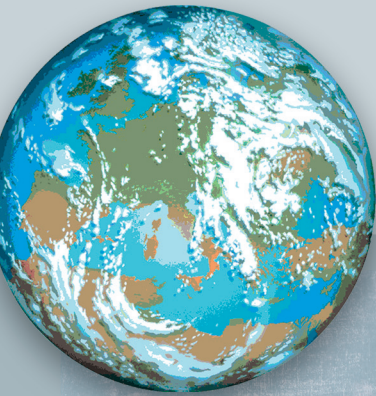


**stop
climate
chaos.**

*"Never doubt
that a small group
of thoughtful,
committed citizens
can change the
world. Indeed,
it is the only thing
that ever has."*

Margaret Mead

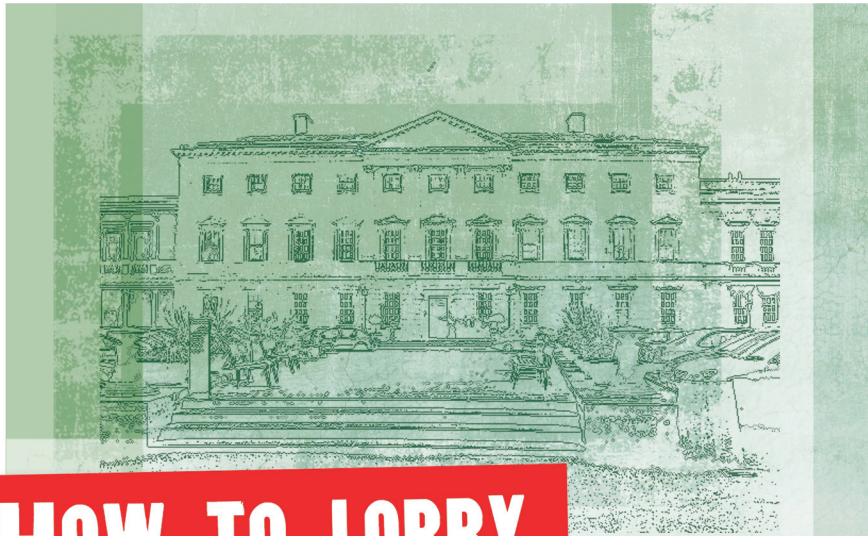


The members of stop climate chaos are;
Action Aid, Afri, Birdwatch Ireland, Christian Aid,
Climate Action Ireland Platform, Comhlámh, Concern,
Cultivate, Dublin Friends of Earth, Eco-Congregation,
Eco-Unesco, Feasta, Friends of the Earth, Gorta,
Just Forests, Kimmage Development Studies Centre,
Latin America Solidarity Centre,
Methodist Church of Ireland - Council of Social Responsibility,
Mountmellick Environmental Group (MEG),
National Youth Council Ireland, Oxfam Ireland,
Presentation Ireland, Progressio Ireland,
Students Against Climate Change,
Sustain West Cork, An Taisce, Trócaire, VITA, Voice.

**stop
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**HOW TO LOBBY
YOUR LOCAL TD**



HOW TO LOBBY YOUR LOCAL TD

why is it important?

Every law that is passed in Ireland is debated and voted on in the Dail before it fully comes into law. The Dail is made up of 166 TDs who have the right to make amendments to any piece of legislation, to speak on it and to vote for or against it. Everyone has either three, four or five TDs, depending on your constituency size. These TDs are supposed to represent your interests in their business in the Dail. Being an interested active voter in your constituency gives you a very powerful resource to influence your local decision makers.

why is it easy?

You are the TD's boss. He or she has a duty to listen to the views of all of their constituents. Most TDs will want to get elected again and by their very nature are very polite and interested in people in their local area. TDs have to keep a lot of different issues on their mind, unfortunately most of them are not very active on climate change. It is likely therefore that you already know more than they do about the topic. Often it is an education process.

TOP TIPS

❖ Be polite and friendly

Smile, shake hands and introduce yourself. Make eye contact during the meeting and listen as well as talk. Be calm but firm. Show your passion but don't get personal or aggressive. Being respectful makes it more likely for your message to get across.

❖ Emphasis the local

If your children go to school together mention that, if your husband works with the TD's cousin, joke about how hard they work, little thing like this. If you voted for them, tell them that. If they feel like they are connected to you with local links they will feel even more accountable for their decisions. Even just telling them where you live will help them to place you.

❖ Be prepared

Do a little bit of reading up on the topics before hand. You don't need to be an expert most TDs certainly aren't but it might be a good idea just to know what you are going to say. Have a think about things the TD might ask and what you would say in reply.

❖ Be concise

Put your message across as clearly as you can. Don't be afraid to make your main points a couple of times in different ways. If the TD wants to talk about something complicated that you don't understand, just go back to your main point. You don't have to be particularly knowledgeable, it is your right to tell a TD how you feel about climate change.

❖ Don't let them waffle or side-track you

Irish politicians love to divert the conversation away to an area that they are more comfortable talking about. Stick to your three main points and try to get them to as well. Politely bring the conversation back to the reason why you wanted to meet with them in the first place.

❖ Pin them down

TDs often seem to be agreeing with what their constituents are saying. It is important to get a concrete commitment out of them for something that they will actually do. Ask them to support what you are saying by speaking on it in the Dail, and ask them to write to one of their colleagues in the cabinet to ask them to support it at cabinet level.