



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

# The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications Research and Innovation Survey — Public Consultation

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
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Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

## Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Research and Innovation Strategy — Public Consultation

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has set out a vision of a climate neutral, sustainable, and digitally connected Ireland. This will involve leading ambitious climate and environment action across Government and society together with a fundamental shift in sustainable resource use and a transformation of our energy system while at the same time delivering world-class connectivity and cyber security. The Department has identified research and innovation as important enablers of its goals, and is one of a group of five Government Departments which invest significantly in research and innovation. Impact 2030, the national research and innovation strategy, outlines a strong role for the Department in delivering on Strategic Objectives in Climate, Environment and Sustainability (including Energy), and in Digital Transformation (including cyber security). During 2023, the Department is now developing its inaugural Research and Innovation Strategy.

Please complete this survey by 5:30 pm on Friday 11th August.

**Note 1: There are no mandatory consultation questions. Fields can be left blank if you do not wish to answer a particular question.**

**Note 2: Responses to each of the consultation questions is limited to 2000 characters.**

**Note 3: Copying and pasting text into the boxes directly from Microsoft Word may cause user experience issues. To avoid this, it is recommended to 'paste as plain text'.**

**Note 4: You can download a PDF copy of your completed survey after you have submitted it.**

\* Please enter your name

*Text of 5 to 200 characters will be accepted*

\* Please enter your email address

\* Please enter your occupation

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please enter the name of that organisation.

*200 character(s) maximum*

Job Title (if applicable)

What gaps do you see in the Department's current research and innovation activities? How should we address those gaps in the Department Research and Innovation Strategy?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

Ireland's National Open Research Forum (NORF) welcomes the development of a Research and Innovation Strategy by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. NORF helps to facilitate, advocate and progress open research in Ireland and has developed national objectives and priorities for this policy agenda, most recently through the National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030, delivered under Impact 2030.

In line with international priorities for research and innovation as defined by the European Research Area (ERA), European Commission, UNESCO and others, we would like to emphasise Ireland's aim to play a leading role in disseminating research openly and promoting openness for the benefit of science and society. Open science is widely recognised as a critical enabler and accelerator for addressing global societal challenges, including climate and environment action.

The Department can play a key role in supporting this objective by embedding open research as an underpinning principle and expectation of its research performing and research funding activities. This would have several benefits:

- enabling research investments by the Department to have the greatest possible impact and increase the competitiveness and reputation of Irish researchers and institutions in an international research environment;
- supporting the Department's involvement in strategic international collaborations by aligning with European open science requirements (e.g. as mandated by Horizon Europe) and contributing to the ERA priority action to enable open science;
- supporting the national Research and Innovation system and the implementation of Impact 2030 in the cross-cutting policy areas of research culture, research integrity and open research.

What actions can the Department take to identify future trends in the areas under our remit?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

Are there specific thematic areas relevant to the Department's remit which you would like to see more research and innovation activity in? How can this be achieved?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

**Have you views on the impact of disruptive technologies such as AI, Quantum and 6G as part of the digital transformation agenda and the implications of these technologies for the Department?**

*2000 character(s) maximum*

**How can the Department better communicate its research and innovation needs?**

*2000 character(s) maximum*

**How can the Department work more effectively to source evidence from the national research and innovation community to support its work in policy development, policy implementation, and the uptake of new technologies?**

*2000 character(s) maximum*

How can the Department engage more effectively with all stakeholders in the national research and innovation system? If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please state how the Department could more effectively engage with your organisation.

*2000 character(s) maximum*

Several divisions and agencies of the Department are signatories to Ireland's National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030 (<https://norf.ie/national-action-plan/>) and have been engaged in NORF activities, namely the Geological Survey Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency. We strongly encourage the Department to also become a signatory to the National Action Plan to clearly signal its engagement with and commitment to national objectives for open research.

Should the Department seek to grow its capacity to carry out in-house research? If yes, how can this be achieved?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

Are there examples internationally of Government strategies on research and innovation in climate, communications / digital, circular economy, cyber security, energy or environment that we should examine? If so, can you provide details?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

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Are there any other matters you wish to raise in relation to the development of the research and innovation strategy?

*2000 character(s) maximum*

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**Contact**

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