CO₂ and other GHGs emitted through our lifestyle choices are changing our climate. More heat than ever before is trapped in our atmosphere, increasing global temperatures.

Since late 1700s we extract and burn fossil fuels—coal, oil and natural gas—to make electricity and to fuel our lifestyles, emitting huge volumes of CO₂.

At the same time, we clear forests for agriculture and industry.

This is the natural greenhouse effect.

Earth's climate and the level of CO₂ in our atmosphere changed throughout history.

But over the past 8,000 years our climate stabilised and life on Earth flourished.

It is also absorbed by sea, soil and stored in trees.

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Enter carbon dioxide

CO₂ enters our atmosphere through respiration and photosynthesis.

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Carbon dioxide (CO₂) can cause our climate to change.

CO₂ enters our atmosphere through breathing humans and animals, volcanoes, decaying plants, and fossil fuels.

Exit carbon dioxide

CO₂ exits our atmosphere through photosynthesis.

CO₂ exits our atmosphere through photosynthesis.

Weather and climate

Weather = day to day conditions in our atmosphere.

Climate = average weather pattern over long periods of time.

Climate varies across the world.

Start here

Climate change building blocks.

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Start here

Climate change building blocks.

Our lifestyles are devastating the Earth and all life on it.

If we topple, will it be game over?

Climate change game

How soon before we topple?

Game over

Tipping point

Unstable climate

Stable climate

Greenhouse effect
Climate Justice Tree

**Western Russia**
2010: Hottest summer since 1900. US$10 billion in economic loss. More importantly, 55,000 lives lost!

**Philippines**
2013: Typhoon Haiyan, the most powerful tropical cyclone to ever make landfall. Death toll 8,000, 4 million people homeless.

In 3 workers in the world experience poverty as farming is their livelihood.

People connect and work together to make Irish schools and communities more sustainable.

Lifestyle choices improve our health and greenhouse gases decrease.

Food waste in Ireland reduces. Households save €700-€1000 per year.

Strong climate laws enacted in Ireland, north and south, reduce CO2 emissions and prepare us for climate change.

Affordable, 100% renewable energy for all.

Farming that is ecological and sustainable protects ecosystems and peoples livelihoods.

Water captured for irrigation so people can grow a variety of crops.

Loss of precious natural resources and ecosystems prevented.

Citizens supported to make ethical and sustainable choices.

At risk families build resilience to climate change.

In Bangladesh if sea levels rise 45 cm/18”, 10% of land will disappear. 5.5 million people will be homeless.

If everyone lived like the average Irish person, we’d need 3 earths to sustain us!

8.8 metric tonnes is 8,800kgs - the weight of a heavy-duty truck.

Through our lifestyles - electricity we use, our modes of transport, products we buy - food we eat - annually the average person emits

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1 in 3 workers in the world experience poverty as farming is their livelihood.

People can’t grow food or earn a living.

Crops fail without rainwater.

Ice caps melt and sea levels rise.

More extreme heat waves.

**Rainsfall patterns change**

Record-breaking weather events increase

Temperatures rise

Our actions cause greenhouse gases to increase

InjustiCe

CLIMATE

Justice

Our actions cause greenhouse gases to decrease

Vulnerable communities adapt

Governments take action

We change

Sources:
- Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): ipcc.ch
- TED/hyphen.capEd Climate Change- Earth’s Giant Game of Tetris by Joss Fong: ed.ted.com
- US Environmental Protection Agency: epa.gov
- World Bank Climate Change: climatechange.worldbank.org
- World Bank Data: data.worldbank.org
- UK Government Department of Energy & Climate Change: gov.uk

Friends of the Earth: fue.co.uk
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: fao.org
- Met Éireann: met.ie
- Trócaire: trocaire.org

In Ireland, 8.8 metric tonnes CO2 per capita
In N. Ireland, 8.3 metric tonnes CO2 per capita
In Ethiopia, 0.1 metric tonnes CO2 per capita

In Ireland, November 2009: Highest rainfall since records began in 1866. Cost government €70 million in flood relief.

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