be revised.

RTÉ 2030 Total Emissions Target | Modelled Decarbonising Scenario



51% overall emissions target adjusted to remove beneficial effect of 'supply side reductions' which is in effect the decarbonisation of the electricity grid

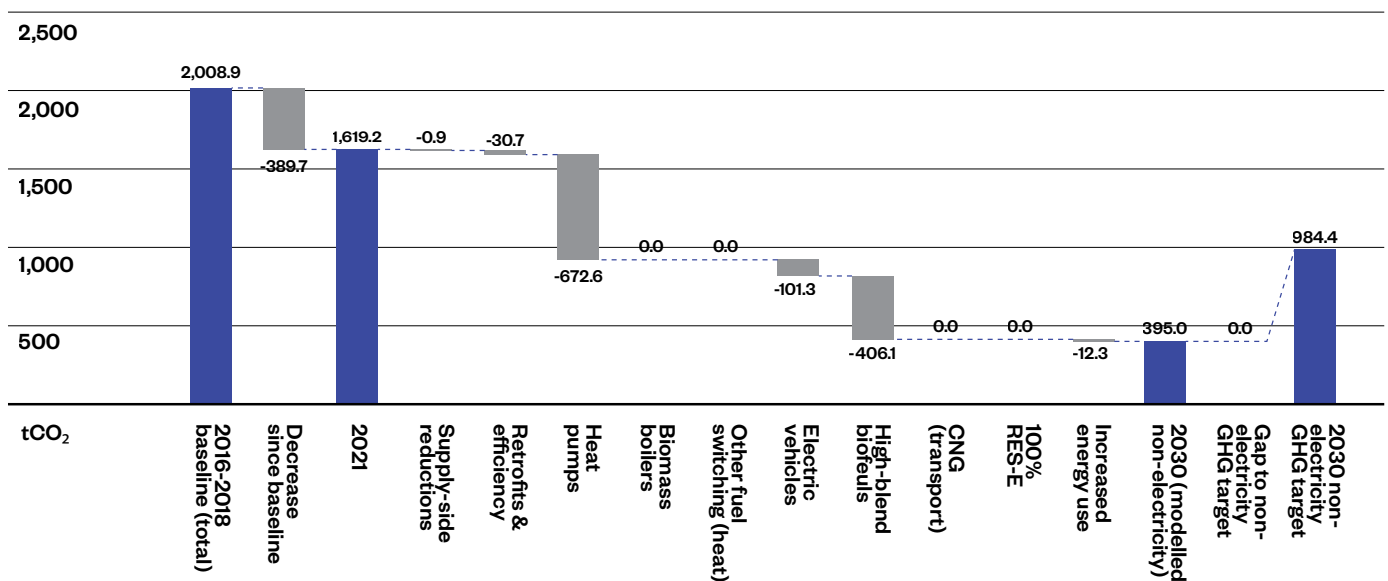
The above diagram is taken from the SEAI gap to target tool (G2TT) completed by RTÉ and submitted via the M&R reporting platform. This shows the pathway to 2030 targets across all of our main Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions sources. The key elements in achieving this pathway are:

1. Electrical: Continual improvement due to application of the energy management

system (EMnS) certified to ISO50001 and the execution of annual energy management action plan (EMAP)

2. Thermal: Replacing gas fired boilers with electric heat pumps where applicable
3. Transport: Improvements in fleet efficiency through electrification and the use of low emission fuel.

RTÉ 2030 Non-electrical Emissions Target | Modelled Decarbonising Scenario



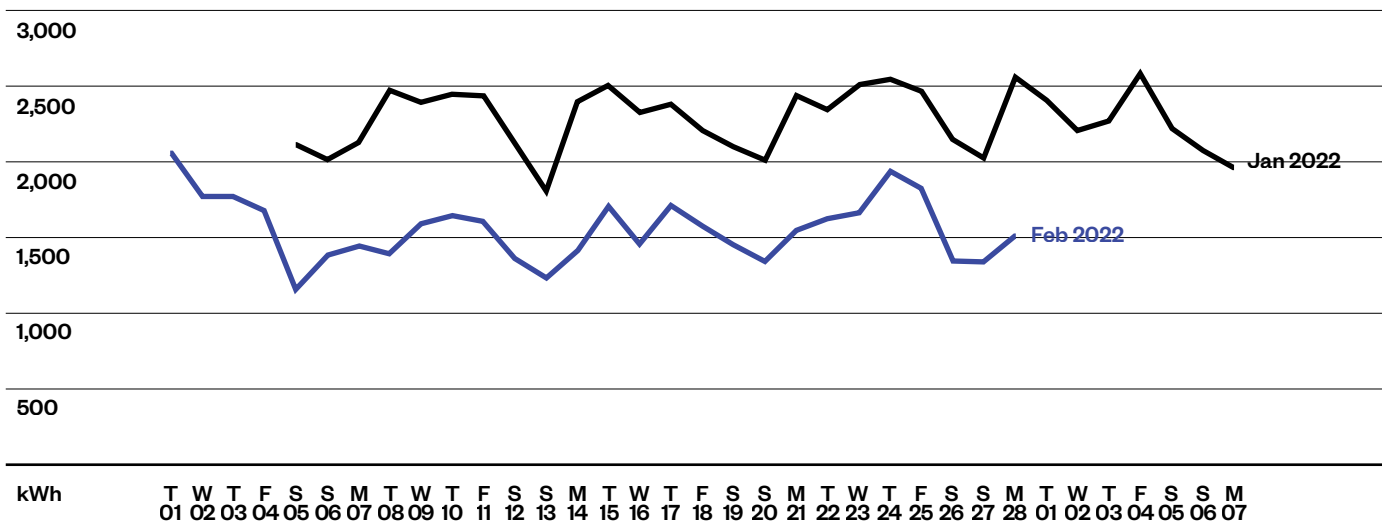
The above graph shows the particular pathway for non-electric emissions (thermal and transport) as these have been separated out as a specific target for 51% reduction by 2030 also.

Recent Energy Management Initiatives

RTÉ has established itself as a leader within the public sector by exceeding the targets set out by the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP), and becoming the first broadcaster in Ireland and the UK to achieve the international energy management standard ISO50001 in February 2021.

- As part of the ISO 50001 process, RTÉ keeps under ongoing review a Register of Opportunities in which targeted energy efficiency opportunities are identified and assessed.
- In February 2022, RTÉ Property & Services completed a project to upgrade the lighting in the Radio Centre. The project involved the removal of 681 light fixtures which were upgraded to more energy-efficient LED lights, but also the reduction of total light fittings by 308. This upgrade and reduction in luminaries will see us reduce our electricity usage by over 290,000kWh, equating to 552,800kg Carbon (CO₂e) per annum.

Radio centre lighting energy consumption



- In 2022, the Energy Team targeted the upgrade of legacy air conditioning systems in the TV building, to modern EC fans and controls. This resulted in an approximate energy saving of 70% for that particular system.
- Whilst reducing our energy usage is a key aspect of our energy management system, we have also installed 50kW of photovoltaic (PV) generation on the roof of one of our buildings in Donnybrook. This system offers the potential to offset our total electricity usage within this particular building by up to 10-12%.

Transport

- In alignment with our Technology strategy, and investment in virtual production facilities, where possible, virtual interviews are conducted with guests in long distance locations, reducing the need for long haul travel.
- Virtual meetings/conference attendance, and the avoidance of air travel in particular, is a key feature of RTÉ's travel and transport policy considerations.
- In 2022 we successfully implemented a number of 'off tube' commentary facilities which reduced travel emissions for major sporting events, allowing commentators to work from our Donnybrook site instead.
- RTÉ has a bike-to-work scheme and operates a tax saver scheme which is promoted to staff as a means of commuting with lower carbon emissions.
- The Donnybrook site has also been upgraded to include increased bicycle racks, to encourage greater uptake of cycling for commuting.
- As of 2022, RTÉ formally supports hybrid working within the organisation, where possible, which reduces the amount of times that staff need to travel to work.
- RTÉ operates Go Car – a Go Car is available on the RTÉ site for unavoidable travel, with the facility addressing any potential perceived need for personal car commuting.
- Environmental performance is factored into tender processes. For example, our catering contractor sources locally produced food and thereby reduces the carbon footprint of the transportation element of produce procurement.
- As fleet is replaced we are replacing with low emission vehicles.
- RTÉ has installed charging points for electric vehicles on the Donnybrook grounds in support of more sustainable car usage.
- Car parking spaces on the Donnybrook site were reduced in 2018, putting more emphasis on sustainable modes of transport.

Commitments:

RTÉ will **promote, and support, sustainable travel options** where possible.

RTÉ will **purchase only zero-emission vehicles** where available and operationally feasible from end of 2022, enabling Ireland to go beyond the requirements of the Clean Vehicle Directive and act as an international leader in this area.



Low Carbon Pledge

Leading within the public sector has always been to the forefront of RTÉ's decision making in sustainability.

In 2018 RTÉ signed up to the Low Carbon Pledge, a Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) initiative for Irish businesses to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable operation, by being more energy efficient and reducing carbon usage.

The internationally recognised Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard is used as the underlying framework for the Low Carbon Pledge. Signatory companies commit to the following:

- Record all Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions
- Reduce the amount of Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions intensity
- Report individually through an Annual Report or website or other publicly available equivalent source and, collectively through an Annual BITCI Low Carbon Report
- Review year-on-year Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions with the aim of showing continuous improvement
- A reduction of 50% in carbon emissions intensity by 2030

While the pledge focuses on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions sources, in 2022 we undertook a substantial evaluation of our Scope 3 emissions. This will also incorporate target setting with our partners in the independent sector over time.

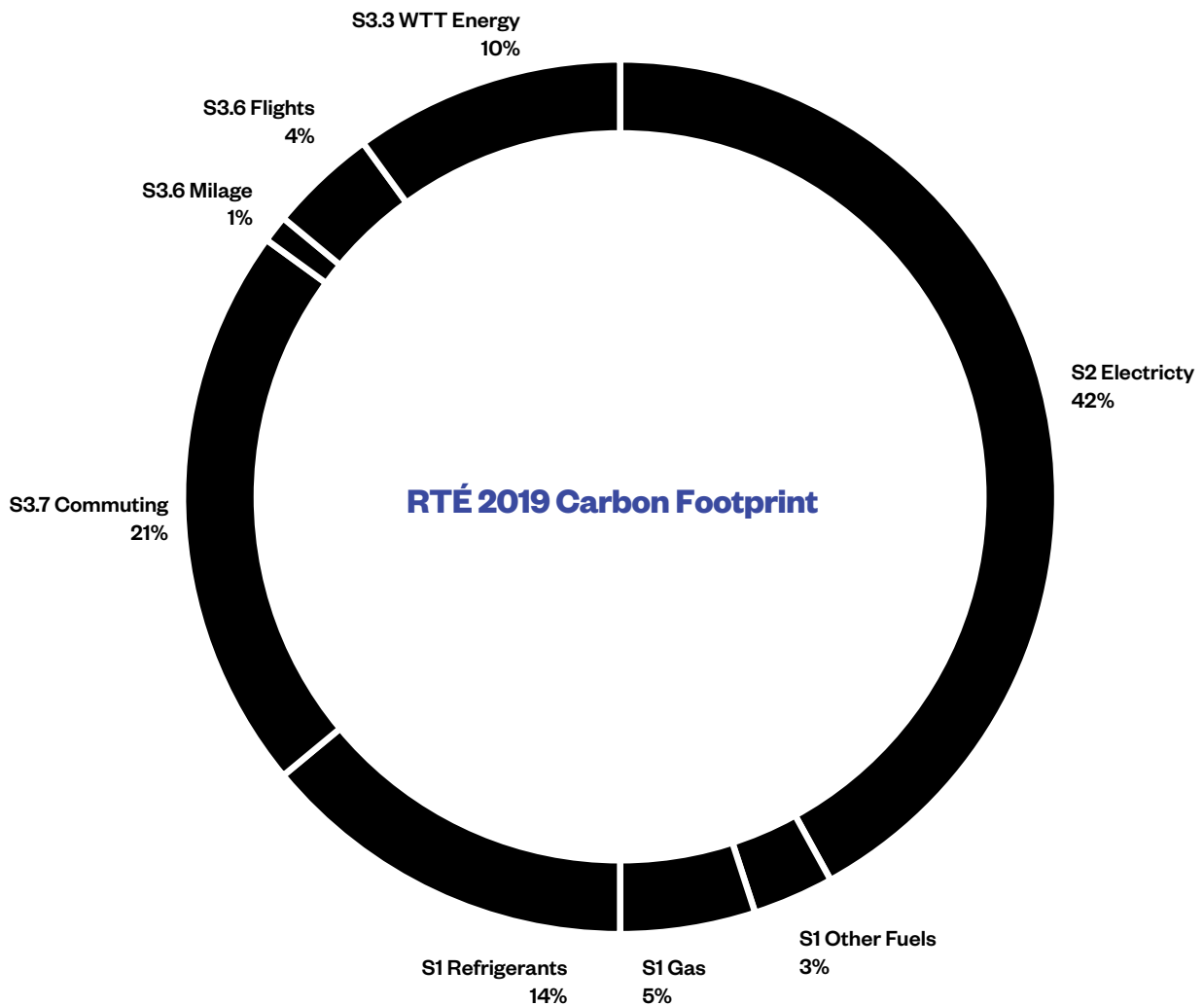
Setting Science Based Targets

Business in The Community Ireland has furthered the ambition of the Low Carbon Pledge by supporting signatory companies to progress towards setting science-based targets by 2024, (i.e. what science says is necessary to limit global warming to 1.5°C).

In line with delivering meaningful and consistent comparison of emissions over time, RTÉ has derived an organisational carbon footprint, measuring Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, as audited by the SEAI M&R process, and most recently the inclusion of Scope 3 indirect emissions (from sources outside of RTÉ's direct control).

Method

Two calculations are used to derive our carbon footprint. The first calculation (top-down method 1) considers potential carbon hotspots by reviewing provided expenditure data. Calculating the carbon footprint from expenditure usually represents an upper limit on the carbon footprint calculation but is not an accurate method as the emission factors are old and may not represent the true carbon intensity of various suppliers. The second calculation (bottom-up method 2) is based on primary data provided by RTÉ business. A significant proportion of RTÉ turnover is in the area of commissioned programming, for which emissions data is currently unavailable. Development in this area, through the use of carbon calculator tools, such as albert, may mean that this data is available in the future. This would have a significant effect on the carbon footprint of RTÉ and require a revision of targets for same.



Planning and Investing for a More Sustainable Future





RTÉ's technology strategy is focused on sustainability

As RTÉ delivers against its technology strategy, we'll ensure that the use of technology supports sustainability targets and, where appropriate, encourage the use of technology solutions to minimise carbon emissions.

Since 2016 RTÉ has followed a hybrid cloud strategy. This approach has greatly reduced the physical footprint of RTÉ's infrastructure estate and in turn reduced the power and cooling requirements of the data centres, helping towards RTÉ sustainability targets. Migrating systems to the cloud, both public and private, can save costs and has already resulted in a more flexible technology environment for RTÉ.

As with so many other organisations, Covid has changed the way RTÉ works. The transition to hybrid working models requires technology to support a flexible and agile workforce working from anywhere. Investing in hybrid working facilities not only enables more flexibility within our workforce, it also contributes to the national climate action plan by reducing the requirement to travel, thereby reducing travel-related carbon emissions.

Workspaces need to be technology-enabled to support creativity and collaboration in a hybrid environment. The use of cloud-based tools, especially in the content production space, allow experimentation with flexible production models and new ways of creating content. It will also reduce the reliance on physical sets, commuting, and other business travel.

The technology team is committed to helping RTÉ meet its sustainability goals and the way goods and services are procured is a key enabler for this. Technology procurements include appropriate and measurable sustainability criteria to ensure that sustainability is part of the decision-making criteria and to ensure suppliers provide accurate data to meet reporting obligations.

Strategic Priorities



Progress digital and streaming capabilities



Optimise content metadata



Advance production capabilities



Transform ways of working



Strengthen security measures



Enable a more sustainable RTÉ

Sustainability priorities for technology & operations

Sustainability priorities for technology & operations:

- Continue to decommission legacy systems, as this helps to remove energy-inefficient equipment
- Virtualise systems that cannot be decommissioned. This will reduce the number of physical devices drawing power and that require cooling.
- Ensure the sustainability impact of the new technology solutions is considered by including measurable sustainability requirements in procurements
- Require suppliers to provide information on the carbon emissions to accurately calculate RTÉ's Scope 3 emissions
- Work with the Green Broadcaster Group, to ensure staff have the information, training and tools required to understand and minimise their impact on RTÉ's carbon footprint
- Work with stakeholders to understand and minimise the impact of RTÉ's digital products on the carbon footprint of its audience
- Work with business areas on digitising paper documents and implement processes around document management. This will free up physical storage requirements and support sustainability goals
- Remove printers from across sites to reduce printing in support of digital working and sustainability objectives.

RTÉ is committed to embedding sustainability and decarbonisation principles into our business decisions and strategy.



Circular Economy and Green Procurement

As the organisation continues to evolve and develop, RTÉ is committed to sustainably reducing waste in all our operations. We consider waste prevention in the procurement of material, equipment and associated packaging. Therefore in line with the principles of the circular economy, the opportunity for repurposing is a key consideration, before the procurement of any further goods or services.

Sustainable Procurement

As outlined in RTÉ's Procurement Charter "RTÉ aims to ensure that sustainability and human rights are respected in the procurement process, as an essential step towards the RTÉ values of behaving in a respectful, sustainable and accountable manner. To assist in achieving these aims, where relevant to a tender, environmental impact and environmental criteria will be considered when developing such tender processes". This charter applies to all members of RTÉ staff who are involved in purchasing goods and services.

Also known as 'green procurement', sustainable procurement addresses environmental and social factors, as well as the total costs associated with each purchase. It means looking at what products are made of, where they come from, how they are made, and how they will be disposed of.

In line with best practice and the principles of Green Public Procurement (GPP), which particularly apply to public and semi-state

bodies, RTÉ aims to ensure that sustainability is embedded across every function, including procurement, as an essential step towards our goal of making a contribution to the company's sustainability vision and society as a whole. As part of that commitment, RTÉ will require all tendered suppliers to incorporate sustainable practices and sustainable elements in the goods and services they provide where applicable.

RTÉ is encouraging our suppliers to consider the environmental impact of their activities, design, and production to integrate environmental principles into their activities as far as possible and this is outlined in our tender documentation.

In alignment with the national Climate Action Plan and RTÉ's Energy Policy, energy efficiency and total running costs are also taken into account when procuring relevant products.

Commitments

RTÉ will incorporate the principles of GPP into all relevant published tenders to include assessment of life cycle, energy usage, and other relevant environmental considerations.

By the end of 2023, in line with the GPP guidelines, 90% of all tenders will have weighted environmental / sustainability criteria included.

RTÉ will commit to consistent public reporting on progress against these targets in annual reporting.

Waste Management

The application of circular economy (CE) principals, and environmental sustainability as a consideration in design and planning, is fundamental to the prevention of waste. This is an essential element of working within the limits of what causes least damage to the environment, and to contribute to climate change mitigation.

In RTÉ, the analysis of our waste streams has involved the consideration of information from various indirect sources including suppliers.

Successfully implementing circular economy principles should contribute to waste prevention. However, where waste is created, it is essential that there are responsible practices in place as regards its disposal.

RTÉ Waste Management

Item	Waste Process
Paper and Card	Recycled
Metals	Recycled
Wood	Recycled
Glass	Recycled
Plastics	Recycled
Batteries	Recycled - Laura Lynn Charity
Electrical Equipment	Recycled
Hazardous Materials	Compliant – minimised responsibly

Through its Cleaner Greener Production Programme, RTÉ has successfully targeted waste reduction of all kinds over the last fifteen years. As an additional benefit, savings since 2003 equate to well over €700,000, with all RTÉ waste now diverted from landfill.

Waste type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Forecast 2022
Cardboard	60.38	23.64	20.96	14.04	9.85	7.55	2.59	2.16	2.76
Compost	10.25	20.33	23.29	20.5	14.17	19.43	10.86	8.8	11.84
DMR	60.87	141.08	132.24	155.76	115.13	145.5	145.56	102.87	97.68
Glass	4.1	2.33	3.3	6.05	6.13	13.66	6.92	2.64	2.96
Metal	14.11	15.23	14.84	31.02	14.14	24.99	13.76	20.41	19.42
Monitors	0.88	70.16	0.36	0.56	0	0	0	0	0
WEEE	84.12	167.41	9.05	17.06	7.66	14.6	7.96	5.84	4.54
Confidential & Paper	148.89	88.31	63.06	29.08	18.18	20.54	0.97	1.87	7.24
Wood	34.13	22.14	31.56	29.96	25.47	16.37	12.96	13.09	24.44
Cables			1.89	0	1.65	0	0	0	0
Plastic bottles			0.06	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tubes				0.15	0.14	0.57	0	0.17	0
Freezer					0.83	0	0	0	0
MMW	144.48	179.13	195.48	196.12	215.23	233.14	81.74	100.54	126.24
	Landfill	Landfill	Landfill	EFW	EFW	EFW	EFW	EFW	EFW
Annual totals (tonnes)	562.21	729.76	496.09	500.30	428.58	496.35	283.32	258.39	297.12

Commitments

RTÉ will target an overall waste reduction of 25% (from its baseline of 2019) by the end of 2023.

Further to the development of the RTÉ strategy, **it will create and publish new targets for 2024 and 2025.**

Virtual Sets and Waste Prevention

A programme set that needs custom pieces to be purchased or created will often discard once they finish their production, which can result in unnecessary increase in landfill deposits. Landfills contribute to our carbon emissions, and the single-use set pieces contribute to inflating them.

One way to reduce the carbon footprint of a production is to use a virtual environment. No wood or plastic will be wasted in the process of creating a virtual set. The virtual set has no physical boundaries that it must conform to; a production can be more creative while simultaneously not generating waste.

Another huge cause of carbon emissions is travel. Using a virtual set does not only save money due to travel costs, but it also reduces the carbon emissions of a production. If a production does not have to continuously transport cameras, equipment, set pieces,

and crew and cast members to new locations, their carbon emissions are reduced. A virtual environment can place a person anywhere. A production's ambition does not have to be stifled because of financial constraints, or because it has the wish to reduce its carbon footprint. A virtual set has many advantages, but one of the largest is sustainability.

Virtual sets tend to generate less emissions than using geographic locations. However, large virtual sets can use huge amounts of electricity, so the need to use virtual sets with a focus on energy usage is also important. In a select number of studios, RTÉ has video walls that reduce the need for physical sets. This allows the studio scene to change virtually, eliminating the need for physical resources.



Sustainability Considerations

RTÉ Wardrobe

- Garments after use go back into main wardrobe to be re-used / altered for future productions.
- The use of the recycling bins at the waste area is used, and garments are either sold or donated where they are no longer needed.
- All bespoke garments (such as those used for the Late Late Toy Show) are made by the wardrobe department, recycling fabric where possible.

Catering and Food Waste

- RTÉ's supplier sources local, seasonal vegetarian / vegan food where possible.
- Waste which cannot be prevented is composted. In 2018 single use plastics were eliminated from RTÉ's restaurant operation.
- Prior to Covid 19 it provided food to charities whilst within shelf life. This prevented the food from becoming waste.
- RTÉ's catering contractor has arranged with its suppliers to take back containers, creating a circular impact of reuse of the containers. This has resulted in the following example of waste prevention.

Product	Week 1 (kg)	Week 2 (kg)	Week 3 (kg)	Week 4 (kg)
Cardboard Boxes	16.3	10.9	15.4	15.2
Plastics – Fruit packing bags etc	1.4	1.5	3.8	2.1
Coffee grounds	14.7	11.4	15.3	18.7



Fair City: Exploring Digitisation

RTÉ's popular drama Fair City broadcasts about 200 episodes each year. The drama features a significant range of characters and operates to a very tight production schedule.

At present, this requires the generation of a large number of physical scripts, for both cast and operational crew. This is currently estimated to require printing over 15,000 pages per week. Including printing, the carbon cost of this is calculated at approximately 120kg of carbon per week, 6240 kg per year (which would represent over 31 tonnes of carbon over 5 years). Each of these scripts is a single use item – once the episode is recorded, the script is no longer needed.

From January 2023, RTÉ is initiating a pilot project aimed at radically reducing this carbon emission level in 2023 and following years.

In order to reduce the reliance on paper scripts, RTÉ will be substituting these for iPads for use within the production.

A standard iPad produces about 82kg of carbon from production to disposal over a 5 year period. Therefore over the lifetime of its usage in this context, the savings it will generate in terms of carbon emissions are multiples of this single investment.

At a minimum, we are targeting a reduction of 20 tonnes of carbon emissions in this production over the next five years, through this waste prevention initiative.

Fair City is only one of a range of in-house productions which will be targeting increased use of digitisation in the production process, with an organisation-wide focus on reducing our carbon footprint and reducing waste.



Albert Sustainable Production Certification

RTÉ continues with the rollout of albert, a BAFTA originated sustainability programme designed to support more sustainable programme-making of all kinds.

Founded in 2011, albert supports the global film and TV industry to reduce the environmental impacts of production and to create content that supports a vision for a sustainable future.

The albert carbon calculator is specifically designed for programme making and is a widely recognised tool which is used by other broadcasters around the world to reduce the carbon footprint of screen productions.

RTÉ programmes which are certified to albert standards include:



The Late Late Show (series 2022-23)



The Today Show (ongoing)



Primetime (series 2022-23)



Ask Me Anything (series 2022)



The Main Stage (series 2022)



3 x Primetime Climate Specials



FIFA World Cup 2022



Cloch Le Carn, Scannal & Gafa (2022)

Additional programmes will be working to achieve albert certification in 2023.

RTÉ Climate and Sustainability Content





RTÉ Climate and Sustainability Content

Climate-Themed Content

In an industry first, RTÉ became one of 12 broadcasters and streamers to have signed up to The Climate Content Pledge. The signatories – including the BBC, Channel 4, ITV, RTÉ, S4C and Sky – are committing to using their content to help audiences understand what tackling climate change might mean for them, as well as inspire and inform sustainable choices.

RTÉ is also one of 19 broadcasters from across Europe to have launched a climate action campaign.

RTÉ plays a trusted and important role in informing Irish citizens and in shaping national debate. While RTÉ is mindful of the need to do more, coverage of climate change and environmental issues is central to RTÉ News and Current Affairs coverage and across many other different types of programming.

The following presents a comprehensive selection of climate change-themed content and programming across our television, radio and online services. Many programmes and series are recurring in our schedules, many are also permanently available on the RTÉ Player or RTÉ Radio Player due to their importance and continued relevance. It is also important to acknowledge that many of RTÉ's programmes and series prompt discussion across our programming.

Climate change remains an ongoing focus for RTÉ News, as evidenced by the level of reporting from the COP27 climate summit in in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt in November 2022. This included specific reports for News2day, RTE's daily news programme for children on RTÉ2, which included a dedicated message from An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin.

The coverage of climate change, and other sustainability topics, are a matter of ongoing review in terms of our editorial activities.

RTÉ held a week-long exploration on climate and sustainability related issues in RTÉ on Climate in 2019 - a themed week of programming exploring the topic with depth and range across the unique range of multi-platform services that RTÉ offers. Giving a single topic such concentrated focus and amplification can deliver significant impacts in terms of public attention and action, and audience reaction to the initiative was both strong and positive.

We believe that the following content outlined below, covering 2022 for the most part, provides a clear indication that RTÉ is making genuine efforts to engage with this subject across a diverse range of output, from a wide range of perspectives, cross-platform.

On Television and RTÉ Player



What Planet Are You On

Presented by Maia Dunphy, this third series of What Planet Are You On offered inspiring, practical and thought-provoking discussion about climate change and sustainability. Proving that small changes can make a big difference, the series followed three families from around the country who pledged to reduce their carbon footprints by making small changes to the way they live. The family that reduced its greenhouse gas emissions most won €5,000.



The Island

Presented by Liz Bonnin, The Island took viewers on a dramatic journey through Ireland's epic 1.8 billion-year history. Throughout the series, Liz met with a broad selection of passionate geologists who are experts in showing evidence of the immense collision of continents that fused the two sections of the island together before it travelled northwards to its current position. Together they explored the awesome power of the ice age and how it sculpted our unique landscape, and they tracked the ancient footprints which provide the world's most reliable evidence for the evolution of life from water to land.



Future Island (Part of Science Week on RTÉ)

With support from Science Foundation Ireland, Future Island returned for Science Week 2022 to take a look towards the future in the worlds of science and technology. Through a mix of live studio guests and demonstrations, as well as a selection of illuminating films, Future Island, under the guiding hand of presenter Anna Daly, sifted the science fact from the science fiction and looked at how Irish innovators are currently trying to change the world for the better.

Anna Daly employed her curiosity for how things work and how science might make the future better for her children, embracing the “infinite possibilities” of science - the themes of Science Week 2022 - across subjects like sustainability, future health, technology, climate change and future energies, with advice from a panel of experts.

The series also worked closely with Birdwatch Ireland in order to build on the biggest citizen science project in the country: asking viewers to collect invaluable data regarding the birdlife that exists in their gardens. Each show threw down a specific challenge to viewers. Can we affect the air quality around us by making simple lifestyle changes that could save lives? Is it possible to create a musical ensemble from scrap, using the science of various instruments to create a musical finale?



Things To Know About

This series of the award winning programme showcased and celebrated the Irish science behind aspects of modern life. Entertaining and informative, each episode was themed around one core topic or research area, with Kathriona Devereux, Jonathan McCrea and Fergus McAuliffe meeting Irish researchers working at home and internationally on projects that affect all our lives.

In one of the episodes, Kathriona Devereux and Jonathan McCrea investigated if the solution to feeding the world in a more sustainable way could be the humble insect.

As the global population rises, questions are being asked as to how we can continue to feed the planet with more sustainable food products and behaviours. Insects have a high protein content and carbon-friendly breeding methods, and with three types of insects already in use in the EU, the programme checked out the latest Irish research into edible insects and tried out some taste testing at the National Ploughing Championships to see if members of the public might be open to adding crickets to their cornflakes.

On Television and RTÉ Player



Ear to the Ground

Ear To The Ground, the popular magazine show for farmers and rural residents, focusing on the ever-changing nature of country life and landscape, returned to RTÉ One in 2023 to consider the challenges facing the agri-sector in Ireland as it has done for the last ten years.



The Today Show

Today, the live afternoon programme, regularly features segments on the need for sustainability, the environment, food, and is a champion of nature and wildlife via different forms of content, including partnerships with the OPW.

Back from the Brink

Back from the Brink is an RTE-led EBU project where multiple broadcasters around Europe pool resources to create programming that celebrates the incredible efforts that are ongoing to save and protect Europe's wildlife. Derek Mooney presents inspirational conservation stories from across Europe, including a team monitoring the roseate terns on Rockabill Island off the coast of Co Dublin.



Growing Up at the End of the World

This documentary, which was first broadcast on RTÉ One in December 2021 followed three young Irish climate activists over course of a year and a half as they led demonstrations, interrogated politicians, and worked alongside Greta Thunberg to create a vision for the youth climate movement, all while juggling school, friends, and a global pandemic.



Crainn Na hÉireann

Manchán Magan presents a 10-part documentary exploring the trees of Ireland, looking at the impact they have on the environment and the connections with human activities, beginning with the Scots pine.

A Greenland Story

Intimate stories from locals along Greenland's West coast revealing a country and people at a crossroads between tradition and modernity. They feel the devastating impact of climate change and uncertain times lay ahead.

Junk Kouture Dublin City Final

Sixty haute-couture designs made from 100% recycled material created and modelled by talented young designers aged 13-18 from post-primary schools around the Island of Ireland battle it out as they make their bid to be chosen for the first ever *Junk Kouture World Final* later in 2022.

Junk Kouture: Behind the Seams

Junk Kouture: Behind The Seams highlights the creative process behind the design all before hitting the final runway at the live event. Five teams from the North, South, East, West and South-East of the country will explore key pillars of *Junk Kouture* including youth activism, climate change, inclusivity & diversity, fashion design and self-expression

On the Roads with Simon Delaney

Simon Delaney delves into the road safety and climate action issues we now face as he travels across Ireland and Europe looking at the changes happening to try to make our roads safer and greener.



Ireland's Deep Atlantic

Ireland's Deep Atlantic sees underwater cameraman Ken O'Sullivan embark on a series of voyages out into the open North Atlantic in search of large whales, sharks and cold water coral reefs 3,000 down on Ireland's deep sea bed.

Hot Air: Ireland's Climate Crisis

Philip Boucher-Hayes examines the changes required to fight climate change - and the gulf between what needs to happen and what the government and corporations are actually doing.

Will Ireland Survive 2050?

Meteorologist Gerald Fleming and climate activist Dr. Cara Augustenborg examine the disturbing consequences of extreme global weather, with the programme featuring representations of what the country will look like without action.

Around the Fire with Owen Colgan (Episode 2: The Climate Crisis - I'm Sick Of It, Are You?)

Young Offenders star Demi Isaac Oviawe sits around the fire with Owen Colgan. Together they tackle the Climate Crisis, Demi has a personal message for Elon Musk and we find out what happens when you forget your KeepCup at home.

The Summer Show

The Summer Show, presented by Derek Mooney and Nuala Carey featured segments on nature, wildlife and the environment.

[rte.ie/climate](https://www.rte.ie/climate)

The climate section on RTE.ie is RTÉ's dedicated online site for climate change-themed news and features, and includes news reports and clips, as well as a section dedicated to the European perspective through RTÉ's partnership with the EBU.

Between March 2021 - March 2022, more than 560 articles themed around climate change were published on rte.ie, achieving almost 17.5 million views.

On RTÉ.ie



[rte.ie/brainstorm](https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/)

RTÉ Brainstorm publishes climate related articles and stories at <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/>. At least one climate-themed article is published every week and themed content is created to support initiatives such as Science Week on RTÉ.

[rte.ie/learn](https://www.rte.ie/learn/)

RTÉ Learn is a dedicated resource for teachers and educators showcasing a diverse range of educational content from across RTÉ, ideal for both formal and informal learning. To inspire the next generation of climate activists, RTÉ Learn and RTÉ Young People focus on many issues related to climate change. Articles are published weekly, and often daily.

RTÉ Learn also publishes important content such as episodes of *Ecolution* (see below) or *The Kids Are All Right!*, RTÉjr Radio's mental health podcast for young people.

Our Climate Heroes

Our Climate Heroes shone a light on the people who are stepping up to protect the environment and tackle climate change. While these people come from all walks of life, they shared a common purpose to improve the world around us. This major digital series spanned the whole of 2022, with all 50 reports shot and edited on mobile, reaching audiences on digital and social media platforms.

On Radio and Podcasts



Hot Mess — By Philip Boucher-Hayes

This radio series broadcast during COP26 highlights the gap between what people say they will do and what they actually do to address the climate crisis. Well written and researched, the program brings a human focus to difficult, highly charged topics, such as how reducing emissions from agriculture will affect individual farmers. Through calm conversation, the series probes the forces stopping us from moving quicker to address climate change, spotlighting often invisible levers of power.

Philip is also the presenter of *Countrywide* which covers climate and biodiversity issues in addition to its primary focus on issues relating to farming and agriculture.

Ecolution

Ecolution is the award-winning podcast for kids who want to make a difference in the fight against climate change. As a podcast, *Ecolution* strives to make sense of the hardest news ever by continuing to show children that they are heard. And that they have allies. Everywhere. There are 68 episodes available. .



The Met Éireann Podcast (22 Episodes)

We're obsessed with weather in Ireland, but how much do we know about how its forecast, what influences it and how a changing global climate is affecting weather worldwide. Each month *The Met Éireann Podcast* takes a deep dive into these topics.

The Kids Are All Right!

10 Episodes from the RTÉjr podcast (including 2 eps What Can I Do About Climate Change?)

The Kids Are All Right! Is RTÉjr Radio's mental health podcast for young people. In a two-part special *Climate Activist* and *An Taisce Climate Ambassador*, Ellen Hegarty talks to us about Climate Change and explains the difference between global warming, climate change, pollution in our seas, the bio-diversity crisis, plastic pollution...pewh!!

Nature Nights

Nature Nights was a week-long celebration on RTÉ Radio 1 of nature and biodiversity in Ireland, the people who dedicate their lives to studying and protecting the natural world, and the artists whose work is inspired by the Irish landscape and the creatures who inhabit it.

On Radio and Podcasts



Mooney Goes Wild

Terry Flanagan celebrated one of Ireland's most beloved nocturnal creatures, the Barn Owl, and investigates efforts to conserve these ultimate night-time hunters.

Custodians of Ireland

At the foot of Mweelrea in West Mayo, ornithologist Professor David Cabot reflected on over 60 years of work as an ecologist and gave insights into a more sustainable, harmonious life.

Custodians of Ireland

On Carrownisky beach in county Mayo, Dr. Catherine Farrell, Project Manager of LIFE on Machair, talks about the very special features of the rare machair habitat – and what needs to be done to restore it to its full glory.

Brother Sun, Sister Moon

Author John Connell, poet Jane Clarke and environmental campaigner Lorna Gold read from their own work and classical writings on themes of nature and reflect on how the natural world – and the threat from climate changes – continues to inspire artists and activists.

Seascapes

Seascapes explores a project to protect sand dunes on one of Dublin's busiest coastal spots, Burrow Beach, and goes beach-combing in county Kerry.

2023 and Beyond

Upcoming content themed around Natural History and Wildlife includes *North Atlantic*, a three-part series from Seafever Productions [Ken O'Sullivan] that looks at the importance of Ireland's oceans and the many species that inhabit them. This series will be broadcast on RTÉ One and streamed on RTÉ Player later this year.

Ireland's Island Wildlife is a three-hour series from Crossing The Line films, hosted by Eoin Warner, that looks at the wildlife on and around the islands of Ireland. This series has a serious bio-diversity message at its heart: episode One, for instance, features the curlew, the Irish hare and the stoat, all of whom are currently under threat of extinction. This series is co-produced with ARTE, Blue Ant Media and is supported by BAI and Section 481 and will be broadcast on RTÉ One and streamed on RTÉ Player later this year.

Currently in production for 2024 is *Stories From The Kingdom*, a two-part natural history series that looks at the unique physical make-up of County Kerry, over-land and under-water.

Science Week in November 2023 will feature one new climate documentary, as well as a Mark Little fronted feature length event piece that projects into the future and looks at an Ireland that hasn't reached its emissions targets as outlined. This is a provocative, future shock piece set in 2050.

The Coastal Atlas of Ireland produced in association with UCC, will celebrate the Irish coast and explore how we as an island nation have huge responsibilities to protect our seas and coast, and in turn have eminence advantages with wave, tidal and wind power yet to be harnessed. This three-part high profile series is backed by the BAI and will be broadcast and streamed in 2024.

Also coming to screens in 2024 is documentary series presented by Philip Boucher Hayes that looks at Ireland's climate policies and targets, international comparisons and potential solutions.

Appendices

A man in a wetsuit is shown in profile, looking out at a turbulent sea under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The scene is dark and moody, with the man's face and the water's surface catching some light. The overall atmosphere is one of intensity and focus.





Energy Policy

October 2020

As an organisation and individually, RTÉ are committed to managing our energy consumption and continuously improving our energy management system. Our energy management objective is to measure and understand our energy consumption in all its forms, to understand the drivers of that consumption and to provide employees, contractors and interested stakeholders with the necessary awareness, education and training to implement our energy objectives.

RTÉ commits to these objectives by:

- Setting realistic objectives and targets for each of our areas of significant energy consumption in line with Ireland's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
- Ensuring the availability of information and resources to effectively deliver improvement processes
- Taking a commitment to ensuring that all legal and other requirements are adhered too.
- Encourage the procurement of energy-efficient products and services, and design for energy performance improvement
- Communicating our Energy Management Policy and relevant procedures to employees, suppliers, contractors and other stakeholders
- Regularly reviewing the Energy Policy and integrating our Sustainability and Energy Management Systems

Dee Forbes

Director General

Date



Rev. A.01
Originator: James
McDonoghue
Approver: Tracy McQuinn
Date: 3/10/13

Appendix B: Environmental Sustainability Policy



Environmental Policy

RTÉ is Ireland's national public-service media organisation. At its heart RTÉ is a creative organisation, making and commissioning a broad range of high-quality programming and content to meet the needs of multiple audiences.

Mindful of its public service obligations in all regards, RTÉ has a responsible environmental policy, which enshrines the following principles:

Commitment: Consistent with our values we are fully committed to high standards of resource management with an increasing focus on sustainability. RTÉ is committed to continual environmental improvement by carrying out our activities in an environmentally responsible and compliant manner.

Working together: RTÉ will inform and motivate all its staff and encourage them to play an active role in the delivery of its environmental goals. RTÉ will provide training and awareness as required and promote best practice. RTÉ will work closely with suppliers and customers towards taking an integrated approach to the delivery of the stated environmental policy aims.

Working in harmony with the environment and the community: RTÉ will continue to work with the local community by driving environmental initiatives on-site and encouraging local environmental initiatives and reporting on environmental issues of public interest.

Continuous improvement: Through its Environmental Advisory Group process RTÉ will set specific improvement targets, monitor progress and communicate results internally and externally where relevant.

To apply best practice standards in property management: RTÉ will continue to engage in continuous improvement as regards its property management. RTÉ will construct, refurbish and manage its buildings in a manner that will reduce the associated environmental impacts and be sympathetic to the external surroundings.

Energy and water consumption: Water and energy consumption will be monitored on a continuous basis with an ongoing commitment to deliver maximum efficiencies through best practices.

Transport: RTÉ will monitor its travel and transport and is committed to reducing its impact on the environment through the promotion and encouragement of sustainable options for business travel and commuting. Where possible, RTÉ will apply and promote sustainable transportation of goods and services with all its stakeholders.

Climate change RTÉ's commitment to energy, water and transport will ensure that greenhouse gas emissions will continue to be targeted for reduction in line with national and international agreements to minimise our impact on climate change. RTÉ will prepare its business to deal with the impacts of climate change by understanding these risks and opportunities.

Procurement: Environmental impact and environmental criteria will be considered when developing tender processes.

Waste management: RTÉ will continue to promote, develop and implement waste prevention, reduction, re-use and recycling on-site in a systematic and cost effective manner. RTÉ will use appropriately regulated waste management contractors to ensure safe management of waste in accordance with legislation and also best environmental practice.

Biodiversity: RTÉ will maximise all opportunities to promote a conservation and protection ethos towards the environment, respect for the landscape and the importance of protecting Ireland's natural heritage and ecosystems.

Pollution control: RTÉ is committed to minimising the risk of pollution and adopting best practice standards on this issue.

Annual Review: This policy will be reviewed once a year and feedback is sought and welcomed in the context of policy changes conducive to continuous improvement.

Dee Forbes - Director General

16/9/19

Date



Rev: A.01
Originator: Eileen Duggan
Approver: Troy Barhón
Date: 06/09/19

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