

## **AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS IN IRELAND**



# SULPHUR DIOXIDE

Major precursor to acid deposition, which is associated with the acidification of soils and surface waters and the accelerated corrosion of buildings and monuments. Derived from the sulphur in FOSSIL FUELS such as coal and oil used in combustion activities.

**EMISSIONS HAVE DECREASED SINCE 1990** 

FUEL SWITCHING AND REDUCED SULPHUR CONTENT OF FUELS **RESPONSIBLE FOR REDUCTIONS** 

**EMISSIONS FROM RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SECTORS** HAVE DECREASED

84%

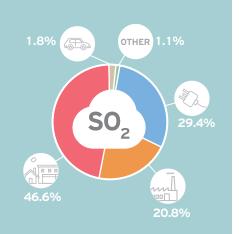
**EMISSIONS FROM ELECTRICITY GENERATION** HAVE DECREASED BY

96%

**ABATEMENT** TECHNOLOGY IN

**ELECTRICIT** 





# NITROGEN OXIDES

Contributes to acidification of soils and surface waters, tropospheric ozone formation and nitrogen saturation in terrestrial ecosystems.





**EMISSIONS HAVE DECREASED** 

**SINCE 1990** 

**AGRICULTURE** A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE DUE TO DUNG, URINE, **MANURES AND** 

**GENERATION AND** TRANSPORT HAS LED TO REDUCTIONS **TRANSPORT** IS LARGEST SOURCE

ACCOUNTING FOR 41%

OF TOTAL EMISSIONS



<del>7</del>

#### AMMONIA

Associated with acid deposition and the formation of secondary particulate matter.

THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR ACCOUNTS
FOR VIRTUALLY ALL
(99 %) OF AMMONIA
EMISSIONS IN IRELAND.



**EMISSIONS HAVE INCREASED** 

ANIMAL

**PRODUCE** 90%

**MANURES** 

AMMONIA EMISSIONS

IN AGRICULTURE

FFRTII I7FR **NITROGEN** 

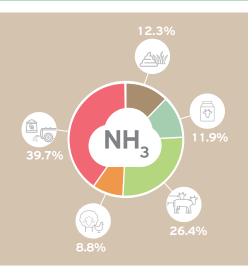
**APPLICATION** 

0 **SINCE 1990** 

NATIONAL EMISSIONS LARGELY DETERMINED BY CATTLE POPULATION AND **NITROGEN FERTILIZER USE** 

**CHEMICAL FERTILISERS ROAD TRANSPORT** ACCOUNT FOR THE REMAINDER





## **NON-METHANE** VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Are emitted by a wide array of paints and solvents. Production of food and beverages, Incomplete combustion of fuels and agriculture are also important sources.







**AGRICULTURE** IS THE LARGEST SOURCE ACCOUNTING FOR

41%

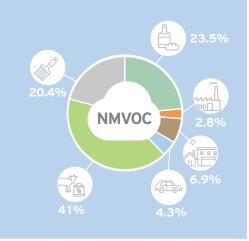
PRODUCTION OF **FOOD AND** 

**BEVERAGES** 

(BEER AND SPIRITS)

ACCOUNTS FOR 23%





#### PARTICULATE MATTER <2.5um

There are many sources, including the combustion of fuels for heating, vehicle exhausts, construction works and industry. Particulate matter can be formed from reactions with other pollutants e.g. ammonia. Particulate matter < 2.5 um is responsible for significant negative effects on human health. Emissions have reduced by 63.3% since 1990.

### THE MAIN SOURCE IS COMBUSTION OF FUELS

IN THE **RESIDENTIAL &** COMMERCIAL **SECTORS** 



#### **FUEL SWITCHING** FROM

**COAL AND PEAT** TO **KEROSENE AND NATURAL** 

**GAS** 

HAS RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT **REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS** 



# **KEY MESSAGES**

**COMPLIANT** WITH EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS FOR









IN BREACH OF



**EMISSION REDUCTIONS TARGETS AND WILL REMAIN SO** 

**EXPANSION OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR** HAS LED



IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT FOR ON-FARM ABATEMENT MEASURES TO REDUCE NH<sub>3</sub> EMISSIONS

Current projections suggest compliance with both the NO. and NMVOC emission reduction targets for 2030 **WILL BE A CHALLENGE** 

Energy efficiency measures across society, more fuel efficient vehicles, refit support schemes and smoky

ON REDUCING EMISSIONS INTO THE FUTURE



For latest information log onto www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment