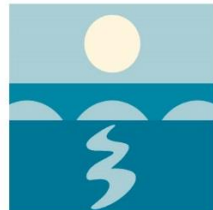


# An overview of Indoor Environmental Quality Research in Irish Energy Efficient Dwellings

Dr James A. McGrath  
NUI Galway



OÉ Gaillimh  
NUI Galway

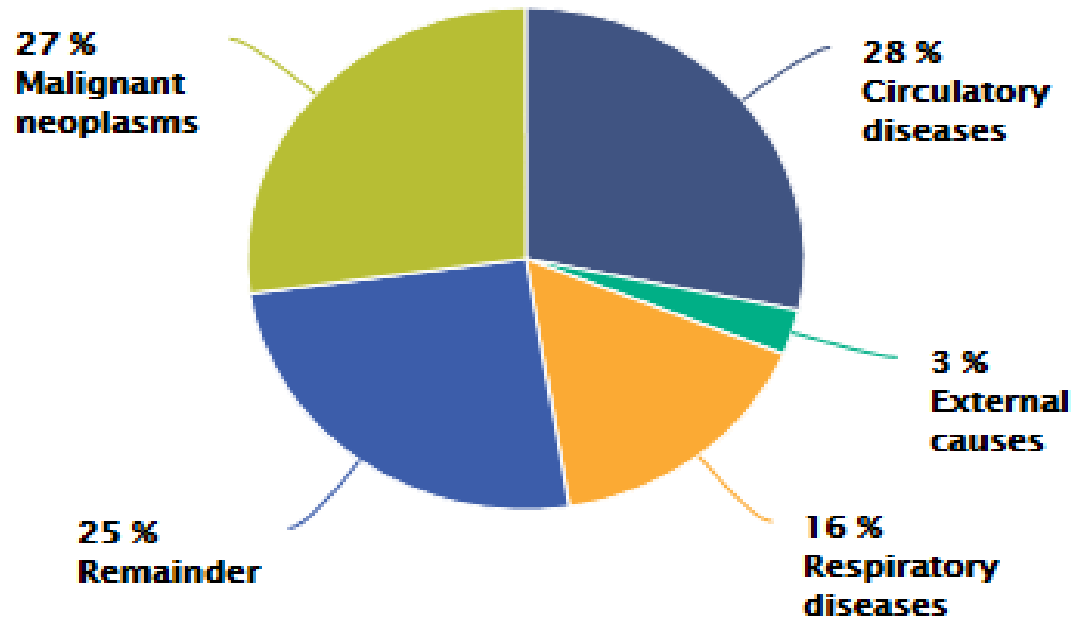


Ryan  
Institute



Ionad Aeráide agus Truailliú Aeir  
**Centre for Climate & Air Pollution Studies**

# IAQ – relationship with health Ireland

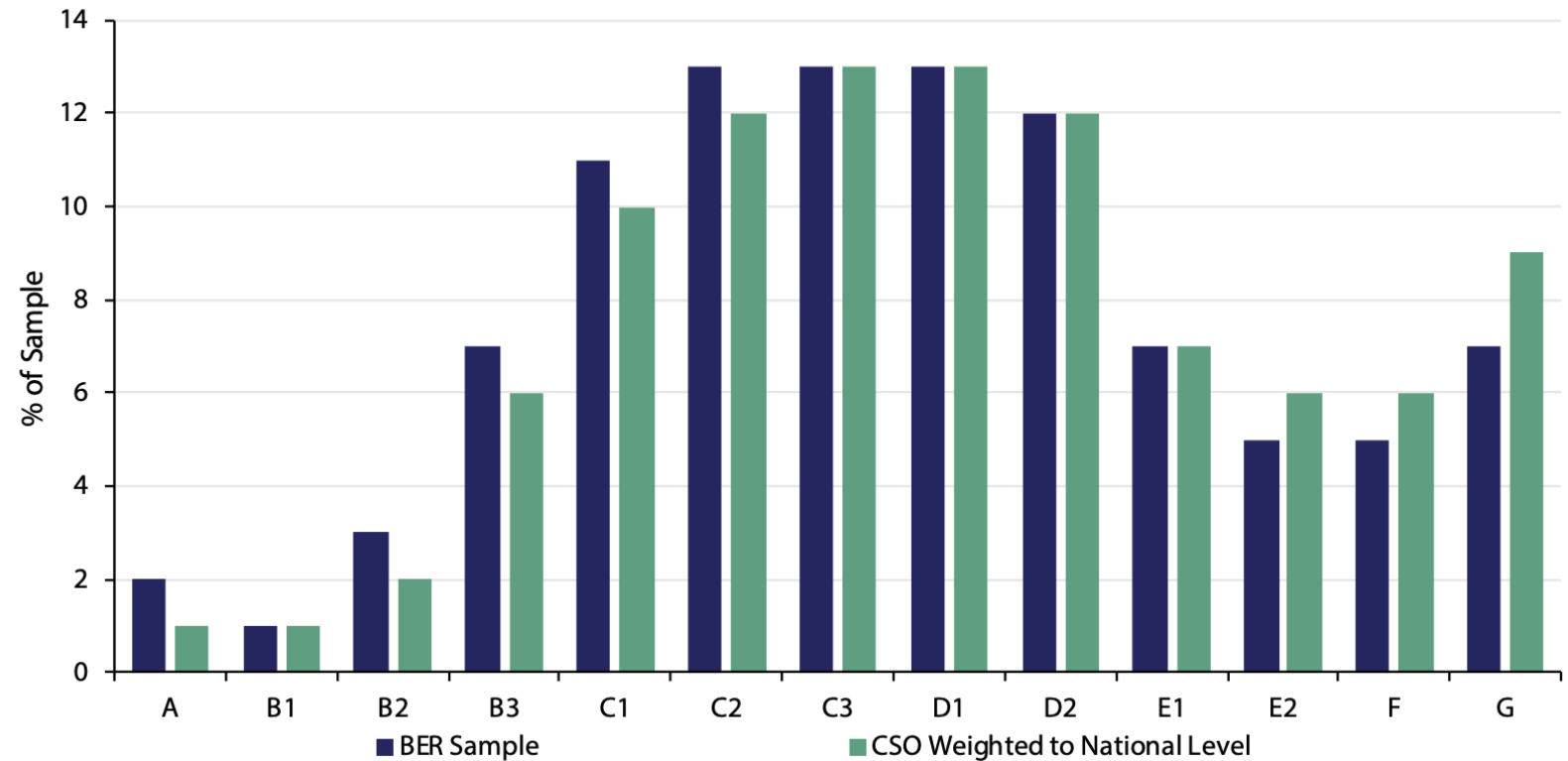
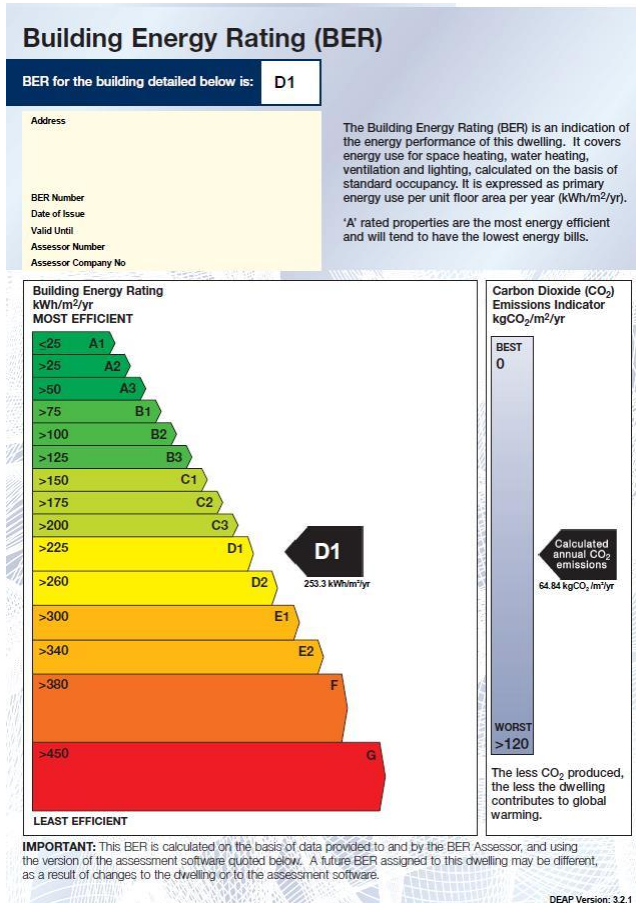


Source: CSO Ireland

Principle causes of death Q1 2018

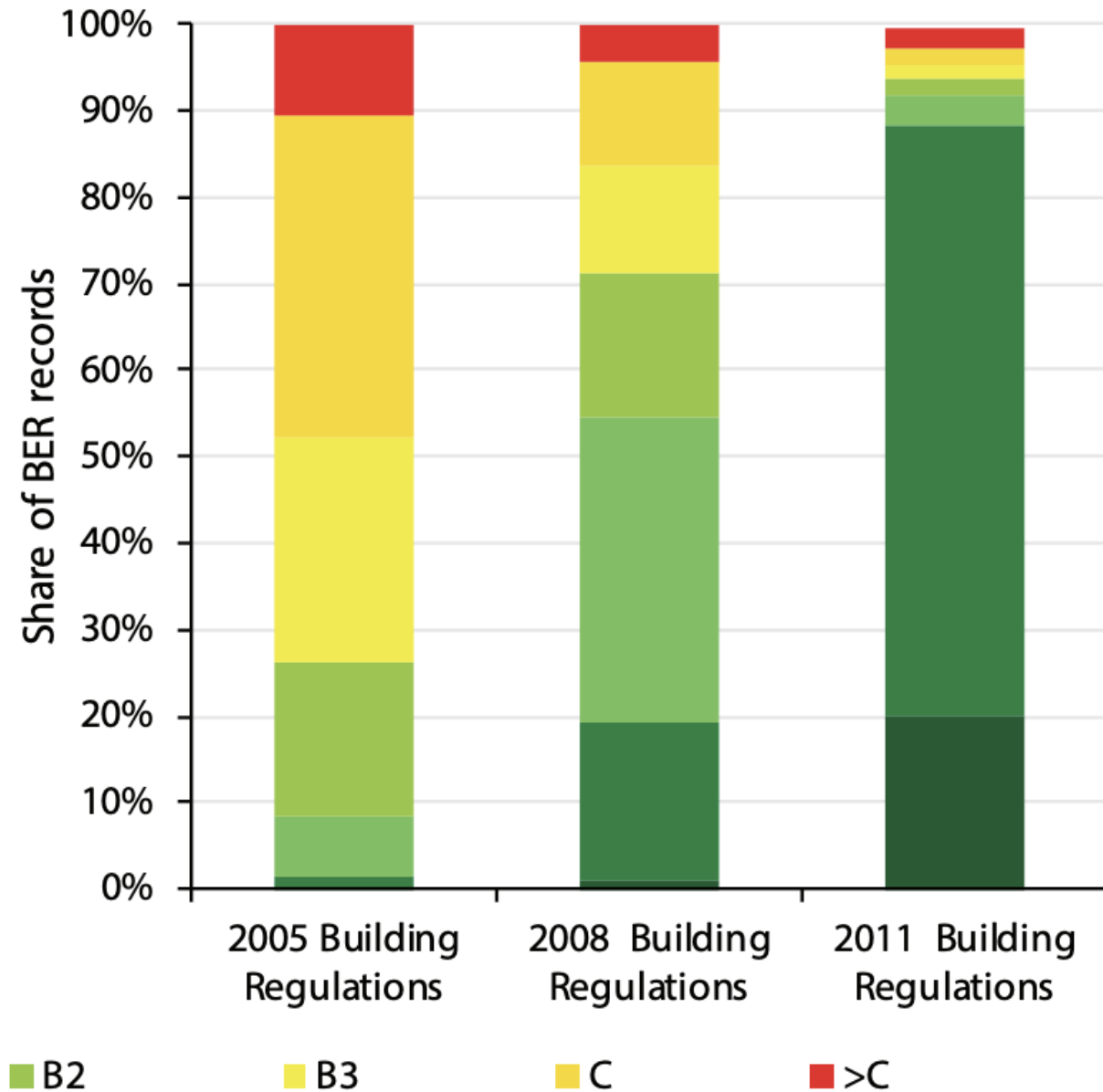
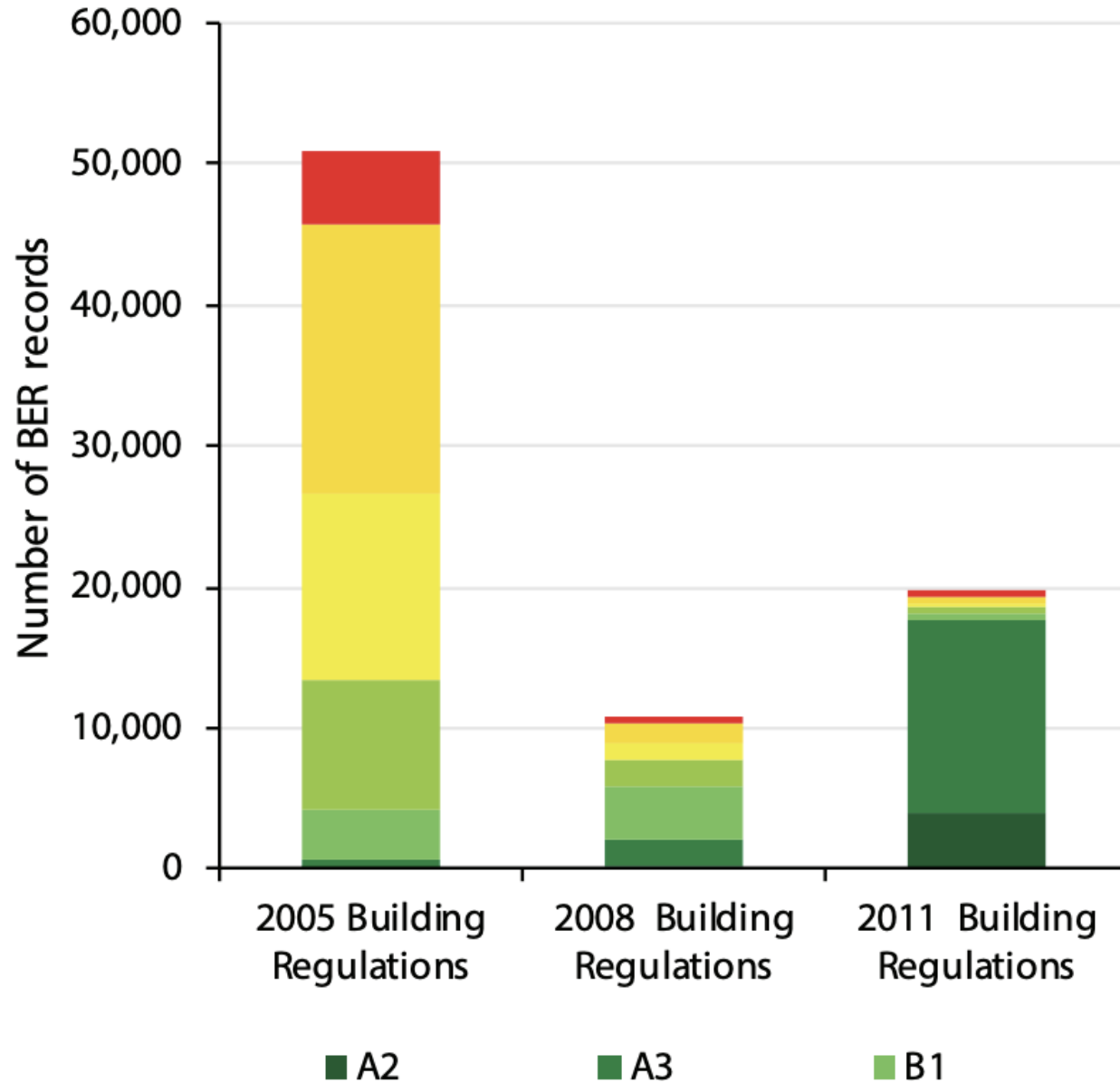
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest prevalence of asthma in the world
- 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate of COPD in Europe
- Respiratory disease 1/3 emergency hospital admission
- Mortality rate 113.6 / 100,000 v's EU 28 average 85.2
- Lung cancer leading cause of cancer death in Ireland, 1 in 10 due to radon exposure

# Energy Performance of the Building Stock



**Distribution of BERs in the BER database and for the national housing stock, 2016**

# Changes in the Building Regulations

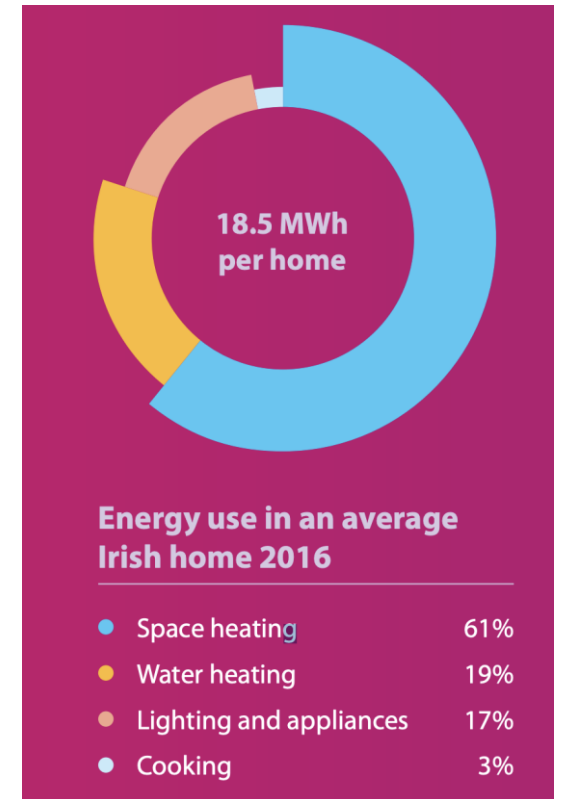


# Current status

- Residential buildings accounts for 27 % of Ireland's total energy use
- In 2017, residential energy use when adjusted for weather increased by 0.2%

## Moving Forward

- 500,000 homes required to be retrofitted by 2030
- Improved buildings regulations – minimum requirement A2 (34.45 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr)





# Technical Guidance Document F- Ventilation



## Current Edition

- [Technical Guidance Document F - Ventilation \(2019\)](#)

## Previous Editions

- [Technical Guidance Document F - Ventilation \(2009\)](#)
- [Technical Guidance Document F - Ventilation \(2002\)](#)
- [Technical Guidance Document F – Ventilation \(1997\)](#)
- [Technical Guidance Document F- Ventilation \(1991\)](#)

## Supplementary Documents

[Installation and Commissioning of Ventilation Systems for Dwellings - Achieving Compliance with Part F 2019](#)

# Technical Guidance Document L- Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Dwellings



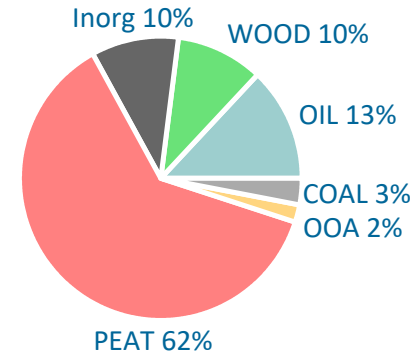
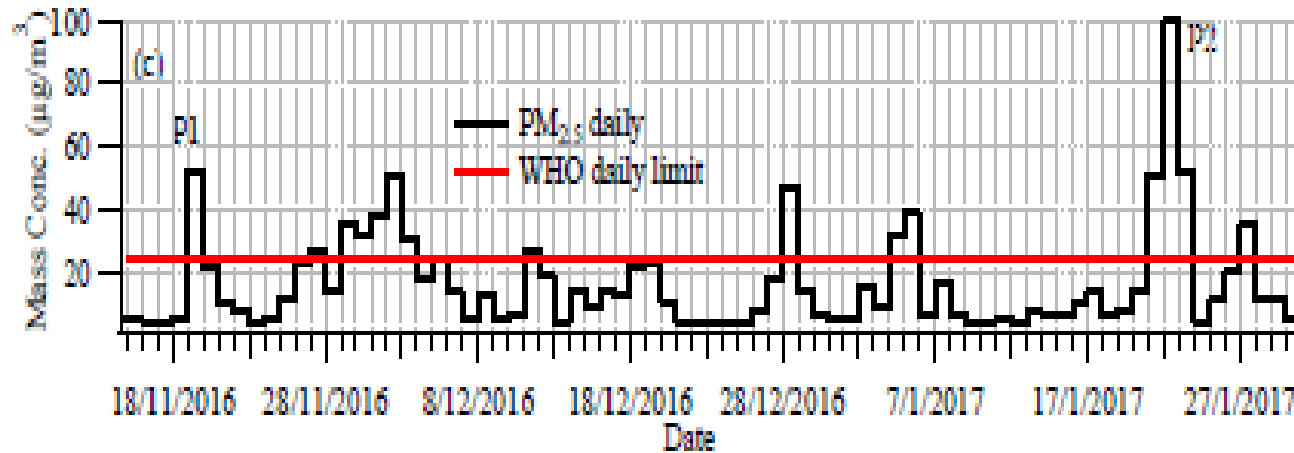
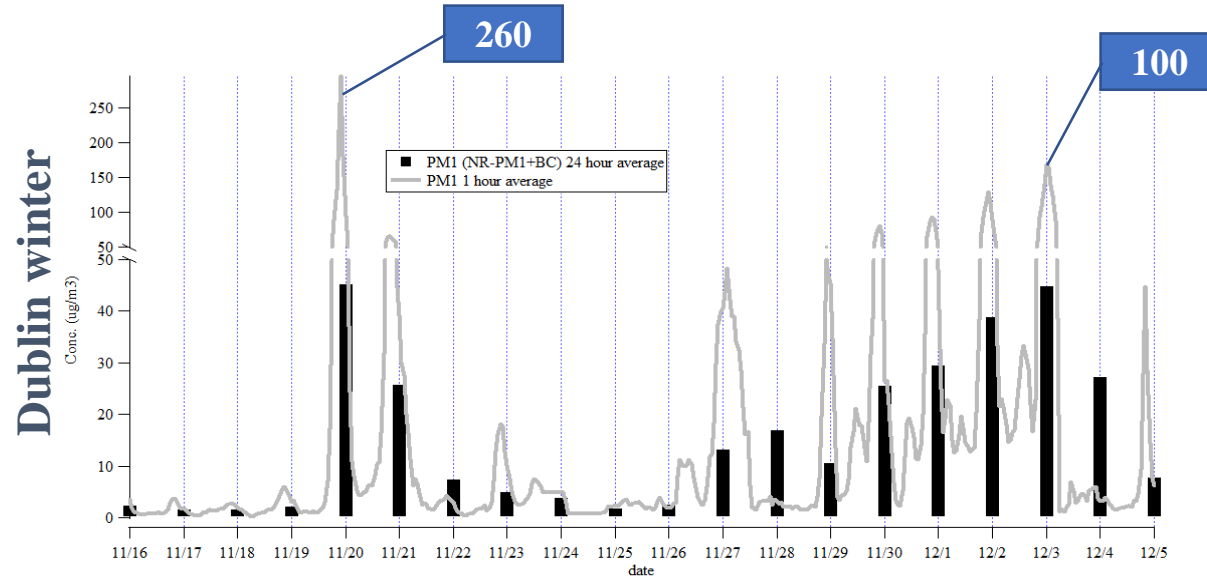
## Current Edition

[Part L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Dwellings \(2019\)](#)

## Previous Editions

- [Part L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Dwellings \(2017\)](#)
- [Part L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Dwellings \(2011\)](#)
- [Part L- Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Dwellings \(2007\) \(Reprint 2008\)](#)
- [Part L- Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Dwellings \(2002\) \(Reprint 2005\)](#)
- [Technical Guidance Document L- Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Dwellings 1997](#)
- [Technical Guidance Document L- Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Dwellings 1991](#)

# Outdoor PM - Dublin winter



## ANALYSIS

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-018-0125-x>

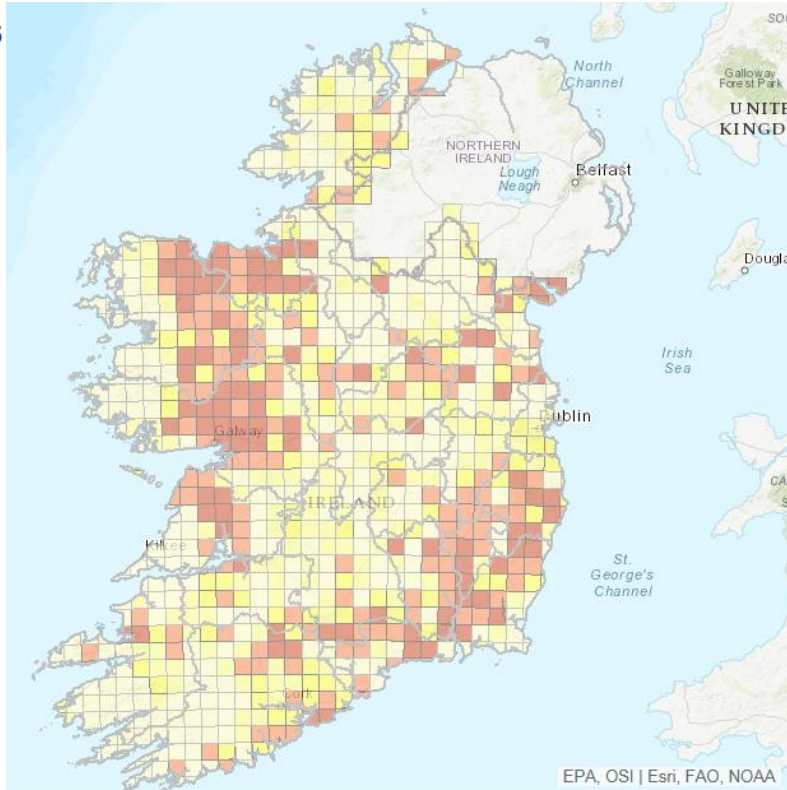
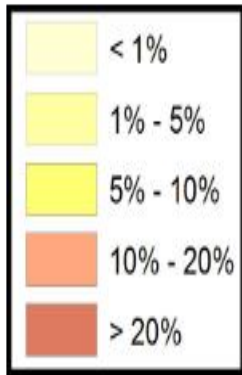
nature  
sustainability

## Extreme air pollution from residential solid fuel burning

Chunshui Lin<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ru-Jin Huang<sup>1,3\*</sup>, Darius Ceburnis<sup>1,2</sup>, Paul Buckley<sup>4</sup>, Jana Preissler<sup>1,2</sup>, John Wenger<sup>4</sup>, Matteo Rinaldi<sup>5</sup>, Maria Christina Facchini<sup>5</sup>, Colin O'Dowd<sup>1,2\*</sup> and Jurgita Ovadnevaite<sup>1,2</sup>

# Specific Irish challenges – Radon

Estimated percentage of homes  
above the Reference Levels



Average radon concentration

Irish homes 77 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

UK homes is 20 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

Worldwide average of 39 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

300 lung cancer cases per year

**New builds** - tight building envelope

Adequate and **balanced** ventilation

**Retrofits**

Potentially greater risk due to substructure





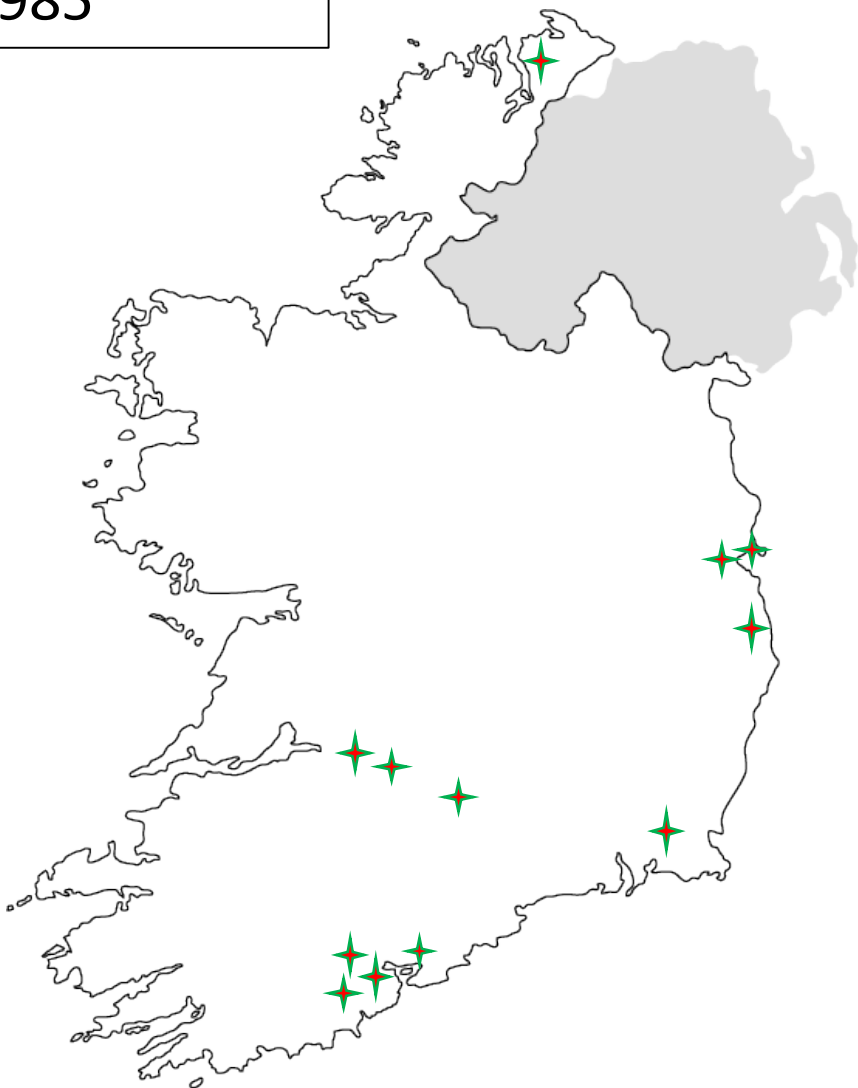
# The **ARDEN** Project: Indoor **A**ir, Ventilation and comfo**R**t in Irish Domestic dwellings post **D**Eep Energy re**N**ovations

- Measure 11 indoor air pollutants and thermal parameters in a sample of homes participating in SEAI's Deep Retrofit programme
- Pre & Post retrofit @ 12 months
- Sample of 10 homes > 1 year post retrofit



*"This project is funded by the Government of Ireland through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's Research, Development and Demonstration Funding Programme 2018".*

Built pre  
1985

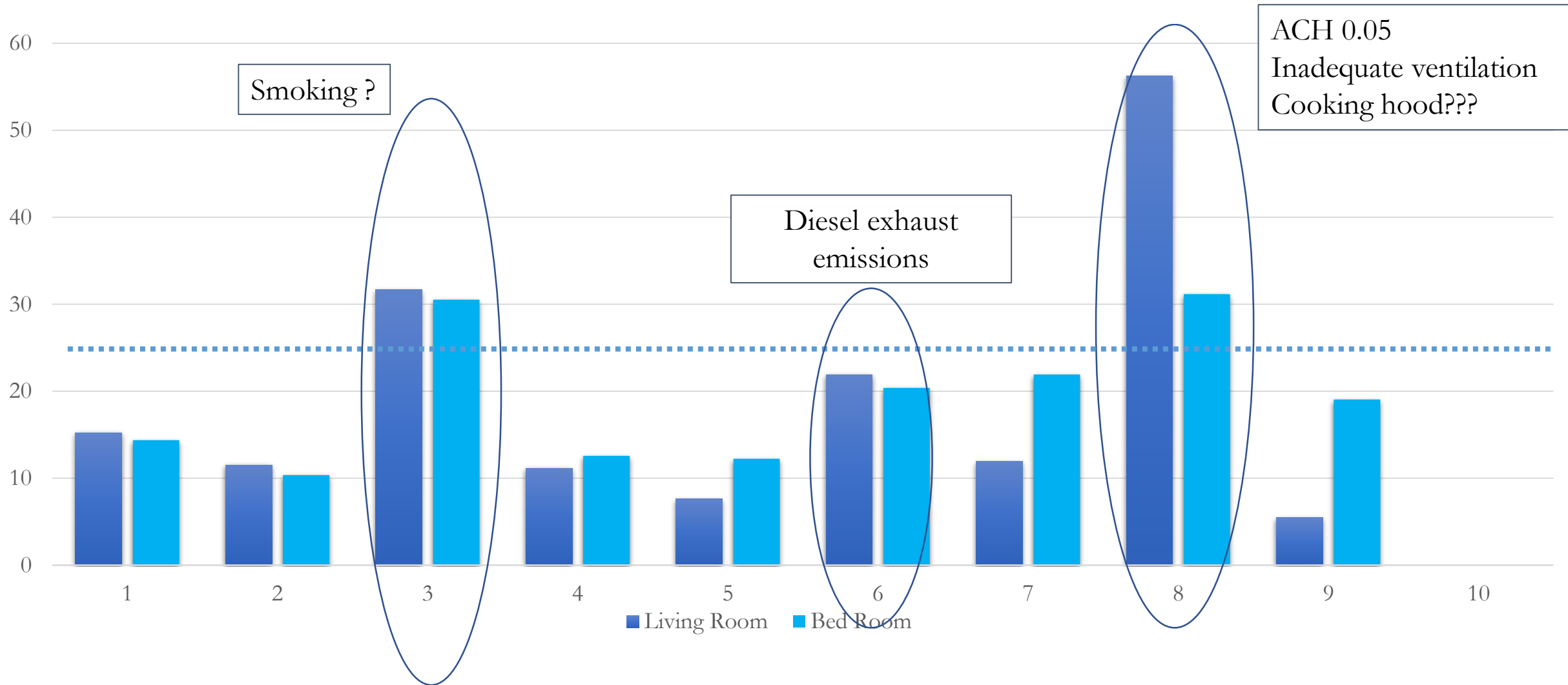


BER Rating	Air tightness ( m <sup>3</sup> /(hr m <sup>2</sup> ) )	ACH	Heating Source	Ventilation
C3	12.0		G,O	CH, BE, WV
D1	8		O	-
D1	8.1	0.2	G,S	CH, BE
D1	13.6		G,S,O	CH, BE
D2	5.9		S,O	CH
E1	TBC		S,O	CH, BE
E1	5.6	0.05	S,O	CH, BE
E2	5.2	0.4	S	CH, WV (blocked)
G	7.6	0.2	G,S,O	-

G = Gas, S = Solid, O = Oil

CH – cooker hood, BE= bathroom extract, WV = Wall vents

# PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24 hr average concentration (μg/m<sup>3</sup>) before the retrofit





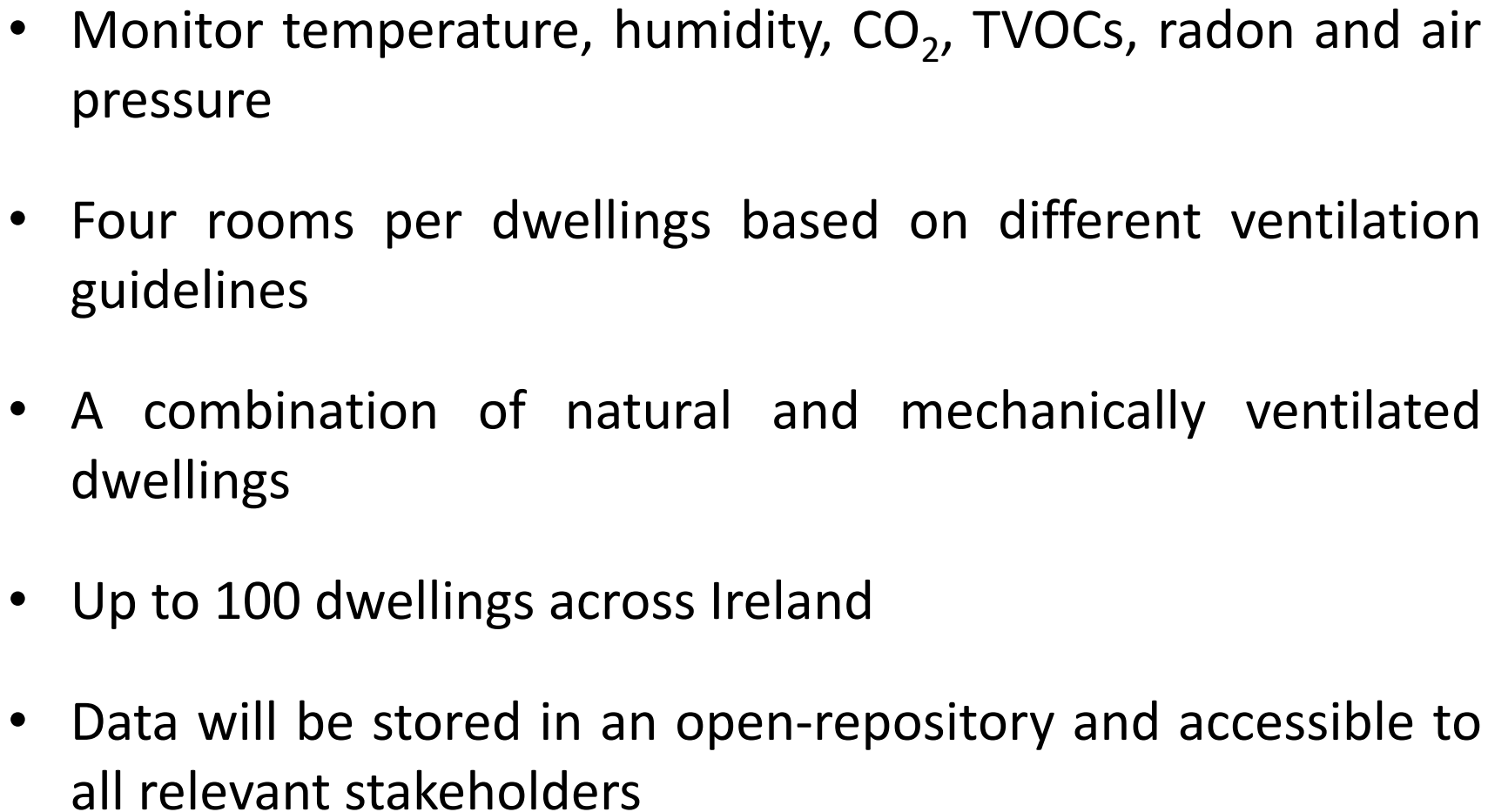
# The **VALIDate** Project:

## Assessment of VentilAtion effectiveness via a Longitudinal indoor environmental study in 'A' rated Irish Dwellings

- Monitor IEQ over two heating seasons and a cooling season
- Representation of whole-house ventilation effectiveness
- Questionnaires will capture occupants awareness
- Simulations examining the energy and operational performance of the ventilation system



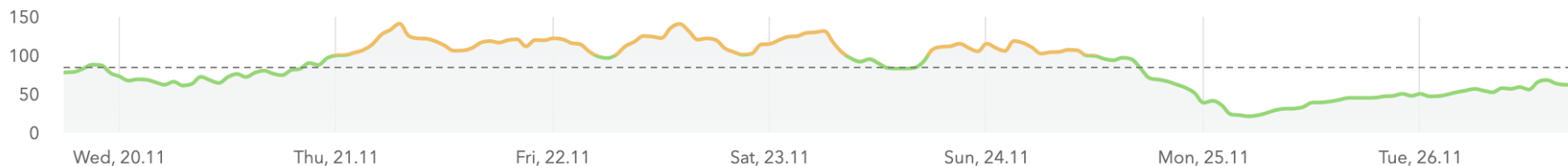
*"This project is funded by the Government of Ireland through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's Research, Development and Demonstration Funding Programme 2018".*



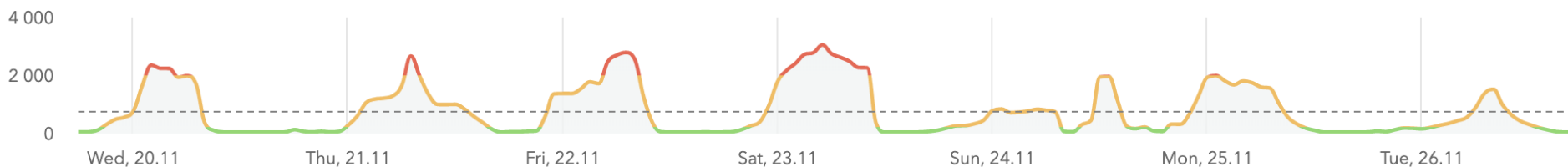
*"This project is funded by the Government of Ireland through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's Research, Development and Demonstration Funding Programme 2018".*



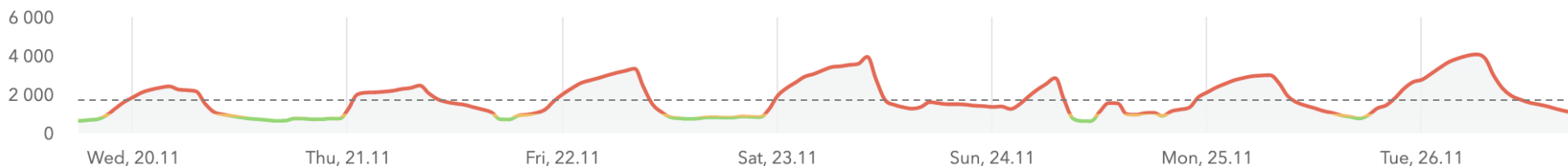
Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
**86**  
● RADON



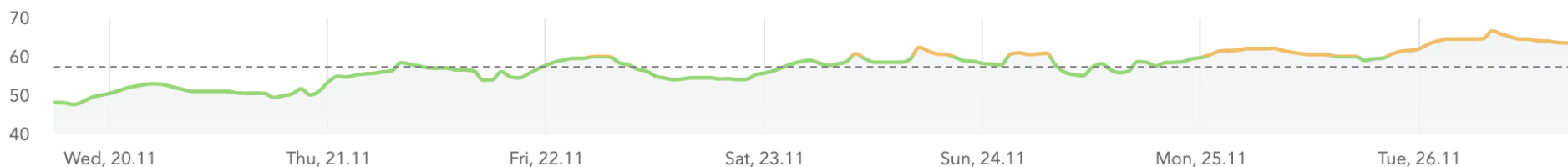
ppb  
**779**  
● TVOC



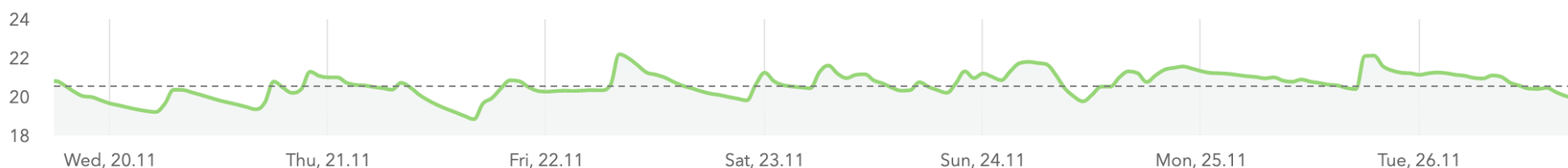
ppm  
**1741**  
● CO<sub>2</sub>



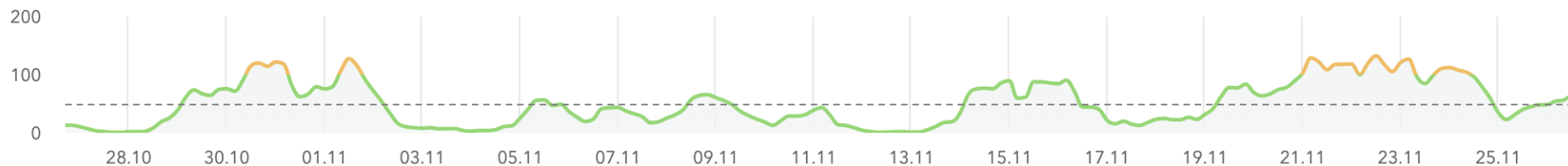
**57%**  
● HUMIDITY



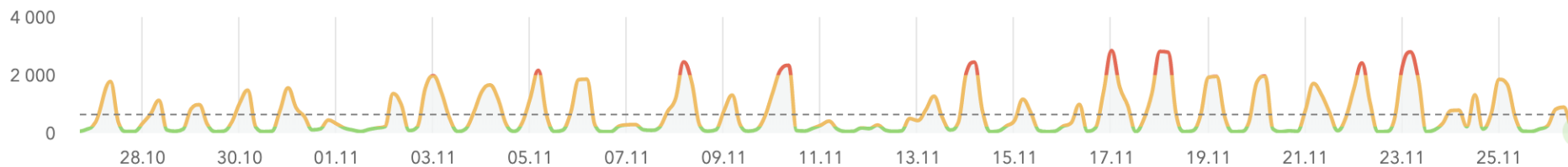
**21°**  
● TEMP



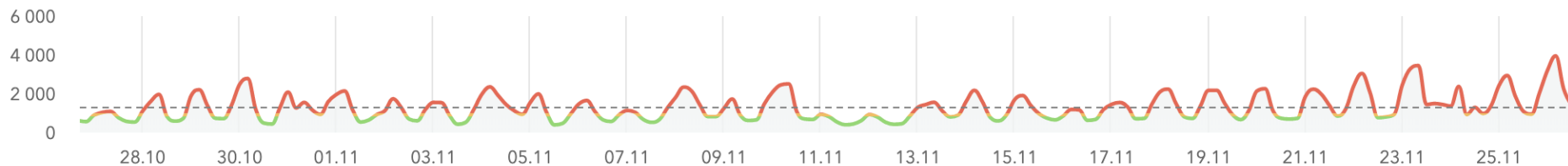
Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
**51**  
● RADON



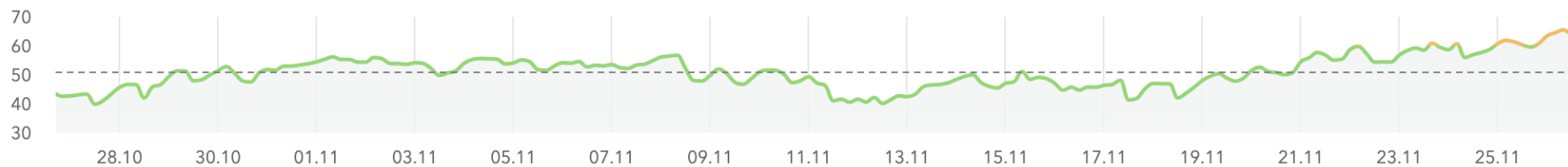
ppb  
**678**  
● TVOC



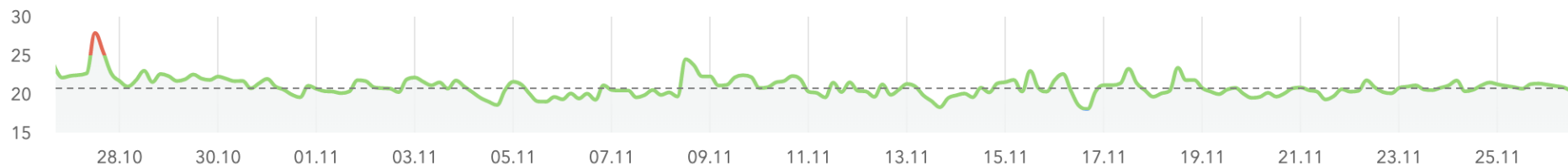
ppm  
**1313**  
● CO<sub>2</sub>

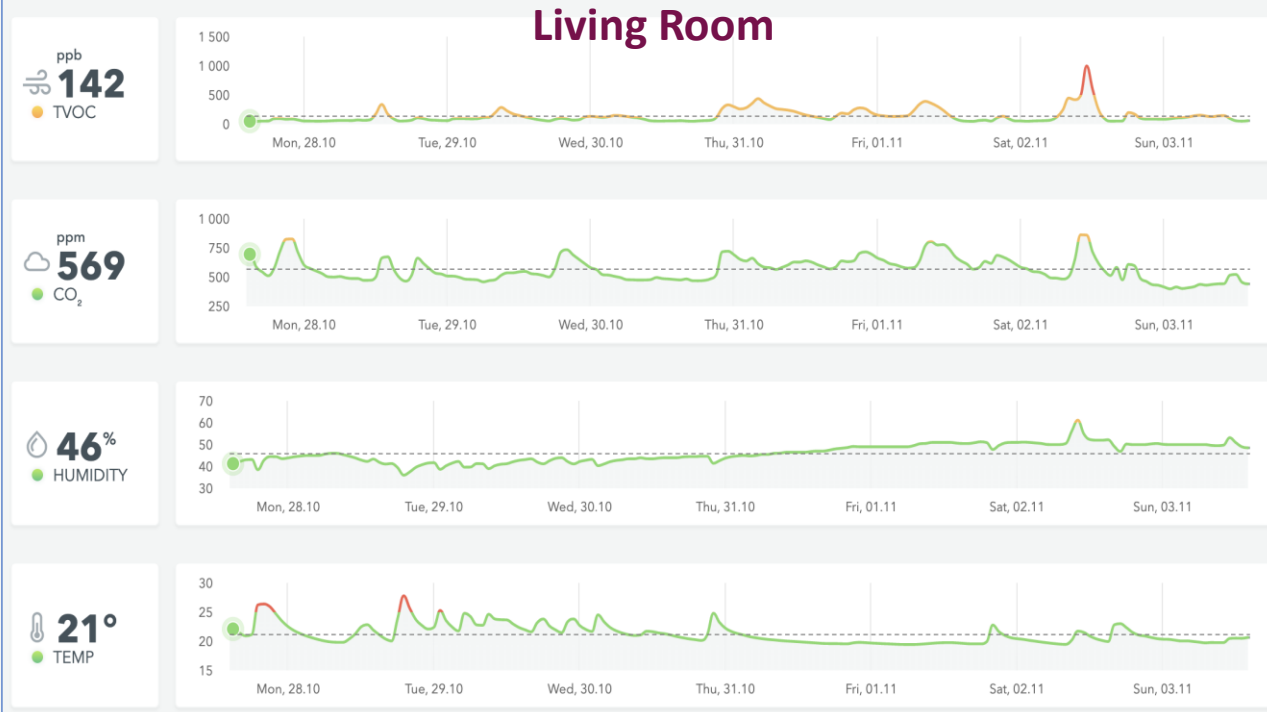
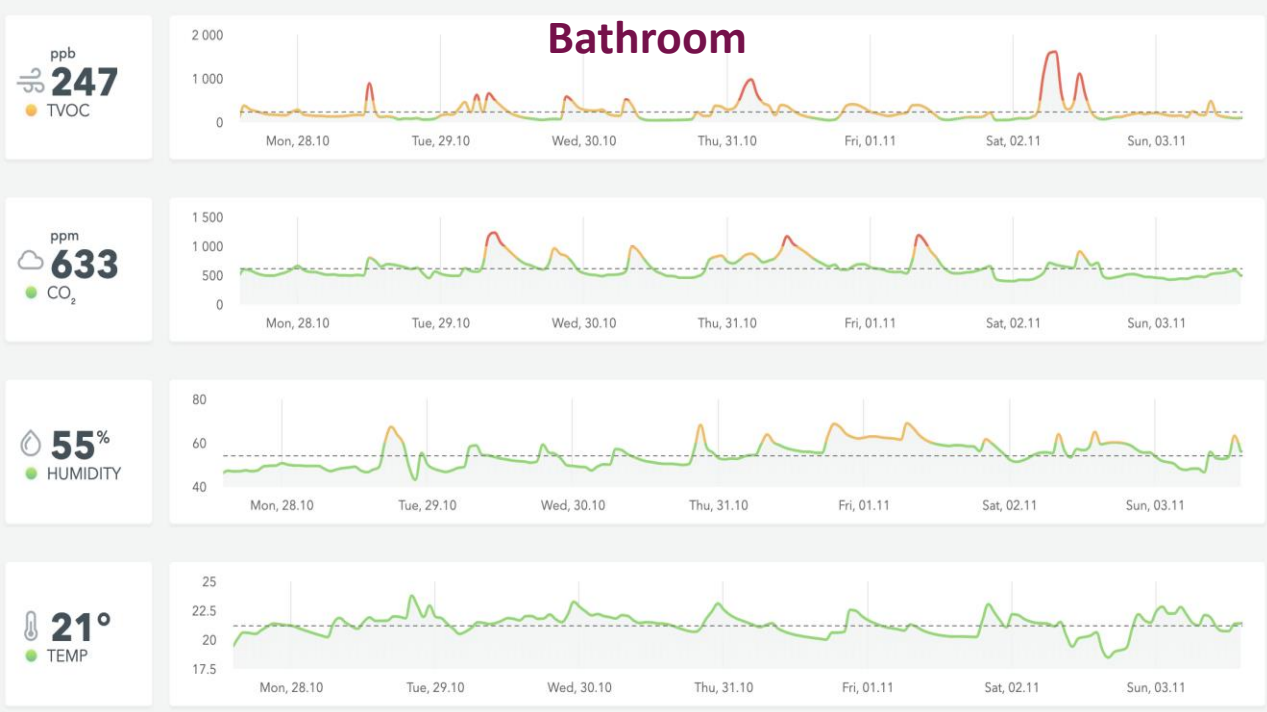
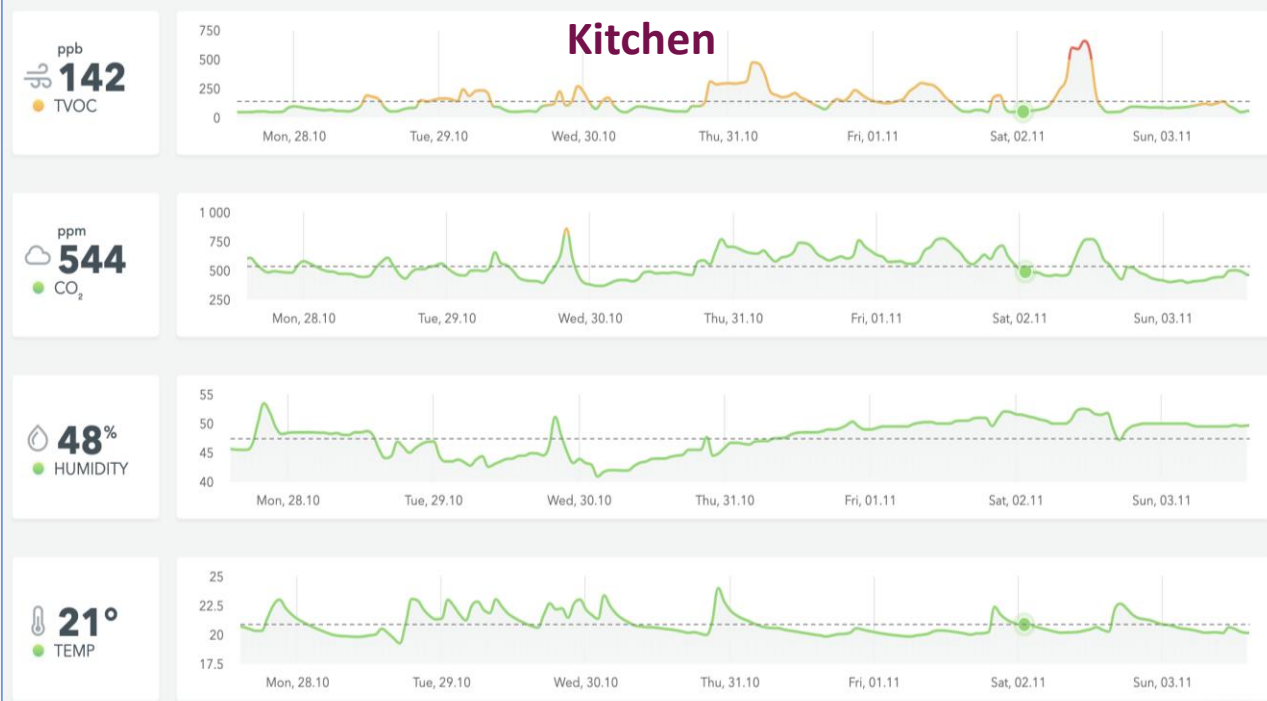
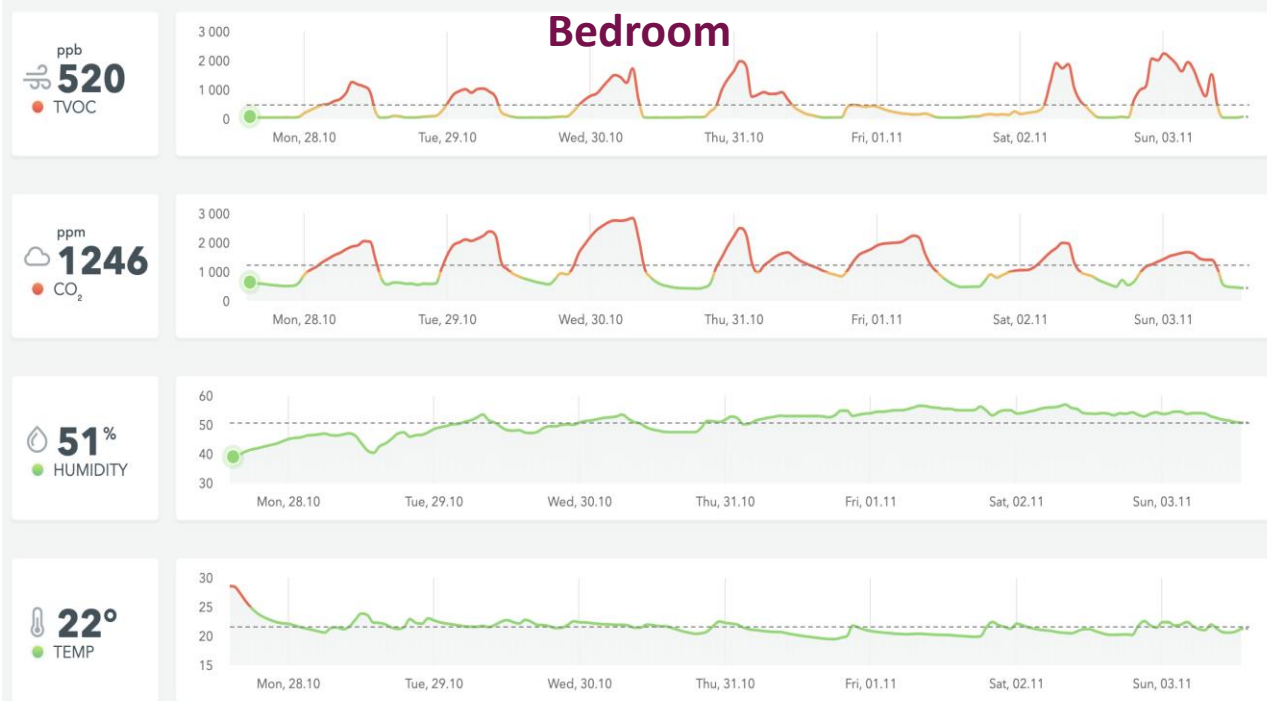


**51%**  
● HUMIDITY



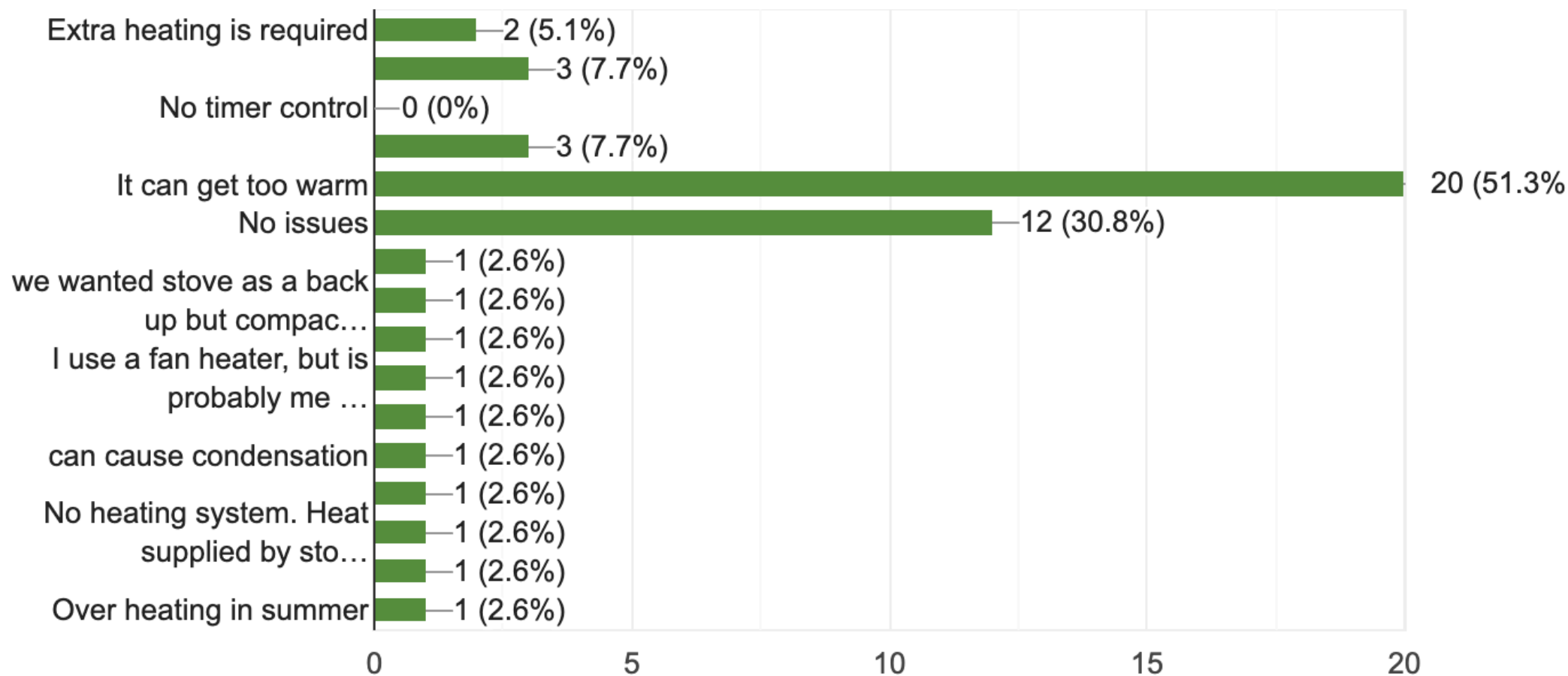
**21°**  
● TEMP





# Do you experience any of the following issues relating to heating in your house? (Tick all of the boxes that apply)

39 responses



# **ALIVE:** Assessing Indoor Environmental Quality and Energy Efficiency In a range of Naturally-Ventilated Buildings: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach

- Energy consumption, overheating and IEQ in natural-ventilated dwellings
- A hybrid approach; low-cost sensors and high-grade instrument
- Validated Building Energy Performance Simulation models
- Evaluate potential impacts to BER and NEAP ratings
- Assess the impact on the national building stock



# Summary

- Research focusses on changes in energy-efficient retrofits and changes in the building regulations
- Research approaches; research-grade and customer grade instruments, and computer simulations
- Ireland has unique factors that need to be taken into consideration
- Risk of overheating is a concern in energy efficient buildings
- (Two new PhD positions available starting in the new year)



# Project Team

## **ARDEN Project Team**

Marie Coggins, Paul O'Dea, Nina Wemken, Andrew Apsley, Miriam A. Byrne, Hilary Cowie (IOM)

## **VALIDate Project Team**

James A. McGrath, James O'Donnell (UCD), Miraim Byrne

## **ALIVE Project Team**

James A. McGrath, James O'Donnell (UCD), Eleni Mangina (UCD), Miriam Byrne

# Acknowledgments

Sean Armstrong (DHPLG), Emmanuel Bourdin (DHPLG), Orla Coyle (SEAI), Conor Hanniffy (SEAI), Grainne McGill (GSA), Brian McIntyre (SEAI), Stephanie Long (EPA), Eamonn Smyth (DHPLG)



# Thank You

