



## Five billion euro made available by AIB to support climate action

7<sup>th</sup> June 2019

- One billion euro per annum to be made available for climate related and green products
- AIB will launch a range of products to support our customers' transition to energy efficiency
- AIB funding of climate-related research to be carried out by the ESRI

AIB has committed to make five billion euros of funding available (one billion euro per annum) to support Ireland's transition to a lower carbon economy. This funding will be made available to customers through a number of climate related products and incentives – from energy efficient homes to electric vehicles to production of renewable energy. AIB will continue to support lending through its multi-disciplinary Energy, Climate Action and Infrastructure team. In 2018, AIB was the leading domestic provider of finance to the renewables sector.

As Ireland's largest provider of mortgages, AIB will launch a range of propositions that will support and recognise customers committed to having a more energy efficient home. AIB recently introduced new competitive fixed rates to complement existing market leading variable rates for mortgages.

To incentivise and accelerate Ireland's transition to lower carbon transport options, AIB in collaboration with a number of our distributor partners will offer additional discounts to some of our existing car finance offerings for electric vehicles. AIB is supporting the adoption and growth of electric vehicles in the Irish market and our products will continue to develop as customers migrate to electric automobiles, which will be a key enabler in tackling Ireland's decarbonisation challenge.

Recognising the challenge the green transition presents for businesses and people all over Ireland, AIB is funding a body of research to be undertaken by the Economic and Social Research Institute on a range of climate-related questions. This recognises the ESRI's pre-eminent role in providing evidence for public policy in Ireland. The research will enable us to inform our customers on the social dialogue of how Ireland is embracing the challenges and opportunities that climate change brings.

AIB Chief Executive Colin Hunt said "With these actions AIB is leading the Irish banking field in its commitment to environmental sustainability as a corporate citizen. We're making AIB, at its core, a sustainable, responsible lender for a sustainable, responsible Ireland. With these commitments we are backing our customers who are intent on addressing climate change, and tackling one of the most important challenges facing the country head on with customer solutions."

These latest initiatives from AIB in the area of sustainability complement the ongoing work done by the bank:

- In 2017, AIB established the Energy, Climate Action and Infrastructure team in recognition that a centre of excellence was required in an essential growth sector. This team is now one of the largest in the market and is supporting AIB's goal of playing a leadership role in assisting Ireland deliver its sustainability and de-carbonisation goals.
- In 2018 AIB was the leading Irish lender in the renewables field. The bank is one of only two organisations to achieve a CDP Climate Change A rating in 2018, and reduced its carbon

footprint in buildings. In 2018 AIB signed up to the Low Carbon Pledge which will reduce our Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 50% by 2030.

- AIB has also announced its sponsorship of [Climate Finance Week Ireland 2019](#) in a further effort to support Ireland's programme to address climate change. This is in addition to the work AIB is already doing through investment in clean energy and in ensuring all AIB office buildings have a more sustainable footprint.
- AIB recently published its third [Sustainability Report](#) which outlines the progress the bank is making in response to the key social, environmental and economic issues which have been identified by stakeholders as areas which the bank should help address. Through the report, AIB aimed to provide greater transparency and rebuild trust among its stakeholders in order to create long-term value as a sustainable business in the economy and the community.
- AIB is supporting the agriculture sector through the carbon transition with initiatives like the support of the [Teagasc Grass 10](#) initiative, a multi-year campaign to increase grass utilisation on Irish livestock farms.

## Ends

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## Notes to editor

- The climate action capital will primarily be channelled through senior debt.
- AIB provided €12.1 bn in new lending last year.
- The ESRI is recognised as a leading centre for applied, policy-focussed social science research in Ireland. While its research portfolio is wide and varied, climate-related research has become an increasing focus in recent times. Given the ESRI's pre-eminent role in providing evidence for public policy in Ireland, AIB has decided to fund a body of research to be undertaken by the ESRI on a range of climate-related questions.