


## National Climate Policy Development Public Consultation

### INSTRUCTIONS and SUGGESTED ANSWERS for completing the public consultation online survey

- (i) To open the public consultation online survey, go to:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7BC7TJP>
- (ii) The survey comprises of 63 questions and is long and technical in places however we have identified 15 questions which are the most important.
- (iii) Below are suggested answers for these 15 questions for a quick and easy way to complete the survey. Look out for this symbol  to direct you to the next question .
- (iv) Please feel free to answer all the survey questions however this is *not* required for your response to be counted.

**START HERE →**

 **Answer Question 1, 2 & 3**

#### Topic: About You

**\*1. Your details (If you provide an email address it will be used to notify you of developments related to this survey.)**

Name* (required):	
Company:	
Email Address:	

**\*2. Location: If you are in the Republic of Ireland, please indicate your location, otherwise please select N/A**

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#### **3. Affiliation**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Academic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business
<input type="checkbox"/>	EU ETS Installation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional Organisation

	Public Authority
	Representative Body
	Think tank
	Trade union
	Other (please specify):

**!** *Skip to Question 6*

**Topic: Choosing the policies and measures to cut emissions**

6. If an approach were being implemented that would require additional impacts to be taken into account in choosing policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, how important would you consider inclusion of the following impacts?

	Very Important	Important	Don't Know/No opinion	Not Important	Shouldn't be included
Impact on administrative burdens					
Impact on air quality (and related benefits for health, reduced acidification etc..)					
Impact on competitiveness					
Impact on investment					
Impact on jobs					
Impact on quality of life					
Impact on regional development					
Impact on rural communities					
Impact on social inclusion					
Other (please specify)	(No ticks) Rather than 'additional considerations', each of these factors are important and should be part of an overall cost and benefit analysis of proposed action. Both global and domestic justice, placing the most vulnerable overseas and in Ireland at the centre of concern must underpin Ireland's approach to climate policy.				



## Skip to Question 13

### Topic: Policy instruments

#### 13. FLEXIBILITIES

The effort-sharing decision provides some flexibility for Member States in meeting their targets. These flexibilities are designed to lower the overall cost of compliance and could be used beyond a certain threshold where domestic actions become more expensive. The decision provides for a range of flexibilities including the purchase of emission allowances from other Member States (from their unused allocations) or the purchase of credits from projects that reduce emissions in developing countries.

What role do you see for purchased units in meeting Ireland's target?

	A substantial role, if these options are cheaper than domestic abatement they should be used to the fullest extent possible
	A significant role, but subordinate to domestic action to ensure investment in the domestic economy
	Don't know/no opinion
	A small role, a strict national limit on purchases should be in place to maximise domestic action
√	No role, targets should be met solely through domestic emission reductions
<b>Please include any additional comments:</b>	
There is much evidence that international offsetting mechanisms are not achieving additional emission reductions and are thus highly questionable from an environmental integrity point of view. Transition to a low carbon economy needs to begin as soon as possible, relying on purchasing credits from overseas is an expensive way to delay action. It is also questionable whether credits bought overseas make a positive contribution to sustainable development in the developing countries in which they are purchased, and have even been linked to human rights abuses in some countries.	



## Skip to Question 33

### Topic: Changing Behaviour

*Focusing on potential areas for changing behaviour, in your view, are the following possibilities being adequately emphasised at present? If not, how would you propose improving the situation?*

33. Compensating for greenhouse gas emissions by buying carbon offsets, i.e. financing projects to reduce emissions somewhere else in the world to offset personal/corporate carbon emissions

Adequately emphasised at present	Needs some more emphasis	Needs significantly greater emphasis	Don't know/No opinion
<b>Additional comments:</b>			
The buying of carbon offsets should not be emphasised at all. Credits bought overseas do not ensure credible emissions reductions. This is because it is almost impossible to prove that most offsetting projects would not have happened anyway without the offset finance- i.e. that they are "additional".			

**! Skip to Question 43**

**Topic: EU 2050**

*The European Commission has developed a Roadmap to a competitive, low-carbon economy in 2050. Some of the measures needed to achieve a low-carbon economy in 2050 could bring about more sustainable growth, extra jobs, accelerated innovation, cleaner air, increased energy security and reducing vulnerability to external energy shocks.*

*In your view, how important should each of the following be in a 2050 plan for Ireland and, if possible, make suggestions on how they could be incorporated?*

**43. Where would you like to see Ireland in the period to 2050 in terms of its position relative to other Member States?**

<b>√</b>	Among the progressive vanguard of Member States. Ireland should be presenting itself as a forward looking, progressive society with an economy that is sustainable on socio-economic and environmental grounds.
	Playing its full part in a proactive way but not leading the field. Ireland is a technology taker in many areas and therefore cannot be expected to take the risks that may be associated with forging ahead of the pack, particularly given the current economic circumstances.
	Working on a compliance basis. Ireland is in severe economic difficulties that will make reaching all current targets and obligations challenging enough, we should meet our targets but not go further.
	Don't know/No opinion
<b>Additional comments:</b>	
Ireland should continue to associate with and enhance support for progressive positions in Europe on climate action, both in relation to emission reduction efforts as well as international climate finance. At the same time, Ireland needs to address the gap between its commitment to progress at the EU level and its performance at the national level. Ireland must have integrity in its action and achieve what it has committed to as well as supporting progressive voices at EU level.	

**! Skip to Question 44**

**Topic: The National Policy Horizon to 2050 - Challenges and Opportunities**

**44. What, in your view, are the three most important initiatives Ireland should pursue in the next five to ten years to begin the transition towards a competitive, low-carbon economy by 2050?**

An effective climate law is the most important initiative that Ireland should pursue to ensure transition to a competitive low-carbon economy. The certainty the law gives to investors about the long-term direction of Irish policy could also act as a spur to foreign direct investment looking for opportunities to invest in green R&D and enterprise. Ireland can become a testbed for the development of green technology in areas such as wind and wave power and the use of electric vehicles. A strong climate change law which gives the required certainty would be a powerful signal that Ireland is intent on becoming a leading location for the development of a green enterprise economy.
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**Skip to Question 45**

45. Achieving a low-carbon future means investing in the medium to long-term. What three initiatives could, in your view, help Ireland to create a stable environment to encourage investment in low carbon technologies?

Putting our long-term emissions targets into law and mapping out the pathway to get there gives decision makers in government, business and society the certainty that the rules of the game have changed for good. That certainty will drive innovation in public policy, private enterprise and personal behaviour as economic and status advantages open up for first movers and early adopters.



**Skip to Question 50**

**Topic: Climate Legislation**

50. Ireland is already legally bound by the Effort Sharing Decision to reduce non-ETS emissions by 20% on 2005 levels by 2020, and this figure may change in line with EU and international negotiations.

In your view, how important are the following potential elements of climate legislation in terms of adding value to the policy framework?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Don't know/No opinion	Not important	Shouldn't be included
Establishing a body to publicly advise Government on most appropriate actions	√				
Establishing a system of carbon budgeting	√				
Establishing compliance and accountability mechanisms for Government and other actors	√				
Establishing institutional structures and processes to ensure policy delivery	√				
Establishing procedures to ensure greater policy integration across Government	√				
Making provision for sectoral actions	√				
Placing obligations on national, regional or local government in relation to adaptation	√				
Placing reporting obligations on Government	√				

Placing reporting obligations on private sector organisations	√				
Setting a longer term statutory objective to 2050	√				
Setting statutory objectives for the longer term e.g. for 2030 or 2040	√				
Setting up institutional and budgetary structures for climate finance for national action and international commitments	√				
<b>Other (please specify):</b>					
Ireland has obligations to provide new and additional resources to support developing countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to develop in a sustainable manner. In establishing policy and measures to respond to climate change it is important that provision is made to ensure Ireland will be able to meet these obligations. In developing its climate policy Ireland should prioritise mechanisms that achieve both domestic emission reductions and generate finance, embodying the 'polluter pays' principle and achieving a double dividend. Resources generated can go to supporting Ireland's obligations to invest in climate action, including both adaptation and mitigation domestically as well as in developing countries.					



***Skip to Question 52***

**52. Establishment of an Advisory Body**

Many countries have established bodies to give expert advice to Government on climate issues. Such an Advisory Body has been included in every Bill presented on the subject in Ireland.

In principle, would you be in favour of the establishment of such a body?

Yes	No	Don't know/No opinion
√		
<b>Additional comments:</b>		
The independence of the Expert Advisory Body (EAB) must be ensured for it to be effective and it must be free to contribute to the public debate on tackling climate change.		



**Skip to Question 53**

**53. Design of an Advisory Body**

In your view, how important are the following features in the design of such a body?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Don't know/No opinion	Not important	Shouldn't be included
Adequate and predictable resourcing	√				
Expert membership	√				
Independence from Government	√				
Independent interaction with the Oireachtas	√				
Independent interaction with the public/media	√				
Open and transparent appointment process	√				
Representative of all major stakeholder groups					√
Requirement on Government to accept recommendations or explain reasons to the Dáil	√				
Requirement on Government to respond to recommendations	√				
<b>Other (please specify):</b>					
The EAB should be about independent expert advice to Government on the targets and measures needed to ensure Ireland does its fair share on climate change.					



**Skip to Question 54**

**54. Positioning of an Advisory Body**

Given the economic climate, establishing any new body will require a careful consideration of costs. It may therefore be necessary to locate such a body within an existing structure or organisation. If its independence were assured, what, in your view, would be the most appropriate location for such a body?

For the independence of the Expert Advisory Body to be completely assured it needs to be a stand-alone body and not situated within any other Government Department or State Body.



**Skip to Question 55**

**55. Functions of an Advisory Body**

In your view, how important are the following potential functions of an advisory body?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Don't know/No opinion	Not important	Shouldn't be included
Annual recommendations on policies and measures that enable reductions in the ETS sector	√				
Annual recommendations on policies and measures to meet targets in the non-ETS sector	√				
Annual reporting reviewing Government performance	√				
Awareness building		√			
Making recommendations on the level of use of flexible mechanisms vs domestic action	√				
Making recommendations on the sectoral burden-sharing of emissions reductions	√				
Production or commissioning of scientific and technical reports on climate change	√				
<b>Other (please specify):</b> Raising awareness should be among the key functions of the Advisory Body in so far as it should issue public reports on Ireland's performance against its commitments, including recommendations for action, and should profile these through interaction with Oireachtas members and the public via the media and other channels as appropriate. However general education and awareness raising on climate change should not be a role for the Advisory Body, whose mandate and resources should be focused on providing rigorous analysis to support policy development and facilitating transparency and accountability in government action.					

**! Skip to Question 56**

**56. Membership of an Advisory Body**

If such a body were established, and five members were to be appointed, in order of your preference which of the following areas do you think those persons should be drawn from? (The area you see as most important = 1, next most important = 2 and so on until all five places are filled.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Agriculture and forestry expertise					
Business competitiveness					
Climate policy at national and international level					
Climate science and other areas of environmental science					
Economic analysis and forecasting					
Emissions trading					
Energy production and supply					
Financial investment					
Overseas development policy					
Social policy					
Spatial policy and land-use including transport					
Technology development and diffusion					
<b>Other (please specify below) Tick!</b>					
While acknowledging that keeping costs down is important, the Advisory Body should have a sufficient complement of expertise to ensure analysis and recommendations are sufficiently comprehensive. Each of the areas of expertise suggested are important and should be reflected in the Terms of Reference for the composition of the Body.					

**! Skip to Question 57**

**57. Placing obligations on Ministers**

In terms of sectoral actions - the following requirements have been suggested for Ministers with responsibility for areas like transport, energy and agriculture.

- Establishing a baseline for their areas of responsibility
- Reporting on the policy instruments being mobilised such as taxes, charges, regulation, R&D, green purchasing etc
- Developing credible strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, showing costs, benefits and expected impacts
- Reporting on emissions from their sector(s)

In your view, what actions could be taken to encourage greater policy integration across Government and sectors more generally?

An effective climate law should be developed and implemented to ensure coherent 'whole of government' vision and action in climate change. A target in law ensures that all Ministers will have to take responsibility for contributing to meeting the target.



## ***Skip to Question 62***

**Topic: Any other comments?**

### **62. Additional comments**

The aim of this consultation has been to elicit detailed and structured inputs for consideration in the policy development process. If you have any additional comments that were not suitable for inclusion in any of the previous questions, please include them here.

As a global phenomenon climate change must be seen from a global perspective, even when defining national and local responses. Ireland's climate policy and action must include support to those impacted by climate change, whilst effectively doing its fair share to reign in climate change to ensure the capacity of people to cope and adapt is not breached.

Current international emission reduction commitments point to a further rise in global temperatures of more than 3°C, potentially significantly more - despite commitment by the international community to hold further warming below 2°C. The outcome of the Durban climate conference risks that increases in action will be delayed further, while climate science is telling us that the window for avoiding dangerous climate change is closing.

Vulnerable people in developing countries cannot afford for countries with significant responsibility for climate change to deflect or delay their legal, political and moral obligations to act. It is imperative that the next years see increased action at national levels and a step up in ambition at both national and international levels. As a country with a tradition and reputation for commitment to global development and human rights, Ireland must enhance its contribution to regional and global responses to climate change, and close the gap between political commitment at the international level and its domestic performance in reducing emissions.

This means working proactively towards equitable and legally binding action at national and international levels in line with the best and latest climate science. It also means ensuring Ireland does its fair share as part of the global effort to reduce emissions, provide secure and predictable, new and additional resources for adaptation and low carbon development in developing countries. As its Presidency of the EU approaches, Ireland's integrity will be increasingly under the spotlight. The Irish government should ensure Ireland is in a strong and credible position to lead negotiations on climate change within the EU and at the international level, by progressing the enactment of effective climate legislation without delay, fulfilling its obligations on climate finance and supporting progressive policy at the EU level.

**! Skip to Question 63**

**63. Please include any comments in relation to the consultation here.**

I am happy to see this public consultation taking place however I found the survey long and technical in places. I feel very strongly about this issue and I want to take this opportunity to share my views on climate legislation for Ireland however I feel it was not an appropriate forum for individual citizens and found the survey required a level of expertise.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete the public consultation survey.**