



Briefing for participants in the TD Lobby for Faster and Fairer Climate Action



Monday 7th December 2020

[\(click here to register\)](#)

Introduction

December 12th is the 5th anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement, when 196 countries agreed to keep global warming “well below 2 °C” and pursue efforts to limit the average global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. So far, the reality has not lived up to the rhetoric. While climate-polluting emissions in the EU are down 25% since 1990, our fair share would be more like a 40% reduction, and global emissions hit an all-time high in 2019. On current policies and trends the world is on course for a catastrophic 3 degrees of global warming.

We need faster climate action. Time is running out to prevent complete climate breakdown. Both the Irish Government and the EU have promised to adopt new legally binding targets and step up action in 2021. But as so often before, powerful vested interests, from the fossil fuel industry to agri-business, are lobbying hard to dilute and delay action to protect their short term profits. The only thing that can tip the balance towards action is sustained people power; global citizens consistently engaging their political representatives and pressing them to put the public interest before vested interests.

That’s where we come in: you, me, us. Particularly in Ireland, we have real access to our politicians and we know that Irish politicians listen to their voters. So it’s time to speak up for climate action.

We want 1,000 people to talk to their TDs on Monday 7th December to press the case for faster and fairer climate action. The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition has set out 5 principles it will use as benchmarks for Government climate action:

Fairness Urgency Science Dialogue Accountability

We’ve applied those principles to the current moment to articulate five concrete demands to make of TDs:

1. Close the loopholes in the Climate Bill

- TDs and Senators of all parties and none should make the new climate law as strong as possible to drive the rapid and just transition we need to zero climate pollution. The Government draft is not good enough.
- We need TDs to close the loopholes in the Bill, starting with the [key changes](#) proposed by Stop Climate Chaos Coalitionⁱ and incorporating any consensus recommendations of the cross-party Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action.

2. Do our fair share

Ireland and the EU must do our fair share to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change:

- The Government must support the strongest possible EU position on climate action as the world prepares for crunch UN talks on implementing the Paris Agreement in Glasgow next November.

- The Oireachtas should immediately ask the new Climate Advisory Council to report on what is the EU's and Ireland's fair share of the global emissions budget remaining if we are to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement in line with science and equity.
- Despite Ireland's good record on overseas aid we have been stingy in our contributions to the global fund to support the poorest countries and communities cope with the climate change they have done least to cause. It's time to step up.

3. Act urgently to cut emissions in all sectors

- There is no more time to waste. As a matter of absolute urgency Ireland must take action in every sector to radically reduce pollution. At its core that means burning less fossil fuels and using less reactive nitrogen - the two main sources of Ireland's pollution, year-on-year, every year.
- It means Government action across every sector: from retrofitting homes to ramping up renewables and enabling community energy, from abandoning plans for fossil fuel infrastructure to reducing agricultural pollution, from land use planning to public transport, cycling and walking.
- As a starting point Stop Climate Chaos Coalition supports [the One Future policy platform](#) for faster and fairer climate action.
- Coalition member organizations and One Future local constituency groups will also have their own priority actions to press TDs on.

4. Make climate action part of a Just Recovery that reduces poverty and protects nature

- As the Government faces the challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic and begins to look towards long-term recovery, we have a chance to reset the clock and build back better. We cannot go back to the way things were before.
- Faster and fairer climate action can and should create thousands of new, well-paid, secure, unionised jobs across the country, while restoring and protecting nature and wildlife. It must include a Just Transition for the workers and communities most impacted by the move to a zero pollution future and must be fully equality and poverty proofed.
- The Stop Climate Chaos is one of 14 national coalitions and over 60 civil society organizations that has endorsed [Six Principles for a Just Recovery](#), that we are urging the Government to adopt.

5. Start a proper dialogue with citizens and stakeholders

- Public engagement and participation is critical to successful climate action. At the moment there is no sustained public engagement and only sporadic consultation with stakeholders. We want to see a more strategic approach to social dialogue and citizen engagement at local and national levels, with a focus on inclusion, participation, deliberative methods, collaboration and activation.
- The Government should establish a body or task force to prepare, publish and implement a strategy for ongoing stakeholder dialogue and large-scale public engagement. The public engagement strategy should set out the steps to inform the public about climate change and national policy, and to enable public participation in the development and implementation of climate action.

ⁱ The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition [briefing on the 5 key tests](#) the Bill must pass to work is [here](#). SCC's full list of recommended changes to the Bill is [here](#).