**Key climate questions for parties and candidates**

**November 2024**

***These questions are organised according to the 5 areas in Friends of Earth’s***[***Programme for a Government that delivers Faster and Fairer Climate Action***](https://www.friendsoftheearth.ie/assets/files/pdf/programme_for_faster_and_fairer_climate_action_2025-2030.pdf)

1. **Upholding the climate law at home and championing fast, fair and funded action globally**

**Key questions:**

* Will you uphold the 2021 climate law, passed 129-10 by the Dáil, and are you committed to doing everything you can to reduce emissions in line with the binding pollution limits to 2030 adopted the Dáil on a cross-party basis in 2022.
* Will you support the Support the European Commission proposal for a 90% reduction in EU emissions by 2040 and adopt 2035 and 2040 national carbon budgets in line with that?
*(info: the Climate Change Advisory Council is going to make its official recommendations on the 2035 and 2040 carbon budgets before the end of the year and the Dáil will have to vote on them by next summer)*
* Will you deliver on the outgoing Government’s commitment to contributing at least €225m a year in international climate finance and set a pathway to increase this to Ireland’s actual 'fair share' (according to aid agencies like Trócaire) of €500m a year.
1. **Warm homes for all, with lower bills and no fossil fuels**

*As part of tackling the housing emergency, the next Government must make home energy upgrades so affordable and accessible that nobody has to live in cold, leaky accommodation and nobody needs a new fossil fuel boiler.*

**Key questions:**

* **What will you do to ensure renters are not left out in the cold on retrofitting?** Will you introduce the minimum BER standards for rental properties that was promised by 2025? Will you expand the Warmer Homes (free retrofit) Scheme to include HAP tenants, on the condition that a long-term lease is offered?
* **How much social housing will you retrofit by 2030?** The outgoing Government was planning to do 25%. Environmental and social NGOs want the target to be 100%. An Ireland Thinks poll earlier this year found 75% of people would support a plan to retrofit all social housing by 2030.
* Would you establish a community energy advice service in every local authority, offering independent, tailored guidance on energy efficiency and renewable energy options?
1. **Clean, affordable renewable energy for people, not data centres and big tech**

**Key questions:**

* Would you support a moratorium on more data centres coming online until any threat to the sustainability of our energy system from data centre expansion has passed?
* Would you commit to planning for a 100% renewable power system by 2035?
* Where do you stand on importing liquefied fossil gas (LNG)? Will you ban any import terminals, private commercial ones and state-controlled back-up terminals? Or will you just ban commercial LNG terminals as proposed in the Government’s Energy Security Package last November?
1. **Affordable, reliable, and accessible fossil-free transport***The next Government must make public transport, walking and cycling so easy, safe and cheap and make our electric car network so reliable and affordable that by 2030 an end to the sale of new fossil fuel cars is an obvious and uncontroversial next step.*

**Key questions:**

* Will you fast track new Luas lines for Cork, Galway, Limerick, Waterford as well as Dublin?
* Will you guarantee a free school bus place for anyone who wants one? And ensure a safe routes to school by walking or cycling for anyone who lives within 3km?
* Will you continue the commitment to invest at least €2 in public transport for every €1 in new roads, and achieve it?
* Will you prevent further growth of aviation emissions by banning private jets from landing in Ireland, maintaining the passenger cap in Dublin Airport and introducing a moratorium on airport expansion?
1. **A fair deal for family farmers, to feed Ireland and restore nature***The next Government must ensure the state, supermarkets and food processors pay farmers enough to support less polluting forms of agriculture and land use that produce local food, clean water, and a countryside where family farms and nature thrive.*

**Key questions:**

* What will you do to secure fair prices for Irish farmers from the supermarkets and processors that dominate the food supply chain, using the new Agri Food Regulator or by other means if necessary?
* Will you ensure all our national plans reward farmers for the things a thriving people need from their nation’s land: food, water, carbon storage, nature, and recreation?
* Will you reform the legal purpose and governance of Irish state agencies, from Coillte and Bord na Mona to Teagasc and Bord Bia to align with our climate and nature goals?