

European Policy Overview & Update

Introducing a New Peatland Policy Portal for Europe

Presented by Niall Ó Brolcháin
September 2025

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SFI RESEARCH CENTRE FOR DATA ANALYTICS



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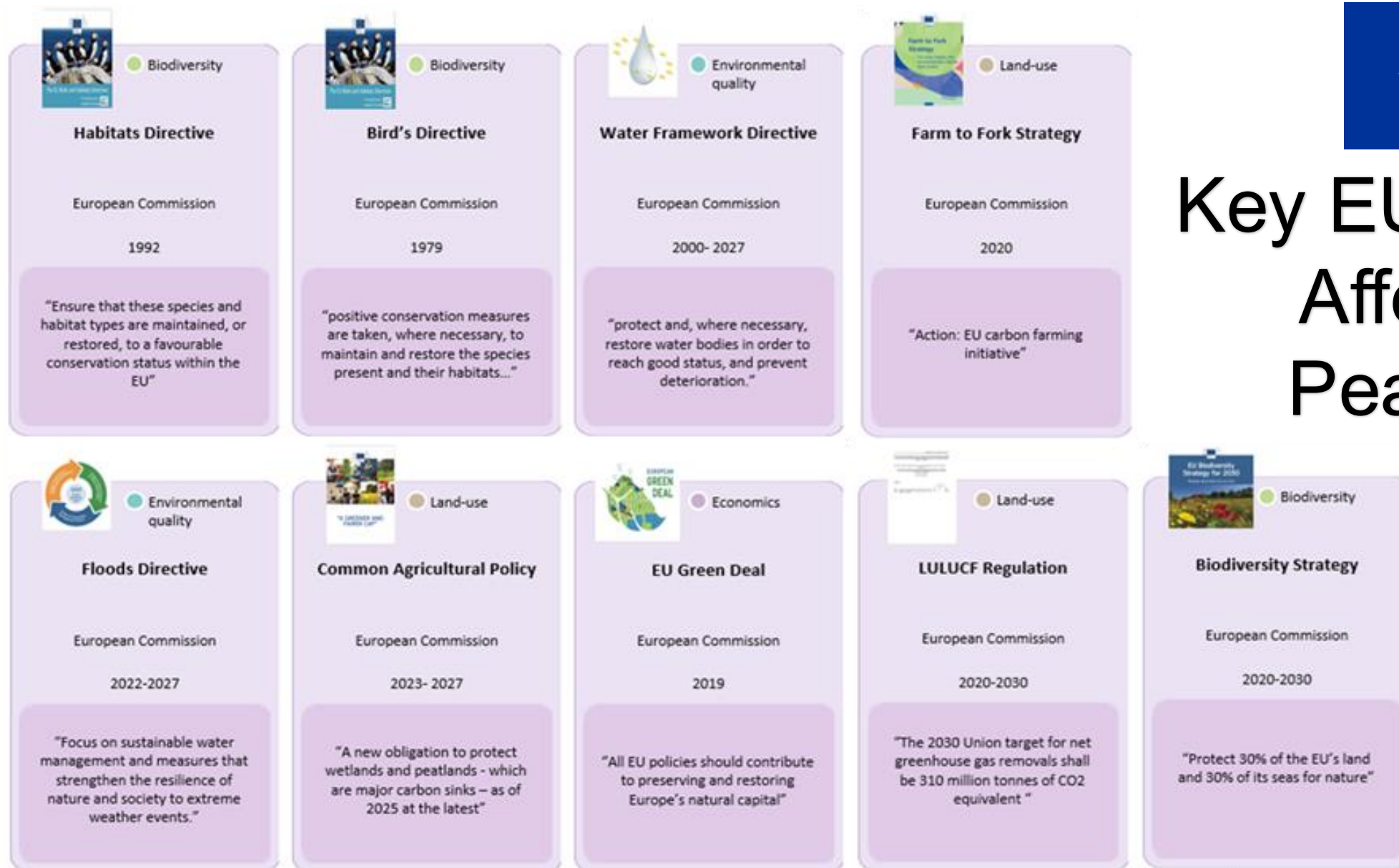
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Key EU Policies Affecting Peatlands



What is a Peatland Policy?

Peatland Policy Categories

- Initial analysis of peatland policies.
- Expert review of draft categories.
- Extended classification.



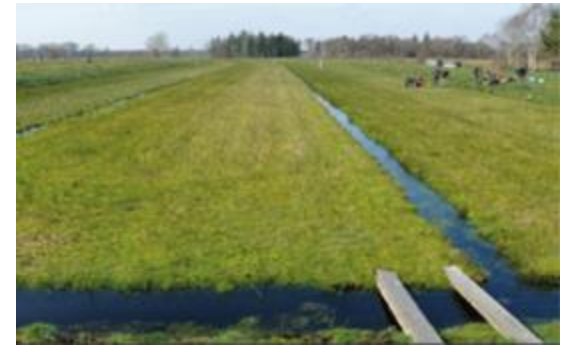
Overview

Vision

A public toolkit for the conservation of peatlands and management of agriculture over peat soils and peatlands, which showcases and analyses peatlands, projects and policies from local to global levels.

Users

The portal includes a diverse collection of tools enabling use by multiple categories of user, including but not limited to decision-makers, policy-makers, landowners/managers, and ecologists.



Peatland Policy Portal

- A **public** platform using **AI** tools to reference over 400 policies from the EU and all EU member states plus the UK
- Support the **analysis, alignment and development** of policies
- **Display and facilitate analysis** of peatland related policies and their **local implications** right across Europe

<https://peatlandpolicyportal.eu>



A joint platform

that collects & organises key information and experience gained



Transparency

of existing peatland policies and projects



Comparison

of different countries policies independent of language



Analysis

of policies' effects on the ground

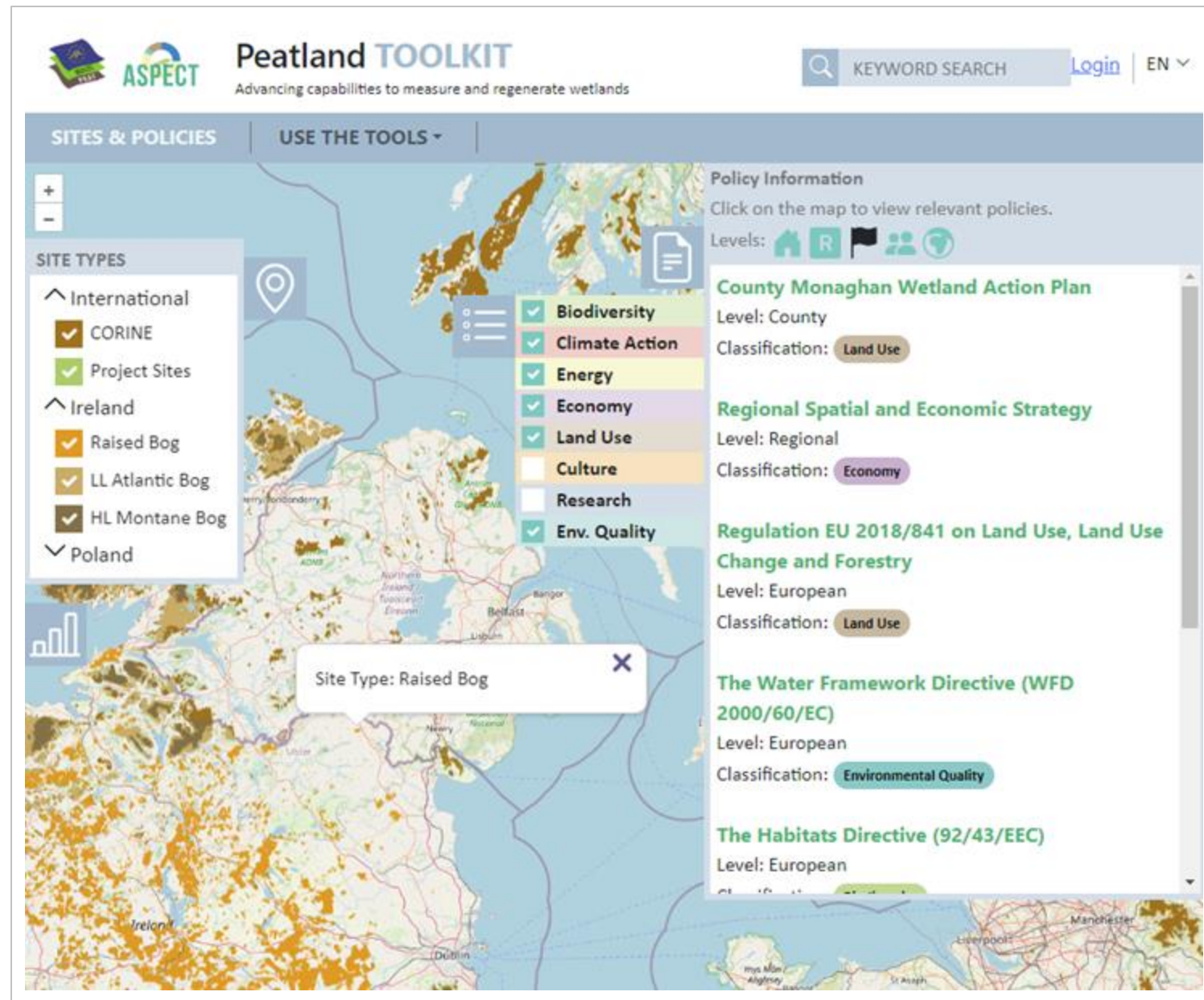
Our practical challenges

- Catalogue of peatland data sources for Toolkit (all EU Member states and selected others)
- Data and materials from all EU member states - for the catalogue of policy documents and peatland data sources collected and elaborated
- First full version of the Multi-Peat Peatland Policy Portal to be completed by the end of 2025
- Policy Workshops using the Peatland Policy Portal with Partners and stakeholders to improve the portal
- Official launch of the Peatland Policy Portal with promotional brochure in 2026

Peatland Policy Portal

Mapping Tools

- Visually Mapping Europe's Peatlands
- Mapping Peatland Data
- Mapping Peatland Policy Data
- Mapping Peatland Restoration Projects





Update of the European Peatland Map



Inclusion of European Policies to NUTS level 1 by June 2025

NATIONAL LEVEL

National Peatlands Strategy

National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
2015-2025

"The purpose behind the Strategy is to set down clear principles which will guide Government policy in relation to all Irish peatlands."

National Biodiversity Action Plan

National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
2023-2030

"Actions centre around the implementation of the Biodiversity Climate Change Adaptation Plan with a particular focus on peatlands rehabilitation and restoration."

CAP Strategic Plan

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
2023-2027

"Obj4.N2: Improve the protection and management of existing carbon stores, including grasslands and peatlands"

Ireland's Forest Strategy

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
2023-2030

"Providing science led solutions that use an ecological approach to rehabilitating and restoring some of our sensitive landscapes and peatland sites that are currently forested"

Heritage Ireland

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
2022-2030

"Action 111: Prioritise the restoration of raised and blanket bog Special Areas of Conservation and Natural Heritage Areas and restore other protected habitats and species"

River Basin Management Plan

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
2018-2021

Actions mainly focused on raised bogs - see full entry below

Present: Manual Alignment
Future: Alignment using AI

Climate Action Plan 2024

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
2024

"Action JM/24/4 - Support the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands"

National Planning Framework

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
2020-2040

"The government will support...protection and enhancement of carbon pools such as forests, peatlands, and permanent grasslands."

National Development Plan

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
2021-2030

"Strategic Investment Priorities, Natural Heritage and Biodiversity: implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021, including Peatlands Restoration and Conservation"

Our Rural Future

Department of Rural and Community Development
2021-2025

"Invest in rehabilitating our peatlands to contribute to reduced carbon emissions, carbon sequestration and enhanced biodiversity"

Food Vision 2030

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
2021-2030

"Goal 2, Action 9: Carry out restoration management of grazed peatland habitats (through, for example, European Innovation Partnerships)."

Ag-Climate

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
2020-2030

"Action 15: Reduce the management intensity of at least 40,000ha of peat based agricultural soils to reduce CO2 loss"

Biodiversity Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
2019 - 2024

"These will include ongoing peatland restoration..."

REGIONAL LEVEL 1

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

Northern and Western Regional Assembly
2020-2032

RPO 5.22: To protect and conserve our designated peatlands and bogs for reasons of biodiversity, ecosystem services, carbon sinks, areas of habitat importance, amenity and landscape value

LOCAL LEVEL

Leitrim County Development Plan

Leitrim County Council
2023-2029

"Peat Pol 1: To conserve peatlands and protect peatland landscapes within the county."

Local Economic and Community Plan

Leitrim County Council
2023-2029

"Goal 2.11: Continue the County Leitrim Wetland Study to ensure that these habitats containing rich biodiversity interest are recognised, recommendations agreed for their future conservation and to raise awareness of their importance and appropriate management."

County Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan

Leitrim County Council
2022-2027

"Action 1G: Undertake a wetland survey of the County and identify possible restoration sites."

Cavan County Development Plan

Cavan County Council
2022-2028

"CC 10: Support collaboration between local authorities and relevant stakeholders regarding integrated peatland management and support for rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats, in particular the Geopark and Cullagh Carbon sequestration potential."

Cavan Climate Action Plan

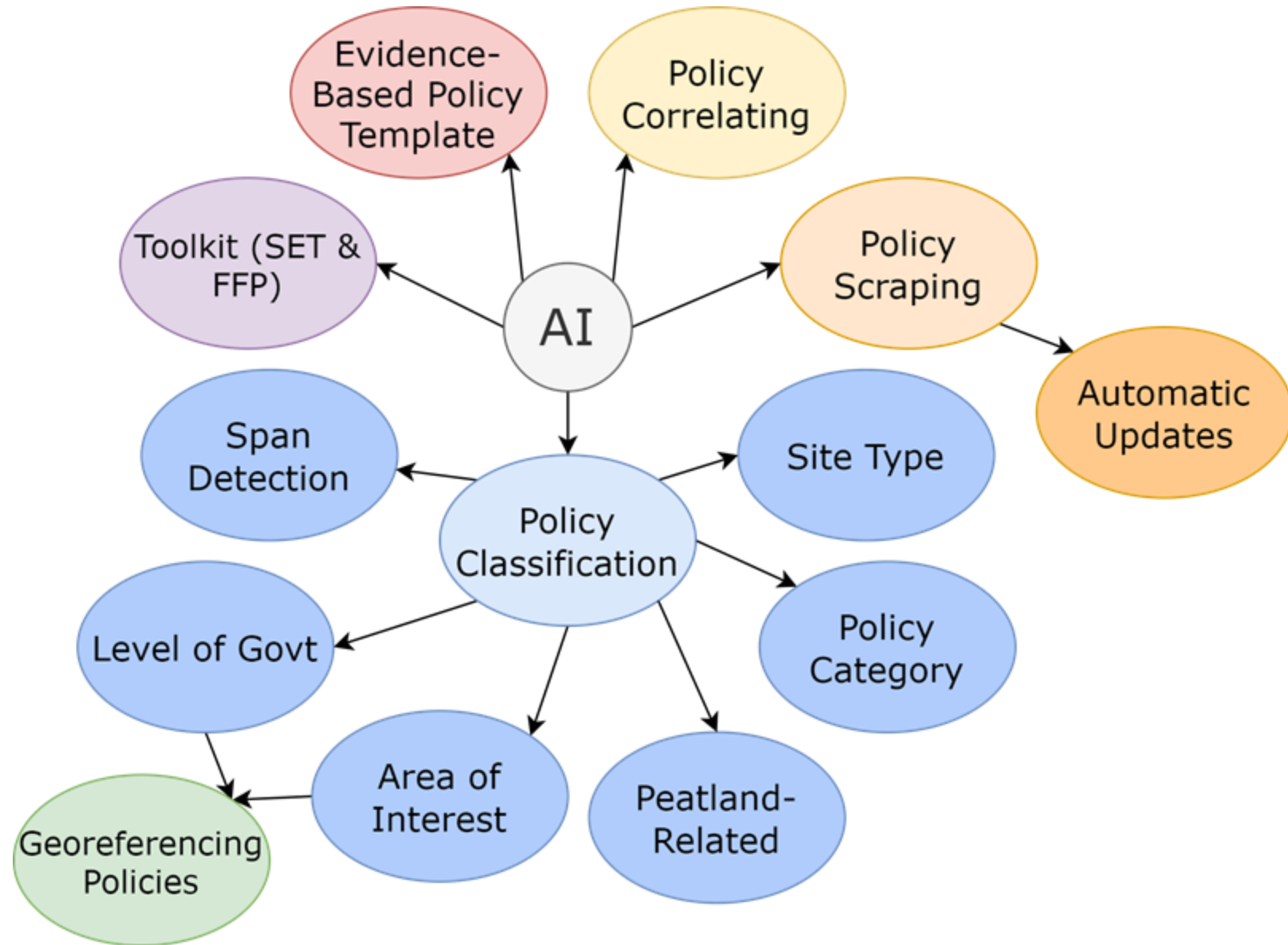
Cavan County Council
2024-2029

"EG10: Support opportunities to support peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan."

Peatland Policy Portal Development Path



Governance Levels



Peatlands Policy Portal

SET Tool

- Calculates GHG

Emiss

- Devel

Interreg NWE Carbon
Connects project

Adding User Level Functionality

SITE EMISSIONS TOOL

This tool helps calculate the greenhouse gas emissions of managed wetland areas and how much emission reduction is eligible for claiming carbon credits.

Disclaimer: this tool is still under development and can only produce an approximate or estimated value.

* denotes required field.

Site Name

Test Site

Total area in ha. *

5



Coordinates

[-56, 100]

Elevation (m)

30

Year rewetting started

2023



Groundwater and Vegetation



Fertiliser Use



Land Management Activity



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FFP Tool

- Calculates the Profitability of a Carbon Farm
- Developed by EU Interreg NWE Care Peat project

Adding User Level Functionality

FEASIBILITY & PRICING TOOL FOR CARBON FARMING

This tool estimates the financial feasibility of peatland restoration projects and the expected profit from different sale prices of carbon credits.
Disclaimer: This tool is still under development and the results calculated are not a guarantee.

Start year	2023	Selling price of a carbon credit (€)	561
Project duration (years)	50	Cost of generating each credit (€)	298.34
Avg. credits/ha/annum	20	Credits generated by restoration	1000

Interest on finance included	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Profit per hectare per year (€)	3.21
Registry costs included	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Profit across project duration (€)	161

Additional values used in the tool

MORE INPUTS

View complete results

DETAILED RESULTS


Export results and assumptions


DOWNLOAD CSV

This tool was developed by Konstantinos Tzoulas, Christopher Field, and Niall Ó Brolcháin.

interreg North-West Europe Care-Peat

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 Manchester Metropolitan University

Inclusion of a Large Language Model



Peatland Policy **Portal**

Advancing capabilities to measure and regenerate wetlands

Log in

SITES & POLICIES

USE THE TOOLS ▾

ABOUT US



Ask a Peatland Policy Question

Smart multilingual policy discovery with powerful filters and hybrid reasoning.

Language



All



Category



All



Country



All



Governance Level



All



How can we reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions using policies?

Ask

Or try:

EU Peatland Strategy

Restoration Barriers

National vs Regional Policy



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? Question: How can we reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions using policies?

Policy Measures for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The provided documents outline several policy measures aimed at reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, primarily focusing on industrial sectors and energy usage. Here are some key points:

1. Industrial Sector Strategies

2. The 2nd National Climate Change Strategy (NES.pdf) emphasizes the importance of cost-effective implementation of activities aimed at reducing GHG emissions, ensuring that the greatest reduction in emissions can be achieved with a given budget.

3. Energy Efficiency and Biomass Management

4. The Better Action – Ecological Planning (Summary of the Plan, September 2023) highlights the deployment of levers such as electrification, energy efficiency, and good biomass management for industrial applications without regret.

5. Waste and Energy Sector Strategy

6. The Climate Programme 2020 (ClimateProgramme2020-Denmarks-LTS-under-the ParisAgreement_December2020_.pdf) shows that by incorporating the sector strategy for waste and energy, an additional 16.1 million tonnes of CO₂e emissions will be reduced by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

7. Climate Change Action Plans

8. Many countries have their own Climate Action Plans, such as the Third National Climate Change Action Plan (Treti_nacionalen_plan_za_deistvie_po_izmenenie_na_klimata986648423b859d3217cae8640e285724.pdf) which aims to reduce global emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.











9. Renewable Energy

10. The Climate Action Plan 2050 (klimaschutzplan-2050.pdf) and the Pärnu Climate Plan 2030 (Pärnumaa kliimakava (20.12.22).pdf) highlight the importance of increasing the use of renewable energy sources and reducing the use of fossil fuels in both residential and industrial sectors.

11. Biomass Reduction

12. The Lower Saxony Moorland Landscapes Program (Programm_Nds_Moorlandschaften_MU-2016 (2).pdf) mentions the reduction of emissions in drained peatlands as part of the overall strategy to reduce GHG emissions.

Related Policy Documents

 <p>Better Action – Ecological Planning: Summary of the Plan, September 2023</p> <p>🇫🇷 france</p> <p>🌐 Language: english (us)</p> <p>📄 📄 📄 📄 📄 Read More</p>	 <p>2nd National Climate Change Strategy covering the period 2018-2030, with an outlook to 2050</p> <p>🇭🇺 hungary</p> <p>🌐 Language: hungarian / magyar</p> <p>📄 Read More</p>
 <p>Land Use Sector Climate Plan</p> <p>🇫🇮 finland</p> <p>🌐 Language: English (US)</p> <p>📄 📄 Read More</p>	 <p>Lower Saxony Moorland Landscapes Program</p> <p>🇩🇪 germany</p> <p>🌐 Language: german / deutsch</p> <p>📄 Read More</p>
 <p>Pärnu Climate Plan 2030</p> <p>🇪🇪 estonia</p> <p>🌐 Language: Estonian / Eesti keel</p> <p>📄 Read More</p>	 <p>Foundation for the New Environmental Vision (2022)</p> <p>🇳🇱 netherlands</p> <p>🌐 Language: dutch / nederland</p> <p>📄 Read More</p>
 <p>Climate Programme 2020</p> <p>🇩🇰 denmark</p> <p>🌐 Language: english (us)</p> <p>📄 Read More</p>	 <p>Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Cyprus (2020)</p> <p>🇨🇾 cyprus</p> <p>🌐 Language: Greek / ελληνικά</p> <p>📄 Read More</p>
 <p>Third National Climate Change Action Plan</p> <p>🇧🇬 bulgaria</p> <p>🌐 Language: english (us)</p> <p>📄 📄 Read More</p>	 <p>Climate Action Plan 2050</p> <p>🇩🇪 germany</p> <p>🌐 Language: english (us)</p> <p>📄 📄 Read More</p>

Policy questions will be answered in any language



Ask a Peatland Policy Question

Smart multilingual policy discovery with powerful filters and hybrid reasoning.

Language



All



Category



All



Country



All



Governance Level



All



Comment pouvons-nous réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce à des politiques ?

Ask

Or try:

EU Peatland Strategy

Restoration Barriers











National vs Regional Policy

? **Question:** Comment pouvons-nous réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce à des politiques ?

Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce aux politiques :

- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans le secteur industriel :** Les émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans le secteur industriel ont baissé de 15 Mt eqCO₂ par rapport à 2019, marquant une dynamique positive en ligne avec la trajectoire fixée par la planification écologique. L'électrification, l'efficacité énergétique, et la bonne gestion de la ressource biomasse pour les applications industrielles sont des leviers à déployer sans regret (Better Action – Ecological Planning: Summary of the Plan, September 2023).
- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans le secteur agricole :** La transformation de la société est importante pour atteindre une réduction significative de ses empreintes carbone. Il est donc nécessaire d'atteindre une transformation de la société qui peut atteindre un changement razant en matière de réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce à un comportement responsable de la consommation (State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic 2030 with outlook to 2050).
- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans le secteur de l'énergie :** La réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre est une priorité mondiale. Les pays développés doivent réduire leurs émissions de gaz à effet de serre de 25-40% dès 2020 et de 80-95% dès 2050 par rapport aux niveaux de 1990 pour atteindre le but de limiter l'élévation de la température mondiale à 2°C (Fourth National Climate Change Action Plan).
- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans les secteurs de l'eau et du sol :** Les pays développés doivent réduire leurs émissions de gaz à effet de serre de 80-95% dès 2050 par rapport aux niveaux de 1990. Cela peut être réalisé en réduisant les émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans les secteurs de l'eau et du sol (Climate Action Plan 2050).
- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce aux mécanismes de Kyoto :** Les pays développés peuvent réduire leurs émissions de gaz à effet de serre en utilisant les mécanismes de Kyoto, qui sont des mécanismes d'action collective pour atteindre le but de réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre (Second National Climate Change Strategy covering the period 2018-2030, with an outlook to 2050).
- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce aux plans nationaux de lutte contre le changement climatique :** Les pays développés doivent mettre en place un plan national de lutte contre le changement climatique pour atteindre les objectifs fixés par l'accord de Paris (Third National Climate Change Action Plan).
- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce aux plans nationaux d'aménagement écologique :** Les pays développés doivent mettre en place un plan national d'aménagement écologique pour atteindre les objectifs fixés par l'accord de Paris (Better Action – Ecological Planning: Summary of the Plan, September 2023).
- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce aux plans nationaux de gestion des sols :** Les pays développés doivent mettre en place un plan national de gestion des sols pour atteindre les objectifs fixés par l'accord de Paris (Lower Saxony Moorland Landscapes Program).
- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce aux plans nationaux de protection de la biodiversité :** Les pays développés doivent mettre en place un plan national de protection de la biodiversité pour atteindre les objectifs fixés par l'accord de Paris (Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Cyprus (2020)).
- Réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre grâce aux plans nationaux d'aménagement du territoire :** Les pays développés doivent mettre en place un plan national d'aménagement du territoire pour atteindre les objectifs fixés par l'accord de Paris (National Environmental Protection Strategy).

Related Policy Documents

 <p>Better Action – Ecological Planning: Summary of the Plan, September 2023 France Language: english (us)</p> <p>Read More</p>	 <p>2nd National Climate Change Strategy covering the period 2018-2030, with an outlook to 2050 Hungary Language: hungarian / magyar</p> <p>Read More</p>
 <p>Land Use Sector Climate Plan Finland Language: English (us)</p> <p>Read More</p>	 <p>Lower Saxony Moorland Landscapes Program Germany Language: german / deutsch</p> <p>Read More</p>
 <p>Pärnu Climate Plan 2030 Estonia Language: Estonian / Eesti Keel</p> <p>Read More</p>	 <p>Foundation for the New Environmental Vision (2022) Netherlands Language: dutch / nederland</p> <p>Read More</p>
 <p>Climate Programme 2020 Denmark Language: english (us)</p> <p>Read More</p>	 <p>Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Cyprus (2020) Cyprus Language: Greek / Ελληνικά</p> <p>Read More</p>
 <p>Third National Climate Change Action Plan Bulgaria Language: english (us)</p> <p>Read More</p>	 <p>Climate Action Plan 2050 Germany Language: english (us)</p> <p>Read More</p>



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