

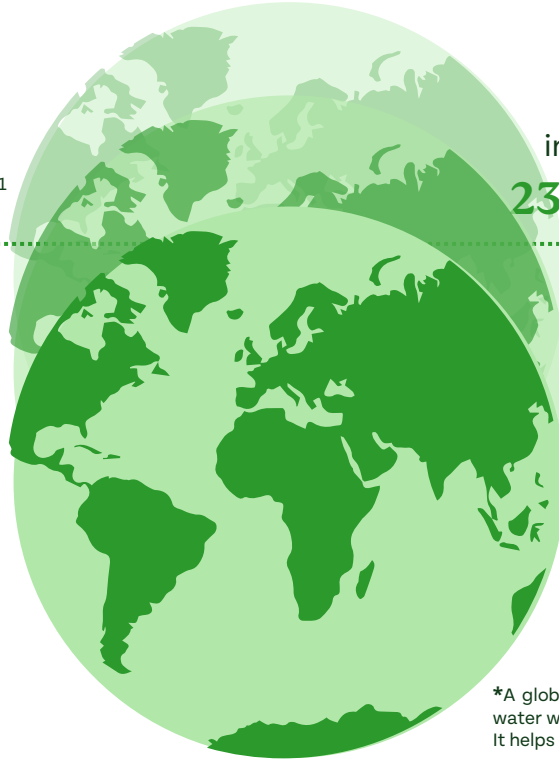
ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

FACT SHEET

Ireland had the **second highest emissions of greenhouse gases** per capita in the EU in 2021.¹



Irish agricultural emissions **decreased by 4.6% in 2023.**³



Ireland produces the **highest volume of plastic waste** in the EU, with an average of **233.8 kg per person.**²

Ireland's ecological footprint is 4.51 gha* pp, exceeding its biocapacity of 3.11 gha pp. Basically, **Ireland consumes more resources than its environment can sustain.**⁴

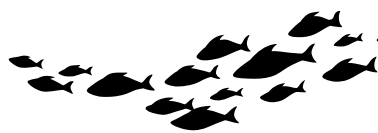
*A global hectare (gha) measures how much land and water we need to produce resources and absorb waste. It helps compare human demand with Earth's capacity.

3 Planets

would be needed if everyone used natural resources at Ireland's rate.⁵

Earth Overshoot Day marks when our use exceeds the Earth's capacity to renew its resources, and it comes earlier each year:

1980 - **November 4th**



The percentage of global fish stocks fished sustainably **fell from 90% (1990) to 62.3 (2021).**⁷

2000 - **September 20th**



Renewables in total energy production in Ireland **grew from 5% in 1990 to 50% in 2021.**⁹

2024 - **August 1st**⁶



Since 1854, **122 big companies** have produced 1,421 billion tonnes of CO2. This makes up **72% of all global emissions.**⁸



This resource was produced with the support of Irish Aid's Worldwide Global Schools. The ideas and claims to accuracy contained herein are entirely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect Irish Aid or WWGS policy.



1 [Central Statistics Office \(2023\)](#) | 2 [Eurostat \(2024\)](#) | 3 [Environmental Protection Agency \(2024\)](#) | 4 [Global Footprint Network \(2022\)](#) | 5 [Global Footprint Network \(2022\)](#) | 6 [Earth Overshoot Day \(2024\)](#) | 7 [Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations \(2024\)](#) | 8 [Carbon Majors \(2024\)](#) | 9 [Central Statistics Office \(2022\)](#)