IRELAND’S environment

SULPHUR DIOXIDE

Major precursor to acid deposition, which is associated with the acidification of soils and surface waters and the accelerated corrosion of buildings and monuments. Derived from the sulphur in FOSSIL FUELS such as coal and oil used in combustion activities.

NITROGEN OXIDES

Contributes to acidification of soils and surface waters, tropospheric ozone formation and nitrogen saturation in terrestrial ecosystems.

AMMONIA

Associated with acid deposition and the formation of secondary particulate matter. The Agriculture sector accounts for virtually all (99%) of ammonia emissions in Ireland.

NON-METHANE VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Are emitted by a wide array of paints and solvents. Production of food and beverages, incomplete combustion of fuels and agriculture are also important sources.

PARTICULATE MATTER <2.5µm

There are many sources, including the combustion of fuels for heating, vehicle exhausts, construction works and industry. Particulate matter can be formed from reactions with other pollutants, e.g. ammonia. Particulate matter <2.5µm is responsible for significant negative effects on human health. Emissions have reduced by 63.3% since 1990.

KEY MESSAGES

Current projections suggest compliance with both the NOx and NMVOC emission reduction targets for 2030 will be a challenge.

Energy efficiency measures across society, more fuel efficient vehicles, retrofit support schemes and smoky coal ban will have sizeable impacts on reducing emissions into the future.

For latest information log onto www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment