

ENGINEERS IRELAND

National Climate Change Policy

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Global problem/global solution

- ◆ IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (2007) confirms global **scientific** consensus that climate change is happening and is directly related to human generated greenhouse gas emissions.
- ◆ **Economic** consensus (Stern Report) that the costs of inaction will greatly exceed the costs of action.
- ◆ **Political** momentum for global action!

Climate Change Agenda

Key elements:

◆ International agenda;

- UNFCCC (1992);
- Kyoto Protocol (1997);
 - ◆ (Commitment period 2008-2012)
- IPCC – 4th scientific assessment report (2007).

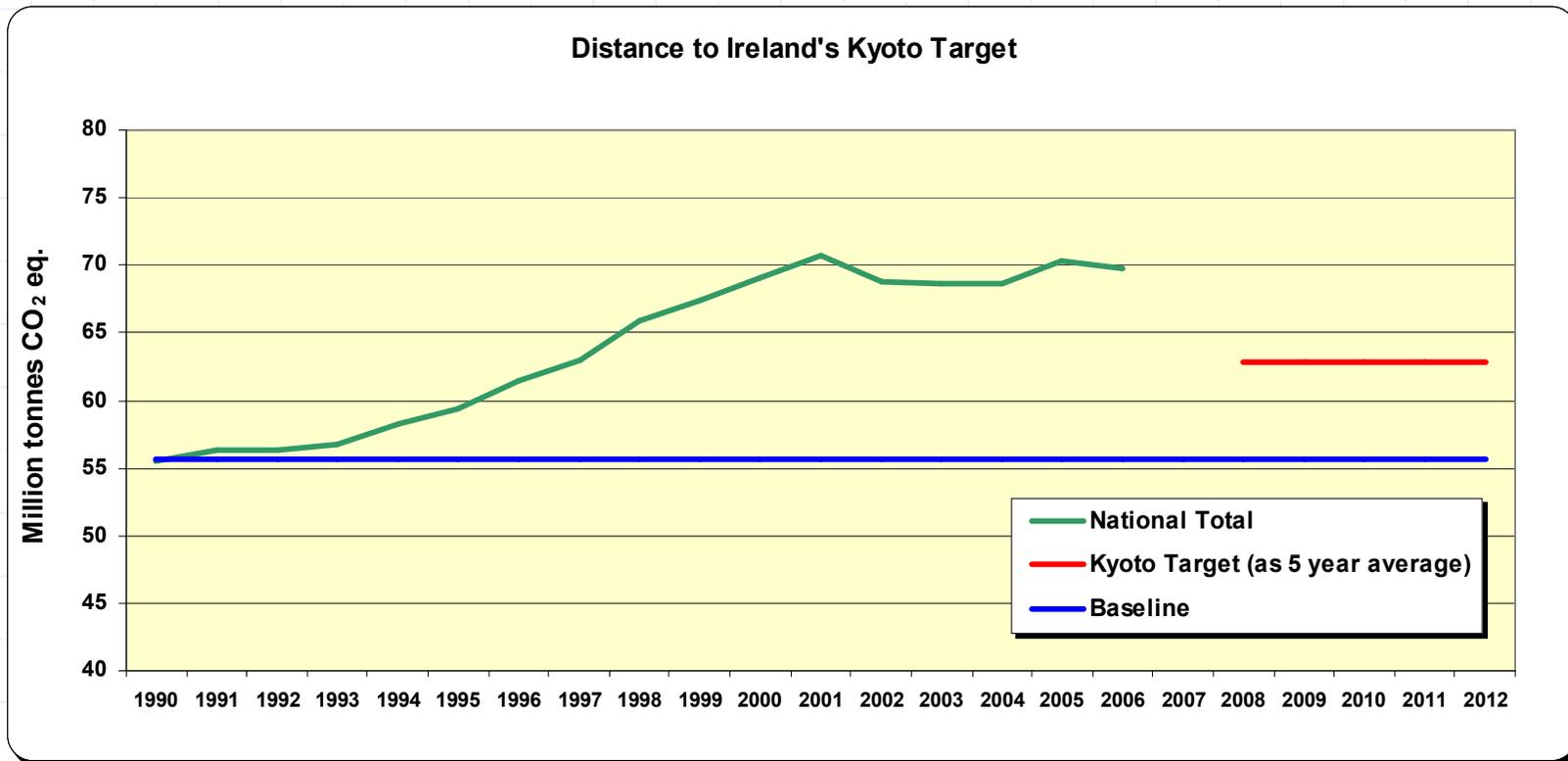
◆ EU agenda:

- European Climate Change Programme.

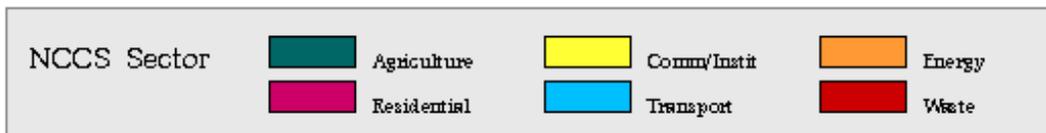
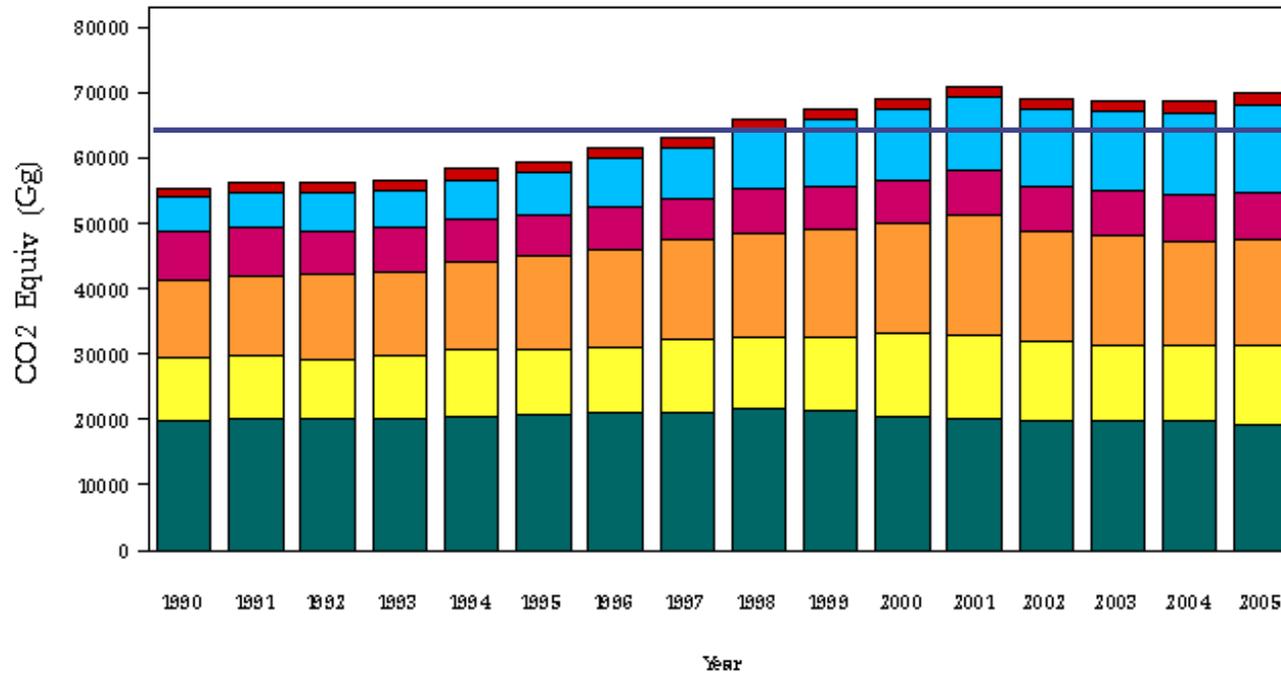
◆ National agenda:

- 1st National Climate Change Strategy published 2000.
- 2nd Strategy (2007-2012) published April 2007.

National emissions 1990-2006

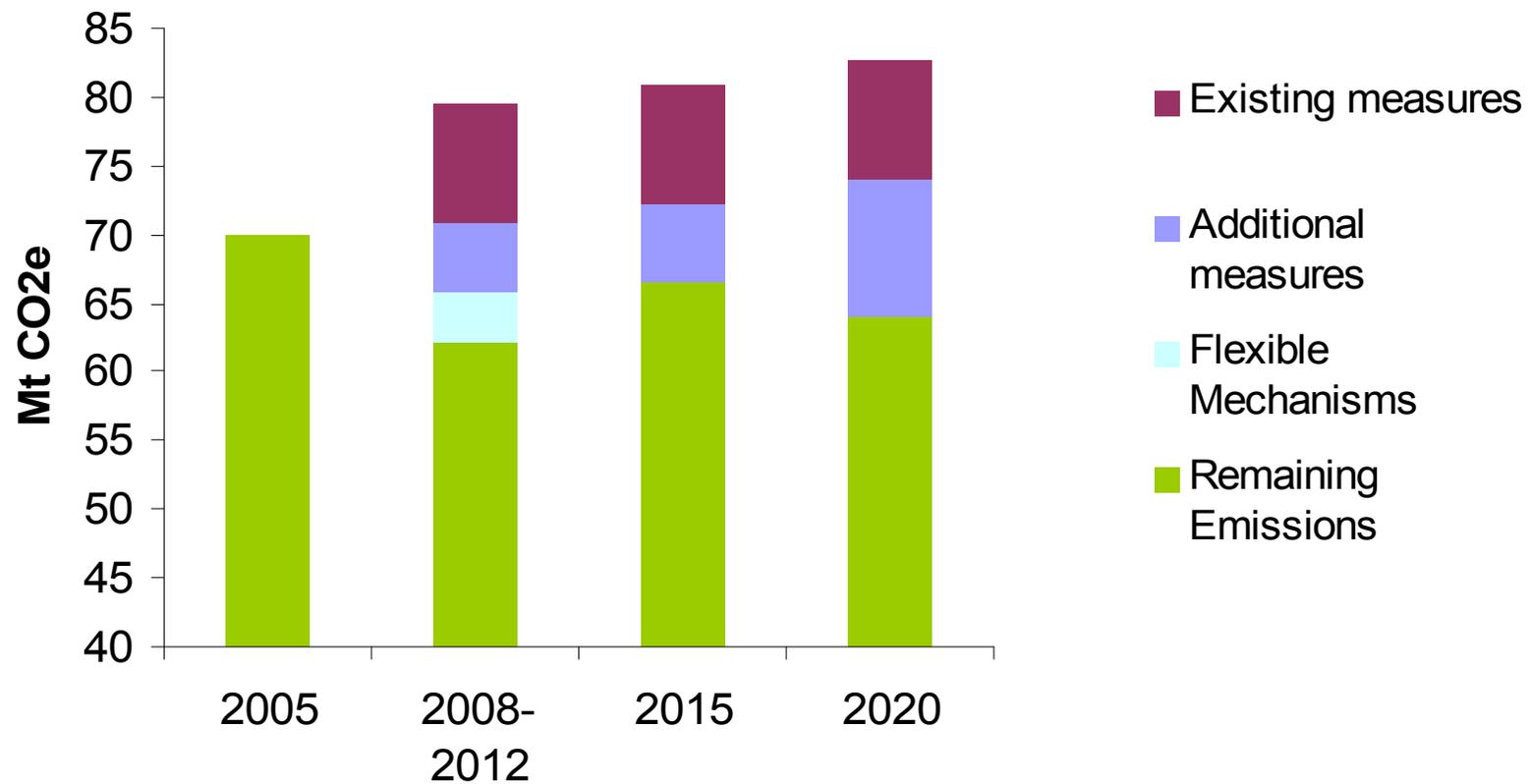


Emissions 1990 – 2005



————— **Kyoto Protocol Target**

NCCS Projections to 2020



National Climate Change Strategy

- ◆ NCCS 2008-2012 (April 2007).
- ◆ Timeframe: 2007-2012.
- ◆ Objectives:
 - to show how Ireland will meet its Kyoto Protocol commitment in the 2008-2012 period, and
 - to prepare for more stringent emission reduction requirements post-2012.
- ◆ Framework to achieve Kyoto target:
 - variety of domestic measures to reduce emissions throughout the economy,
 - supplemented by the purchase of carbon allowances.

National Adaptation Strategy

- ◆ Two sides to climate change agenda
 - Mitigation, and
 - Adaptation – some impacts are inevitable and require appropriate policy responses.
- ◆ Policy to date focused on mitigation.
- ◆ Need for adaptation strategy signalled in chapter 11 of NCCS 2008-2012.
- ◆ First step of adaptation strategy – report on impacts and vulnerabilities from EPA in 2009.
- ◆ Considerable amount of research done – EPA, Met Eireann, UCD, NUI Maynooth.

Adaptation challenge

- ◆ Vulnerable resources, e.g. biodiversity the coast line and low-lying agricultural land.
- ◆ Vulnerable sectors, e.g. water supply, forestry, agriculture, fishing & tourism.
- ◆ Possible benefits, e.g. agriculture – new food production opportunities and tourism.
- ◆ Major responses – potentially all policy areas, including physical planning and healthcare.
- ◆ Major engineering challenges – need for both hard and soft solutions.

Post-2012 agenda

◆ EU policy:

- a unilateral commitment to achieve at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, compared to 1990, &
- a 30% reduction by 2020, as its contribution to a global comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012, subject to participation by other developed countries and the economically more advanced developing countries.

Meetings of the Parties

- ◆ 13th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate change and 3rd Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Bali, December 2007.
- ◆ Milestone in international agenda; agreement (Bali Roadmap) to start formal negotiations on new treaty to succeed Kyoto Protocol.
- ◆ EU expectations – agreement on new treaty at the meetings of the Parties in Copenhagen in December 2009.

EU climate/energy package 2020

- ◆ EU *climate action and renewable energy* package (i.e. 2020 agenda/targets) published by Commission on 23 January 2008.
- ◆ Aim: by 2020 -
 - reduce EU greenhouse gases by at least 20%, and
 - increase renewable energies in total energy consumption to 20%.
- ◆ Emissions reduction target to be increased to 30% (by 2020) in context of a new global agreement to succeed Kyoto Protocol.

Proposed 2020 targets for Ireland

- ◆ EU Emissions Trading Scheme (to be administered by Commission from 2013):
 - emissions from all EU installations in the scheme (including 100+ Irish installations) capped at 21% below 2005 levels by 2020.
- ◆ Other national emissions:
 - transport, agriculture, waste, etc. – to be reduced by 20% compared to 2005; and
- ◆ Renewable energy – a combined 16% target for electricity, heat and transport.

Conclusion

- ◆ Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing mankind.
- ◆ Cost of inaction will greatly outweigh the cost of effective action now.
- ◆ Global greenhouse gas emissions must be halved by 2050; emissions in developed countries must be reduced by up to 80%.
- ◆ Targets for 2020 and beyond will be much more onerous than Kyoto Protocol targets.
- ◆ Adaptation to inevitable impacts is essential.