The maths of reducing CO2 emissions.

The IPCC in its special report in November 2018 said:

“Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050.”

In 2010, global levels were 30.6 billion tonnes / year

So 45% of 30.6 = 13.8 billion tonnes

30.6 - 13.8 = 16.8 billion tonnes, the target we are reaching for.

However 2018 levels were 6.4 billion tonnes more than in 2010 at 37 billion tonnes / year

So with present day emissions to get down to the target of 16.8 billion tonnes in 2030, means a global cut of 20.2 billion tonnes CO2e.

If the world population were to remain constant until 2030 that would leave us with a 2.23 tonnes allowance per capita in 2030. However the UN expects it to rise to 8.5 billion by 2030. This would mean an allowance of just 1.97 tonnes per head

<https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_Highlights.pdf>

Current figures show that Ireland’s total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 60.74 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent.(This does not include ETS emissions such as heavy industry and international flights.)

Ireland’s population is 4.78 million

so 60.74 ÷ 4.78 = 12.7

Currently Ireland’s emissions are at 12.7 tonnes CO2e / head. So Ireland would need to reduce her emissions by 10.37 tonnes / head if we were to be on a truly just trajectory for all.

To get a perspective on this: Irish drivers produce on average 3 tonnes of CO2 / head / year at present.