

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

FACT SHEET

Ireland had the third highest emissions of greenhouse gases

per capita in the EU in 2018 at 12.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per capita. Ireland's emissions were 53% higher than the EU average of 8.2 tonnes. ¹



Irish **agricultural emissions decreased by 4.8%** in 2018-19. This was driven by a 10.1% reduction in nitrogen fertiliser use and a 25.4% reduction in the quantity of lime used on soils. ³



Ireland produces the highest volume of plastic waste

per person in the EU at 54 kilos per capita. Ireland also has the fourth worst recycling rate for plastic waste. ²



Ireland has been in biocapacity deficit - the amount that our ecological footprint exceeds our environment's ability to produce - since 1968. ⁴

4.8 global hectares per person per year

is the **average ecological footprint** of Irish residents. The world average is 2.8 global hectares per person every year. ⁴

Earth Overshoot Day is the day each year when we use the total sum of the resources that the Earth can sustainably produce. This date gets earlier each year ⁵:

1980 - November 4th

2000 - September 20th

2021 - July 29th

In 2005, British Petroleum (BP) spent USD\$250 million on an advertising campaign that popularised the term 'carbon footprint', individualising responsibility for climate change. Meanwhile, **BP produces and sells 3.8 million barrels of oil and gas every day.** ⁶



Since 1998, **100 fossil fuel companies** have created **932 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases.** That's 71% of the total global greenhouse emissions. ⁷



Singapore has the highest global biocapacity deficit at 10,300%, meaning they use 100 times more resources than their environment can produce! ⁴



The percentage of global fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels has decreased from 90% in 1990 to 65.8% in 2017. ⁸



French Guiana has the highest biocapacity reserve - this is the amount that biocapacity exceeds ecological footprint - at 3,950% ⁴



¹ Central Statistics Office (2020) | ² Eurostat (2021) | ³ Environmental Protection Agency (2021) | ⁴ Global Footprint Network (2018) | ⁵ Earth Overshoot Day (2021) | ⁶ Learmonth, L. (2020) | ⁷ Griffin, P. (2017) | ⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2020)