**Ours to Protect, 15th February, Darragh O’Neill, Senior Manager EPA Research Programme**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution. We play key roles in environmental regulation, provision of knowledge and advocacy for the environment.

Yesterday, the agency announced funding of €14.3m for 33 new research projects to address climate and environmental challenges.

The funding covers research in the areas of climate change, the natural environment, the green & circular economy, and the environment & human health.

Reflecting the need for cross-sectoral research, the EPA is working in partnership with Met Éireann and Geological Survey Ireland to co-fund some of the research.

This funding will support more than 200 research staff across 13 organisations to conduct projects in innovative areas such as:

* how blue light can affect human health and biodiversity;
* societal transformation required to address climate, environmental and social challenges;
* digital twins for coastal areas;
* nature-based solutions for water quality and ecology;
* the circular economy for batteries;
* sustainable tourism and
* air pollution in Irish towns.

The EPA places a high priority on promoting the uptake of funded research to inform policy and to maximise the impact of research and innovation. Reflecting the need for an integrated, cross-sectoral approach, the EPA is working in partnership with Met Éireann and Geological Survey Ireland to co-fund a number of projects.

**Resources:**

[www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

[www.ourstoprotect.ie](http://www.ourstoprotect.ie)