

BOLD Climate Action Manifesto

August 2024



Who We Are

We are a group of older people concerned with the climate crisis and motivated to act with urgency to address it in a just and fair way. We are concerned that the climate crisis impacts most on vulnerable groups, including older people, in Ireland and around the world. We are also concerned with the ongoing significant effects on people in poorer regions of the world.

We recognise there is a significant diversity of older people and adopt an approach that takes account of the differences that exist. These differences include social class, gender, age, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity and disabilities amongst others. We welcome this diversity amongst participants in our group.

We are a group supported by Friends of the Earth (FOE). We value its generous support, sharing of expertise and access to its wider networks. We wish to contribute by bringing the perspective of a diverse group of older people to climate issues. Our activities are supported through funding from Irish Aid, Concern Worldwide and FOE.

What We Believe

Need for Systemic Change: The climate and biodiversity crisis is rooted in the current model of economic growth driven by corporations and governments. This emphasises ever increasing production and consumption. Corporations and the most affluent benefit and consume most. Thus the economic model deepens pre-existing inequalities. Science provides clear evidence that this model is causing deep destruction to the planet. The collective good, social solidarity and the rights of nature must be prioritised above the interests of large corporations and unsustainable levels of consumption. The economic model needs to be replaced or rebalanced to incorporate the core values of care and respect for all living beings and the natural world.

Human Rights, Equality, Justice and Fairness: All climate and related policies including taxation policies must address pre-existing inequalities in Irish society. These include those based on age, social class, gender, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity and disability. They must also take account of our commitments under the UN Human Rights

Conventions and recognise that the climate crisis is impacting on the rights of many vulnerable people.

Government Leadership: The Irish government with multinational institutions, such as the EU, must offer leadership in tackling the climate crisis. They must do this through effective laws, regulations and policies at national and international level, which are fully monitored and implemented. The Government also must emphasise the urgency of the climate crisis and act accordingly including educating the population on this urgency.

Communities at the Centre: Government must support and resource communities to be part of the solution. Older people acting with others in their communities can provide leadership and take action including in: transitioning from fossil fuels in home heating; use of sustainable modes of transport; promoting biodiversity and making sustainable choices.

Intergenerational Solidarity: We are concerned with the impact of the climate emergency on young people and support their right to live in a safe climate. We want to act in solidarity with them and be part of a wider movement which addresses the climate crisis.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to enhance older people's understanding of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss and to mobilise and embolden older people to become active participants in climate action; to ensure older peoples' voices and diverse needs, as well as those of all vulnerable groups, play a central role in shaping national and local climate policy; our ultimate aim is to contribute to an Equal Just and Fair Transition to a sustainable future.

What We Do

We promote older people's voices and action on the climate crisis by holding education and action-oriented workshops based on mutual support. We draw on the work of climate policy experts, as well as participatory and creative methods. We also link with other climate and equality groups and we contribute to climate policies.

What We Want of Government

1. To fully fund and implement all actions and policies needed to achieve Ireland's National Climate targets and commitments by 2030.
2. To ensure all climate policies and actions promote equality and the achievement of human rights whilst addressing pre-existing inequalities experienced by groups based on, for example, age, gender, social class, race /ethnicity and disability.
3. To address the health impacts of the climate crisis particularly as they affect members of vulnerable groups including older people.
4. To tackle the high levels of energy poverty amongst some older people and other vulnerable groups.
5. To prioritise the development of effective, affordable and sustainable public and active transport in all parts of the country.
6. To broaden the definition of 'green jobs' to include care work including in families, the community and institutions and to value, support and resource this work.
7. To empower and resource communities particularly those experiencing inequality, to be leaders in climate action in their areas as well as providing support for building cross community and group solidarity.
8. To develop and implement, with relevant stakeholders, a comprehensive education strategy for all sectors of society on the urgency, causes and solutions to the climate crisis.
9. To meet our commitments under the EU Green Deal to prioritise and incentivise the development of a Green Circular Economy and move from the current economic model of relentless growth, built in obsolescence and consumption.
10. To end the dependence on fossil fuels in all sectors and prioritise the further development of renewables.

BOLD Climate Action's activities are supported by Friends of the Earth and receive funding from Irish Aid and Concern.

