Healthier and Fairer Communities For All A Government for faster and fairer climate action



**Climate change is already driving increasingly extreme weather** around the world from storms and floods to droughts and wildfires.

Irish emissions have begun to fall thanks to the climate law we campaigned for. But it's not fast enough and it's not fair enough, **too many people are left behind.** 

Parts of the state are dragging their heels, big business is lobbying to delay or derail action and some politicians are sowing **disinformation and division for short term gain.** 

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.

What we need now is the political will to lead the transition, and in a democracy, especially at election time, political will springs from what voters say to politicians. And we're saying loud and clear that what we need is a Government for **faster and fairer climate action**.

**Fast Climate Action** must mean the Government leading the transformation of our energy, transport, housing and food systems so that clean, healthy choices are accessible and affordable for all.

Fair climate action must mean

- a better quality of life for everyone, not just for the wealthy
- · Ireland giving our fair share to help those most impacted by climate breakdown
- putting people and the planet over profits of big business







## Uphold the climate law at home, and champion fast, fair and funded action globally

The next Government must uphold and champion the 2021 climate law and the binding limits on pollution agreed on a cross-party basis by the Dáil, and also agreed with our EU partners. The state must lead the transformations required, it cannot be left to grants, taxes and individual behaviour change. Only elected politicians can ensure the transition is fair, creating quality jobs and decent living standards while ensuring the solutions are accessible and affordable for all. Internationally, the Government must champion climate action that is fast, fair and funded, to fulfil the Paris Agreement, including contributing Ireland's fair share financially.

Flagship policies I am asking all candidates and parties to commit to include:

- Affirm their absolute commitment to doing everything in their power to uphold the 2021 climate law and achieve the national carbon budgets, sectoral emissions ceilings and Ireland's EU obligations.
- 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.
- **Deliver on Ireland's climate finance contributions** of €225m per annum of climate finance at a minimum and set a pathway to increase this allocation to Ireland's actual 'fair share' of €500m per year. Support the new Loss and Damage Fund with significant, new and innovative sources of finance.
- Maintain Ireland's strong support for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and reject the unconditional support for Israel's war on Palestinians among certain decision-makers in the EU and US. Hold Israel to account for its war crimes against the Palestinian people. Enact the Occupied Territories Bill and Illegal Israeli Settlements Divestment Bill.

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.

Flagship policies I am asking all candidates and parties to commit to include:

- **Introduce the promised minimum BER standards** for rental properties by 2025, starting with the coldest, most inefficient homes, and ensure tenants are protected.
- Retrofit all social housing by 2030, prioritising the worst-performing buildings first
- Establish a **community energy advice** service in every local authority, offering independent, tailored guidance on energy efficiency and renewable energy options.
- Pass a **National Heat Law** that sets an end-date for new fossil fuel boilers and ensures heat pumps and district heating systems are cheaper for households.
- Create a **retrofit scheme** specifically for rural homes that rely on solid fuel or oil boilers.
- **Expand the Warmer Homes (free retrofit) Scheme** to include HAP tenants, on the condition that a long-term lease is offered.

## Clean, affordable renewable energy for homes, not data centers and big tech

The next Government must break Ireland's dependence on dirty, expensive fossil fuels, often imported from rogue states, and make sure that the development of Ireland's abundant clean energy resources prioritises local communities, our collective power needs, and nature, rather than the demands of big business for ever more consumption.

Flagship policies I am asking all candidates and parties to commit to include:

- **A moratorium on more data centres** coming online until any threat to the sustainability of our energy system from data centre expansion has passed.
- Plan to have a **100% renewable power system by 2035** and drive down gas demand over the next decade to near zero.
- Keep Ireland **free of fracked gas** and LNG imports and do not permit new infrastructure that prolongs our dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Champion fossil fuel phase out** internationally by endorsing the proposal for a new Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty.



## Affordable, reliable, and accessible fossil-free transport for all

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.

Flagship policies I am asking all candidates and parties to commit to include:

- Fast track new Luas lines for Cork, Galway, Limerick, Waterford and Dublin.
- Guarantee **a free school bus place** for anyone who wants one. Ensure a safe route to school by walking or cycling for anyone who lives within 3km.
- Achieve the commitment to invest at least €2 in public transport for every €1 in new roads.
- Prevent further growth of aviation emission by banning private jets from landing in Ireland, maintaining the passenger cap in Dublin Airport and introducing a moratorium on airport expansion.

## 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.

Flagship policies I am asking all candidates and parties to commit to include:

- Secure fair prices for Irish farmers from the supermarkets and processors that dominate the food supply chain, through the new Agri Food Regulator or by other means if necessary.
- 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.
- 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.**
- Support putting an end to the negotiations on the **outdated EU-Mercosur free-trade** agreement.



