

HOW TO LOBBY YOUR LOCAL TD



stop
climate
chaos.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Every law that is passed in Ireland is debated and voted on in the Dáil before it fully comes into law. The Dáil is made up of 174 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 Dáil. 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. They have 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.



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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.

EMPHASISE 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 things 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 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.

BE PREPARED

Do a little bit of reading up on the topics beforehand. 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.

GET THEM TO COMMIT

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 Dáil, and ask them to write to one of their colleagues in the cabinet to ask them to support it at cabinet or committee level.



STOP CLIMATE CHAOS DEMANDS

FOR FAST AND FAIR CLIMATE ACTION

It has never been more crucial to take action on climate change to stop all out climate chaos. Ten years on from the Paris Agreement, our leaders have to act. Renewable energy is cleaner, cheaper, and safer than fossil fuels, yet we remain locked in to dirty, expensive fossil energy, thanks to the power and influence of the fossil fuel industry.

The world is falling dangerously short on climate action, with global reports confirming that current fossil fuel production plans exceed 1.5°C limits by over 120%. Ireland cannot continue to add to that failure. We are currently off track to meet our binding emission reduction targets - that gap must be closed. The Government must uphold the 2021 Climate Law, deliver the pollution cuts agreed by the Dáil and with our EU partners. This is not optional.

The ICJ has now made it clear that states are legally obliged to rein in fossil fuels and to cooperate internationally in doing so. The time is now for Ireland to respond by joining countries participating in discussions towards a Fossil Fuel Treaty.

Our elected representatives must ensure that climate action is fair, creates good jobs and protects living standards. Our leaders must stop lagging behind and start stepping up, because our choices now will shape not just our own future, but the world's.

1. END FOSSIL FUELS NOW - POWER PEOPLE, NOT POLLUTERS

We are heading towards a catastrophic climate crisis. Ireland must commit to an urgent phase-out of fossil fuels, ending our current dependence, eliminating subsidies and the financing of fossil fuels, and in particular halting

plans for any fracked LNG terminal. Our Government must reject the influence of lobbyists that seek to deny or delay the need for urgent climate action on behalf of polluting industries.

Joining the bloc of countries participating in Fossil Fuel Treaty discussions would strengthen Ireland's credibility, align our diplomacy with international law, and help ensure a managed, fair and financed global transition away from fossil fuels that protects workers and communities.

2. FAIR AND FUNDED INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION

Ten years on from the Paris Agreement, Ireland must step up and deliver its fair share of global climate action and fair share of climate finance. That means rapidly reducing our emissions, urgently scaling up the provision of quality, new and additional, grant-based, non debt-generating climate finance to developing countries in line with our fair share, and ensuring all public and private financial flows are consistent with the Paris Agreement and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

3. WARM, AFFORDABLE, FOSSIL FUEL-FREE HOMES FOR ALL

Everyone in Ireland deserves a warm, well-insulated home. This is critical for better health and wellbeing, lower energy bills, as well as climate resilience. Ensuring everyone can access retrofitting programmes and clean, affordable heating must be a national priority. We can get there by investing in state-led retrofitting programmes that target the coldest homes first, and ramping up rollout of heat pumps, district heating and nationwide solar PV initiatives. At a minimum, all social housing should be retrofitted by 2030 and minimum energy efficiency standards introduced for rental properties.

4. CLEAN ENERGY FOR PEOPLE, NOT DATA CENTRES AND BIG TECH

Ireland's energy system must serve people first, not corporate profit. We need an immediate moratorium on new data centre connections - Ireland's finite renewable electricity resource must be prioritised for powering homes, schools, and communities, not energy intensive infrastructure for Big Tech that drives up fossil-fuel demand and constrains new housing development.

5. A JUST TRANSITION WHERE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

The shift to a fossil-free Ireland must create quality green jobs, improved public transport and sustainable mobility, while tackling inequality and exclusion. Women, people with disabilities, workers, farmers and disadvantaged communities - whether urban or rural - must be placed at the heart of change through dialogue and consultation, ensuring that the benefits of climate action are shared fairly, and that every community thrives in a cleaner, safer and inclusive future.

6. A FAIR DEAL FOR FARMERS, TO FEED IRELAND AND RESTORE NATURE

We need our politicians to step up and reward land that provides food, water, nature and climate benefits, support women in agriculture, ensure fair prices for farmers and stop unfair trade deals like Mercosur. They must also fund a strong national plan to restore nature so that rural communities, family farms and biodiversity all have a sustainable and fair future.

WHO IS MY TD?

Scan this QR code or visit

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/member> to find out who your representatives are and if they have a particular area of responsibility in government or as spokesperson for their party.



**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**



Action Aid, Afri, AMLÉ, Birdwatch Ireland, Christian Aid, Comhlámh, Centre for Environmental Justice, Community Law and Mediation, Concern, Cultivate, Dublin Friends of Earth, Eco-Congregation, Eco-Unesco, Environmental Justice Ireland, Feasta, Feminist Communities for Climate Justice, FoodCloud, Friends of the Earth, Good Energies Alliance Ireland, Irish Climate And Health Alliance, Irish Cycling Campaign, Irish Doctors for the Environment, Just Forests, Latin America Solidarity Centre, Methodist Church of Ireland-Council of Social Responsibility, National Youth Council Ireland, Opportunity Green, Oxfam Ireland, STAND, An Taisce, Trócaire, Voice, World Vision Ireland