



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Southern Regional Assembly Planning Department Glossary of Terms

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A

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
AA	Appropriate Assessment	An Assessment of the potential adverse effects of a plan or project (in combination with other plans or projects) on Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.
AAI	Architectural Association of Ireland	The Association is a non-profit voluntary organization, founded in 1896, to promote and afford facilities for the study of Architecture and the Allied Sciences & Arts while providing a medium of friendly communication between the Members and others interested in the progress of Architecture.
ABP	An Bord Pleanála	Ireland's national independent planning body that decides appeals on planning decisions made by local authorities as well as direct applications.
ABTA	Area Based Transport Assessment	ABTA is one of a number of assessment processes, used in the preparation of local area plans, planning schemes and Masterplans. Essentially, its function is to place the integration of land use and transport planning at the centre of the plan preparation process.
ACAs	Architectural Conservation Areas	A place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, technical, social, cultural, or scientific, interest, or that contributes to the appreciation of protected structures.
Action Area Plan	A non-statutory plan that is often used by planning authorities to provide a framework for the sustainable development of an area	Whilst there is no prescribed framework, these plans tend to be used to provide guidance on design, phasing and delivery of development, including associated infrastructure, for a localised area.
Active Frontage	N/A	The ground level edge of a building or space which offers opportunities for surveillance through front doors, shop fronts or overlooking windows.
Active Open Space	N/A	An active open space can refer to parks, playgrounds, outdoor activity areas, sports centres, pitches a landscaped area, or other recreational outdoor spaces.

A

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
AEC	Atlantic Economic Corridor	A key initiative of Project Ireland 2040 which seeks to grow the region from Donegal to Kerry significantly in the coming 20 years. It aims to bring about more balanced regional development, economic growth to support the projected growth in population and public space and infrastructure that complements the quality of life on offer along the Atlantic Coast.
Affordable Housing	N/A	With regard to Government policy on housing in Ireland, the concept of housing affordability is outlined in Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Act), where eligibility for affordable housing is defined on the basis of a ratio of mortgage payments to net income – over 35%.
AFIR	Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (EU 2023/1804 – ‘AFIR’)	Mandates minimum infrastructure requirements on the European Ten-T transport network, which will ensure that there are sufficient, interoperable recharging and alternative fuel refuelling stations.
AILG	Association of Irish Local Government	A representative body that represents and supports the role of Local Authority Elected Members. They are a representative, networking, policy development and training body for the Elected Members of Ireland’s thirty-one County and City Councils.
AIR	Association of Irish Regions	Acts as a representative body for the three regional assemblies in Ireland. It offers advice, guidance, and makes submissions to the Government, its agencies, and EU bodies on behalf of the three regional assemblies.
AIRO	All-Ireland Research Observatory	Undertakes contracted applied research projects in the area of sociodemographic and economic analysis, spatial planning and environmental analysis. AIRO also provides access to a range of free data visualisation and mapping toolkits that have been designed to improve evidence informed planning in Ireland.

B

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
Backland Development	N/A	Development which takes place to the rear of existing structures fronting a street or roadway.
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan	A Local BAP is a comprehensive strategy designed by communities of local authorities to safeguard the biodiversity of a specific region. These plans have important impacts for both the environment and local residents. Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.
BGI	Blue Green Infrastructure	Strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem service.
Blue Economy	N/A	The sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems.
Blueway	N/A	A network of multi-activity recreational trails, based on or alongside coastlines, lakes, canals and rivers.
Brownfield Site	N/A	Brownfield sites or Brownfield lands, which may be defined as "any land which has been subjected to building, engineering or other operations, excluding temporary uses or urban green spaces", generally comprise redundant industrial lands or docks but may also include former barracks, hospitals or even occasionally, obsolete housing areas.
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit	A high-capacity bus-based transit system that delivers fast, reliable, high quality, safe, and cost-effective services at relatively low cost, metro-level capacities. It achieves that through dedicated bus lanes that are median aligned, off-board fare collection, level boarding, bus priority at intersections, and fast and frequent operations.

B-C

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
BTR	Build-to-Rent	Purpose-built residential accommodation and associated amenities built specifically for long-term rental that is managed and serviced in an institutional manner by an institutional landlord.
BUAs	Built Up Areas	BUAs are a new statistical Geography released as part of Census 2022, created by combining small areas to identify the footprint of urban centres across Ireland. They are generated using an objective algorithm run across the State that is used to group buildings together into BUAs.
Building Lines	N/A	A development line along a street or roadway behind, or in front, of which development is discouraged.
Built Environment	N/A	Includes man-made structures, features, and facilities viewed collectively as an environment in which people live and work. Refers to both architectural heritage and archaeological heritage.
CAP24	Climate Action Plan 2024	The CAP24 is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead us to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings that were agreed by Government in July 2022.



Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy	<p>Launched in 1962, the EU's CAP is a partnership between agriculture and society, and between Europe and its farmers. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food;• safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living;• help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;• maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;• keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agrifood industries and associated sectors. <p>The CAP is a common policy for all EU countries. It is managed and funded at European level from the resources of the EU's budget.</p>
CARO	Climate Action Regional Office	<p>The 4 CAROs (Atlantic Seaboard North, Atlantic Seaboard South, Eastern and Midland and Dublin Metropolitan) were established in 2018 and provide guidance, advice and support to Local Authorities to leverage the capability, reach and resources of the sector to effectively address climate change across Ireland.</p>
CCMA	County and City Management Association	<p>Is a non-statutory body and a network of the chief executives of the county and city councils and the assistant chief executives of Dublin City Council.</p>



Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
CDP	City/County Development Plans	Statutory documents setting out an integrated overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area to which the development plan relates. They must be materially consistent with the National Planning Framework; where the planning authority is a coastal planning authority, the National Marine Planning Framework; the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the region within which the planning authority's functional area is located; and any relevant national planning policies and measures.
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy	A set of rules for sustainably managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks.
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management programme	The National CFRAM Programme, was undertaken by the Office of Public Works, with a focus on managing flood risk, rather than relying only on flood protection measures aimed at reducing flooding, taking a catchment-based approach to assessing and managing risks within the whole-catchment context and being proactive in assessing and managing flood risks, including the preparation of flood maps and Flood Risk Management Plans.
Circular Economy	N/A	The circular economy focuses on reducing the amount of raw materials we use and maximising the value of materials along the production and consumption chain. Waste is recycled where possible and brought back into production processes.
CLÁR	Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais	This is an investment programme for small-scale infrastructural projects in depopulated rural areas. CLÁR supports the development of identified areas by attracting people to live and work there.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	N/A	The Act commits Ireland to 2030 and 2050 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing the governance framework. The country is now on a legally binding path to net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of this decade.



Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
CMATS	Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy	The 2040 Strategy has been developed by the National Transport Authority in collaboration with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Cork City Council and Cork County Council. A key principle for CMATS is to reduce dependency on the private car within the Cork Metropolitan Area, while increasing the appeal of sustainable transport options. Another fundamental principle of the strategy is to support the future growth of the Cork Metropolitan Area through the supply of an efficient transport network.
Compact Growth	N/A	Compact Growth is defined in more detail in the National Planning Framework and targets a greater proportion (40%) of future housing development in Ireland to be within the existing 'footprint' of built-up areas. It includes an emphasis on the renewal of existing settlements, rather than continued sprawl.
CPO	Compulsory Purchase Order	A CPO is a legal function that allows certain statutory bodies which need to take land or property to do so without the consent of the owner. The compulsory acquisition of land takes place in Ireland to allow a public infrastructure project to go ahead for the common good.
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities	This is Ireland's independent energy and water regulator. Their work impacts Irish homes and businesses ensuring safe, secure and sustainable energy and water supplies for all customers.
CSO	Central Statistics Office	This is Ireland's national statistical institute. Their role is to provide independent statistics about our society, economy, and environment, which are freely available to everyone and support evidence-informed decision making.
CSP	CAP Strategic Plan	These play an important role in advancing EU agriculture towards a more sustainable farming system. They contribute to fortify the rural socio-economic structures, strengthen farm incomes and ensure food security. They also drive climate action and help safeguard natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	The way that a business takes into account the financial, environmental and social impacts of decisions and actions it is involved in.
CTC	Construction Technology Centre	Construct Innovate is Ireland's construction technology centre. Their vision is to make Ireland a global leader for sustainable construction and built environment technology.
CVS	Community and Voluntary Sector	N/A
D&B	Design & Build (Building Procurement)	Design and build is a workplace procurement route in which the main contractor is appointed to design and construct a development project.
DAC	Disability Access Certificate	A certificate required for new buildings other than dwellings (including apartment buildings) and certain other works (as set out in Article 20D (1) of S.I. 351 of 2009) to which the Requirements of Part M of the Building Regulations apply, and which commence or take place on or after 1 January 2010.
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	N/A
DAU	Development Applications Unit	The Development Applications Unit is a section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which manages and co-ordinates the registration, processing and internal circulation of various development applications received by the Minister, and the subsequent issuing of submissions or observations, if any.
DBEC	Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor	The Dublin to Belfast Corridor is the largest economic agglomeration on the island of Ireland, with the cities and towns along the corridor home to a population of around 2 million people, exclusive of wider catchments. The corridor links the two largest cities and several of the largest towns on the island by high-capacity road and national rail links and plays a critical role in supporting economic growth and competitiveness.

D

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	N/A
Derelict Site	N/A	The Derelict Sites Act defines a derelict site as any land that “ <i>detracts, or is likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the neighbourhood of the land in question because of structures which are in a ruinous dangerous condition, the presence or collection of debris, litter and waste in the structure/land, and the neglected, unsightly or objectionable condition of the land or structures on it</i> ”.
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	N/A
Development Boundary	N/A	Defines the extent to which a settlement may grow during the lifetime of the development plan.
Development Clusters	N/A	If new employment or economic development is encouraged to locate close to other related activities, the resulting development clusters would help to reduce any adverse environmental impacts, reduce any unnecessary travelling and foster the development of specialised labour markets.
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs	N/A
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	N/A
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	N/A
DMAP	Designated Maritime Area Plan	Statutory plans which determine the broad area where offshore renewable energy projects can be developed, and act as a management plan for specific areas of our marine waters, which can be used to develop multiactivity area plans to promote the use of specific activities, including offshore renewables.

D

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
DMURS	Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets	DMURS provides guidance relating to the design of urban roads and streets. It presents a series of principles, approaches and standards that are necessary to achieve balanced, best practice design outcomes with regard to street networks and individual streets.
DoCoMoMo	Documentation & Conservation of the Buildings, Sites & Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement	DO.CO.MO.MO International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement.
DoT	Department of Transport	N/A
DPENDR	Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform	N/A
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development	N/A
DRS	Deposit and Return Scheme	When you buy a drink in a container with the Re-turn logo, you are charged a refundable deposit. You can then claim back the levy by returning the empty container.
DSP	Department of Social Protection	N/A
DTIF	Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund	This is a €500 million challenge-based fund established under Project Ireland 2040. It is one of four funds set up under the National Development Plan 2018-2027. It is managed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and administered by Enterprise Ireland.
DTM	Digital Terrain Model	Sometimes called Digital Elevation Models (DEM), DTM is a topographic model of the bare Earth that can be manipulated by computer programs. The data files contain the elevation data of the terrain in a digital format which relates to a rectangular grid. Vegetation, buildings and other cultural features are removed digitally leaving just the underlying terrain. DTMs are used especially in civil engineering, geodesy & surveying, geophysics, geography and remote sensing.

D-E

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
DZ	Decarbonising Zone	A spatial area identified by the local authority, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets.
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	Finances the EU's contribution to rural development programmes.
EAG	External Advisory Group	N/A
EAP	Environmental Action Programme	The 8th EAP entered into force on 2 May 2022, as the EU's legally agreed common agenda for environment policy until 2030. The action programme reiterates the EU's long-term vision to 2050 of living well and within planetary boundaries. It sets out priority objectives for 2030 and the conditions needed to achieve these. Building on the European Green Deal, the action programme aims to speed up the transition to a climate neutral, resource-efficient economy, recognising that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on healthy ecosystems.
EaSI	Employment and Social Innovation	This builds on the former EaSI programme 2014-2020, maintaining the focus on evidence-based policy-making and social experimentation, support to job mobility and the non-financial instrument activities related to the former Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis.
EBA	Ecosystem Based Approach	This approach (and similar terms ecosystem-based management, or ecosystem approach) is highlighted as an important underlying principle within maritime spatial planning. It has its origins in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The ecosystem-based approach (EBA) has had a large impact on policies concerning the usage and management of natural resources and is also a starting point for the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

E

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management	An integrated approach that incorporates the entire ecosystem, including humans, into resource management decisions, and is guided by an adaptive management approach.
EC	European Commission	The European Commission is the executive body of the European Union. Its main roles include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposing new laws and policies; • monitoring their implementation; • managing the EU budget.
ECC	Enhanced Community Care	This HSE programme is increasing community healthcare services and reducing the pressure on hospital services. This means more services are now closer to where people live.
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment	An EclA is the process through which the potential impacts resulting from a project are identified, quantified, and assessed through appropriate ecology surveys. A comprehensive EclA typically includes the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop study: Review of existing ecological data and records; • Field surveys: Habitat mapping and species-specific surveys; • Ecological evaluation: Assessing the importance of identified ecological features; • Impact assessment: Predicting and characterising potential impacts of the proposed development; • Mitigation hierarchy: Avoiding, minimising, and compensating for ecological impacts; • Enhancement measures: Proposals to improve biodiversity beyond the pre-development baseline; • Monitoring recommendations: Long-term ecological monitoring plan.
Eco-System Services	N/A	Ecosystem services are the many and varied benefits that humans freely gain from the natural environment and from properly functioning ecosystems.

E

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
ED's	Electoral Divisions	Electoral Divisions are the smallest legally defined administrative areas in the state. There are 3,440 legally defined EDs in the state.
EDEN	Environmental Data Exchange Network	Provides an online gateway to Environmental and Radiological Protection Licensing, Monitoring, GIS and reporting applications for organisations to communicate with the EPA and share data with each other.
EDIHs	European Digital Innovation Hubs	These hubs are one-stop shops supporting companies and public sector organisations to respond to digital challenges and become more competitive. They support companies to improve business/production processes, products, or services using digital technologies by providing access to technical expertise and testing, as well as the possibility to 'test before invest, providing innovation services, such as financing advice, training, and skills development that are central to successful digital transformation, and helping companies tackle environmental issues, in particular the use of digital technologies for sustainability and circularity.
EEA	European Environment Agency	The agency provides valuable insights on the state of Europe's environment. Thanks to reliable data collected from their extensive network, we actively support Europe's environment and climate policies.
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	An "exclusive economic zone," or "EEZ" is an area of the ocean, generally extending 200 nautical miles (230 miles) beyond a nation's territorial sea, within which a coastal nation has jurisdiction over both living and non-living resources.
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment	The process of examining the anticipated environmental effects of a proposed project - from consideration of environmental effects at design stage, through consultation and preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), evaluation of the EIAR by a competent authority and the subsequent decision as to whether the project should be permitted to proceed.

E

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
EIB	European Investment Bank	<p>Established in 1958, the EU bank focuses on the following eight core strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate action; • Digitalisation and technological innovation; • Security and defence; • A modern cohesion policy; • Agriculture and bioeconomy; • Social infrastructure; • High-impact global investment; • Capital markets union. <p>The EIB works closely with other EU institutions to foster European integration, promote the development of the EU and support EU policies in over 160 countries around the world.</p>
ELC	European Landscape Convention	This convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centering on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes.
ELCFAM	Environmental Legal Costs Financial Assistance Mechanism	The purpose of the environmental legal costs financial assistance mechanism is to contribute to the legal costs incurred by applicants for environmental measures taken.
ELD	Environmental Liability Directive	The ELD entered into force in 2007. It established a comprehensive EU-wide liability regime for environmental damage based on the ‘polluter-pays’ principle. By making those that have caused environmental damage liable for remediation, the ELD provides a strong incentive to avoid damage occurring in the first place. It also makes those whose activities threaten the environment liable for taking preventive action. The ELD supports other EU environmental laws that are designed to protect the environment.
ELVs	Emission Limit Values	N/A
EMEC	European Marine Energy Centre	N/A
EMFAF	European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund	This fund runs from 2021 to 2027 and supports the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance.

E

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	This fund was for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014 to 2020.
EMR	Eastern and Midland Region	N/A
EMRA	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	N/A
END	Environmental Noise Directive	Requires member states to prepare and publish strategic noise maps and noise management action plans every five years.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	N/A
EPBD	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	Aiming to achieve a fully decarbonised building stock by 2050, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive contributes directly to the EU's energy and climate goals.
EPC	Energy Performance Contracting	This is a form of 'creative financing' for capital improvement which allows funding energy upgrades from cost reductions. Under an EPC arrangement an external organisation implements a project to deliver energy efficiency, or a renewable energy project, and uses the stream of income from the cost savings, or the renewable energy produced, to repay the costs of the project, including the costs of the investment. Essentially the ESCO will not receive its payment unless the project delivers energy savings as expected.
EQS	Environmental Quality Standard	N/A
ER	Environmental Report	A report which sets out the process of, the impacts identified, and proposed recommendations and/or mitigation measures identified as part of an Environmental Assessment process.
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund	This fund is designed to strengthen economic, social, and territorial cohesion in the European Union. It aims to do this by correcting imbalances between regions enabling investments in a smarter, greener, more connected, and more social Europe that is closer to its citizens.

E

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
ERI	Environmental Research Institute	The Institute was established in 2000 by University College Cork as a flagship institute to integrate over 400 researchers from 20 University schools and departments and 6 research centres to work together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable society.
ERNACT	European Regions Network for the Application of Communications Technology	ERNACT is an international digital transformation network established in 1991. It is managed by Donegal County Council (Ireland) and Derry City & Strabane District Council (Northern Ireland) to jointly pursue opportunities in funding, development and knowledge transfer for digital transformation.
ESA	European Space Agency	The European Space Agency is a 23- member intergovernmental body devoted to space exploration. Its mission is to shape the development of Europe's space capability and ensure that investment in space continues to deliver benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world.
ESB	Electricity Supply Board	A majority state owned electricity company with responsibility for multiple facets of the Irish electricity network and market.
ESCos	Energy Service Companies	A company that offers energy services which may include implementing energy-efficiency projects (and also renewable energy projects) and in many cases on a turn-key basis.
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development	The second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development provides a framework to support the contribution that the education sector is making and will continue to make towards a more sustainable future at a number of levels: individual, community, local, national and international.
ESF	European Social Fund	The ESF is the EU's main instrument for investing in people, focusing on improving employment and education opportunities as well as enhancing social inclusion and tackling poverty.

E

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds	These funds support economic development across all of the European Union. They make up over half of the European Union's budget. The Funds work together to invest in education, research, and job creation to help create a sustainable and healthy economy across the whole of the country.
ESM	Environmental Sensitivity Mapping	The ESM Webtool places environmental awareness at the heart of decision-making in Ireland. The webtool is a collaborative public sector data project between the UCD School of Geography (concept and design) and the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) at Maynooth University. The project is funded by the EPA, the Office of the Planning Regulator and is hosted by the OSI on GeoHive, the State's GeoSpatial DataHub.
ESR	Effort Sharing Regulation	Establishes for each EU Member State a national target for the reduction of greenhouse gas emission by 2030 in the following sectors: domestic transport (excluding aviation), buildings, agriculture, small industry and waste. In total, the emissions covered by the Effort Sharing Regulation account for almost 60% of total domestic EU emissions.
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute	Produces independent, research with the objective of informing policies that support a healthy economy and promote social progress.
ETB	Education and Training Board	ETBs are active in local communities through the direct provision of training and education programmes delivered in training centres, colleges and other training and educational setting.
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation	ETC, better known as Interreg, is one of the two goals of the EU Cohesion Policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States.

E-F

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
ETS	Emissions Trading System	The system requires polluters to pay for their greenhouse gas emissions. It was launched in 2005 and is the world's first carbon market and among the largest ones globally. It helps bring overall EU emissions down while generating revenues to finance the green transition. It covers emissions from electricity and heat generation, industrial manufacturing and aviation sectors - which account for roughly 40% of total Green House Gas emissions in the EU. The system started covering emissions from maritime transport in 2024 and it operates in all EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and is linked to the Swiss ETS (since 2020).
EU	European Union	N/A
EV	Electric Vehicle	N/A
FAO	Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	This is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and to transform agrifood systems globally.
FAR	Floor Area Ratio	The ratio of a building's total gross floor area to the size of the land area.
Farm Building Development	N/A	There are a variation of farm building typologies which are exempted from the requirements of planning permission. They are broken into building types, with different exemptions assigned to varying building types.
FD	Floods Directive	The objective of the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) is to establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks to reduce the negative consequences of flooding on human health, economic activities, the environment and cultural heritage in the European Union.
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	N/A
FDSP	Forest District Strategic Plan	N/A
FEPS	Forest Environment Protection Scheme	N/A
FET	Further Education and Training	N/A

F

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
FI	Further Information (in the context of a Planning Application)	A local authority can require further information from an applicant for planning permission. This may include further detailed plans or drawings or evidence of such matters as the planning authority requires.
FLAG	Fisheries Local Area Action Group	Fisheries Local Area Action Group 2014 - 2020 is a coastal community development strategy with a fund of €12 million for 7 designated Irish coastal communities. FLAG is administered by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), and is co-funded under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The FLAG strategy is focused on coastal rejuvenation and on the renewal of practices and skills in the Fishing, Aquaculture, and Maritime related sectors with the primary aim of bringing added value to the 7 FLAG Regions. The FLAG programme seeks to encourage and enable local communities involved in fishery and aquaculture sectors to become the drivers of sustainable growth in their areas.
FMI	Future Manufacturing Ireland	Their mission is to help the manufacturing sector in Ireland to access advisory, technical and research resources to drive their competitiveness and digital transformation and to access funding and advisory assistance from Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, SFI and the Local Enterprise Offices.
FMP	Forest Management Plan	The Forest Management Plan give details about future management of the forest for example a stocking rate, nutrient assessment, average height and yield class, planting year, and the projected years for first thinning(s) and clear-fell for each area.

F-G

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment	<p>Flood risk assessments aim to identify, quantify and communicate to decision makers and other stakeholders the risk of flooding to land, property and people. The purpose is to provide sufficient information to determine whether particular actions (such as zoning of land for development, approving applications for proposed development, the construction of a flood protection scheme or the installation of a flood warning scheme) are appropriate. A flood risk assessment can be undertaken either over a large area or for a particular site to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify whether and the degree to which flood risk is an issue; • Identify flood zones (if not already available); • Inform decisions in relation to zoning and planning applications; • Develop appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures for development sited in flood risk areas.
FRM	Flood Risk Management	The Office of Public Works has responsibility for leading and coordinating the implementation of the National Flood Policy which involves the development of a planned programme of feasible works, with a greater emphasis on non-structural flood risk management measures.
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan	N/A
FSC	Fire Safety Certificate	N/A
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	Is a measure of the size of the economy, and the total economic activity in a country. It is the most important indicator of how a country is doing financially for several reasons.

G

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation	GDPR is the toughest privacy and security law in the world. Though it was drafted and passed by the European Union (EU), it imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU. The regulation was put into effect on May 25, 2018.
GES	Good Environmental Status	The concept of ‘good environmental status’ is defined by the Marine Directive through eleven descriptors. These describe the state of the marine environment, such as conserving biodiversity or food webs. They also describe anthropogenic pressures on the marine environment such as commercial fisheries, or pollutants such as marine litter,
GHG	Greenhouse Gases	Gases (Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Nitrous Oxide, Fluorinated Gases) that trap heat in the atmosphere are called greenhouse gases.
GI	Green Infrastructure	The EU defines Green Infrastructure as: “ <i>a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation.</i> ”
GIS	Geographic Information System	A geographic information system is a computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on Earth’s surface. GIS can show many different kinds of data on one map, such as streets, buildings, and vegetation. This enables people to more easily see, analyze, and understand patterns and relationships.
GNI (a)	Gas Networks Ireland	Gas Networks Ireland is a business with a clear purpose in ‘Keeping Ireland’s energy moving’ and an exciting and challenging vision ‘To be at the heart of Ireland’s energy future’. Their strategy is that of a business focused on both “performing” to meet the current energy demands of their consumers and stakeholders, and “transforming” their assets and services to meet their future energy needs.

G

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
GNI (b)	Gross National Income	GNI is a similar measure to Gross National Product. The difference between them are the subsidies the EU pay to us, and the taxes we pay to them. The EU pay subsidies to Irish producers in activities such as farming, and customs duties are paid to the EU by Irish resident firms and households. These taxes and subsidies are quite small relative to the total, so GNI and GNP are more or less the same, but GNI gives a more precise picture of the national economy.
Greenfield Site	N/A	May be defined as open lands on the periphery of cities or larger towns whose development will require the provision of new infrastructure, roads, sewers and ancillary social and commercial facilities, schools, shops, employment and community facilities.
Green Roof	N/A	A green roof or living roof is a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. It may also include additional layers such as a root barrier and drainage and irrigation systems.
Green Wall	N/A	A wall partially or completely covered with greenery that includes a growing medium, such as soil or a substrate. Most green walls also feature an integrated water delivery system.
Greenway	N/A	A recreational or pedestrian and cycling corridor for non-motorised journeys, developed in an integrated manner which enhances both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area.
GSI	Geological Survey Ireland	Founded in 1845, Geological Survey Ireland is Ireland's public earth science knowledge centre. It provides free, open and accurate data and maps on Ireland's subsurface to landowners, the public, industry, and all other domestic and international stakeholders. The agency also acts as a project partner in interpreting data and developing models and viewers.

G-H

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
GST	Gaeltacht Service Town	This is a town with a population of at least 1,000 that is located in, or near to, a Gaeltacht language planning area, and that has a significant role in providing social, economic and leisure services to people within that area.
GVA	Gross Value Added	Is the value that producers have added to the goods and services, they have bought.
Hard Landscaping	N/A	The use of inorganic and inanimate materials, for example rock and stone, in the landscaping of an area, frequently including artificial and manmade objects, such as seating, paving, railings, etc.
HEI	Higher Education Institute	N/A
HI	Healthy Ireland	N/A
HNDA	Housing Need Demand Assessment	Comprises a standardised methodology that can quantify the current and projected housing needs of a particular local authority area including in relation to requirements for different tenures. It is intended to be the central evidence base used to inform Housing Strategy preparation (under section 94 of the Planning and Development Act 2000), which will in turn inform the housing policies of the county or city development plan. National Policy Objective 37 of the National Planning Framework provides for a Housing Need and Demand Assessment to be undertaken in each local authority area. The objective is to ensure long-term strategic housing needs are met.
HOOW	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth	An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland highlights the potential benefits and economic impact the Blue Economy can have for Ireland. Over the past number of years, the Irish Maritime Development Office has in conjunction with its parent agency, the Marine Institute, contributed to the formation of a national development plan for the marine sector and specifically the maritime services industry.

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
HPA	Health Place Audit	Healthy Placemaking seeks to protect and enhance the unique identity and character of places and to facilitate improvements to human well-being and the quality of life that comes from the interaction of people and their environment. Health Place Audits are conducted to investigate areas that require healthy placemaking.
HSA	Health & Safety Authority	Responsible for the enforcement of workplace health and safety law, the implementation of chemicals regulations, and accreditation.
HSE	Health Service Executive	N/A
IAE	Ireland's Ancient East	This is a destination marketing brand showcasing regions around the East Coast and parts of the South Coast of Ireland.
IBEC	Irish Business and Employers Confederation	Ireland's largest lobby and business representative group. Their purpose is to help build a better, sustainable future by influencing, supporting and delivering for business success. Ibec engages with key stakeholders in Ireland and internationally through their six regional offices and their Brussels office, along with an extensive international network in the UK and US.
ICLRD	International Centre for Local and Regional Development	The ICLR is a North-South-US partnership. It was formally established in 2006 to explore and expand the contribution that spatial planning and the development of physical, social and economic infrastructure can make to peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, and elsewhere.
ICT	Information & Communications Technology	N/A
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Is a process that can help to address social, economic, environmental and governance issues faced by coastal communities.

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
IDA	Industrial Development Agency	Industrial Development Agency Ireland is an autonomous Statutory Agency set up under the Industrial Development Acts 1986-2019. The Agency operates in accordance with the provisions of the Act and under the aegis of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, who is empowered to provide funds to discharge its obligations and issue general policy directives/seek information on the Agency's activities.
IFNC	International Forum on Natural Capital	N/A
IGEES	Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service	This is an integrated cross-government service established in 2012 with the objective of enhancing the role of economics and value for money analysis in public policy making. It is part of the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. IGEES policy analysts work within all government departments and the Revenue Commissioners.
IHH	Ireland's Hidden Heartlands	This is a destination marketing brand showcasing regions in the center of Ireland as opposed to being near the coast.
ILI	Irish Landscape Institute	N/A
IMDO	Irish Maritime Development Office	The IMDO is Ireland's dedicated development, promotional and marketing office for the shipping and shipping-services sector. The IMDO provides government and industry with a range of information and reporting and works with international businesses to help them set-up or expand in Ireland. The IMDO is also Ireland's designated short-sea shipping agency.
IMO	International Maritime Organisation	N/A

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
IMP	Integrated Maritime Policy	This EU policy is based on the idea that the Union can draw higher returns from its maritime space with less impact on the environment by coordinating its wide range of interlinked activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. Hence, the IMP aims at strengthening the so-called blue economy, encompassing all sea-based economic activities.
Infill Housing	N/A	Housing which fills gaps in otherwise continuous built-up frontage and is appropriate to the character of the street and/or village.
IOSEA	Irish Offshore Strategic Environmental Assessment	N/A
IoT	Internet of Things	Refers to a network of physical devices, vehicles, appliances, and other physical objects that are embedded with sensors, software, and network connectivity, allowing them to collect and share data.
IPAS	International Protection Accommodation Services	Provides accommodation to people who are applying for international protection.
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	The United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
IPI	Irish Planning Institute	The all-island professional body representing professional planners engaged in physical, spatial and environmental planning in Ireland and Irish planners practicing overseas.
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control	N/A
IRBD	International River Basin District	River Basin Districts and/or their subunits are the main units for the management of river basins and have been delineated by Member States under Article 3 of the Water Framework Directive.
IREO	Irish Regions European Office	A specialised support service which acts as a bridge between Irish local and regional government and the European Union, explaining and guiding its stakeholders through the Brussels scene and promoting Irish interests and best practices at the European level.

I-J

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
IRLOGI	Irish Organisation for Geographic Information	N/A
IRO	International Research Organisations	N/A
ISAX	Irish Smart Ageing Exchange	ISAX was created in response to the rapid ageing of populations across the world and the challenges that throws up for healthcare and income security systems. Their “Build Your Own Business” Programme is tailored for people aged 50+ who want to start their own business. This is led by ISAX and run in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Offices and by Bank of Ireland.
ISIF	Irish Strategic Investment Fund	This fund, managed and controlled by the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA), is a sovereign development fund with a unique mandate to invest on a commercial basis to support economic activity and employment in Ireland.
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	This is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Its experts are organised into six commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication.
JR	Judicial Review	A mechanism by which an application can be made to the High Court to challenge the decision making processes of administrative bodies and lower courts.
JTF	Just Transition Fund	The Fund’s single specific objective is to support the regions and communities in Europe that are most negatively affected by the transition to climate neutrality, ensuring that no one is left behind. In essence, the EU JTF aims to address employment, economic, social and environmental impacts that come with the shift away from carbon-intense activities. In Ireland’s case, the territory supported by the fund will focus on the regions where there have been direct impacts from the move away from peat production and electricity generation from peat.

K-L

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
Key Viewpoints	N/A	Places from which a development can be viewed that are crucial and sensitive with respect to observer numbers and interest.
KPI	Key Performance Indicator	N/A
LA	Local Authority	N/A
LAMA	Local Authority Members Association	A representative body for local authority members.
Landscape Sensitivity	N/A	Describes the extent to which a particular landscape can absorb a particular kind of development without affecting its distinctive character.
Land Use	N/A	The activities that take place within a given area of space.
Land Use Zoning	N/A	The purpose of zoning is to indicate the land use objectives for all the lands within a given area. Zoning aspires to promote the orderly development of public infrastructure and facilities within a given area.
LAP	Local Area Plan	Sets out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of a specific area within a local authority and for a timescale as specified by the authority.
LARES	Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy	N/A
LASNTG	Local Authority Services National Training Group	Coordinates the development and delivery of training to local authority employees in the areas of water services, roads, environment, fire services, climate action, and planning.
LAWPRO	Local Authority Waters Programme	The Local Authority Waters Programme is a Local Authority shared service with 60 specialist staff from a broad range of backgrounds and expertise.
LAWSAT	The Local Authority Water Support and Advice Team	N/A



Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Ensure the continuity of these services by conserving the plants, animals, and microorganisms that contribute to these vital ecosystem services. Consequently, local communities directly benefit from the maintenance of these services, which are integral to their livelihoods.
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. LCAs identify and explain the combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinct from one another by mapping and describing landscape character types and areas. The associated description of their distinctive characteristics shows how the landscape is perceived and experienced by people.
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee	The LCDC has primary responsibility for coordinating, planning and overseeing local, community and rural development funding.
LCI	Living City Initiative	This initiative is a tax incentive scheme for Special Regeneration Areas. You can claim tax relief for money you spend on refurbishing, or converting, residential or commercial properties. The scheme will end for all reliefs on 31 December 2027.
LDA	Land Development Agency	The LDA is a commercial, State sponsored body that has been created to coordinate land within public control to provide affordable and social homes and build communities across the nation.
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale	Links between actions for the development of the rural economy. A European Union initiative to support rural development projects initiated at the local level to revitalise rural areas and create jobs.



Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plans	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.
LEO	Local Enterprise Office	N/A
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency	The agency provides a range of professional services to the local government sector. They work collaboratively with all 31 local authorities to support the coordinated and cost-effective delivery of local government services and policy. They also help local authorities to implement change and enhance performance.
LIHAF	Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund	This fund is a key element of Pillar 3 of Rebuilding Ireland: An Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness. The objective of the fund is to provide public off-site infrastructure to relieve critical infrastructure blockages which have been identified as one of the main impediments to the development of key sites for housing, thus enabling the accelerated delivery of residential units on these sites in both Dublin and urban areas of high demand for housing.
LNG	Liquified Natural Gas	N/A
LoLo	Lift-on/Lift-off	Lift-On, Lift-Off refers to a cargo vessel with onboard cranes used for loading and off-loading goods.
LPAs	Language Planning Areas	The Gaeltacht has been divided into 26 various areas which are called Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas (LPT). According to the Act, the community in every LPT must prepare a language plan for their own area so that it can be recognised as a Gaeltacht area.
LRD	Large-scale Residential Development	N/A
LRT	Light Rail Transit	N/A

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
LSMATS	Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy	Sets out the framework for the delivery of the transport system required to further the development of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as a hub of cultural and social development and regeneration; as the economic core for the Mid-West; as an environmentally sustainable and unified metropolitan unit; as a place where people of all ages can travel conveniently and safely; and a place that attracts people, jobs and activity from all over Ireland and beyond.
LTP	Local Transport Plan	These plans represent the application of national, regional and metropolitan transport policies and objectives at the level of the individual settlement. They can be undertaken for towns of varying scales and suburban areas of larger conurbations. The precise content of an individual LTP is dependent on several factors. These include the scale of the settlement; the potential for investment in sustainable transport; and the extent to which transport planning in the location may be influenced by individual major schemes or issues.
LUTS	Land Use and Transportation Study	N/A
MAC	Maritime Area Consent	The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority facilitates a streamlined consenting process for developers, and a route for developers to the planning system, by assessing applications for Maritime Area Consents. Development is subject to a single comprehensive environmental assessment by the relevant planning authority. A MAC is the gateway into the planning system as MACs are required before any planning applications are made to An Bord Pleanála and the coastal local authorities. A MAC may be granted following assessment of the applicant and the proposed project, and only MAC holders can apply for development permission in the maritime area. A MAC is the right to occupy a part of the maritime area, conditional on securing other necessary approvals.



Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
MANs	Metropolitan Area Networks	Enet operates fibre optic infrastructure known as the Metropolitan Area Networks on behalf of the Irish government. These networks are capable of delivering virtually unlimited bandwidth to 94 towns and cities throughout regional Ireland. The MANs operate on an open-access basis, meaning that all licenced carriers can have access. This model is contrary to traditional operators' exclusivity of network and allows for competition in a way that has not previously happened.
MARA	Maritime Area Regulatory Authority	<p>The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority is a state agency that was established in 2023. MARA's functions are set out in the Maritime Area Planning Acts 2021 and 2022, and it has a key role to play in the new streamlined consenting system for the maritime area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessing Maritime Area Consent (MAC) applications for the maritime area, which are required by developers before development permission can be granted;• Granting marine licencing for specified activities;• Compliance and enforcement of MACs, licences and offshore development consents;• Investigations and prosecutions;• Administration of the existing foreshore consent portfolio;• Fostering and promoting cooperation between regulators of the maritime area.
MaREI	Marine and renewable energy research, development and innovation centre	MaREI is the Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine research and innovation, coordinated by the Environmental Research Institute at University College Cork. The Centre comprises over 200 researchers working with over 50 industry partners, focusing on defined global challenges such as the Energy Transition, Climate Action and the Blue Economy.

M

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
MASP	Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan	<p>MASPS are integrated land use and transportation strategies that have been prepared for our metropolitan areas. They involve a coordinated approach to planning, involving cross boundary issues, in Cork (Cork City Council and Cork County Council), Limerick - Shannon (Limerick City and County Council and Clare County Council) and Waterford (Waterford City and County Council and Kilkenny County Council).</p> <p>The MASP sets out the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Vision for the future growth of the metropolitan area and key growth enablers, identifying strategic corridors based on their capacity to achieve compact sustainable and sequential growth, along key public transport corridors, existing and planned; • Large-scale strategic residential, employment and regeneration development opportunities and any infrastructure deficits or constraints that need to be addressed. • A sequence of infrastructure priorities to promote greater co-ordination between local authorities, public transport and infrastructure providers for the phased delivery of sites.
MD	Municipal District	Local Authority areas are divided into municipal districts, with councillors simultaneously representing the municipal district and the local authority. In total, there are 95 municipal districts in the country.
MEP	Member of the European Parliament	N/A
Metadata	N/A	Information that identifies, locates and describes the characteristics of spatial datasets, to facilitate cataloguing and accessing them, as well as establishing their fitness for use (i.e. quality) and their fitness for purpose (i.e. usability).
MPA	Marine Protected Area	N/A

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
MPDM	Marine Planning & Development Management	N/A
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Protects the marine ecosystem and biodiversity upon which our health and marine-related economic and social activities depend.
MSP	Maritime Spatial Planning	The tool to manage the use of our seas and oceans coherently, and to ensure that human activities take place in an efficient, safe and sustainable way.
MUD	Multi-Unit Development	N/A
NAF	National Adaption Framework	Sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts.
NAP	National Aviation Policy	The primary objective of this policy is to facilitate and enhance Ireland's air connectivity in a safe, competitive, cost-effective and sustainable manner, in the wider context of supporting Ireland's economic and social goals. In order to achieve this objective, the NAP clearly outlines specific policy positions and actions in relation to nine different aspects of aviation.
NBAP	National Biodiversity Action Plan	The plan sets the national biodiversity agenda and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.
NBDC	National Biodiversity Data Centre	Works to make biodiversity data and information more freely available in order to better understand and assist the protection of Ireland's biodiversity.
NBP	National Broadband Plan	N/A
NBS	Nature-Based Solutions	Leverage nature and the power of healthy ecosystems to protect people, optimise infrastructure and safeguard a stable and biodiverse future.

N

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
NCA	Natural Capital Accounting	A tool to measure the changes in the stock and condition of natural capital (ecosystems) at a variety of scales and to integrate the flow and value of ecosystem services into accounting, and reporting systems, in a standard way. Based on the United Nations new statistical framework, it provides a common set of rules and methods to track changes in ecosystems and their services across policy areas.
NCFHM	National Coastal Flood Hazard Maps	These coastal flood hazard maps, for both flood extent and depth, have been produced for a range of annual exceedance probabilities for the present day as well as for multiple future scenarios (including: MRFS, HEFS, H+EFS and H++EFS). The maps show the worst-case scenario as any flood defences potentially protecting the coastal floodplain are not taken into account, and so are in-line with the definition of the flood zones as set out in the guidelines.
NCP	National Oil/HNS Spill Contingency Plan	The Minister for Transport has developed a plan in accordance with the Sea Pollution (Amendment) Act, 1999 specifying the measures to be taken to prevent and minimise damage in the state resulting from discharge of oil/HNS (hazardous and noxious substances) from ships, offshore units and oil handling facilities. This NCP meets the requirement of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to which Ireland is a signatory.
NDCA	National Dialogue on Climate Action	The 2020 Program for Government committed Ireland to becoming a net zero and climate neutral economy by no later than 2050. For Ireland to make this transition, we need to make changes in our society and economy, and a collaborative effort is required by government, business, communities, and individuals. The National Dialogue on Climate Action will be the primary vehicle through which this will be realised, delivering a systematic means of actively engaging stakeholders and the public with climate action, across Ireland enabling and empowering people at a local and national level.

N

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
NDP	National Development Plan	The National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan 2021-2030 combine to form Project Ireland 2040. The National Planning Framework sets the vision and strategy for the development of our country to 2040, and the NDP provides the enabling investment to implement that strategy.
NEC	National Emissions Ceilings Directive	Establishes emission ceilings for 2020 and 2030 for five specified pollutants: NOx, VOCs, SOx, PM2.5 and NH3. It also mandates the development of a National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) for each Member State. The NAPCP is intended to show the pathway Ireland will follow to achieve compliance with the NEC 2020 and 2030 targets.
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan	The framework within which EU Member States must notify their climate and energy objectives, targets, policies, and measures to the European Commission and were established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Member States are required to develop NECPs on a ten-year rolling basis. The aim of the plan is to outline energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and provide projections and ambitions towards 2050.
NERP	National Economic Recovery Plan	N/A
NESC	National Economic and Social Council	Its primary role is to advise the Taoiseach on strategic policy issues relating to sustainable economic, social and environmental development in Ireland. Members of the Council are appointed by the Taoiseach for a three to five year term. These members are representatives of business and employers' organisations, trade unions, agricultural and farming organisations, community and voluntary organisations, and environmental organisations. Heads of Government departments and independent experts are also represented.

N

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
NFHC	National Fisheries Harbour Centres	Established as a network of harbours around the coast of Ireland to promote and develop fishing activities.
NFI	National Forest Inventory	Its purpose is to record and assess the extent and nature of Ireland's forests, both public and private, in a timely, accurate and reproducible manner.
NGO	Non-government organisation	N/A
NHA	Natural Heritage Area	Created by the Natural Parks and Wildlife Service, they are areas considered important for the habitats present, or areas which hold species whose habitats require protection. They are the basic designation for wildlife protection in the Irish state.
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage	Is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures.
NIFTI	National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland	Sets out clear principles for the consideration of future transport investment and is closely aligned with key Government policy priorities and commitments, such as the Climate Action Plan and the National Development Plan.
NIO	National Investment Outcomes	N/A
NIR	Natura Impact Report	A statement for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, of the implications of a Land Use Plan, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites.

N

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
<p>NIS</p>	<p>Natura Impact Statement</p>	<p>S.I.477 of 2011 European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 defines a Natura Impact Statement as "<i>a report comprising the scientific examination of a plan or project and the relevant European Site or European Sites, to identify and characterise any possible implications of the plan or project individually or in combination with other plans or projects in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites, and any further information including, but not limited to, any plans, maps or drawings, scientific information or data required to enable the carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment</i>".</p>
<p>NLS</p>	<p>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland</p>	<p>Ireland signed and ratified the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention which came into effect on 1 March 2004. The Convention has been ratified by thirty-eight countries. It obliges Ireland to implement policy changes and objectives concerning the management, protection and planning of the landscape. The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the ELC and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing it while positively managing its change. It is a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.</p>
<p>NMP</p>	<p>National Mitigation Plan</p>	<p>Published on 19 July 2017, this plan represented an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low-carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This whole-of-government approach called upon each Minister with responsibility for the largest emitting sectors (agriculture, transport, electricity, and the built environment) to develop sectoral mitigation measures to tackle greenhouse gas emissions for the next and future decades.</p>

N

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
NMPF	National Marine Planning Framework	<p>Brings together all marine-based human activities, outlining the government’s vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity. The NMPF details how these marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that it under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of our marine resources to 2040. The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a clear direction for managing our seas; • Clarify objectives and priorities; • Direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, planned, and efficient use of our marine resources.
NOAC	National Oversight and Audit Commission	<p>Is the national independent oversight body for the local government sector in Ireland. It was established in July 2014 under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 to provide independent oversight of the local government sector (local authorities and associated bodies), including Regional Assemblies. NOAC’s functions are wide ranging, covering all local authority activities and involving the scrutiny of performance generally and financial performance specifically.</p>
NOC	National Oversight Committee	<p>Chaired by the Minister with responsibility for the <i>National Drugs Strategy</i>, the committee meets quarterly to give leadership and direction to support implementation of the national drugs strategy - <i>Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025</i>. The Committee consists of a cross-sector membership from the statutory, community and voluntary sector, as well as clinical and academic expertise.</p>
NPA	Northern Periphery and Arctic	<p>Support cooperation between communities living in remote and sparsely populated regions in the northernmost part of Europe and Arctic.</p>

N

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
NPF	National Planning Framework	The National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan 2021-2030 combine to form Project Ireland 2040. The NPF sets the vision and strategy for the development of our country to 2040 and the NDP provides the enabling investment to implement that strategy. It is a national document that will guide at a high-level, strategic planning and development for the country over the next 20+ years, so that as the population grows that growth is sustainable (in economic, social, and environmental terms). The NPF with the National Development Plan will also set the context for each of Ireland's three Regional Assemblies to develop their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies taking account of, and co-ordinating, local authority county and city development plans in a manner that will ensure national, regional, and local plans align.
NPO	National Policy Objective	The various policies detailed in the National Planning Framework are structured under National Policy Objectives.
NPP	The National Ports Policy	Provides the framework for the provision of port services.
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Is part of the Heritage Division of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Its role, amongst others, is to secure the conservation of a representative range of ecosystems to maintain and enhance populations of flora and fauna in Ireland, and to manage, maintain, and develop State-owned National Parks, and Nature Reserves.
NRDA	National Regeneration and Development Agency	Established to work with Local Authorities, public bodies, and the business community, harnessing public lands as catalysts to stimulate regeneration and wider investment.
NRRP	National Recovery and Resilience Plan	The overall objective of Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan is to contribute to a sustainable, equitable, green, and digital recovery effort, in a manner that complements and supports the Government's broader recovery effort.

N

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
NSO	National Strategic Outcomes	The goals expressed in the National Planning Framework are called National Strategic Outcomes.
NSS	National Spatial Strategy	The National Spatial Strategy 2002- 2020 was the predecessor of the current National Planning Framework. The NSS aimed to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by more effective planning.
NTA	National Transport Authority	Is the licensing authority for the commercial bus sector and small public service vehicles. The NTA works with local authorities throughout Ireland to deliver active travel infrastructure that facilitates cycling, walking and wheelchair use.
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics	The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics were created by Eurostat to define territorial units for the production of regional statistics across the European Union. In 2003 the NUTS classification was established within a legal framework (Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003). The administrative territorial breakdown of EU Member States is the basis of the NUTS classification with Ireland categorised as NUTS 1. There are three NUTS 2 Regions which correspond to the Regional Assemblies established in the 2014 Local Government Act, including the Southern Regional Assembly area. The NUTS 3 Regions are Mid-West: Clare, Limerick, and Tipperary, South-West: Cork (City and County) and Kerry, and South-East: Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford. The NUTS 3 definition differs to the SPA definition in that, within the SPA definition, Tipperary is included in both the Mid-West and South-East SPA sub regions; whereas, Tipperary is only included in the Mid-West in the NUTS 3 definition.
NWE	North-West Europe	N/A
NWPP	National Waste Prevention Programme	The programme aims to provide tools and information to businesses, individuals and the public sector to influence behavioural change, support sustainable choices and inform policy.

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
NWR	Northern & Western Region	N/A
NWRA	Northern & Western Regional Assembly	N/A
NWRP	National Water Resources Plan	A plan to identify how Uisce Éireann will provide a safe, sustainable, secure, and reliable water supply to our customers for now and into the future whilst safeguarding the environment. It is a 25-year strategy to ensure we have a safe, sustainable, secure, and reliable drinking water supply for everyone.
NZEB	Nearly Zero Energy Building	These rules require buildings to have a very high energy performance. The nearly zero or very low amount of energy required should be covered to a very significant extent by energy from renewable sources, including energy from renewable sources produced on-site or nearby.
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development	An international organization established in 1961 that works closely with policy makers, stakeholders, and citizens to establish evidence-based international standards and to find solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges. Their core aim is to set international standards and support their implementation and help countries forge a path towards stronger, fairer, and cleaner societies.
OGP	Office of Government Procurement	N/A
OPR	Office of the Planning Regulator	Established in April 2019 on foot of recommendations made by the Tribunal of Inquiry into Certain Planning Matters and Payments (the Mahon Tribunal). The OPR's role is to ensure that local authorities and An Bord Pleanála support and implement Government planning policy. They also implement planning research, training, and public awareness in order to promote the public's engagement in the planning process and to enhance knowledge and public information about planning in Ireland.

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
OPW	Office of Public Works	Provides accommodation for Government Services and manages much of the State's property portfolio. The OPW has responsibility for caring for 780 heritage sites, including national monuments, historical parks, gardens, and buildings.
ORE	Offshore Renewable Energy	N/A
OREDPA	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan	The OREDPA provides a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources. It sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area.
PA	Planning Authority	N/A
PDA	Planning & Development Act	N/A
Peatway	N/A	Recreational and environmental trails through peatland areas.
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services	Can be regarded as an agreement between a seller (the landowner) and a buyer (the State) over a well-defined environmental area.
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment	N/A
PI 2040	Project Ireland 2040	The National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan 2021-2030 combine to form Project Ireland 2040. Project Ireland 2040 is the government's long-term overarching strategy and seeks to ensure alignment of investment plans with the stated National Strategic Objectives for 2040.
Plot Ratio	N/A	This is the gross floor area of the building(s) divided by the area of the site and is used to depict the intensity of use of a site. In calculating the area of a site, adjoining road widths are excluded.
PNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Area	N/A

P,Q-R

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
POPS	Persistent Organic Pollutants	A group of organic chemicals that remain stable over long periods of time and are toxic to humans, animals and the environment. The term POPs is attributed to those specific organic chemicals that have been designated and listed as POPs under the Listing of POPs in the Stockholm Convention.
PPN	Public Participation Network	A network that allows local authorities to connect with community groups around the country. The PPN is the 'go to' for all local authorities who wish to benefit from community and voluntary expertise in their area.
PPP	Public Private Partnership	Is a different method of procuring public services and infrastructure by combining the best of the public and private sectors with an emphasis on value for money and delivering quality public services.
Proxy Data	N/A	Data that substitutes or acts as a proxy to the relevant data when these do not exist or have not been gathered.
PRPs	Pollution Reduction Programmes	N/A
PSPA	Proposed Special Protection Area	N/A
PWS	Private Water Scheme	N/A
QBC	Quality Bus Corridor	N/A
RA	Regional Assembly	N/A
R&D	Research and Development	N/A
RBD	River Basin District	The area of land and sea, made up of one or more neighbouring river basins together with their associated groundwaters and coastal waters, which is identified under Article 3(1) (of the water framework directive) as the main unit for management of river basins.

R

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
RBMPs	River Basin Management Plans	Sets out the actions that Ireland will take to protect, improve and restore water quality in our waterbodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters) up to 2027. The plan focuses on protecting and restoring water quality by preventing and reducing pollution, by restoring natural ecosystem functions and by continuing to invest in water infrastructure. Ireland is required to produce a river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive.
RDM	Regional Development Monitor	A collaborative project between the three Regional Assemblies in Ireland, the All-Island Research Observatory at Maynooth University and spatial infrastructure partners Tailte Éireann via the GeoHive platform. The RDM hub collates and visualises a range of relevant socio-economic and environmental indicators to present the performance of each of the three regions in terms of achieving the objectives outlined in their respective Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.
REDF	Regional Enterprise Development Fund	A fund designed to support the objectives already outlined by Government in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs and in the Action Plan for Rural Development.
REP	Regional Enterprise Plan	Developed by regional stakeholders and focus on undertaking collaborative initiatives that can help deliver enterprise growth in each of nine regions across Ireland. They contribute to the Programme for Government commitment to achieving more balanced regional development. These ‘bottom-up’ Regional Enterprise Plans complement and build on core strategies of the enterprise agencies, the local enterprise offices, local authorities and the wider range of stakeholder directly involved in supporting enterprise development in the regions.
Residential Density	N/A	This is the measure of housing density used as a basis for development management. It is the number of houses divided by the site area.

R

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
Residual Risk	N/A	The risk which remains after all risk avoidance, substitution and mitigation measures have been implemented, on the basis that such measures can only reduce risk, not eliminate it.
RESPF	Renewable Energy Spatial Policy Framework	This will be the national policy for onshore renewable electricity and will inform and reshape the development and distribution of onshore renewables to enable the delivery of Ireland’s renewable electricity targets, as set out in CAP23. The RESPF will promote a planned and evidence-based approach to the allocation of renewable electricity spatial and generation targets across the three Regional Assemblies, to facilitate the achievement of the national target of 80% gross final consumption of electricity from renewable sources (RES-E) by 2030.
RESS	Renewable Electricity Support Scheme	The Renewable Electricity Support Scheme aims to promote the generation of electricity from renewable sources by providing financial support to renewable electricity projects in Ireland. It is the main government support to help deliver Ireland’s 80% renewable electricity target by 2030. It involves a series of regular auctions run by Eirgrid where developers of renewable electricity projects can bid in to the auction with a price for the electricity that is generated by their projects.
RFRA	Regional Flood Risk Appraisal	The objective of the RFRA is to ensure that the RSES implements policies and development strategies that avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, unless there are proven wider sustainability grounds that justify appropriate development and where the flood risk can be reduced or managed to an acceptable level.
R&I	Research and Innovation	N/A
RIAI	Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland	Advocates and supports the use of the essential skills of Architects and Architectural Technologists in addressing the built environment and how it impacts our quality of life, our health, our environment, and our economy.

R

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
Ribbon Development	The building of houses in a continuous row along a road	N/A
RLS	Repair and Leasing Scheme	Is an option for owners of vacant properties who cannot afford or access the funding needed to bring their properties up to rental standards.
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places	The National Monuments Service has mapped the locations of recorded monuments nationwide in the Record of Monuments and Places. The RMP is the statutory instrument of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.
ROHS	Restriction of Hazardous Substances	The Directive on the Restriction of the use of Certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment (known as the RoHS Directive) limits the levels of hazardous substances in electrical/ electronic products including many consumer goods. The aim of the directive is to reduce the potential risks posed by hazardous chemicals in these products to human health and the environment.
RoRo	Roll-on/Roll-off	Roll-on/roll-off freight cargo can be accompanied/unaccompanied by a driver.
RPO	Regional Policy Objective	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy is a strategic plan which identifies regional assets, opportunities and pressures and provides appropriate policy responses in the form of Regional Policy Objectives.
RPS	Record of Protected Structures	A protected structure is a structure that a planning authority thinks is of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. If a planning authority thinks a structure meets these criteria, the structure must be listed on the planning authority's RPS. All structures listed on the RPS qualify for protected status. Each planning authority must keep a RPS as part of its development plan.

R

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
RRDF	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund	This fund is a commitment of €1 billion by government to be invested in rural Ireland over the period 2019 to 2027. The purpose of the fund is to support job creation, address de-population of rural communities and support improvements in our towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000 people.
RRES	Regional Renewable Energy Strategy	N/A
RSES	Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy	Each Regional Assembly prepares a long-term (12-20 years) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the whole of their region. This is a statutory requirement under Section 21 of the 2000 Planning & Development Act. The overarching purpose of the RSES is to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework and the economic policies and objectives of the Government.
RTCF	Regional Technology Cluster Fund	This is a fund to support the building of sectoral clusters of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) at a regional level. It was announced in Budget 2019 and administered by Enterprise Ireland on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.
RTS	Regional Transport Strategy	The Connectivity section of the RSES addresses digital and physical connectivity and includes an RTS. The Strategy has 36 RPOs and addresses the role of transport networks to improve the sustainable movement of people and goods. Objectives in this section address the NPF's National Strategic Outcomes of Enhanced Regional Accessibility, Sustainable Mobility and High-Quality International Connectivity.
RWMP	Regional Waste Management Plan	These are statutory planning documents whose objective is to set out a framework for the prevention and management of wastes for a defined regional area.
RWRP	Regional Water Resource Plan	Informed by the National Water Resources Plan, the RWRP provides regional solutions for all water supplies within the group area.

R-S

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
RZLT	Residential Zoned Land Tax	The obligation to register for RZLT will arise in respect of a relevant site, which is land which will appear on a revised final RZLT map that will be published by the local authorities not later than 31 January each year, commencing in 2025. Such land may include residential properties and, where such properties are subject to Local Property Tax, they will not be subject to RZLT. Where the gardens or yards of such properties are greater than 0.4047 hectares, owners will be obliged to register, but not pay, RZLT.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation	These are prime wildlife conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on a European level, as well as an Irish level. Most SACs are in the countryside, although a few sites reach into town or city landscapes, such as Dublin Bay and Cork Harbour.
SAPS	Small Area Population Statistics	Statistics produced for a range of geographical levels from State to Small Areas.
Satellite Town	N/A	A town, self-contained and limited in size, built in the vicinity of a large town or city to house and employ those who would otherwise create a demand for expansion of the existing settlement, but dependent on the parent-city to a certain extent for population and major services.
SCSI	Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland	A membership body for professionals in the property, construction and land sectors, promoting and defending the interests of members through professional representation. The SCSI is committed to producing high-quality research on a wide range of economic, industry and practice-related issues within the construction, land and property sectors. The SCSI also produces and disseminates surveys of members. It provides independent, impartial professional advice to government departments, policy-makers, state agencies, businesses, and other key stakeholders, for the public advantage.

S

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals	These goals were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are integrated — they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.
SDZ	Strategic Development Zone	An area of land that is proposed to contain developments of economic or social importance to the State. Examples of other SDZ developments in Ireland include Adamstown and Clonburris. The designation of a site as an SDZ is a decision of the Government, following a proposal by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government.
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment	The process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes prior to their final adoption. The objectives of SEA are to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development.
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	An Irish government agency responsible for promoting and facilitating the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon energy system in Ireland. The SEAI's primary mission is to transform Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies, and practices. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve all round energy efficiency, and promote the use of renewable energy sources.
SEC	Sustainable Energy Communities	In Ireland over 900 communities are working together to become more sustainable in how they use energy for the benefit of their community. Energy communities look at projects across homes, transport, local business and community buildings such as schools, community centres, and sports facilities.

S

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
SEEA	South-East Energy Agency	An agency committed to supporting every energy user in using energy more efficiently, monitoring energy use and move towards a greater choice of renewable energy sources, by working in partnership, raising awareness, providing support, and delivering low carbon in the region since 2012.
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	An assessment of flood risk and includes mapped boundaries for Indicative Flood Risk Zones, taking into account factors including local knowledge, site walkovers, and flood risk indicators.
SFZ	Shannon Free Zone	This is one of Ireland's leading international business parks and the location for Ireland's largest cluster of North American investment.
SHD	Strategic Housing Development	<p>These are applications that go directly to An Bord Pleanála for decision. These decisions cannot be appealed. Some of the types of application under strategic housing developments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 or more houses; • Student accommodation units; • Mixed development of housing and student accommodation; • Alteration of existing permission from a planning authority; • Alteration of existing permission from An Bord Pleanála. <p>Note: Since June 2022, the SHD application procedure ceased for new applications to An Bord Pleanála and has been replaced with the Large-Scale Residential Development procedure.</p>
SI	Statutory Instrument	N/A

S

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
SIA	Social Infrastructure Audit	Involves evaluating the availability, accessibility, and quality of community facilities and services in a particular area. This can include assessing the needs of the community and identifying any gaps or deficiencies in the provision of services such as healthcare, education, recreation, and transportation. The audit may consider factors such as population demographics, economic conditions, and community engagement. The goal of a social infrastructure audit is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the social needs of a community, and to inform the development of plans and policies that support the well-being of its residents.
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028	Provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. Administered by Pobal, SICAP 2024-2028 is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills, and Training Programme 2021-2027.
SID	Strategic Infrastructure Development	These are applications for planning permission made directly to An Bord Pleanála for major infrastructure developments by local authorities and others. Examples include motorways, railway lines, pipelines, airports, ports or major facilities like hospitals.
Site Coverage	N/A	The portion of the site that is built on and is determined by dividing the total site area by the ground floor of the building.
SMART	Sustainable, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely.	N/A
SMC	Small and Medium-sized City	These cities play a role in the growth of their regions, providing jobs and services. They create opportunities for people to live and work with a good quality of life.
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises	N/A

S

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
SMP	Sustainable Mobility Policy	Published in April 2022, and sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is accompanied by an action plan to 2025 which contains actions to improve and expand sustainable mobility options across the country by providing safe, green, accessible and efficient alternatives to car journeys. It also includes demand management and behavioural change measures to manage daily travel demand more efficiently and to reduce the journeys taken by private car.
Social Housing	N/A	Rented housing provided either by the local authority, or a voluntary or cooperative housing body.
Social Infrastructure	N/A	Buildings and other structures related to serving the needs of the public for social, health, educational and/or recreational needs. It includes facilities such as schools, community centres, parish halls and recreational facilities.
Soft Landscaping	N/A	The use of water and natural vegetation including trees, and shrubs, in the landscaping of an area.
SPA (a)	Special Protection Area	<p>Ireland is required under the terms of the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) to designate Special Protection Areas for the protection of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed rare and vulnerable species; • Regularly occurring migratory species; • Wetlands especially those of international importance. <p>A programme to identify and designate SPA sites has been in place since 1985, and Ireland's SPA Network now encompasses over 597,000 hectares of marine and terrestrial habitats.</p>

S

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
SPA (b)	Strategic Planning Area	<p>The Strategic Planning Areas are set out in Article 42 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 1991 (Regional Assemblies) Establishment Order 2014, to provide for consideration of sub-regional issues. There are three SPAs in the Southern Region: the Mid-West SPA consisting of counties Clare, Limerick, and Tipperary, South-East SPA consisting of counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford, and Kilkenny, and the South-West SPA consisting of counties Cork, Kerry, and Cork City. The SPA definition differs to the similar NUTS 3 definition in that Tipperary is not included in the South-East NUTS 3 region, whereas it is in the South-East SPA.</p>
SPC	Strategic Policy Committee	<p>Local authority committees in city and county councils whose membership includes elected councillors, representatives of business, farming interests, environmental & conservation groups, trade unions and community and voluntary members. It is the task of the SPCs as committees of the council, to advise and assist the council in the formulation, development and review of policy. They have no remit in relation to routine operational matters regarding the delivery of services. The SPC system is intended to give councillors and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy-making process from the early stages.</p>
SPPR	Specific Planning Policy Requirements	<p>Specific planning policy requirements in planning guidelines issued by the minister for housing, local government and heritage. These are mandatory policies within the meaning of Section 28 (1C) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which effectively means that they override policies adopted by local planning authorities.</p> <p><i>“Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), guidelines under that subsection may contain specific planning policy requirements with which planning authorities, regional assemblies and the Board shall, in the performance of their functions, comply.”</i></p>

S

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
<p>SREIS</p>	<p>Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme</p>	<p>The overall objective of this Scheme is to drive job creation and enterprise development in each region throughout Ireland. In addition, Smart Regions funding will support the micro and SME client base in strategic regional locations by addressing deficits in key infrastructure.</p>
<p>SSMA</p>	<p>Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator</p>	<p>The Southern Regional Assembly, with the support of the Department of Transport is the managing authority on behalf of the three Regional Assemblies in Ireland. The purpose of this initiative is to develop and deliver a Pathfinder Project for a Smart & Sustainable Mobility Accelerator in relation to Building Capacity for Action in our Regions.</p> <p>The SSMA project is a training, education and capacity building workshop programme to support Local Authorities and Stakeholders in each of the three regions to design and implement smart and sustainable mobility projects under the National Sustainable Mobility Policy Action Plan 2022-2025.</p> <p>The SRA has procured a consortium of international and national specialists (lead consultants are BABLE GmbH) to design and deliver a “learning into practice” mentoring workshop series. At its core, the SSMA Programme aims to increase knowledge, competencies, and understanding of sustainable and smart mobility at local and regional government levels, through offering a comprehensive capacity building and mentoring programme, which empowers participants to take effective actions for sustainable mobility.</p>

S-T

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
SSR	Smart Southern Region	In support of the Southern Region’s ambition to be the most creative & innovative, greenest and liveable regions in Europe, the Southern Regional Assembly is working with key stakeholders across the region to support the ‘Smart Southern Region’ approach. There is no clear definition of what a smart region looks like and is dependent on the particulars of the region and those living within it. A smart city or region cannot just be defined by solving urban or rural problems through technology. The term “smart” includes technology as an enabler however, “being smart” relates more to intelligent methodology and proper implementation of solutions than the technology itself. It is about the willingness to enhance capacity by considering local wisdom and listening to where technology can be integrated into everyday living to facilitate/enable a better quality of life.
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	N/A
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems	A way of managing rainfall that minimizes the negative impacts on the quantity and quality of runoff whilst maximizing the benefits of amenity and biodiversity for people and the environment.
TAP	Traveller Accommodation Programmes	N/A
TCF	Town Centre First	This policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.
TEN-G	Trans-European Network for Green Infrastructure in Europe	The strategy promotes the deployment of green infrastructures across Europe.

T

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network	This policy is a key instrument for planning and developing a coherent, efficient, multimodal, and high-quality transport infrastructure across the EU. The network comprises railways, inland waterways, short sea shipping routes and roads linking urban nodes, maritime and inland ports, airports and terminals.
TIC	Taking in Charge	The term “Taking in Charge” means that the Council assumes liability and responsibility for the roads, services, footpaths, and public areas associated with a particular estate.
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	A state agency under the aegis of the Department of Transport, working at both national and regional level, in partnership with Local Authorities regarding national roads and greenways, and the National Transport Authority regarding light rail and metro. TII’s purpose is to provide sustainable transport infrastructure and services, delivering a better quality of life, supporting economic growth, and respecting the environment.
TOD	Transport Oriented Development	This is a form of urban development that seeks to maximise the provision of housing, employment, public services and leisure space within close proximity to transport nodes (e.g. rail and/or bus) that are serviced by frequent, high-quality services. It is also a form of urban development that is well aligned with Ireland’s international and national policy positions, and with recent institutional developments in relation to active land management by the State.
TPO	Tree Preservation Order	N/A
TU	Technological Universities	N/A

T-U

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
TVRS	Town and Village Renewal Scheme	The TVRS is one of a series of national and local support measures designed to rejuvenate small rural towns and villages throughout Ireland. It was established in 2016 following commitments in the then Programme for Government and subsequently under the Action Plan For Rural Development. The scheme has been under the remit of the Department of Rural and Community Development since 2017. The scheme is delivered through local authorities each year.
TWh	Terawatt hours	Is a unit of energy representing one trillion watt hours. A kilowatt hour is equivalent to a steady power of one kilowatt running for one hour and is equivalent to 3.6 million joules or 3.6 megajoules.
UI	Úisce Éireann	This is Ireland's national regulated water utility, responsible for the delivery of water infrastructure and sustainable water services for the people of Ireland.
Undercroft	N/A	A ground-level parking area below a building or its associated outdoor areas. Unlike basement car parks, undercrofts may be naturally ventilated with careful design to avoid inactive frontages.
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	Supports countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals thanks to its role as a platform for governments to cooperate and engage with all stakeholders on norms, standards and conventions.
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	Contributes to peace and security by promoting international cooperation in education, sciences, culture, communication and information. UNESCO promotes knowledge sharing and the free flow of ideas to accelerate mutual understanding and a more perfect knowledge of each other's lives. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in the 2030 agenda, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

U

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
Universal Design	N/A	The design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.
UPH	Units per Hectare	N/A
Urban Blue Corridors	N/A	A network of multi-activity recreational trails, based on or alongside idyllic lakes, canals and rivers in Ireland. They provide scenic routes into the heart of rural Ireland by canoe, bike or on foot. Urban Blueway Corridors refer to an extension of these recreational routes within and through our region's urban areas.
Urban Consolidation	N/A	The development or redevelopment of underutilised urban land in an efficient, compact, and robust fashion.
Urban Density	N/A	Density (specifically referring to the density of urban space) can refer to the population in a given area, the building size/height on a particular site, or floor area ratio.
Urban Development Nodes	N/A	These function as service centres to their rural hinterlands and have potential to develop as important urban centres with enhanced employment roles based on 'niche' economic sectors.
Urban Sprawl	N/A	The excessive outward expansion of built development, away from the core town centre, and into the surrounding countryside. This form of development is viewed as unsustainable.
Urban Structure	N/A	The physical attributes of an urban place, the form and mass of its buildings, and the layout of its streets and open spaces. The term also describes the pattern of routes and linkages that provide access and connectivity, and define the movement framework of the urban area.

U, V-W

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
URDF	Urban Regeneration and Development Fund	This was established to support more compact and sustainable development, through the regeneration and rejuvenation of Ireland's five cities and other large towns, in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework and National Development Plan.
VDS	Village Design Statement	Provides an account of the distinctive character of the village. The VDS is a collaborative and participative approach to village planning and design that gives local communities – working in partnership with local authorities and statutory agencies – a real voice in deciding how their villages are planned and shaped for the future.
Vernacular	N/A	The way in which ordinary buildings were built in a particular place, making use of local styles, techniques and materials and responding to local economic and social conditions.
WAW	Wild Atlantic Way	The Wild Atlantic Way, 1600 miles (2600km) in length, is one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world. It winds its way all along the Irish west coast from the Inishowen Peninsula in the north down to the picturesque town of Kinsale, County Cork, in the south.
WDC	Western Development Commission	A statutory body that was established in 1997 to promote social and economic development in the Western Region (the counties of Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon, Galway and Clare). It has a statutory obligation to advise the government on issues that impact on the Western Region and to promote government policy directed at improving social and economic standards there. It manages the WDC Investment Fund, which provides loans and equity to businesses and local communities in the region.



Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
WEDG	Wind Energy Development Guidelines	These Guidelines offer advice to planning authorities on planning for wind energy through the development plan process and in determining applications for planning permission. The guidelines are also intended to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments.
WFD	Water Framework Directive	Water quality and quantity in our rivers, lakes, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters is assessed under the Water Framework Directive. The Water Framework Directive was signed into law in October 2000. It requires EU member States to achieve water quality of at least “Good Status” in rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters, by 2027 at the latest.
WHO	World Health Organisation	N/A
WMA	Waste Management Act	N/A
WMATS	Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy	Sets the framework for an accessible, high-quality, and integrated transport network that provides for the travel demand and supports the sustainable growth of the Waterford Metropolitan Area as a major growth engine of the Southern Region, and an internationally competitive European city region as envisaged by the National Planning Framework 2040.
WSSP	Water Services Strategic Plan	Includes Úisce Éireann’s objectives for the next 25 years and the means by which it will achieve them. It aligns to requirements set out in the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013. The first Water Services Strategic Plan was published in 2015 and Úisce Éireann is now undertaking the process to consult on a draft Water Service Strategic Plan 2050, which will replace the current plan.

W-Z

Acronym/Term	Definition	Explanation
WSZ	Water Supply Zone	The area supplied by an individual water supply scheme. This typically includes one or more abstractions (from a river, lake or groundwater), a treatment plant, storage in reservoirs and the distribution pipe network to deliver the water to each household or business.
WTP	Water Treatment Plant	N/A
ZEVI	Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland	A new office based in the Department of Transport established in July 2022. ZEVI is tasked with supporting consumers, the public sector, and businesses to continue to make the switch to zero emission vehicles. The office will lead on the delivery of Ireland's ambitious targets under the Climate Action Plan 2023 to have an expected 30% of Ireland's private car fleet switched to electric by 2030.
ZOI	Zone of Influence	A zone of influence of a proposal is the potential geographic area that could be affected by its implementation. Governmental guidance recommends consideration of an ex-situ 15km buffer area for European sites around the proposal boundary for plans/programmes. Nevertheless, the zone of influence should be regarded as having flexible boundaries that may change during the assessment.
ZVI	Zone of Visual Influence	Provides a visual representation, usually presented as a map with markings or colourings, of the area over which a site and/or a proposed development may be visible.

List of References

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