

Among the main actions that will be taken through the Plan are:

- Improved waste water treatment: €1.7 billion in investment by Irish Water in over 250 waste water treatment projects between 2017 and 2021. This will help improve water quality and prevent deterioration of quality in targeted water bodies, including 'protected areas'.
- Conservation and leakage reduction: Irish Water will implement important measures to make water use more sustainable and efficient, reducing leakage in our water network from 45% of all water produced down to 37% by 2021, based on 2017 figures.
- Scientific assessments of water bodies and implementation of local measures by 43 new, specialist, local authority investigative assessment personnel: they will carry out scientific assessments of water bodies and lead on local implementation measures.
- A new collaborative Sustainability and Advisory Support Programme: this partnership between the State and the dairy industry, consisting of 30 Sustainability Advisers, will promote best farming practice in 190 areas chosen for action, for up to 5,000 farmers.
- Dairy Sustainability Initiative to help improve water quality: 18,000 dairy farmers to receive advice on sustainable farming practices in the 190 areas for action.
- The development of water and planning guidance for local authorities: this will help local authorities to consider the risks to water quality during planning and development decision-making.
- Extension of the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems grant scheme: the scheme will assist with the costs of septic tank remediation in High Status water areas.
- A Blue Dot Catchments Programme: the new programme will create a network of excellent river and lake areas. Agencies will work together to protect or restore excellent water quality in these water bodies.
- A new Community Water Development Fund: this will enable and support community water initiatives.