



**Friends of
the Earth
Ireland**

**Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty
Toolkit for County Councillors
Friends of the Earth Ireland
2024**

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1. Introduction

This Friends of the Earth toolkit aims to assist councillors in presenting a Motion of Notice in their council area to endorse a proposal for a global [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) to be developed.

This Toolkit contains background information on the international campaign for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, why Irish support is so important, a template Motion, and various communication assets to aid you in your public campaign for the Motion.

We trust you'll find this toolkit valuable. Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to reach out to David Rossiter at david@foe.ie.

2. What is the Treaty?

The concept of a global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty has developed in earnest since 2015 when Pacific Island nations signed the Suva Declaration On Climate Change. The Declaration called for a moratorium and binding international mechanisms dedicated to phasing out fossil fuels in the Pacific. The concept has developed since then with the establishment of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative in 2019, which is backed by a range of organisations,



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experts and institutions. This type of agreement has been proposed as a mechanism to effectively and equitably ensure fossil fuels remain in the ground.

Three main pillars have been put forward for such a treaty:

1. **Non-Proliferation.** Prevent the proliferation of coal, oil and gas by ending all new exploration and production. It has been noted that this pillar could include the creation of a global public register to map fossil fuel reserves.
2. **Fair Phase Out.** Phase out existing production of fossil fuels in line with the 1.5C global climate goal. This pillar could involve a coordinated reduction in fossil fuel production, as well as extraction limits and removal of fossil fuel subsidies.
3. **Just Transition.** Fast-track real solutions and a just transition for every worker, community and country. It has been suggested that this pillar could involve obligations on states to plan for a just transition away from fossil fuel production and a dedicated financial mechanism to support zero carbon development.

3. Context

Friends of the Earth Ireland has been collaborating with international counterparts and *The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative* to urge the Irish Government to support the treaty's development.

After years of climate negotiations, fossil fuels have finally taken centre stage. Despite this, many governments continue to approve new coal, oil, and gas projects, jeopardising our efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

We believe it is imperative to establish a concrete, binding plan to halt the expansion of new coal, oil, and gas projects and facilitate a global transition away from fossil fuels.

We see Ireland as well-positioned to become the first European nation-state to endorse the treaty, given Ireland's membership in the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), legal restrictions on further fossil fuel licensing, and support for a Global Registry of Fossil Fuels, as well as its proud history of leading nuclear weapon non-proliferation at UN level.



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Friends of the Earth has been actively advocating for the Treaty. We have briefed officials and addressed a parliamentary committee on the topic in October 2022 and November 2023. Additionally, we prioritised the issue in our extensive campaigning during COP27 and COP28, meeting with Minister for Climate and Energy Eamon Ryan, conducting dedicated e-actions, and extensively engaging with the media.

A significant breakthrough occurred in December 2023 during COP28, as Independent TD Thomas Pringle presented a motion in the Dáil, urging the Government to endorse the development of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. This [motion](#) was passed and unopposed by the government.

As we move forward in 2024, it's vital to seize the momentum we've gained.

We firmly believe that local councils can play a pivotal role in sending a clear message to the Irish Government that they support the treaty initiative. By endorsing the treaty, [your council area would align with over 104 other cities, local government bodies, and regional parliaments](#) that have already pledged their support, including prominent cities like London and Paris.

4. Supporting Policy Documents

Below are some policy documents that you can use for any further research you may want or need related to work on the Treaty in Ireland.

FoE Submissions to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action and Supporting Documents:

- [Here](#) you can find a statement from Jerry Mac Evilly addressing the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action regarding Ireland's engagement at COP 27. The document outlines the treaty's pillars: preventing new exploration and production of coal, oil, and gas; phasing out existing fossil fuel production in line with the 1.5C global climate goal; and ensuring a just transition for workers and communities. The statement urges the Irish government to take leadership in this initiative, aligning with its domestic policies to phase out fossil fuel exploration and its international commitments, such as membership in the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance.



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- [Another](#) presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action emphasising the urgent need for Ireland to transition away from fossil fuels, particularly gas, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the resulting energy shock. The presentation stresses the imperative of aligning energy security with climate action, advocating for policies to phase out fossil fuels, enhance energy efficiency, and prioritise renewables. The presentation also criticises the notion of gas as a "transition fuel," highlighting the risks of continued dependency on fossil fuels and the inadequacy of LNG solutions. The argument is made for maintaining the moratorium on LNG terminals and cites public support for renewables over gas expansion.
- [This document is Friends of the Earth's statement to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action ahead of COP28.](#) The document outlines the importance of aligning with the European Parliament's position and urges support for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty to address the root causes of the crisis. The submission called on the Committee to advocate for comprehensive phase-out commitments, integrate fossil fuel phase-out plans into climate pledges, and build diplomatic support for the treaty.
- [Available here is a joint statement from over 60 civil society groups calling on the Irish government to endorse the treaty.](#) The statement, signed by organisations such as The Wheel, Trócaire, Concern, Friends of the Earth, Social Justice Ireland and the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition, preceded a Dáil [motion](#) advocating for government endorsement of the treaty. The statement emphasised the treaty's alignment with global climate goals and Ireland's potential to demonstrate leadership by supporting its development.

International Initiative - Policy Documents and Resources:

Below, you can find further international resources and explanations regarding the proposal to develop a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

- [A briefing outlining the need for international cooperation and introducing the idea of a treaty for fossil fuels](#)
- [Lessons learnt from previous humanitarian treaties](#)
- [Briefing for national governments considering joining the initiative](#)



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- [Why we need a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty](#)
- [Article in the Lancet Journal from Courtney Howard, Jess Beagley, Mohamed Eissa, Ojistoh Horn, Jennifer Kuhl, Jeni Miller, Shweta Narayan, Richard Smith, and Willow Thickson on why we need a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty](#)

5. Template Motion

Below are a number of Motions regarding the Treaty that have previously been brought forward to South Dublin County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. These are:

“South Dublin County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. If passed, a letter should be sent to all local Councils and the Minister for the Environment”

“The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. If passed, a letter should be sent to all local Councils, An Taoiseach, An Tánaiste and the Minister for the Environment, and further recognises as part of a just transition there must be ongoing measures to address fuel and energy poverty.”

In light of the above, we have put forward the following wording for a motion (but feel free to adapt it to suit your Council area's needs):

“That this Council endorses the proposal for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative to create a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

If passed, this Council shall write to the Minister for the Environment urging the Irish Government also to endorse the development of a new Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.”



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6. Template Social Media Post

I'm excited to announce that I'll bring a motion to (insert Council) endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. It's time for us to take concrete steps towards a sustainable future! #ClimateAction #FossilFree @foeireland @fossiltreaty 🌍

I'm thrilled to share that I'm proposing a motion at our upcoming (insert council) meeting endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. It's imperative that we phase out gas, oil and coal #SustainableFuture #ClimateChange @foeireland @fossiltreaty 🌿

Taking a step towards a greener future! I'm bringing forward a motion to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty at (insert Council area) council meeting. Let's commit to phasing out gas, coal and oil #FossilFree #ClimateActionNow @foeireland @fossiltreaty 🌱

Excited to announce my proposal at the upcoming council meeting to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. By taking proactive steps towards reducing our dependence on gas, coal and oil, we can pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future. Let's lead by example! #Sustainability #ClimateLeadership @foeireland @fossiltreaty 🌱

As a Councillor, I'm committed to climate action! Excited to share that I'm bringing forward a Motion endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty in [insert Council area]. Let's lead the way towards a greener future! #ClimateAction #FossilFreeFuture 🌍🌱 @foeireland @fossiltreaty 🌱

Ireland can lead the charge towards a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, and as a councillor, I'm committed to making it happen. I'm bringing forward a Motion endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty in (insert Council area). Let's create a greener future together! #ClimateLeadership #FossilFreeFuture

The climate crisis demands urgent and bold action. As a Councillor, I'm proud to support a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and encourage my colleagues to join me by supporting my Fossil Fuel Treaty Motion. Let's lead by example and shape a sustainable future for our community. #ClimateEmergency #FossilFree



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As a Councillor, I believe it's our responsibility to take #climateaction. That's why I'm thrilled to bring forward a Motion at (insert Council area) endorsing a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Together, let's pave the way for a fossil-free future! #ActOnClimate #FossilFree

7. Template Press Release

A suggested sample press release is included below:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Insert Date]

[Insert Councillor Name] Calls for Endorsement of Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

[Insert Cllr Name] of [Council Name] has announced the introduction of a motion to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The motion, which Cllr (insert name) will propose at the next council meeting, aims to rally support for a crucial initiative to tackle the proliferation of fossil fuels.

Cllr (Insert name) is proposing a motion which notes [update as appropriate]: "That this Council endorses the proposal for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative to create a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. If passed, this Council shall write to the Minister for the Environment urging the Irish Government also to endorse the development of a new Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty."

Cllr (insert name) has supported the call from Friends of the Earth, The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative and others, to urge the Irish Government to support the development of this fossil phase out treaty. After years of climate negotiations, fossil fuels have finally taken centre stage. Despite this, many governments continue to approve new coal, oil, and gas projects, jeopardising efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

"Local Councils can play a pivotal role in sending a clear message to the Irish Government by supporting the Treaty initiative. By endorsing the Treaty, our council area would align with over



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104 other cities, local government bodies, and regional parliaments that have already pledged their support, including prominent cities like London and Paris. Im calling on all of my fellow Councillors to support this critical Motion at this month's meeting."

Cllr (insert name) said, "It is imperative to establish a concrete, binding plan to halt the expansion of new gas, oil and coal projects and facilitate a global transition from fossil fuels. To safeguard people from the climate threat of fossil fuels, an increasing number of countries are advocating for the development of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. This proposed Treaty would complement the Paris Agreement, providing a roadmap to halt fossil fuel expansion, facilitate an equitable phase-out of coal, oil, and gas, and establish the framework for a just energy transition that leaves no worker, community, or country behind."

ENDS

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

[Insert Contact Information]

We hope you have found this toolkit useful. As mentioned above, should you have any inquiries, please feel free to reach out to David Rossiter at david@foe.ie