

Iarnród Éireann's operating mandate is to deliver safe and efficient passenger and freight services and the operation of Rosslare Europort. Both the railway and Rosslare Europort are regarded as critical national infrastructure. We are the backbone of the national public transport network, linking Dublin with regional cities and towns. We play a unique role in sustainably connecting people, communities, regions, and businesses across the nation.

At present, Iarnród Éireann is progressing major improvement projects (DART+ Programme, Cork Area Commuter Rail Projects, Freight Improvements, etc), in collaboration with relevant state agencies, to deliver significant additional passenger and freight capacity. Delivery of these projects will facilitate modal shift from private cars and heavy goods vehicles. The development is consistent with the wide-ranging initiatives contained within the All-Ireland Strategic Rail Review.

Iarnród Éireann is committed to continuously evolving our services to maximise the role we play in meeting the transport needs of the country through targeted and well managed investment, enabling us to continue to deliver safe, attractive, and sustainable services for all existing and future passenger and freight customers, whilst ensuring value for money for our funding stakeholders. It is our objective to remain as the public transport mode of choice and provide a level of service that entices people to reduce private car journeys.

Iarnród Éireann also understands that we must embed and integrate sustainable practices into our business model. We acknowledge that the choices we make today have consequences for future generations, biodiversity and eco-systems. We will seek to deliver economic value for our stakeholders and funders, but we must balance the economy pillar against the environmental, social and governance pillars to ensure an equitable overall sustainable outcome. We will integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Targets into our business model and activities.

This policy is focused on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria, as a framework for evaluating Iarnród Éireann performance and comprises:

Environmental Sustainability

- We will reduce the environmental impacts of our works and activities in line with our Environmental Policy and ensure that environmental considerations are included in our planning, working, and decision-making processes.
- We will seek to transition to more energy efficient trains and road fleets, based on proven technology.
- We will improve our energy performance in line with our Energy Policy and the National Climate Action Plan for public sector emission reductions (51% by 2030 and net zero by 2050) and building energy efficiency (50% energy use reduction by 2030).
- We will ensure that the railway and Rosslare Europort are assessed and adapted to account for predicted climate change risks and provide resilient infrastructure.
- We will protect and enhance the biodiversity of our stations, railway corridors and other properties.
- We will minimise and reduce the generation of waste by adopting green procurement practices and circular economy principles, firstly by reducing materials procured and also seek to refurbish, reuse and recycling materials to extract maximum service life.
- We will ensure our supply chain is engaged and collaborates in Iarnród Éireann's sustainability pathway, by reporting on their sustainability and ESG metrics (environmental performance, emissions, workforce, ethics, etc).

Social Sustainability

- We will continue and prioritise our culture of “Safety First” for our staff and passengers.
- We will provide accessible mobility opportunities for all passengers.
- We will provide an equitable, diverse and inclusive workplace where employees are supported and can develop throughout their career.
- We will consider our neighbours needs and issues through open and transparent dialogue.
- We will continue to focus on improving the health and well-being of our employees.
- We will grow awareness of sustainability issues through the company through top-down and bottom-up learning programmes.

Governance and Accountability

- The Environmental Sustainability Committee, in collaboration with relevant departments, will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.
- We will improve our business governance by integrating sustainability considerations into our business decisions, to include “Environment, Social and Governance” (ESG). This will require our stakeholders and finders to take account of wider decision criteria than traditional metrics.
- We will set relevant and realistic objectives and science-based targets to drive our sustainability focus, leaning on innovation, best practice and knowledge sharing.
- We will establish robust internal controls, periodic reviews and undertake audits to ensure the accuracy and reliability of sustainability data collection, measurement, and reporting processes.
- We will implement a robust annual reporting framework for sustainability matters and make it available to all stakeholders.
- We will communicate our sustainability status, in relation to the requirements of this policy, to the Executive Board through the Environmental reporting line and to our employees on a regular basis.
- We will make this policy statement available to all staff, contractors, the public and all interested stakeholders.

Iarnród Éireann commits its employees to actively support this Policy and to implement it at all levels throughout the organisation. This policy has the endorsement of the Executive Board.



Jim Meade
Chief Executive Officer, Iarnród Éireann

July 2024

Date