

50 Friends of
the Earth
Celebrating 50 years

Impact Report

A Just World Where People and Nature Thrive

October 2024





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Message from the Chief Executive

“The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived. The air is unbreathable. The heat is unbearable. And the level of fossil-fuel profits and climate inaction is unacceptable. Leaders must lead. No more hesitancy. No more excuses. No more waiting for others to move first. There is simply no more time for that.”

- António Guterres, UN Secretary General, July 2023

Dear Friends,

I find myself caught between hope and dread. On the one hand, last year’s UN climate conference confronted fossil fuels, the elephant in the room, like never before, in large part thanks to Mary Robinson’s clarity and bravery. On the other hand, the last year has seen the likes of Shell and BP post record profits and ditch climate pledges.

At home, we have made some progress. Thanks to the climate law we campaigned so long for, Irish emissions fell almost 7% last year.

But it’s not fast enough, it’s not fair enough, and it’s fragile. Everything is in the balance.

Retrofitting and solar panel installations are at record highs. But too many people are being left behind. Too many people have to choose between heating and eating, while the state spends €500 million on universal energy credits many of us

don’t need. Well-to-do homeowners are hoovering up energy upgrade grants while a generation of renters are locked out of retrofitting. That’s why I’m so proud of our campaigning for Warm Homes for All – with lower bills and free from fossil fuels – and especially of our collaboration with the likes of Social Justice Ireland, the SVP, Age Action, Traveller MABS and Cairde.

Six years after we started the Sick of Plastic campaign with VOICE, the Deposit and Return Scheme was launched last February. It’s been a runaway success with monthly returns rising from just 2 million containers at the start to more than 110 million now. In addition, Coastwatch’s annual survey found “a massive reduction” in plastic bottles and drinks cans washing ashore. Yet Ireland still produces 50% more plastic packaging waste than any other EU country.

Meanwhile, the outgoing Government says it has ruled out commercial terminals to import LNG for good and that the moratorium on all LNG is still in place. Yet, a High Court ruling and Government weakness has re-opened the door to Shannon LNG’s plans for a flood of fracked gas imports in Kerry. No campaigners trust state agencies or a future Government to stand firmly against fossil fuel interests. This fraught situation has even led some activists to distrust each other, just as we need as need maximum pressure for a fossil free future.

After five years of campaigning with the trade unions, the Government has now established a Just Transition Commission, with a mandate we helped write: “through social dialogue ... investment in services, infrastructure and social protection, people and communities that may be affected by this transition will be supported in a manner that is inclusive, equitable and fair.”

On the one hand, there was real and substantial agreement about that mandate between the representatives of ICTU, IBEC, the IFA and Social Justice Ireland who were on the advisory Taskforce with me. On the other hand, parts of the state are dragging their heels, data centre and aviation lobbyists are pushing to delay or derail action and some politicians are sowing disinformation and division for short term gain.

Just as policy is beginning to make a difference, pushback from vested interests is ramping up. This shouldn’t come as a surprise, but politicians

generally seem more tentative about climate action than they were five years ago. They are out of step with public opinion. Research shows climate remains a priority for voters, with strong majorities opposing LNG and more data centres, and twice as many people saying climate action isn’t fast enough as saying it’s too fast.

Yes, politicians have delayed so often that the transition will be disruptive and inconvenient at times but it will actually improve our quality of life and safeguard our future. And we already have the solutions to do it in ways that reduce poverty and inequality, at home and abroad.

In Ireland politicians tend to follow rather than lead. So more than ever we need to stand up, and speak up, for faster and fairer climate action.

Friends of the Earth is somewhere to stand together. Stand with us and together we can tip the balance towards a safer, cleaner, healthier future for all.

Oisín Coghlan, Chief Executive
Friends of the Earth

Our Organisational Goals

Our Mission

We campaign and build movement power to bring about the system change needed for a just world where people and nature thrive.

Our Role

Friends of the Earth supports people to unite to transform our world until social justice is the foundation of resilient and regenerative societies that flourish within the ecological limits of our one planet. We have particular experience in participatory education, campaign strategy, shaping public debate and driving policy change. We are committed to joining forces with other organisations and networks, of diverse experiences and perspectives, to build our collective power. We support people and groups working autonomously to connect their local work to the bigger national and international picture. We work with others to make sure our focus is transformational change, often by creating moments that exert maximum pressure on decision-makers.

Our Values

These values are the foundation of our work. We endeavour to consciously incorporate these into everything we do both internally and externally. They underpin our work and we strive to adopt and integrate them into all of our activities.

- Solidarity, Participation & Inclusion
- Nature and Social Ecology
- People and Communities
- Science and Education
- Social Justice and Climate Justice
- Culture and Creativity
- Transparency and Accountability

Our Theory of Change

Our Theory of Change is rooted in a commitment to an ongoing process of educating ourselves, engaging and listening to those most impacted by the issues we work on, and in taking collective action to make change.

We are committed to consistently learning and unlearning about the systems of power and oppression that influence our lives and the world around us. We believe we need to understand systems in order to change them effectively.

We believe it is important to be clear in our messaging so we don't shy away from occupying difficult conversational spaces. However, we believe that finding common ground is an essential element of changemaking, so we strive to do so with all who want to make a positive difference in the world.

We believe in challenging ourselves to consistently create more welcoming spaces for people to engage in the process of interrogating the root causes of global injustice. By doing this, we aim to help grow and work with a more critically informed network of change-makers across Ireland.

When individuals and groups are nurtured to critically inform themselves and be supported to learn by doing, they are more likely to take effective collective action to bring about changes in their communities and as part of a mass political movement.

When policymakers are the target of both mass movement campaigns and targeted, evidence-based advocacy, they are compelled to bring about changes in policy and practice.

Friends of the Earth is four years into our five-year Strategic Plan, which sets out what we hope to achieve through 2025 and how we hope to achieve it. We have covered a lot of ground since 2020 and with this plan, we will continue to achieve our goals and aims.

Our Organisational Goals

Friends of the Earth has four organisational goals to advance our mission:

- **Building movement power**
To contribute to building a diverse and inclusive movement strong enough to bring about system change in a way that supports others' social justice struggles and that aligns with our values.
- **Driving policy change**
To drive a fair and fast transition to a zero-pollution future.
- **Cultivating our community**
To ensure Friends of the Earth supporters feel they are members of a mutually supportive community and present ways for them to participate in and sustain the work of the organisation for as long as it is required.
- **Developing our organisation**
To ensure Friends of the Earth has robust governance and effective management systems, and appropriate financial resources, to maximise our impact and to cultivate a positive working environment

50th Anniversary

This year we celebrate a remarkable milestone: 50 years of campaigning and advocating for our planet. At Friends of the Earth, we take our work for a just world where people and nature thrive very seriously. We've been privileged to spend half a century working with and learning from community and civil society groups, and grassroots campaigns from across Ireland, building five decades' worth of knowledge, skills and community wisdom.

We continue to navigate a rapidly changing world, raising our voices and standing strong for our planet and the people most affected by environmental changes. As we reflect on decades of campaigning, we would like to acknowledge how far we've come and how our mission has evolved over time.

Our journey began in 1974 when Friends of the Earth Ireland was officially established, joining Friends of the Earth International - currently the world's largest grassroots environmental network, with over 70 member groups across the globe. This was a pioneering movement that laid the groundwork for environmental advocacy in Ireland. In 1986 on Earth Day, we relaunched as Earthwatch with an initial focus on halting nuclear energy development. This mission took on new urgency in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster that happened only a few days after the relaunch. This crisis sharpened the resolve to campaign against nuclear energy, and campaign for clean, safe energy, in collaboration with local volunteer groups nationwide.

When Earthwatch concluded in the early 2000s, we returned to our roots and rebranded as Friends of the Earth Ireland. Today, with a dedicated team of 19 people -- led by Oisín Coghlan, who has been with us for nearly two decades—we continue to shape policy and build movements for lasting environmental change. As part of a global federation, we work closely with a network of allies to drive the system change our planet urgently needs. From challenging fossil fuel dependency to pushing for strong climate laws in Ireland, we remain committed to amplifying your voice and, together with the broader Friends of the Earth community, standing up for a more just and sustainable future.

To everyone who has been part of our story, whether you have been with us since the beginning or joined along the way - thank you for being part of Friends of the Earth. Your time, effort, and contributions have been the heartbeat of our organisation, enabling us to make a lasting difference.

We'd be nothing without the Friends of the Earth community that joins us in action and powers our campaigns. We're so glad you joined us as we look to the next chapter of our work. We want to spotlight a few supporters who have been with us for a long time and who have shown such commitment to our planet over the years.





"We have been supporters of Friends of the Earth for over 20 years. A major factor for us is that Friends of the Earth does not compromise itself with conflicted sponsorship or funding. Over the past 20 years, much of what scientists predicted has already come to pass, often faster than expected, as the planet reaches a tipping point. Friends of Earth have always been on the right side of history, and it has been a privilege to stand with them for all these years. Thank you for what you have done and keep fighting the good fight!"

- Andrew and Rebecca Beck, Friends of the Earth Supporters

"I have always enjoyed being out in the natural world, but after a course on Earth Literacy at Genesis Farm in New Jersey in 1999, it turned my world upside down. I wanted to connect with others who focused on this issue. Friends of the Earth seemed honest, effective, and hard-working. I have taken great encouragement from FoE and also concrete actions in my own life. In recent times, I have been very anxious about my grandnieces' and grandnephews' generation and the kind of world they will have to navigate. I feel a responsibility as a member of a rich country that has caused severe damage in poorer parts of the world, and as a member of this generation, which has created the problem. I want to add my voice and play my part in taking action to create a better and different future.

I have enjoyed and appreciated several conferences on the topic of Climate Action and have come away encouraged by hearing about the positive actions and initiatives taking place in the country. Having a forum to learn more and to share concerns has been very important for me in a country that doesn't prioritize climate action, even though we have a law! I also really enjoyed the Climate choir experience last Christmas, and I think it was quite effective too. My hope is that we will reach our targets set out in our Climate Action Plan by 2030, that we will do this wholeheartedly, and that we will begin to believe it's possible to live another way. People need incentives to change, not just words!"

- Anne Harnett, Friends of the Earth Supporter



Here's to the past 50 years and the bright future ahead. Thank you for being with us every step of the way. Together, we will continue to create a just world where people and nature thrive.



Impact Highlights & Activity Snapshot

Impact Highlights

- On Earth Day, we hosted our first-ever conference on Faster and Fairer Climate Action.
- Thanks to the help of our supporters, 399 Local Election Candidates and 119 Elected Local Election candidates signed the climate pledge we shared ahead of the Local and MEP Elections.
- Thanks to pressure through our Solar Schools campaigning, the School Photovoltaic Programme was launched by the Irish Government, providing eligible schools with free solar panels.
- Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme launched in February after years of campaigning through Sick of Plastic.
- No longer the Elephant in the Room - Fossil Fuels was finally a topic of discussion at COP28.
- Act Local was launched, our initiative to help local activists and groups be visible and vocal champions of bold climate action.



In the Media

Public debate on climate change and the environment is increasing, especially now that we are experiencing the real negative impacts of climate change, such as continuing high energy prices in winter, record-high temperatures, and floods. Friends of the Earth is increasingly asked to provide insight and expertise to the media.

It's important that we appear regularly in print, radio, and online coverage of the climate crisis so we can make sure the government makes the decisions needed to create positive and lasting change. We contracted a media analysis report agency to measure Friends of the Earth's media impact in print and online.

Here are a few results:

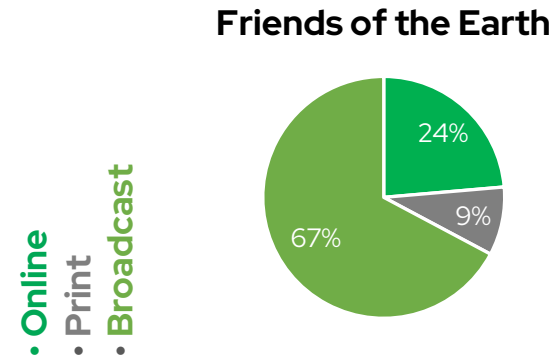
- In 2023, Friends of the Earth received a total of **1,989 mentions** across print, online and broadcast coverage. Broadcast coverage accounted for 67%.
- **Our overall Media Score was 86/100**, up from 83/100 in 2022.
- **97% of "sentiment" was positive**, which increased from 89% in 2022.
- The prominence for analysed content was largely **"significant" at 76%**, with Prime coverage unchanged at 12%.
- **Campaign presence increased to 51%** in 2022, up from 26% in 2022. The most prominent Campaign was the 'Energy poverty' which had a 42% share of campaign coverage. The Energy poverty campaign coverage peaked in March 2023 with the publication of the "Still left out in the cold" report.
- **Spokesperson presence increased to 67%** from 51% in 2022. Oisín Coghlan (CEO) was the most prominent spokesperson, with 523 mentions, predominantly "significant positive." "Prime" coverage included conversation around climate change in Europe following the publication of a report by the World Meteorological Organisation in June, criticism of granting of planning permission for more data centres, and discussion on the government's climate action plan. Clare O'Connor (Energy Policy Officer) featured strongly in coverage for the budget and the energy poverty report in March.
- **Key Messages** were seen in 47% of media items. 'Energy Poverty/Energy Pollution' was the most prominent key message.
- **Key Areas of Focus** were present in 59% of coverage, with Agriculture featuring most frequently, accounting for 14% with high volumes in July related to government attempts to agree targets for carbon emissions.
- Stop Climate Chaos' received a total of **534 mentions** and One Future received 26 mentions in 2023.

Key Terms:

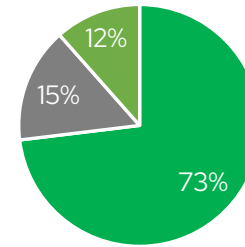
- Volume is the number of print or online articles.
- Potential Media Reach is the potential audience exposed to media content.
- Sentiment (as %) Positive, Negative, Neutral or Balanced sentiment as a percentage of total coverage.
- Prominence (as %) can be rated Prime, Significant or Passing as a percentage of total coverage.
- Prime: headline feature/driver of coverage/ main focus of the article.
- Significant: shared coverage/expert opinion but not the main focus of the article.
- Media Score is a score out of 100, it evaluates media coverage rated as Prime and Significant in prominence only. A score out of 100 is assigned to each media piece based on the prominence (Prime or Significant) and sentiment (Positive, Negative or Neutral) of that piece. The overall score is the average score across all the media pieces being analysed.

Headline Results

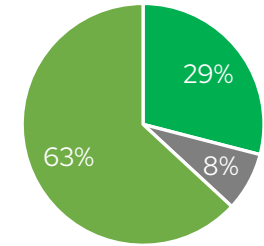
Media Volume



One Future

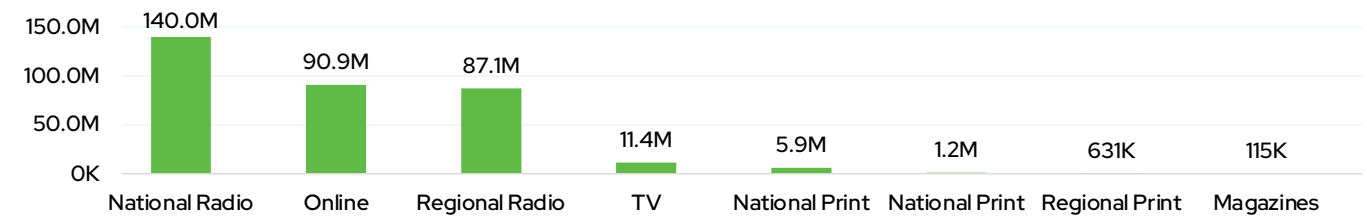


Stop Climate Chaos



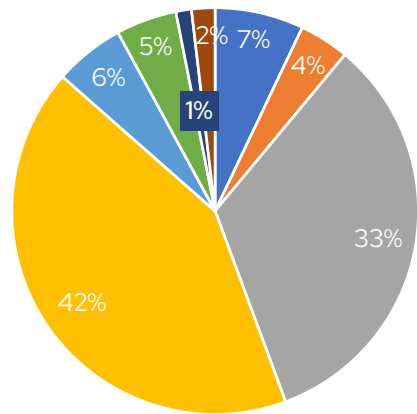
Media Type	Volume	Potential Media Reach	Volume	Potential Media Reach	Volume	Potential Media Reach
ONLINE	470	90.93M	19	4.71 M	155	29.94 M
BROADCAST	1,337	238.51 M	3	225,000	337	70.00 M
PRINT	182	7.83 M	4	213,402	42	1.82 M
TOTAL	1,989	337.27 M	26	5.15 M	534	101.77 M

Potential Reach By Media



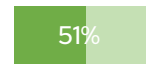
Key Campaigns Analysis

Share of Voice

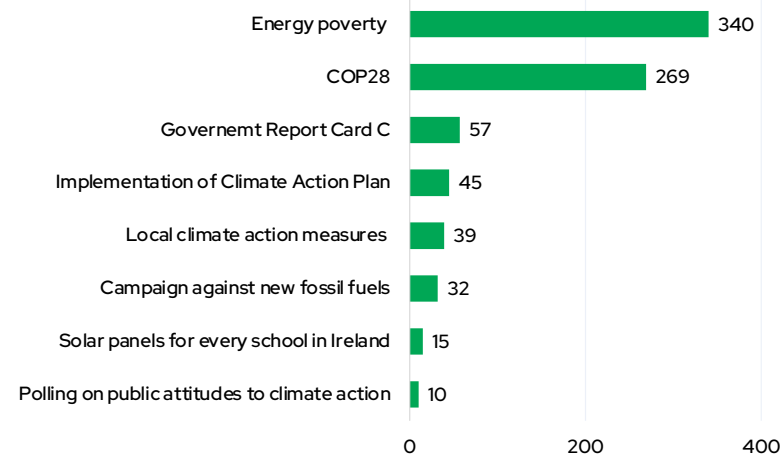


- Government Report Card C
- Campaign against new fossil fuels
- COP28
- Energy poverty
- Implementation of Climate Action Plan
- Local climate action measures
- Polling on public attitudes to climate action
- Solar panel for every school in Ireland

Key Campaigns Presence

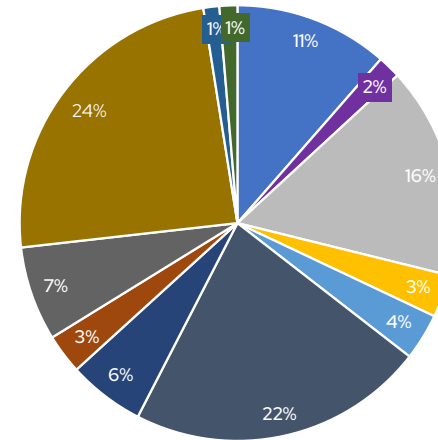


Key Campaigns by Volume



Key Areas Analysis

Share of Voice

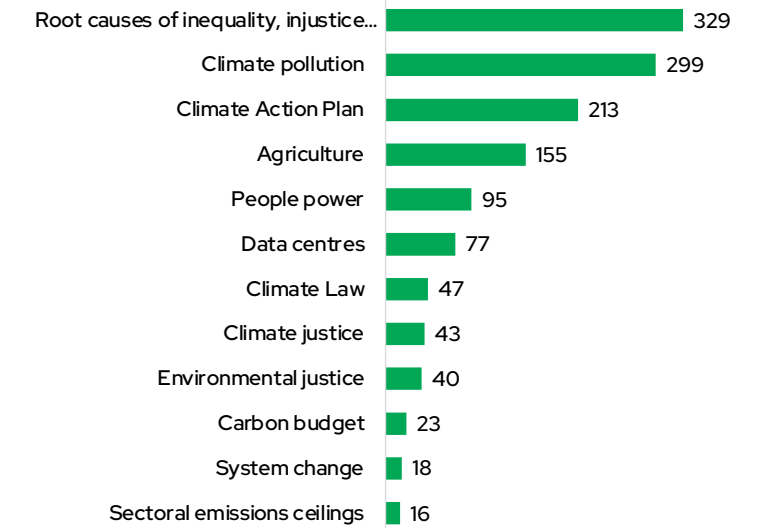


- Agriculture
- Carbon Budget
- Climate Action Plan
- Climate justice
- Climate Law
- Climate pollution
- Data centres
- Environmental justice
- People power
- Root causes of inequality, injustice and poverty
- Sectorial emissions ceilings
- System change

Key Areas Presence



Key Areas by Volume



50 Friends of the Earth

Celebrating 50 years



Building Movement Power

Through our Movement Building programme we aim to:

1. Be a central and trusted hub for training and capacity building for individuals and groups who identify as being part of the movement for social justice and environmental sustainability. Our role is to train, mentor, promote reflection, and develop increasing levels of ownership and leadership.
2. Support the development of opportunities and structures for local organising and campaigning that contribute to advancing the missions of Friends of the Earth Ireland and International.
3. Collaborate directly and supportively with other groups and organisations whose work intersects with our mission and aligns with our values and participate actively in efforts to facilitate connections, coordination, collaboration, and mutual support between intersecting causes in the climate movement and wider civil society.

Act Local

This year we launched Act Local. This initiative empowers local activists with tools to champion bold climate action, believing that everyone plays a crucial role in advocating for the benefits of climate action within their communities. Through Act Local, Friends of the Earth connects people to form climate action groups across Ireland and provides the necessary training and resources for effective campaigning and raising climate awareness.

Act Local played a crucial part leading up to the Local and MEP Elections by providing in-person and online meetings, and resources to help activists engage in meaningful conversations about climate action. Act Local continues to help local climate action groups to start or continue fighting for climate adaptation and advocating that climate change should remain a priority in political discussions. Election leaflets, myth-busters, and various other resources were launched to support people in their journey. They can be found on our website friendsoftheearth.ie/act-local/act-local-resources

Demand Faster and Fairer Climate Action from your candidates in the local elections



On top of that, Friends of the Earth teamed up with NEON offering an online training session on media engagement and climate advocacy. In these sessions, people learned interview techniques, press release writing, and pitching strategies. This is part of a journey where Friends of the Earth will provide ongoing support through follow-up meetings to help participants confidently engage with local media. In return, participants actively promote climate action in their communities. We are so grateful to all the donors who helped make this training possible.

"I got involved with Friends of the Earth this year, as I was looking for an active, effective advocacy organisation and community for people like me who wanted to do something about climate change and the destruction of Nature. I did a media training course... That gave me the confidence and skills to advocate more effectively. I used it shortly afterwards in a local radio interview. I spoke on air about my local Waterford Bike Users group: the work we are doing to promote cycling and why. It feels good to channel my concerns about climate change into positive actions. Working with other like-minded people is crucial. It feels like exhaling, and increasingly, connecting with like-minded people "finding one's tribe" is important."

- Mary, media course participant

Education and Learning

This year we have held four Learning Hub events. As part of our theory of change, we believe education is a key element of our work to create the change we need. Therefore, our movement building team works hard to provide different training opportunities throughout the year to help people understand the climate situation and to highlight how to take action. As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, we hosted a day of education, to reflect on our collective efforts towards a brighter future and engage with diverse environmental justice movements worldwide to deepen our commitment to system change.

The event featured discussions on moving beyond GDP-focused growth, systemic changes needed to address climate crises, and the role of women and Indigenous movements for climate justice and environmental defence.



Additionally, this year we continued with our Learning Hub events. The Learning Hub was developed as part of our commitment to a process of learning and unlearning from the systems of power and oppression that influence our lives and the world around us. These consist of a webinar, each followed by a participatory and interactive workshop to allow participants to delve deeper and take informed action.

This summer's Learning Hub focused on addressing the influence of the fossil fuel industry, particularly its impact on global politics and its role in greenwashing. Our webinar on "Building a Fossil Free Politics: Challenging Fossil Fuel Influence and Greenwashing" part of this series, highlighted the ongoing fight against fossil fuel influence and featured speakers from across Europe who are leading efforts to combat this issue. The discussion emphasised the need for continued action, especially in light of the significant presence of fossil fuel lobbyists at COP28 and the recent, although weak, commitment to phase out fossil fuels in climate agreements.

We asked participants whether this series of events changed their attitudes or actions and we received great feedback that it was informative and helpful. One participant said about the greenwashing webinar: "I learned how much advertising is influenced by fossil fuel companies and how much could be done to change this." A participant who attended the workshop said that it "helped to make next actions seem feasible and practical." while another said, "It is good to know I am not on my own!" Some participants also expressed an interest in getting more involved in these issues as a result of participating in the Learning Hub.

You can watch back our Learning Hub webinars via the latest news section of our website (<https://www.friendsoftheearth.ie/tag/watch-it-back/>). After each Learning Hub, we create a wrap-up blog which provides an outline of that series and compiles all of the relevant recordings, resources, slides, and reading lists which you can come back to again and again for reference.

Youth Empowerment & Young Friends of the Earth

We live in a time of multi-layered environmental and social injustices, where the ecological crisis disproportionately impacts communities that have been systematically marginalised. These communities, though often overlooked, are crucial to the climate movement. Their lived experiences and knowledge are invaluable in shaping solutions that are both just and sustainable, which is one of Friends of the Earth's core values. Yet, despite their importance, their voices often go unheard in decision-making processes. One such vital community is young people, who are the ones who will inherit the consequences of environmental degradation.

Over the past year, one of our volunteer arms, Young Friends of the Earth, has continued growing. This group has been instrumental in bringing together young voices in the environmental movement. They began hosting Drink & Draw events, a unique gathering that combines art and activism, allowing participants to discuss pressing climate issues in a creative and relaxed setting. As they continue their efforts, Young Friends of the Earth are now preparing to join COP29, where they

will work alongside Friends of the Earth and other global activists to ensure that youth perspectives are at the forefront of international climate negotiations. Their ongoing commitment is a testament to the power and potential of young people in shaping a more just and sustainable future.

Together with Young Friends of the Earth, Concern and Oxfam, Friends of the Earth hosted two dynamic online workshops for young people. These sessions were designed to empower participants by providing them with crucial insights into climate decision-making processes at both local and EU levels. Beyond just learning, attendees had the opportunity to connect with other passionate young individuals who share a commitment to addressing climate issues. Offering key opportunities to take meaningful action and influence change.

Local Groups

Friends of the Earth encourages and supports several local climate action groups. One such group, Dublin Friends of the Earth, have kept the momentum going in the last year with their monthly online meetings and in-person activities, highlighting different initiatives in Dublin on aspects of climate and biodiversity. Meanwhile, Friends of the Earth Dundalk launched and is actively raising awareness and engaging minds through their book club and broader community involvement. They also played a key role in our election campaign and reinforced the importance of climate issues in the local discourse.



“I was angry that this crisis had been allowed to get so bad...then I found Dublin Friends of the Earth...and I became part of the steering committee for the group in the spring of 2022. Many of the in-person events I have been involved in have been fantastic for the soul! I feel really energised having great chats with other similarly-minded people...I no longer feel alone in my despair when bad decisions about the environment are made by political leaders. It's good to be able to share my frustration with others and channel it into action. It has been very rewarding to play even a very small part in pushing for positive change, such as getting solar panels for schools... Taking action and seeing others taking action helps me feel that the situation is not hopeless.”

- Mark, Dublin Friends of the Earth:



One future

One Future Campaign for faster and fairer climate action was initially launched by Friends of the Earth and the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition in January 2020 in the lead-up to the General Elections, as part of that campaign several local One Future groups emerged and some are still active together today.

Some One Future groups joined us in raising awareness in their communities ahead of the local elections this year too. One Future Cork, Dublin Bay South, and Dun Laoghaire are just a few of the groups who were busy leafleting and other local actions ahead of the elections. One Future Fingal also continues working on actions to object data centres.

Children's Rights Over Flights

Children's Right over Flights is a new campaign formed this year by parents, grandparents, and allies to oppose the industry-led push to expand Dublin Airport. They take peaceful climate actions to highlight the impact of the climate crisis on future generations. In May they conducted a peaceful sit-in on Grafton Street with Mothers' Rebellion, and a few months later, in August, they took over Dollymount strand with a visual display of kites to symbolically represent the hopes and dreams of children and their futures.



BOLD Climate Action

This year, BOLD Climate Action was formed as an independent group connected to Friends of the Earth, with the mission of engaging older people across Ireland in meaningful discussions and activities centred on climate issues. Their focus areas include energy access, just transition, and global climate justice, aiming to mobilise and empower older adults for climate action. The group is actively working on addressing the energy crisis, with plans to transition to clean energy by advocating for critical policy changes.

"I couldn't ignore the ever-growing climate crisis. Thunderous alarm bells were ringing in my head. Then I got involved in a climate action group for older people called BOLD.

This group has allowed me to join with like-minded souls who want to act for positive change. I hope we can support the efforts of young climate activists fighting for their futures. I hope we can raise awareness of the plight of some older members of society too - who are suffering due to the lopsided neoliberal agendas that reward lucky ones and shun those who didn't get a place at the table. Older people can play a valuable role in making life better for people and protecting the planet we depend on for life. We just need to realise this."

- Rod, BOLD climate activist



Climate Carolling & BOLD Climate Choir

On December 9th, last year, we ran our very first **Climate Carolling** event to bring awareness of climate change to passers-by and to raise funds to support our work. Our Climate Choir, made up of Friends of the Earth supporters including many BOLD Climate Action members, adapted Christmas songs with an environmental message with the support of Rachel Dempsey of Full Circle Change who led our rehearsals and performance. Huge thank you to everyone who took part, volunteered and joined the singing making this a brilliant awareness raising, community building and fundraising event.

From the climate carolling, many members of BOLD Climate Action have continued singing by starting their very own climate choir. As part of the Bealtaine Festival, BOLD Climate Action held Climate Singalong sessions to foster connections and raise awareness in a fun, engaging way, while offering a space to use their activist energy creatively.



“I’ve always been aware of environmental issues... Then it suddenly dawned on me that I had a responsibility to do something about the climate crisis! Looking for ways to take action was a much more positive experience than sitting passively with my fears. Climate anxiety can make it feel like every action you take is urgent and deadly serious. And of course, it is serious stuff - fighting for a livable planet. But it is so helpful and healthy to maintain some lightness and fun. The highlight of my activism so far has to be the Climate Carolling with Friends of the Earth during Christmas. It was so cathartic to rewrite lyrics and then an immense joy to sing our hearts out on Grafton Street! Taking action together with others increases our impact and brings a lovely sense of hope and community.”

- Christine, Friends of the Earth supporter



Acts of Solidarity

Friends of the Earth recognises that the climate crisis is an intersectional issue, and it does not affect everyone equally - it disproportionately impacts communities and people who have been systematically marginalised. When different types of social and environmental injustices intersect, the impact is made worse, further increasing already existing inequalities. Throughout the year, we aim to show solidarity with many groups to advocate and build movement power to bring about the system change needed for a just world where people and nature thrive.

This year there were a number of moments and events in the world, which sparked the need to speak up and stand together with other groups in Ireland and the world. In light of the continued horrors in Palestine, Friends of the Earth continues to stand against the injustice occurring and impacting so many people. The plight of Palestinians is not only a human rights cause, we must make it part of our climate movement too. We cannot claim to support climate justice if we ignore Israel's horrific attacks on the Palestinian people, in what the International Court of Justice has ruled to be a plausible genocide. By showing our support we have joined and endorsed numerous in-person demonstrations, asked for financial support

for our colleagues in PENGON, Friends of the Earth Palestine, and signed an open letter urging Irish Government leaders to take action against governments aiding the Israeli government in committing war crimes and violating international law. In standing with Palestine, we will continue to advocate for meaningful action until all people can live with dignity, peace, and environmental justice.



In March, we also joined the Stand Together March organised by Le Chéile Ireland for All coalition, where we marched and showed solidarity with refugees in Ireland. It is crucial to show solidarity with refugees and migrants, who are increasingly targeted due to misinformation and anger, and are suffering due to the same systemic issues that cause climate change. Their struggles are interconnected with the broader environmental crises and systemic injustices that contribute to both their displacement and the worsening climate.



Feminism and climate action are integral topics that we emphasise annually around International Women's Day and throughout the year, recognising their crucial connection in addressing both gender inequality and environmental challenges. As members of the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice, we strive to raise awareness of how feminist principles intersect with climate advocacy.

Last October, we joined The Cost of Living March, calling on the Government to "heat our homes, not our planet" ahead of Budget 2024. The energy crisis affects everyone, but disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable in our society. The energy crisis shows the urgent need and importance of taking ambitious action to move away from fossil fuel dependency in our heating systems and work collaboratively with climate and nature activists and experts to transition us towards renewable energies.

Solidarity is key to making lasting change. A big thank you to everyone who joined these events and made climate justice and solidarity a part of their discussions and actions.

Climate Change Extractivism and Colonialism

In November 2023, we hosted our second annual weekend training focused on Climate Change, Extractivism and Colonialism in collaboration with climate justice educator, Sian Cowman. It took place in the Gyreum eco-centre in Co. Sligo. For this, we brought together climate activists, local organisers and community educators to delve into topics including Historical Colonisation, Modern-day Colonialism, Extractivism and Colonialism and Solidarity and Justice.

The training weekend focused on building participants' knowledge and understanding of the nuances and complexities of these issues through immersive exercises and group activities. Following the training, participants were supported to establish a community of practice.

We are still seeing the fruits of the course in 2022 which ended up in the development of an extractivist group that meets regularly, developed further introductory resources and materials on these issues and has been running workshops.

"I wanted to get involved in meaningful climate action. Around this time, I came across the workshop run by Sian Cowman in conjunction with Friends of the Earth, which focused on the connections between climate change and colonialism. It was a huge relief to be connected with people who, like me, could see that the climate crisis is intricately connected to how certain human societies operate on a social and economic level. Since the workshop, I, along with the other participants, have co-founded a new grouping 'Climate Justice Co-Operative' driven broadly by climate justice. Now we're organising events, running educational games at climate events and collaborating with other activists.

Building a community with like-minded people in this way offers solidarity but it also offers some hope of climate action. If we can organise in the face of all the obstacles, then, with support, so can others... For me, this work is a way to call out, and tackle, the inequalities and exploitation that are fuelling climate breakdown."

- Aisling, Climate Change, Colonialism & Extractivism course participant

Active Hope & Healing Justice

We are committed to fostering strong relationships and building a caring community, which is vital for sustaining a resilient movement for change. To support this, we organised an in-person workshop in March, "Facing Eco-Anxiety and Building Resilience with Active Hope." Led by Oana Sânziana Marian and Claudia Tormey, co-founders of the Active Hope Ireland Network, this workshop provided a safe space for participants to share their emotions and engage in creative practices that draw wisdom from nature, ancestors, and future generations, helping them strengthen their journey with active hope and resilience.



In May, there was a residential retreat in Co. Sligo that offered activists from marginalised communities from Ireland and Northern Ireland a space to explore ways of navigating grief and building resilience. This retreat, inspired by the 2021 "Weaving Grief, the Body & Transformative Justice" retreat led by Camille Sapara Barton and Farzana Khan was a first step to bring those practices to Ireland. Facilitators Oana, Lelo, and Samirah guided participants through practices such as the Grief Toolkit and Active Hope, incorporating movement, art, and spiritual traditions, offering a supportive environment to process trauma and foster resilience.

50 Friends of the Earth

Celebrating 50 years



Driving Policy Change

Through our Driving Policy Change programme we aim to:

1. Establish a new climate governance regime in Ireland that drives the development and adoption of policies to eliminate emissions in all sectors, based on legally-binding carbon budgets, expert advice, and parliamentary accountability.
2. Ensure Ireland's climate-polluting emissions are on track for a 50% reduction by 2030, and Ireland's actual fair share of climate action is a key issue in the next electoral cycle.
3. Prevent a lock-in to fossil gas and enable Ireland to become an international example of the struggle to break the grip of the fossil fuel industry on policy-making.
4. Shape public debate on key issues related to our mission. To create a public understanding that much of the change we wish to see will generate positive impacts and opportunities, not costs and hardships. To bring justice and fairness to the centre of the debate about climate and environmental issues - change should happen when justice and fairness require it, even if it is not popular with everyone, especially the rich and powerful.

Faster and Fairer Climate Action

Faster and Fairer Climate Action is our overarching campaign to eliminate polluting emissions fast enough to prevent complete climate breakdown and fairly enough to leave no one behind. Some of this work is done through the Stop Climate Chaos coalition we coordinate. With the Climate Law signed and the announcement of the Climate Action plan at the end of 2022, Friends of the Earth has been keeping a close eye to ensure that the promises made are being kept. For any changes that need to be made, the longer one waits to take the first steps, the more disruptive and complex it will be.

As part of the crucial task of eliminating emissions, we need to make sure that it is done in a way that ensures fairness and social inclusivity, leaving no one behind. The goal is not just to reduce emissions but to do so in a way that reduces inequality and poverty, fostering solidarity across all sectors of society. That's why at Friends of the Earth we are glad for the Government's establishment of a *Just Transition Commission*. After five years of Friends of the Earth working with allies in the trade union movement on this issue, this is a vital and timely step forward. The Just Transition Commission will bring

together voices from across society—businesses, trade unions, environmental advocates, and civil society. We need diverse stakeholder involvement to ensure we achieve climate justice and social equity. The Commission's framework envisions a Just Transition where no one is left behind, with sustainable jobs, reskilling, and robust community support as Ireland moves towards a zero-carbon future.



Local and MEP Elections

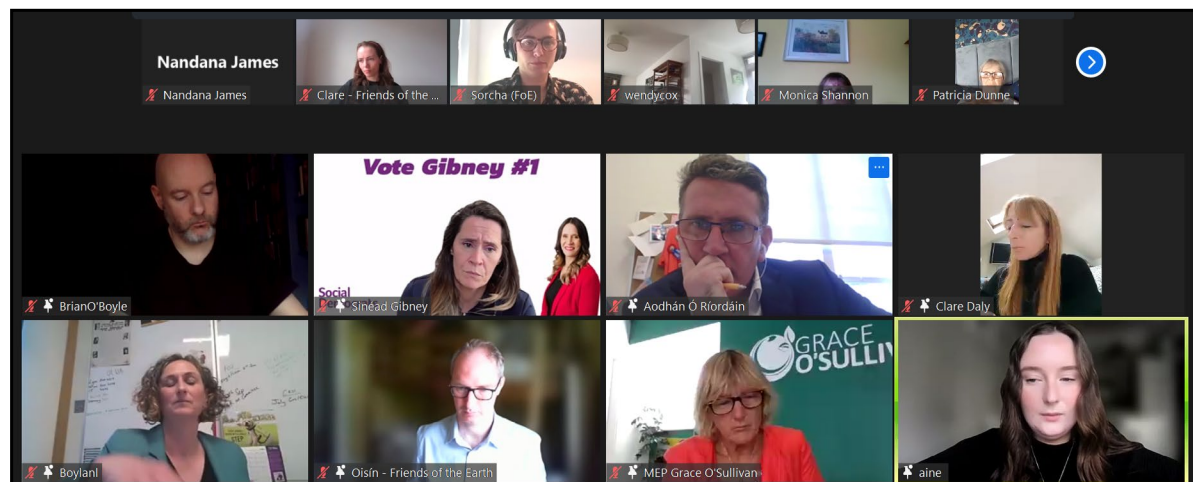
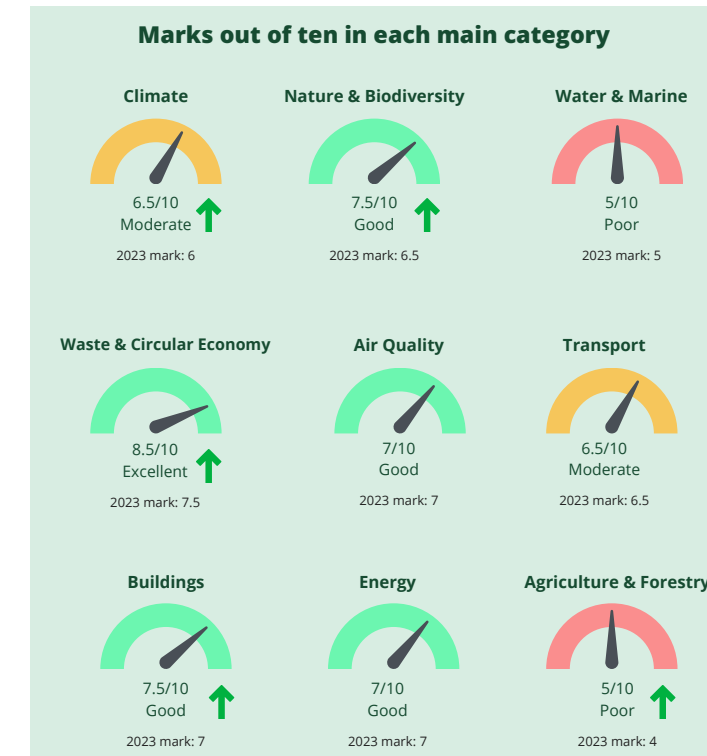
The first half of 2024 was marked by a strong focus on the Local and MEP Elections, a critical period for demonstrating our commitment to climate action through voting and raising awareness. Together with our supporters and allied groups, we actively engaged in multiple MEP hustings, e-actions, and local initiatives through our Act Local campaign, striving to make climate a top priority for both Ireland and Europe. Through an e-action we urged candidates to sign a climate pledge, resulting in 119 local councillors signing. Despite this progress, many politicians still neglect climate issues, which indicates the ongoing challenge of keeping climate action at the forefront of political agendas.

We are grateful to everyone who took part, through local actions, by sending emails and making phone calls to our candidates. Your support has been crucial and shows again the importance of people power. At the time of writing this report, the Friends of the Earth team is preparing to mobilise again ahead of the Irish General Elections to make sure climate is a top priority.



Report card

For the fourth year running, we asked independent experts to grade the government on their performance on climate and environmental commitments for our annual Report Card. In 2023, the Irish Government was given a C+ for its progress on climate and environmental commitments. This year there is a slight increase to a B- with some progress across various sectors. While there has been notable progress in areas like energy, the report warns that key commitments, particularly in climate, nature, and water, are now at risk of not being met during the government's term. The report stressed that the commitments made in the Programme for Government were insufficient to meet national and international climate targets, calling for accelerated action in the coming years. The current and next government must make additional commitments in areas like fossil fuel phase-out, sustainable agriculture, and public engagement.



Earth Day Conference

To mark Earth Day this year, we hosted our first-ever conference on Faster and Fairer Climate Action. The conference included a mix of panels and discussions, and featured diverse voices from farming communities, climate justice advocates, and political representatives.

Our keynote speaker, Hannah Daly, spoke on the measures needed to decarbonise Ireland. Subsequent panels and discussions ranged from personal stories of transitioning to sustainable farming, challenges faced by those in the climate justice space, and citizens pressing politicians on their climate action plans. At the end of the day, there was a shared understanding for the need for system change to meaningfully address the climate crisis and ensure that Ireland meets its carbon budgets while maintaining fairness and inclusivity. The event concluded with calls for greater public engagement and advocacy, highlighting the crucial role of collective action in driving faster and fairer climate policies.



To mark this event, we published a major new study of public attitudes to climate change and climate action policies by *Ireland Thinks*. Despite minor fluctuations, there's sustained concern about climate change, with over half of respondents more worried now than two years ago.

Ending Fossil Fuels and Getting off Gas

Our No More Gas campaign is focused on preventing Irish communities from becoming locked into the use of fossil gas. Friends of the Earth is campaigning to stop the Government from making decisions and investments that would keep Ireland dependent on fossil gas for years to come. Gas is a harmful fossil fuel. At the very least half of all existing gas reserves need to stay in the ground if we are serious about the Paris Agreement goal to stay below the 1.5C.

Over the past year, we have continued our fight to end the use of fossil fuels including for Ireland to endorse the development of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. At the end of 2023 we were successful in ensuring that the Dáil passed a dedicated motion in support of fossil fuel phase out and the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty during COP28. Recently, our policy officers have urgently appealed to Eamon Ryan, the minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to include a fossil fuel phase-out and a just transition in the upcoming Pact for the Future. This essential document will be presented at the United Nations Summit of the Future on the 22nd and 23rd of September.



Last September 2023, we organised a photo demonstration on September 17, 2023 on Sandymount Strand as part of the Global Day of Action to End Fossil Fuels. The protest coincided with global UN sustainability summits in New York, where Irish Coalition leaders attended. Demonstrators, supported by various organisations, urging the Irish government to swiftly end its reliance on fossil fuels, reject new fossil fuel infrastructure, and reduce energy demand, particularly from data centres. We also joined many of our supporters at the Global Climate Strike with Fridays for Future. It was great to see so many people coming together and braving the weather for our environment

Around the same time thanks to Friends of the Earth campaigning and advocacy work, Ireland's planning body rejected an application from Shannon LNG. In November the Government produced a new Energy Security Review policy 'package' which highlighted that the Government did not support a commercial LNG terminal like Shannon LNG. It also clearly set out for the first time the importance of reducing gas demand for climate and energy reasons. However, the Government left the door open to a strategic, state-backed, floating LNG terminal for emergency use. More recently in 2024 Friends of the Earth has undertaken extensive campaigning as



the Government introduced pro-LNG amendments into the Planning Bill. We have also called for the Government to immediately respond to a September High Court ruling which accepted an appeal from Shannon LNG against a previous planning rejection. Our advocacy work continues, especially around the general election, as we urge policymakers to prioritise climate action and reject proposals like LNG that would lock us into polluting fossil fuels.

Friends of the Earth has been urging the government to ban fossil fuel sponsorship and greenwashing in Ireland and we have been criticising sponsorships in Ireland, such as Texaco, an oil company, sponsoring a children's art competition. We have also worked with opposition politicians who developed bills against greenwashing and gas expansion from Gas Networks Ireland. Identifying and learning about Greenwashing is key to addressing the issue, which is why we offered this as a topic as part of our Learning Hub this summer. Institutions and events must align with climate goals by rejecting sponsorship from industries that contribute to environmental harm.

The fight to eliminate our dependency on fossil fuels does not stop there. The onset of new proposals to build even more data centres in Ireland, is predicted to have

a major adverse impact on our climate obligations and our energy grid, and one that we continue to voice and address. A recent case involved a proposed Amazon data centre in Fingal. In response, Friends of the Earth took action by supporting the local community to take action and submitting a formal objection to block the project. While Fingal County Council approved the development we have appealed this to An Bord Pleanála. We have also been successful in ensuring that Google's proposed expansion of its data centre site in south Dublin was rejected. This victory shows how sustained efforts can influence decisions that shape Ireland's energy future.

Showing up and being visible to the media and the Government is key in making this an issue to be addressed. We involved our supporters to help put this issue on the Government's agenda. Through our Data Centre postcard action, where Friends of the Earth supporters sent postcards to politicians outlining demands for action, together we helped further emphasise the need for Data Centre expansion to be addressed.

UN Climate Conference: COP28 in Dubai

COP28 (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) was in controversial Dubai. As part of the action this year, the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, representing civil society groups, staged a protest outside the Dáil, symbolising the fossil fuel industry as the "elephant in the room" that has been largely overlooked in past climate negotiations. It was a reminder that Irish ministers should push for a global commitment to a fast and fair phase-out of fossil fuels, emphasising that wealthier nations must lead the transition while supporting others. We were also present at global COP day of action with our climate choir to raise awareness on the streets of Dublin.

By holding the government accountable, with the support of many of our supporters, and the collective efforts of numerous nations, Fossil Fuels was finally a key topic of discussion at the COP28. While it marks a positive step forward that a deal has been reached during COP, our commitment to the cause remains as the agreement lacks the robustness required to

bring about the end of fossil fuels. The deal is riddled with "loopholes" and vague terms that could allow fossil fuel interests to persist, unless global public pressure forces governments into meaningful action. The pledges made in Dubai fall significantly short of the required funding to adequately address the crisis.



Warm Homes for All

Our Warm Homes for All campaign is built upon Friends of the Earth's core values of social and climate justice, with the key focus that we have to reduce Ireland's dependence on fossil fuels. The biggest energy crisis since the 1970s is still ongoing which has caused issues such as affordability, pollution, and supply. Unfortunately, it doesn't stop there, burning fossil fuels in our homes puts us at more significant health risks that range from respiratory illness to heart problems. This campaign has been making significant progress in addressing energy poverty in Ireland. It gained cross-party support for its proposals and received backing from the Climate Change Advisory Council. With the focus on long-term solutions like retrofitting homes and increasing support for renewable energy systems, public polling shows strong support for these measures, and the need for government action to ensure all households have access to affordable, sustainable energy.

It has been a busy year. First, with Budget 2024 resulted in a mixed reception, with some solid steps forward but with lots of areas where improvements are needed. The €3 billion Climate and Nature Fund as a significant step towards a sustainable future but missed opportunities to address energy poverty.

To keep energy poverty on the table, our

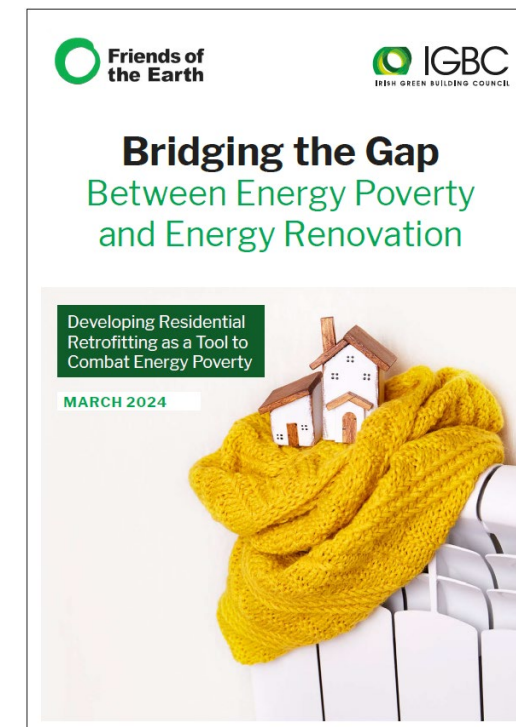
joint report with Bohemians Football Club launched earlier this year. Through the launch of this new research we had the opportunity to brief politicians in Leinster House. **“Levelling the Playing Field,”** explores how sports clubs can engage fans in community-led climate action, particularly in home retrofitting and heat pump installation. The report, based on consultations with Bohemians' members and experts, offers tailored solutions to enhance energy efficiency among the club's supporters. This initiative aims to shift climate action from policy discussions to everyday life, leveraging the influence of sports clubs to promote broader community involvement in sustainability efforts. Together with Bohemians Football Club, we discussed this topic earlier this year.



In June, Friends of the Earth Programme Coordinator - Heat, Clare O'Connor and Head of Policy Change, Jerry Mac Evilly, addressed the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection, where they discussed energy poverty, particularly in relation to retrofit schemes and the fuel allowance's effectiveness for Irish households. They highlighted six key areas, including improving retrofitting accessibility, avoiding reliance on fossil fuels, redesigning the fuel allowance, and enhancing community-level energy support.

This was swiftly followed by our launch of the “Bridging the Gap Between Energy Poverty and Energy Renovation ” report, commissioned by Friends of the Earth and researched by the Irish Green Building Council. The report provides comprehensive recommendations to the Irish government on targeting energy renovation programs, improving affordability measures, and increasing investment in social housing retrofitting.

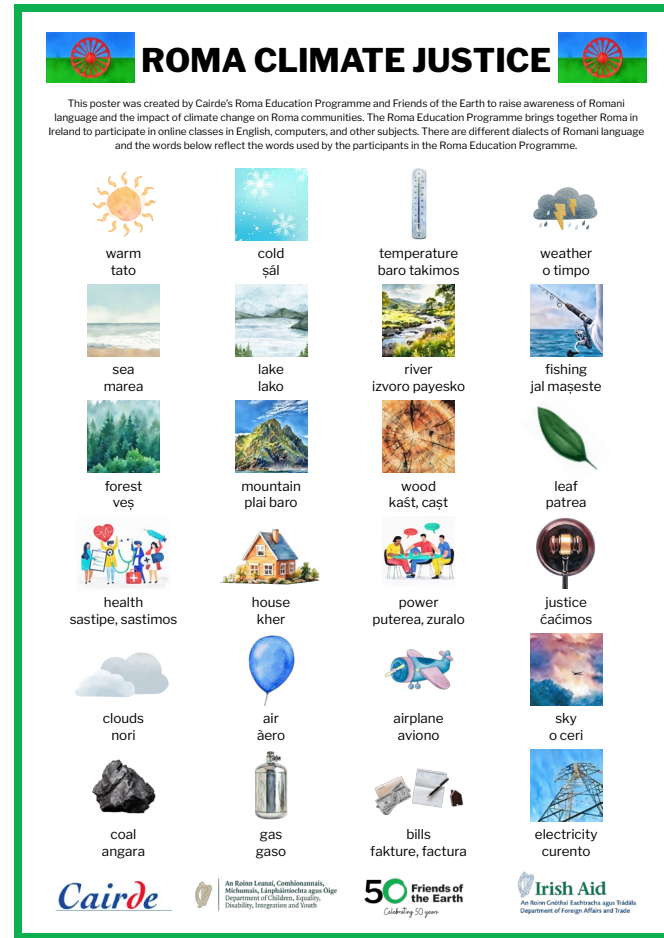
Because energy is an issue for everyone, we invited our supporters to get involved. Last October, we participated in the Cost Of Living march, advocating for our government to prioritise heating our homes over harming our planet and amplifying our voices in the fight against energy poverty in preparation for Budget 2024. In addition, we had an online workshop to empower participants to contribute meaningfully to the government's Energy Poverty Action Plan consultation. By sharing lived experiences and insights, participants can help shape policies towards a more sustainable and inclusive energy system. You can watch the recording of this webinar on our youtube channel (youtube.com/friendsoftheearthireland).



Roma Climate Justice

Friends of the Earth are collaborating with Cairde to deepen the engagement of the Roma community in climate education. Aiming to support the empowerment of Roma in taking climate action to address the unique climate challenges faced by the Roma community in Ireland, including discrimination, living conditions, and heat and energy poverty, this project is rooted in a climate justice framework, recognising that marginalised communities, like the Roma, are disproportionately affected by climate change. A number of educational supports have been developed through this collaboration, including a climate justice workshop, a peer designed educational poster and the development of a peer-designed survey to inform the production of a report on climate justice issues facing the Roma Community.

The survey with the Roma Community has investigated the lived experience of Roma living in Ireland, with a report launched in October highlighting the realities faced and recommendations to ensure that Roma are recognised and have access to State climate action interventions and programmes.



Schools Run on Sun

After years of campaigning for every school to be a solar school in Ireland - schools are now set to run on sun! The launch of the School Photovoltaic Programme at the end of last year means that the Irish Government will now provide eligible schools with free solar panels. The initiative aims to reduce emissions, and energy bills, and empower school communities with control over their energy use, serving as a model for small-scale, community-owned renewable energy. This is a significant milestone and reaffirmed once again the impact of campaigning and collective action. Thanks to all those who helped us campaign for this positive change!

"I got involved in campaigning to get solar panels on school roofs. This issue really connected climate activists with the local community. The government had promised to give schools funding for solar panels - but hadn't given them any information on when or how they could apply for this funding! And months and months after the promise was made, there was still no sign of any solar panels... Working with my kids and their school, we wrote letters and drew pictures to send to the Minister for Education... We also had a demonstration where teachers, parents, kids, musicians and One Future Dun Laoghaire gathered in People's Park to highlight the issue and gather petition signatures. The government felt our pressure!... We, as climate activists, need to help harness that energy into action. Our campaign has been 100% positive, energetic, hopeful, joyful. And I feel real pride in our activism."

- Sarah, a Friends of the Earth Supporter

Deposit Return Scheme

We celebrated a big win for our “Sick of Plastic” campaign efforts with the launch of Ireland’s first Deposit Return Scheme on the 1st of February 2024. This initiative introduces reverse vending machines for plastic bottles and drink cans, allowing the public to recycle and receive cash rewards. This significant milestone in reducing plastic waste was achieved through years of campaigning together with VOICE Ireland and the support of the Friends of the Earth community. The latest statistics show that in August 111 million drinks containers were returned, returning €20 million to shoppers. Although it’s a small step, it’s a crucial win in the broader fight against plastic pollution and reducing dependence on fossil fuels for producing more virgin plastic.



Cultivating our Community

Friends of the Earth simply wouldn’t exist without our community of supporters. Our work relies greatly on people power to push for and create change. It’s the community and fellowship we have in each other at Friends of the Earth that helps to strengthen and sustain all that we do. We’re thankful to have so many amazing and different supporters with us as we work towards a just world where people and nature thrive. Thank you for making all of this possible!

Our supporter care work aims to remind Friends of the Earth supporters that they are members of a mutually supportive community and to create space for us to come together. Through this work, we provide ways for you to participate in and offer support to help sustain the work of the organisation and the wider climate movement.

We continue with a great mix of in-person and online events to facilitate as many of our supporters where we can. This has given us more opportunities to connect with existing supporters and also

reach new supporters in a meaningful way. From an in-person education day, Cuppa for Climate events, in-person workshops, there are many ways where we continue to connect with our community. As we’ve moved much of our Learning Hub Series online in the past few years, it’s been great to see more people joining each time. We’ve also added hands-on activities to make the learning experience even more engaging. We have supporter events all over the country, both in person and online, some of which have been highlighted in this report.

Facing the constant mental and emotional challenges of environmental damage and climate injustice can be overwhelming. Being part of a supportive community or group where you can express your



concerns and channel them into positive and effective climate action is a powerful way to manage climate anxiety. At Friends of the Earth, we offer various opportunities to connect with others through initiatives like Cuppa for Climate, Act Local, and more throughout the year.

To celebrate our supporters and the work they do with us, we've started sharing social media posts and emails dedicated to highlighting the diverse ways people are contributing to the climate movement. You will have seen some of these stories throughout this impact report. Whether actions are big or small, we want to show



that every effort matters and can inspire others to join the movement.

Here's a story from one of our donors:

"When I think about the climate crisis I feel worried for humanity - especially the people who are the most vulnerable to the impact, those who have contributed the least to pollution. I can feel very overwhelmed at times... Donating to Friends of the Earth makes me feel less powerless. So does taking action with the community... I've supported Friends of the Earth and their community of grassroots groups for many years. Their work to encourage the public to push TDs for stronger climate action really appeals to me. It shows that I can have an impact and directly help to build a better world. Climate justice is so important to me too - we have to make life better for the poorest and most vulnerable people, by tackling injustice and inequality. I've met so many interesting and inspiring people through Friends of the Earth - it feels amazing to connect with others who share my concerns and get the need for action. And I've found the confidence to contact political decision makers too! The movement really means so much to me."

- Miriam, a Friends of the Earth supporter

Cuppa for Climate

Launched on Earth Day in 2022, Cuppa for Climate continues to bring people together for climate action. This initiative offers a relaxed setting for discussing climate issues over a cup of tea while raising funds to support our essential climate work. With the help of our toolkit, participants can access prompts and ideas to facilitate meaningful climate conversations and explore ways to drive action within their local areas.

This year, we've refreshed our toolkit based on feedback received over the past year, adding new tools and tips to make hosting your Cuppa for Climate and having your climate discussions even more engaging and easier. We've seen an inspiring increase in people organising their own Cuppa for Climate events, whether in their communities or workplaces.

These gatherings have led to a diverse range of activities, from beach cleans and showcasing passive houses to gardening projects, forming local climate action groups, and simply connecting with friends and family. Each event contributes to spreading climate awareness and fostering a collective effort towards a sustainable future. To continue highlighting the importance of climate conversations, we

brought Cuppa for Climate to Culture Night in Dublin, Cork for Biodiversity Week, and collaborated with Fairtrade Ireland during the Fairtrade Fortnight event.

The success of Cuppa for Climate shows the power of grassroots actions in driving climate awareness and change. By creating spaces for open dialogue and community engagement, we're not only fostering a deeper understanding of climate issues but also inspiring collective action. As more people join these conversations and take action, we build a stronger, more informed network of climate advocates ready to tackle the challenges ahead.

Cuppa for Climate is also a great way to raise funds for Friends of the Earth, which will double the impact of your climate conversations. A special thank you to everyone who hosted a Cuppa for Climate and who fundraised for us.

“Last year, I heard Oisín Coghlan’s speech at the Mary Robinson Climate Conference where he said, “My name is Oisín and I’m scared.” This was one of those moments that really heightened my awareness and worry about climate change. But it also motivated me to get involved in more action to address this crisis. I decided to host several Cuppa for Climate events. It was such an easy and refreshing way to chat informally about the climate emergency. Together, we shared ideas over a hot drink. We were influenced by each other’s actions. It opened up the possibility of further conversations. It’s easy to feel overwhelmed given the scale of the crisis we’re facing...Connecting with like minded people helps me to keep going in active hope. It also made me realise that I don’t have to be an expert to take climate action!”

- Rose, our supporter who hosted three Cuppa for Climate events



If you’ve been inspired to host your own Cuppa for Climate with your friends, family, colleagues or neighbours, reach out and we can help you get started!



Cold Water Dip

On March 16th, we hosted a Cold Water Dip Challenge to remind ourselves of the beauty we're fighting to protect and of the importance of taking care of ourselves and each other in the fight against climate change. We invited people to do the challenge on their own or to join us at Seapoint, Dún Laoghaire. It was a cold and rainy day, so we really appreciated the people who still came to take part in this.

With some tea and coffee after the event, we warmed up and it sparked enthusiasm to connect with each other. Taking part in challenges like these boosts awareness and helps manage climate anxiety, and most importantly, it inspires hope. Many participants turned it into a fundraiser, amplifying their climate action. Joining this or any challenge for a good cause is great for your well-being, supports your activism, and connects you with others who share your passion for protecting our beloved planet Earth.



Thanks to the continued support of people like you, who put their hands up to host and fundraise at events like Cuppa for Climate and chip in to support our fundraising appeals, the Friends of the Earth team has continued to push for climate action, grow in skills, expertise and strength, welcoming several new staff across the team. We cannot exist without your support!

50 Friends of the Earth

Celebrating 50 years



Developing our Organisation

Message from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Dear Supporters, Partners, and Friends,

I am delighted to be able to report to you on this past year's developments in strengthening our organisation which could only happen with your ongoing support.

Growth and Talent

As the organisation continued to grow, we averaged 17 staff during 2023 and we have settled at a headcount of 19 very talented and energetic staff in 2024.

My role as Chief Operating Officer, which was created in Autumn 2022 to support this growth and free up the Chief Executive's time, was further developed into that of Deputy CEO in August 2023. My focus is still to put appropriate systems in place to support this growth, and uphold strong compliance and governance standards, as well as allow Oisín Coglan, the CEO, to dedicate additional focus to Strategy, Media, and other key areas.

In particular, we have increased our Communications Team's capacity and strengthened our Campaigning power through the creation of a new Head of Campaigns role, and the implementation of highly structured Campaign Planning and Project Management methodology.

Organisational Sustainability

We continue to diversify our sources of funding to ensure our sustainability. This year we have particularly invested in growing our Social Media audience and our supporters' and donors' lists, and started talking to them explicitly about the idea of leaving a legacy to Friends of Earth to help protect what we care about the most - our planet.

The staff have been spending more time directly with our supporters, be that on the phone or in person at a larger number of events, as well as facilitating them to be in deeper conversation with each other through Cuppa for Climate.

Transparency and Accountability

Continuing to always reach for higher Governance standards, for the fourth year now we are successfully reporting as compliant to the Charities Regulator, and for the second year as a Complex Charity, which requires fulfilling even higher compliance requirements. We have also been granted our CHY number by the Revenue Commissioner.

Over the course of 2023 and 2024 we invited two Chartered Accountants to our Audit & Finance Committee which is additional to our normal Board of Directors' financial oversight.

Friends of the Earth scored very highly again at 89.7/100 (up from 83/100) in the annual review of effectiveness and value for money by the independent assessors working for the Irish Environmental Network.

Looking Ahead

Thanks to your generous support we can now plan for 2025 with the ambition and drive that our urgent work requires.

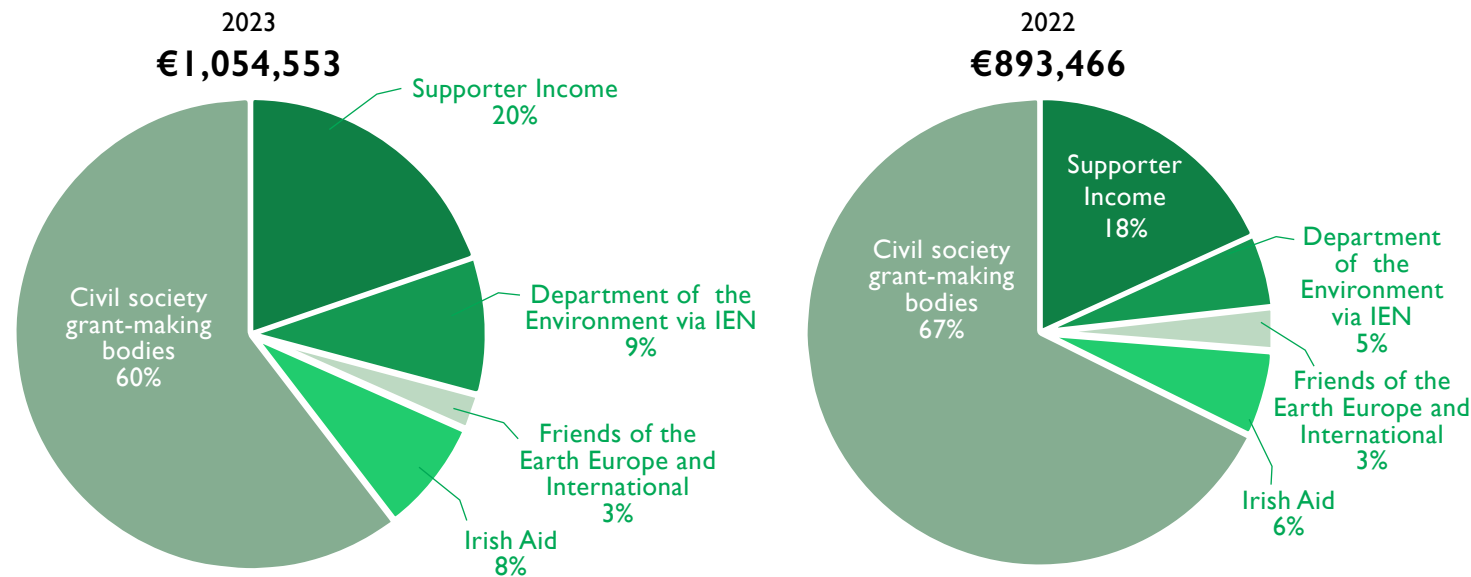


In solidarity,

Anne L'Hénoret
Deputy Chief Executive
Friends of the Earth

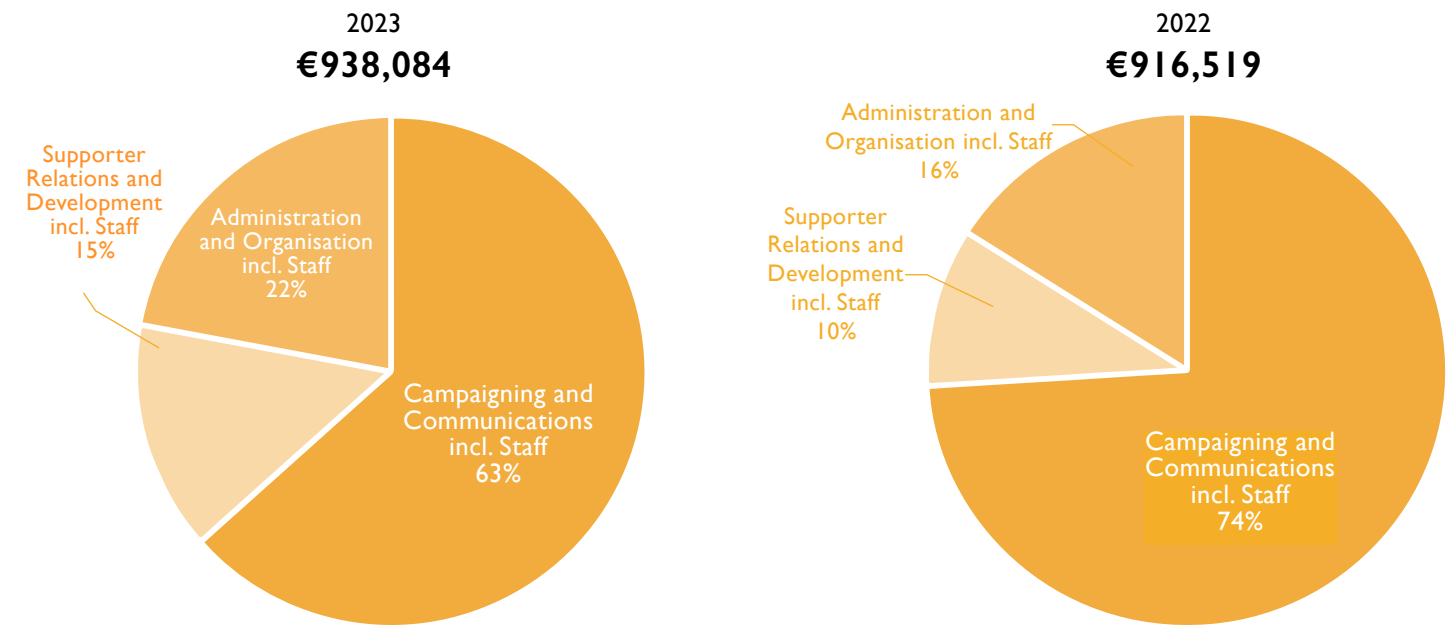
Financial Information

Income



	2023		2022	
Supporter Income	20%	€208,049	18%	€162,048
Department of the Environment via IEN	9%	€99,310	5%	€47,118
Friends of the Earth Europe & International	3%	€26,368	3%	€29,119
European Union	0%	€-	0%	€-
Irish Aid	8%	€83,800	6%	€55,567
Civil society grant-making bodies	60%	€637,026	67%	€599,615
Total	100%	€1,054,553	100%	€893,466

Expenditure



	2023		2022	
Campaigning And Communications incl. Staff	63%	€594,583	74%	€679,485
Supporter Relations & Development incl. Staff	15%	€136,592	10%	€93,354
Admin & Organisation incl. Staff	22%	€206,909	16%	€143,680
Total	100%	€938,084	100%	€916,519

Thank you

We hope you have enjoyed reading our Impact Report and seeing all that we have achieved together.

We'd like to express a big thank you to everyone in the Friends of the Earth community. Friends of the Earth thrives because of your involvement and support. Whether you helped us financially, hosted a Cuppa for Climate, joined our workshops and events or participated in online actions, you are making a difference and helping us advocate for a better world. Everything we've achieved in this report is thanks to you. We are proud to have such a strong community working together for a fairer and better planet. It's only through our collective action that we can keep pushing for real and effective change. Thank you for making our impact possible.

The staff at Friends of the Earth are committed to our role in supporting and being a voice for the wider climate movement. Our organisation has grown and keeps on growing - from a team of one person to 19 people today! With our growing team, we are becoming more effective in going the distance and advocating for solutions to the most prominent social and environmental problems we are faced with today. Thank you for your involvement and commitment to our work.



Taking action on climate change can look different for everyone. You can volunteer your time, use your talents, or donate money. Every bit of effort counts, and together, our diverse actions make a big difference. Thank you for being part of the fight for climate justice, protecting the Earth and all it gives life to, and for supporting a fair transition away from fossil fuels to a just world where people and nature thrive.

Our Staff Team

Oisín Coghlan, Chief Executive
Anne L'Hénoret, Deputy Chief Executive
Claudia Tormey, Head of Supporter Care & Fundraising
Jerry Mac Evilly, Head of Policy Change
Sorcha Tunney, Head of Campaigns
Emma Jayne Geraghty, Head of Movement Building
Deidre Duff, Head of Communications
Charlotta Kauranne, Head of Finance & Compliance
Audrey Vallier, Special Projects Manager - Finance & Compliance
Caoimhe Flynn, Administrator & Operations Manager
Claudia Dallek, Finance Manager
Rosi Leonard, Network Development Coordinator
Clare O'Connor, Programme Coordinator - Heat
Ruth Jedidja Stael, Supporter Care & Fundraising Officer
Kevin O'Farrell, Communications & Events Support Officer
Aaron, Global Citizenship Education & Activism Support Officer
Sara Hurley, Global Citizenship Education & Outreach Officer
Nandana James, Communications Content Officer
Seán McLoughlin, Climate Policy Campaigner

Our Board of Directors

Anna Pringle, Chairperson
Colm Ó Cuanacháin, Vice-Chair
Emma Lane-Spollen, Treasurer
Denise Charlton
David Heller
Dr Kenneth Keavey
Valery Molay
Justin Moran
Carol-Anne O'Brien
Molly O'Shea

Thank you to our colleagues & Board members who moved on in the last year:

Marion Briggs, Chairperson of our Board
David Joyce, Board member
Sarah O'Suilleabhain, Board member
Rose Anne White, Administrator & Assistant to the CEO
Laragh McCann, Communications Officer
Sadhbh O'Neill, Senior Climate Advisor
David Rossiter, Fossil Free Campaigner

Friends of the Earth Ireland CLG is a company limited by guarantee (a not-for-profit company), registered with the Companies Office in Dublin (No. 383678). We are registered with the Charities Regulator and our Registered Charity Number (RCN) is 20205807. CHY #: CHY23145

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