



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Planning Ireland's Climate and Energy Transition – Community Benefits

OPR Councillor Training 2025

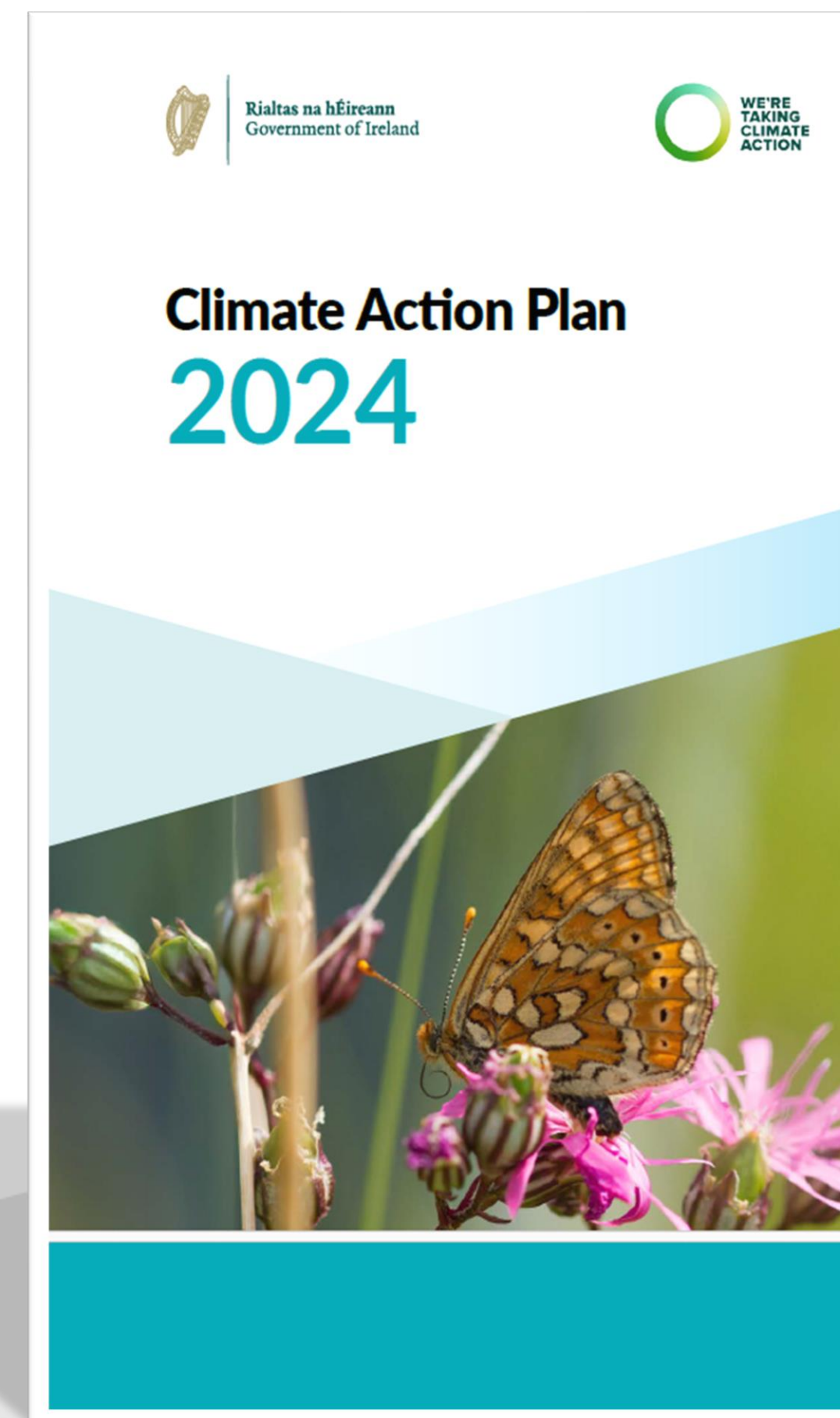
*Paul O'Neill, Principal Officer,
Planning Advisory Division, DECC
28th March 2025*



Planning Ireland's Climate and Energy Transition – Community Benefits



- Introduction
- EU Requirements
- Ireland's Response
- Renewable Energy Targets
- Benefits of RE and Role of Elected Representatives

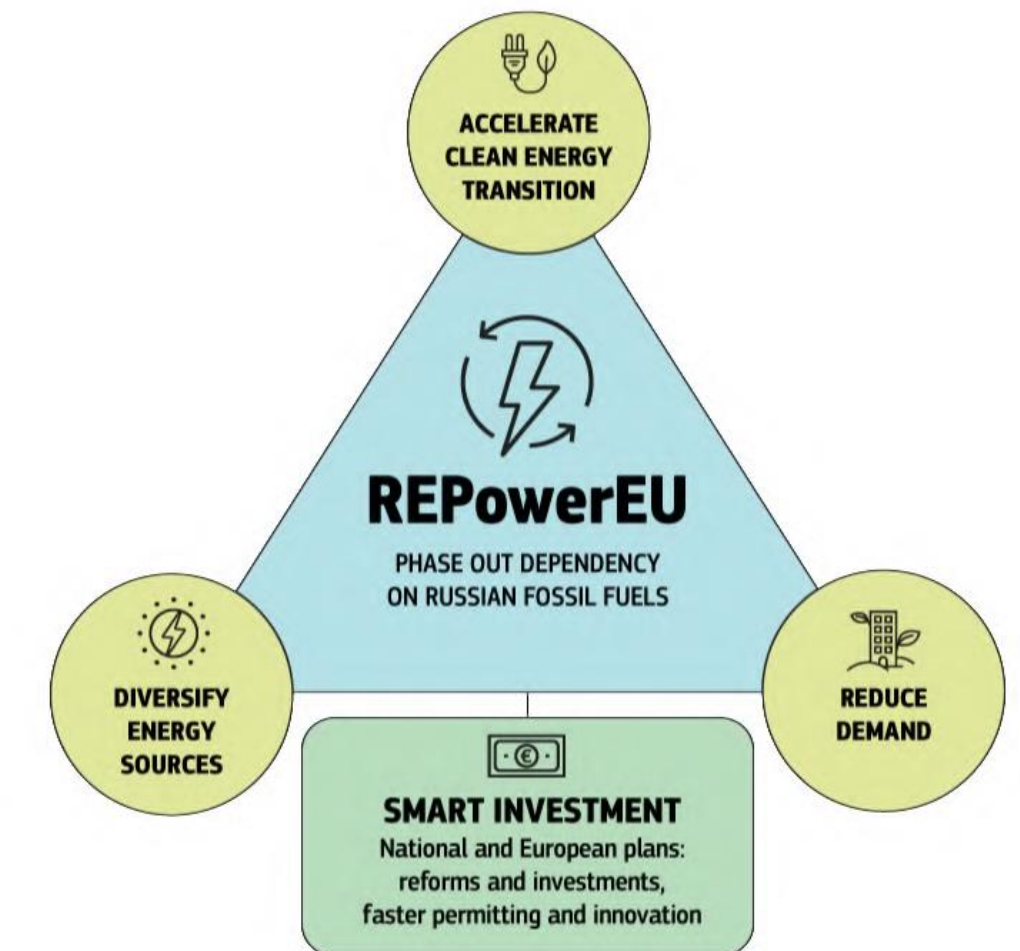
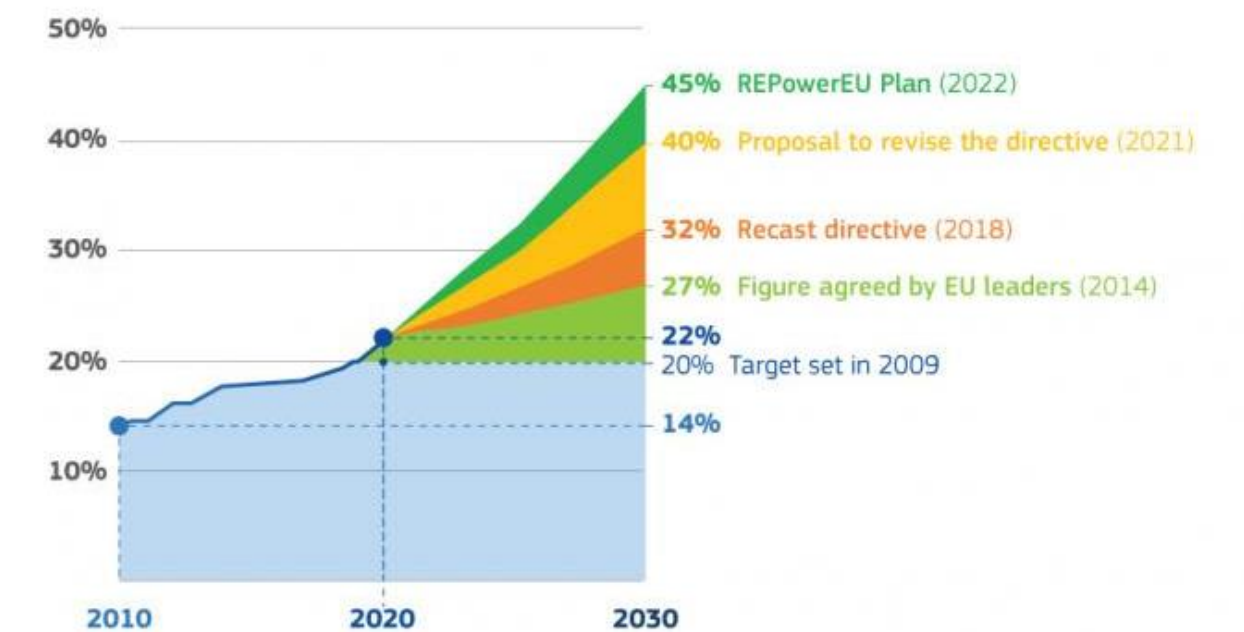


EU Requirements - REPower EU and REDIII



- **RED I (2009/28/EC)** – provided framework for promotion of energy from renewable sources
- **RED II (EU/2018/2001)** – set an overall renewables target of 32% by 2030.
- **European Green Deal (2020)** - reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 + achieve 42% emission reductions in 2030 compared to 2005 levels.
- **European Climate Law (June 2021)** - wrote into law the goal set out in the European Green Deal for Europe's economy and society to become climate-neutral by 2050
- **Fit for 55 Package (July 2021)** – Proposal to the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive
- **REPowerEU Plan (May 2022)** – plan to rapidly reduce fossil fuel dependency and accelerate the energy transition (saving energy, reduce demand, diversify supply). Direct response to Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- **RED III** – formally adopted on 9th October 2023 and in force from 20th November 2023
- **Faster Permitting Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2022/2577)** and amending **Regulation (EU) 2024/223** – “stop-gap” to REDIII implementation
- Ever-increasing urgency and ambition...

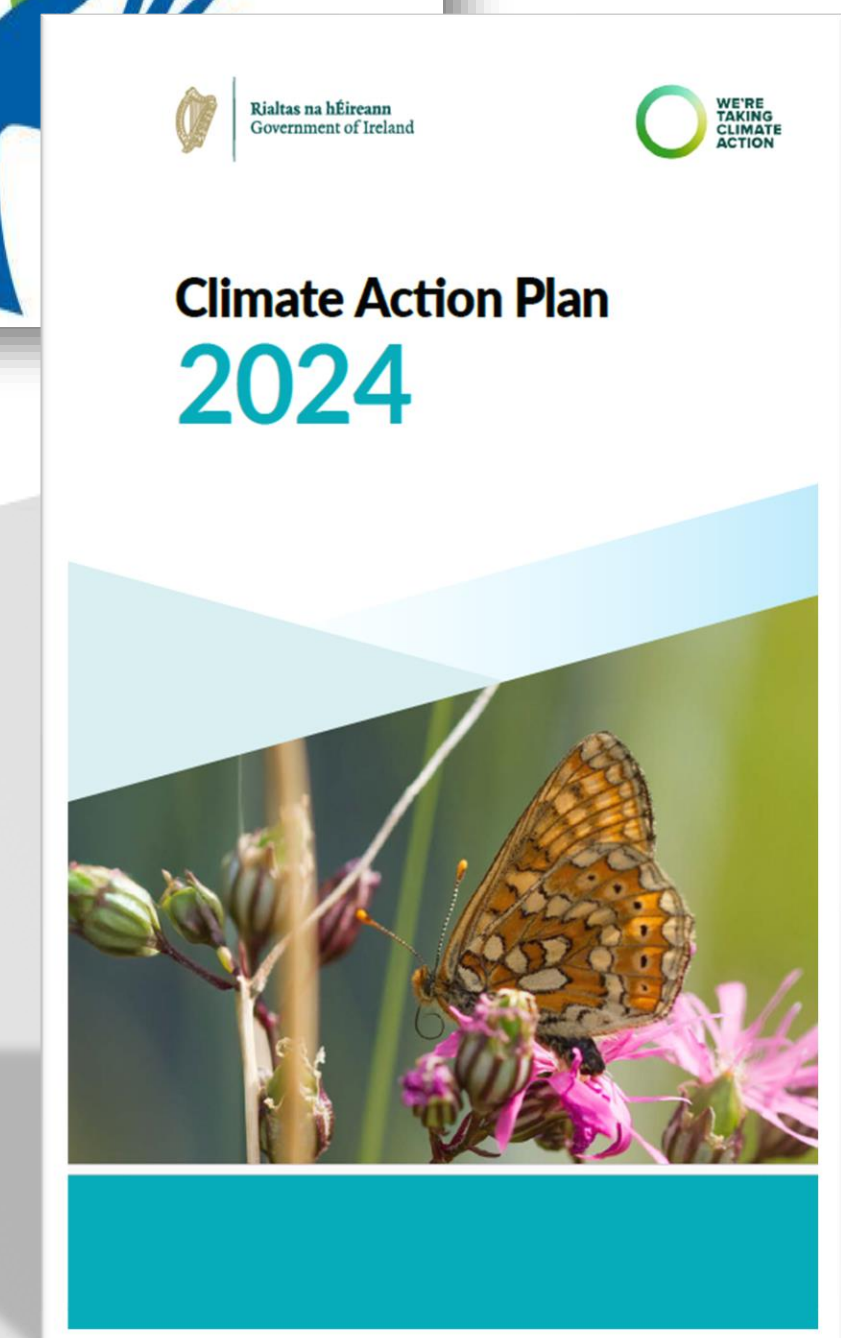
Evolution of renewable energy targets



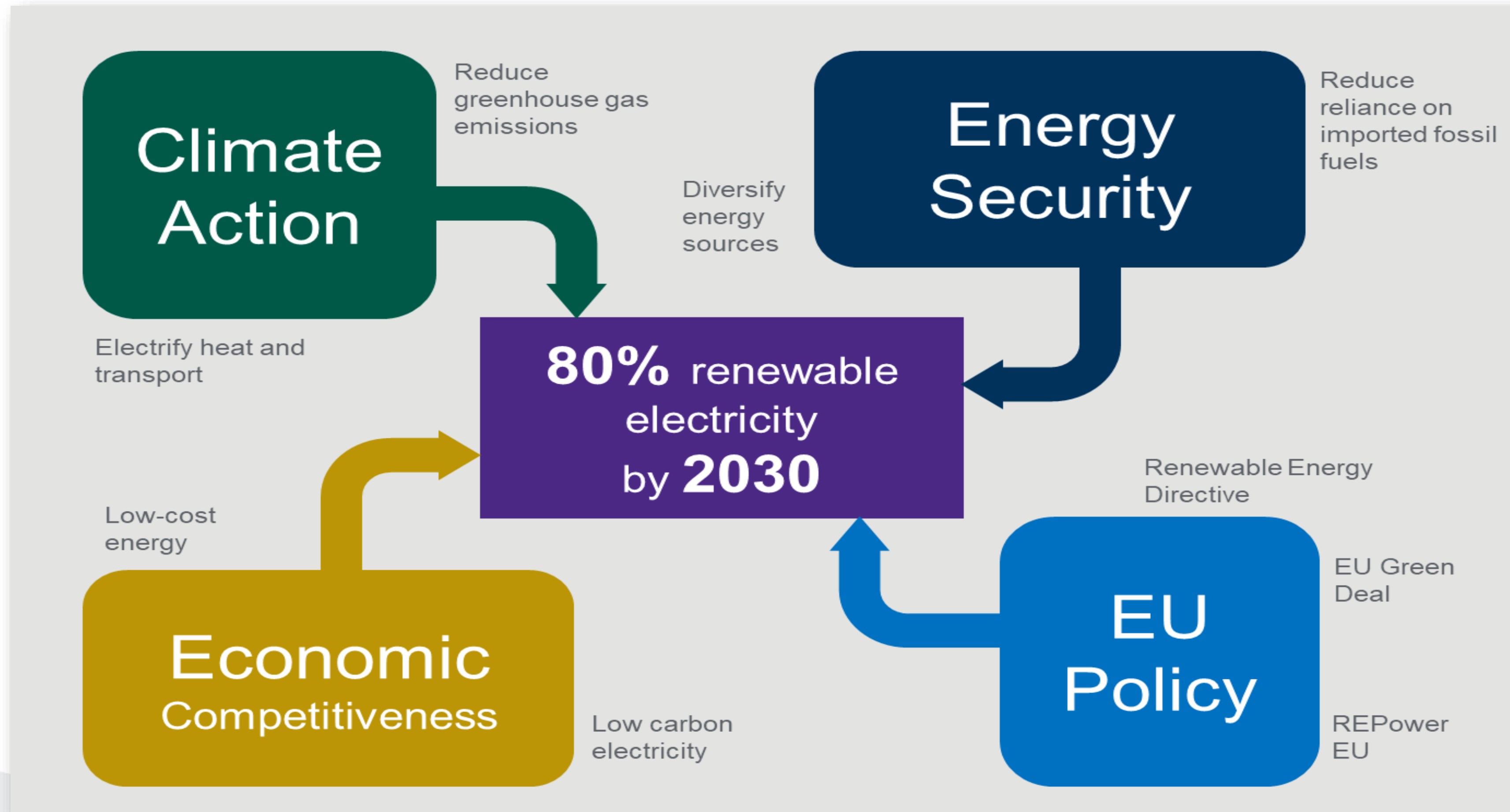
Ireland's Climate Action Response



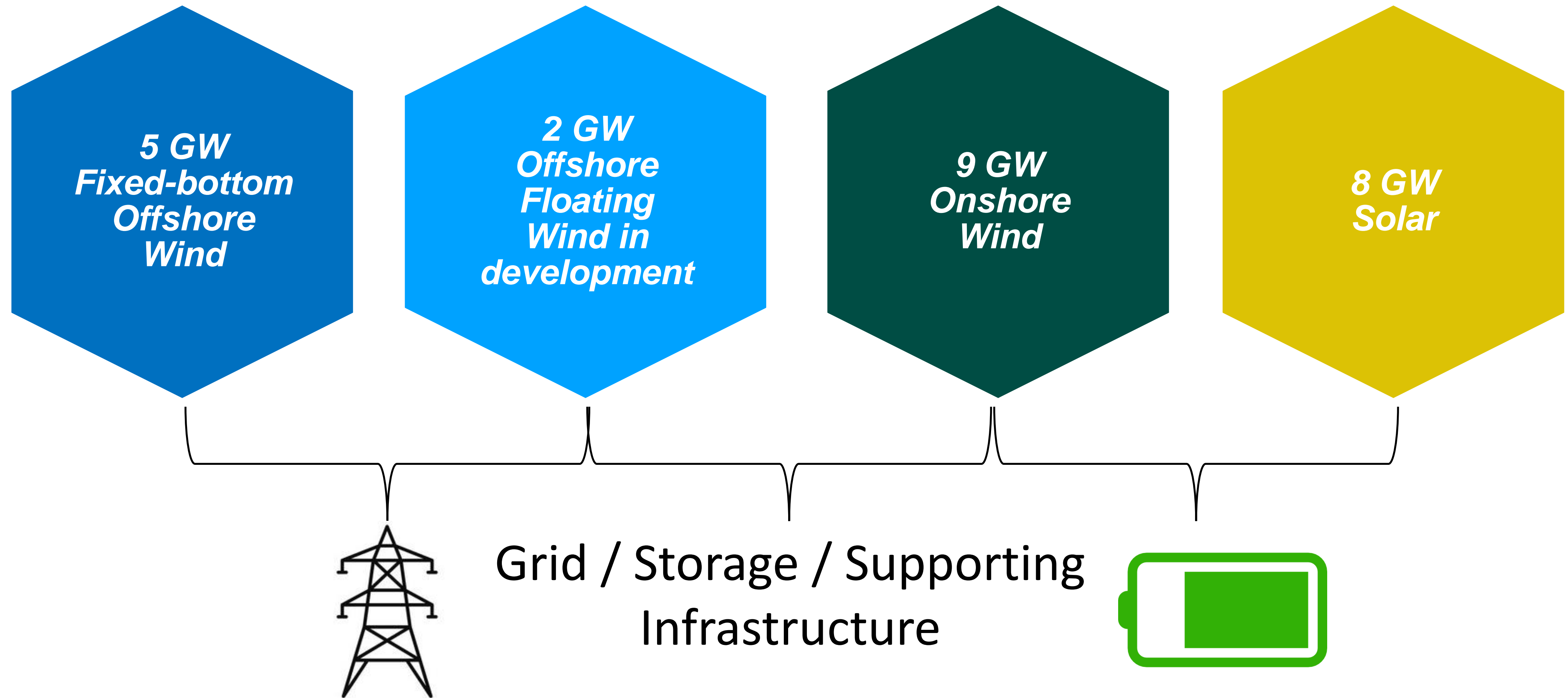
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended in 2021)
- Report of the Citizens' Assembly 2018
- Oireachtas Joint Committee on Climate Action Report 2019
- Climate and Biodiversity Emergency declared in 2019
- 2019 Climate Action Plan step change in Irish climate policy – CAP 25 published shortly
- Programme for Government – Securing Ireland's Future
 - a 51% emissions reduction from 2018 to 2030
 - net zero emissions by 2050
 - 80% RE by 2030, including network upgrades and community benefits
 - Annual Climate Action Plans



Factors and Functions of Renewable Electricity Targets



Irish Challenge - 80% Renewable Electricity by 2030



Benefits of RE and Role of Elected Representatives



- Renewable Energy Projects can bring direct and indirect benefits:
 - Rates / Development Contributions – can fund LA operations and projects
 - Direct community benefits – Community benefit funds
 - Indirect economic benefits – construction, operations and wider
 - Community based projects / renewable energy communities
- Elected representatives have a critical role in plan-making; translating national policy through the regions to local development plan level
- Critical role in consultation, communication and facilitation with communities
- EU experience shows that involvement in RE planning can have a positive impact on local communities

