

What to ask election candidates and canvassers about climate change

We Need Faster and Fairer Climate Action

Much Faster: We need to be cutting our climate-polluting emissions by at least 8% a year, not 2% as planned, to make sure we achieve the Paris Agreement

Much Fairer: We need a substantial increase in government investment in public transport, warmer homes and community energy to make zero carbon options available for everyone.

Deliver MUCH FASTER action to prevent complete climate breakdown

- **Will you do enough to reduce our climate pollution by at least 8% a year** over lifetime of the next Government? The current plan is only 2% a year, but the United Nations says the global average needs to be 7.6% a year from now to 2030. Richer countries should actually be doing much more.

Deliver MUCH FAIRER action to ensure no one gets left behind

Ensure affordable and accessible transport for all

- **Will you invest 2/3 of the transport budget in public transport, cycling and walking?** It's only 1/3 now, but the Citizens' Assembly recommended 2/3. And only 2% on is spent on cycling and walking, whereas the UN recommends 20%.

Deliver warmer homes for all to help reduce energy use and save money

- **Will you make it much easier for me and my community to get help to upgrade our homes** to save money and reduce our energy use? I hear great things about how the Tipperary Energy Agency does it. Will you make that kind of support, along with grants and low-cost finance, available nationwide?

Support communities to own renewable energy projects

- **Will you do much more to enable schools, clubs, parishes etc., to start their own renewable energy projects?** There's almost no community-owned energy here, but community energy makes up 50% of all renewables in Germany. Lots of groups in Ireland are keen to do it but it's made really difficult. Will you start by promising to put solar panels on every school by 2025?

Speed up the move away from peat and coal while ensuring fair treatment of workers

- **Will you end the burning of peat and coal** for electricity by 2021? They are the most polluting of all the fossil fuels, and Eirgrid says we don't need them to keep the lights on.
- **Will you do more for the workers** and communities affected by the shift away from polluting industries? And will you commit to start immediate talks with the trade unions in the peat stations and the coal plant in Moneypoint?

End support for new fossil fuels exploration and infrastructure

- **Will you promise not to issue any new licences to look for fossil fuels in Irish waters?** If they ever found anything it wouldn't be used until the 2030s, locking us into fossil energy long after when we can afford to pollute like that.
- **And will you promise not to import fracked gas from the US?** We banned fracking here because of its impacts on local communities. It's hypocritical to let communities in Pennsylvania suffer instead. So will you say no to terminals to import LNG gas at Shannon and Cork?

Climate Justice in Ireland and internationally

- **Will you make sure climate action doesn't exacerbate existing poverty and inequality?** And will you make Ireland give its fair share to support poor countries who are being hit hardest by climate change impacts?

Make sure agriculture and land-use in Ireland help achieve our climate and biodiversity obligations

- **Will you commit to reducing pollution and emissions from agriculture?** You could start by limiting the total amount of chemical fertilizer we import and use in Ireland. It's risen 38% since 2011. If we reduce it, pollution will go down as well.
- **Will you draw up a plan to diversify agricultural production** away from livestock production in Ireland and ensure farmers are properly rewarded for protecting biodiversity and producing low-impact food?

Restore and protect nature

- **Will you set up a Citizens' Assembly on biodiversity loss?** The Dáil voted to do that when it declared a climate and biodiversity emergency in May 2019. Will you reverse the cuts to the budget of the National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect habitats and nature for wildlife and people?