



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**

Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

National Clean Air Policy

ESTG Annual Conference 2018

Climate Change and the Environment: A New Reality

25th April 2017

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Environment Advisory Unit

DCCA

Presentation Outline

- National policy context
- Changed perspective on air pollution & health
- Developing a Clean Air Strategy
- Conclusions



National Policy Context (1).

- Little historic heavy 'smokestack' industry – 'new' economy based on cleaner industries
- Modern vehicle fleet – NO₂ concerns in urban areas
- Upwind of Europe – reduces transboundary pollution
- Problems with city smogs – PM from solid fuels
 - 'Smoky' coal ban effective intervention where applied



National Policy Context (2).

- No EPA *measured* exceedances of EU limits
 - General narrative ...*air quality in Ireland is good compared to other EU countries... was perceived as 'solved problem'*
- However, perspectives are changing, informed by...
 - Better understanding of health impacts - media coverage
 - Quantitative estimates of health impacts (EEA)
 - Not just local issue but regional and global issue
 - Linked to climate change both policy/science levels
 - Reported exceedance of WHO health based guidelines
 - Recognition that more monitoring & modelling needed

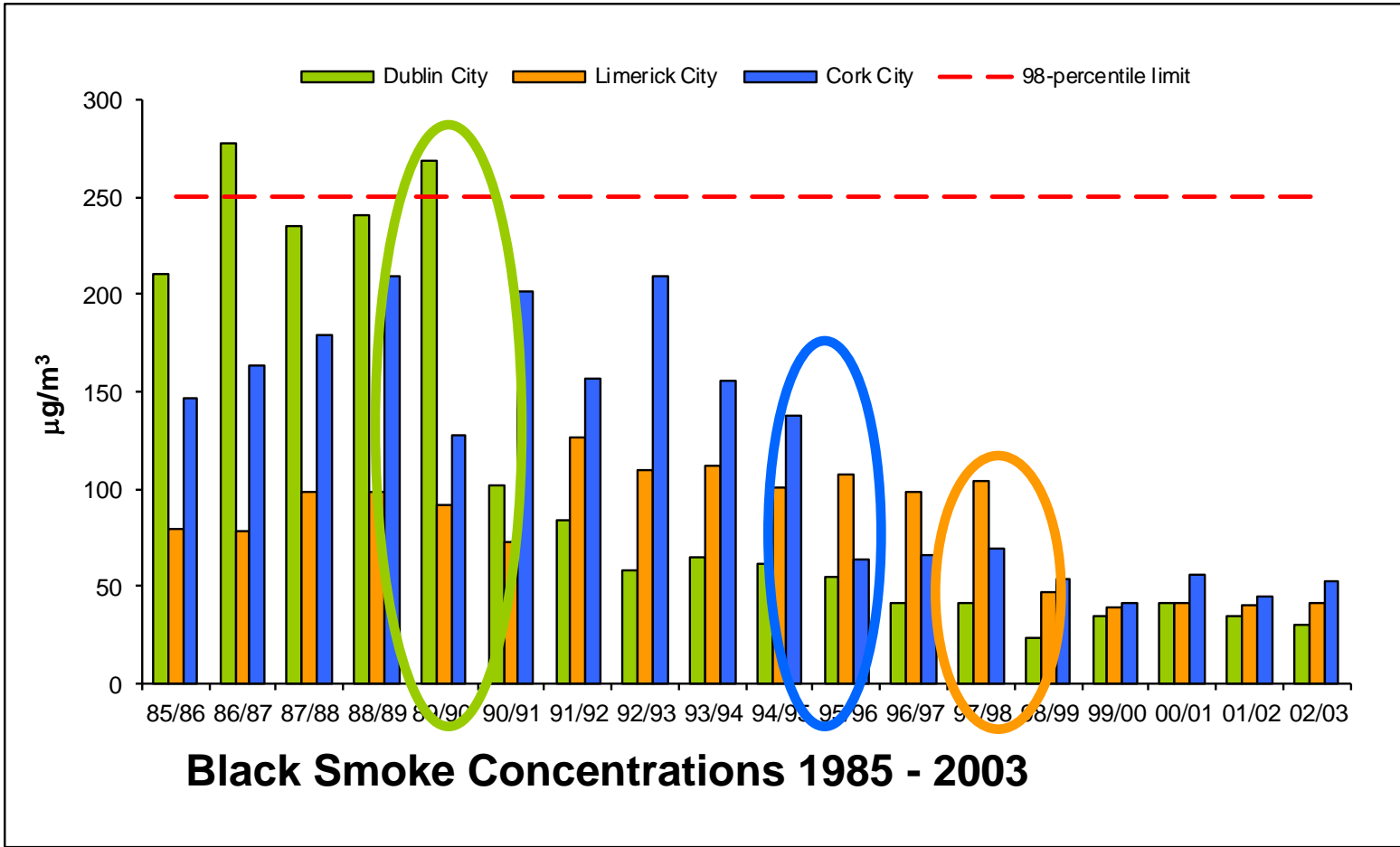


Smoky Coal Ban in Dublin

- Severe smogs in Dublin 1980s
 - Breach (then) EEC smoke limits
- Ban marketing, Dublin 1990
 - ~350 fewer deaths per year (Lancet 2002)
- Now applied in 27 **Low smoke zones** (pop. >15,000)
- Minister announced the nationwide ban
 - Regulations signed shortly.



Effect of 'Smoky' Coal Ban.



Source EPA SoE.

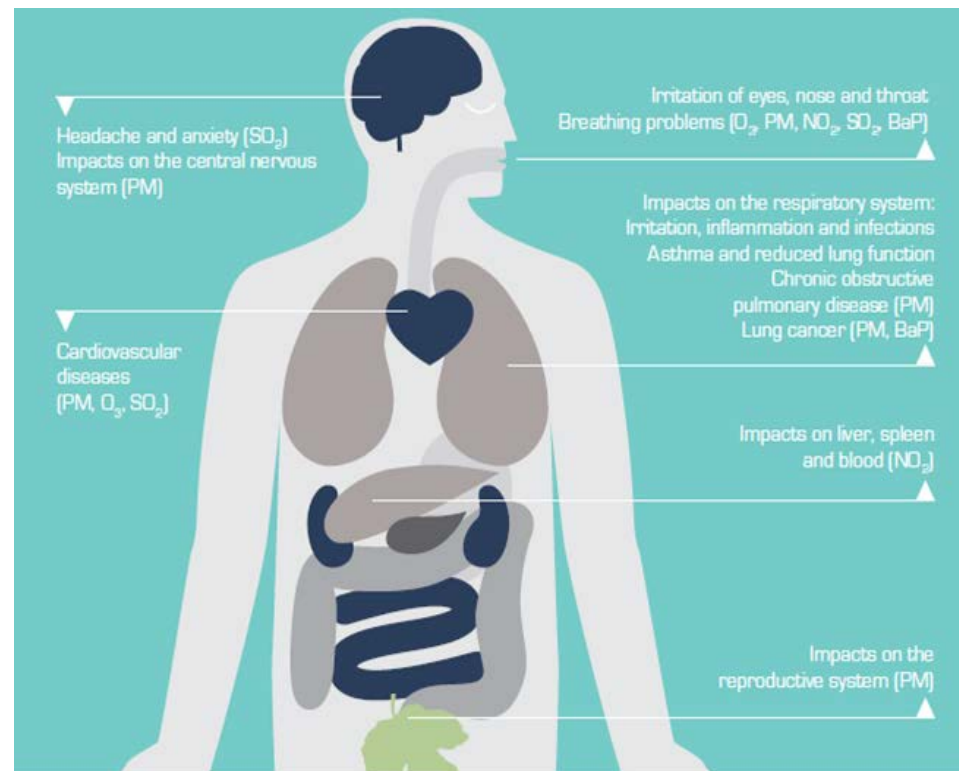
Presentation Outline

- National policy context
- **Changed perspective on air pollution & health**
- Developing a Clean Air Strategy
- Timeline for developing the Clean Air Strategy



Health Impacts of Air Pollution

- Premature mortality (2013)
 - ~500,000 in EU
 - 1,600 in Ireland
 - ~1,500 Particulate matter
 - ~100 NO₂ and Ozone
- Ill health
 - Reduced productivity
 - Increased medical intervention
 - Hospital admissions



Source: Air Quality in Europe 2016 (EEA)



Associated Economic Costs

- **EU**

- €15bn from lost workdays,
- €4bn healthcare costs,
- €3bn crop yield loss and
- €1bn damage to buildings
- Environment damage e.g. forests, lakes etc.

- **Ireland**

- ~1.3% GDP in Ireland
- €2 bn per year
- 382,000 workdays per year

Source: EU Clean Air Package Impact Assessment



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- National policy context
- Changing perspective on air pollution & health
- **Developing a Clean Air Strategy**
- Summary/Conclusions



Clean Air Strategy - Consultation



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Cleaning Our Air

Public Consultation to inform the development of
a National Clean Air Strategy



- Clean air vision
- Sectoral issues
 - Residential
 - Transport
 - Agriculture
 - Energy
 - Industry
- Air quality infrastructure
 - monitoring, modelling, research
- Communication and Awareness



Align with national strategies/policies



Draft Bioenergy
October 2014



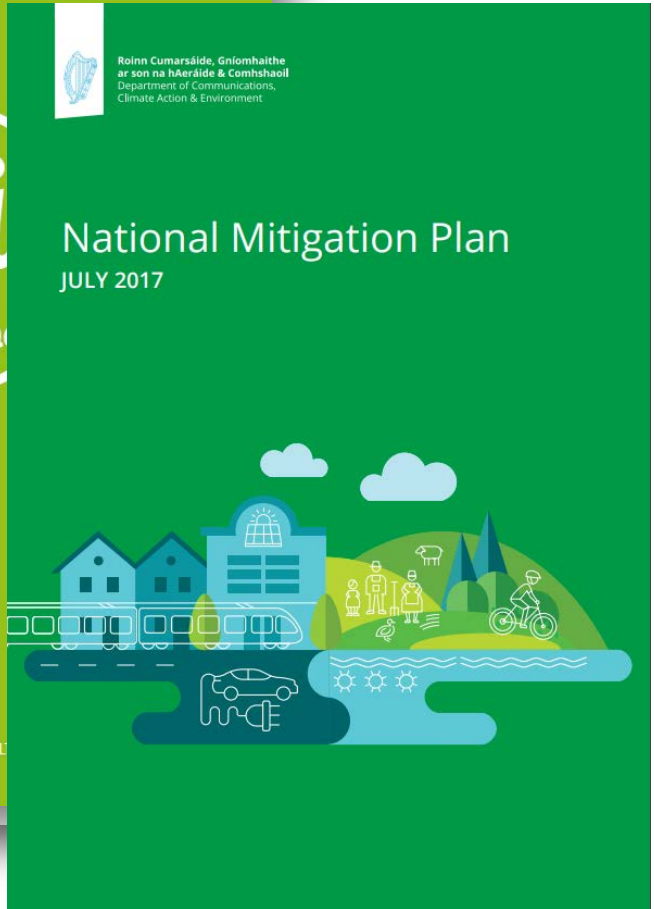
Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnemín agus Post
Department of Communications, Energy and Transport



NATIONAL PEATLAND STRATEGY



A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELLBEING
2013 - 2025



A Clean Air vision for Ireland (1/2)

- Clean air is vital to good **public health**
- Health effects even at **low levels** of air pollution
- Align **clean air and climate policy**
 - Local, regional, transboundary and global impacts



A Clean Air vision for Ireland (2/2)

- Achieve EU and international targets for 2020 & 2030
 - EU National Emission Ceilings Directive 2016/2284
- Transition from solid fuels for home heating
 - 5% of national energy demand => ~50% of PM_{2.5} pollution
- Move from EU levels to **WHO** guideline values?
 - EU 7th Environment Action Programme



Residential Sector

- Extend 'smoky' coal ban nationwide
 - 12 month transition - Autumn 2018 (last audit)
 - Ban on marketing - Autumn 2019
- Local authority enforcement is key –
 - Cover all Local Authorities
 - Updating ESTG training programme
 - Consider merits of regional approach (WERLA model)
 - Multi agency enforcement e.g. Revenue, Garda etc.
 - EPA review NIECE to include Climate/Air theme



0.7% Sulphur Coal



Residential Sector

- How to address emissions from other solid fuels?
 - Role for fiscal measures?
 - Emission standards for stoves (EU Ecodesign)?
 - Fuel quality standards e.g. WFQA for wood?
 - Links to national energy efficiency programmes



Agriculture Sector

- How to reduce ammonia - expansion?
 - Low emission slurry spreading
 - Slurry covers/lagoons
- Odour nuisance
- Agricultural burning



Country air...



Transport Sector

- Major source of NO₂ emissions
- Address vehicle/road/fuel taxation and AQ issues?
 - Identified by Taxation Strategy Group
- Pilot a retro-fit programme for older buses
- Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) removal?
 - Services advertised online – NCT pilot



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Conclusions

- **Significant health impacts** from air pollution
- Requires a **whole of government** approach
- **Synergies with climate policy**
 - though **tensions too** e.g. biomass, diesel vehicles
- **Challenges** with 2020/2030 targets - ammonia



Conclusions

- **Residential solid fuels** - key source air pollution
 - ~5% of energy demand => ~50% of PM_{2.5} pollution
- **Nationwide coal ban**
 - Local authority enforcement is key
 - Covers **all local authorities**
 - Considering a **regional approach**
 - **Multi agency** enforcement e.g. Revenue, Garda etc.





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Thank you for your attention.

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