

# Third Report and Recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly

HOW THE STATE CAN MAKE IRELAND  
A LEADER IN TACKLING CLIMATE  
CHANGE

18 APRIL 2018



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# Chairperson's Introduction to the Citizens' Assembly and Summary

## Introduction

Following completion of its consideration of the first two topics set out in the Resolution of the Houses of the Oireachtas approving the establishment of the Assembly – *the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution and How We Best Respond to the Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population*, the Assembly moved on to consider the third topic with which it was tasked – *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*.

It was implicit in the mandate which the Assembly received in the Oireachtas Resolution, that climate change was real, happening and must be tackled. The deliberations of the Assembly therefore focussed on how the State could best meet that challenge.

It was originally intended that climate change would be the final topic that the Assembly would consider and that this would be done over a single weekend. The Members' interest in the topic was, however, clearly demonstrated when they decided at the January 2017 meeting to bring forward its consideration and subsequently to dedicate a second weekend to it.

In constructing the work programme on this topic over the two weekends in September/October 2017 and the beginning of November 2017, I regarded it as crucial that we consider how Ireland could be made a leader in this area and indeed as I said at that time “put Ireland in the vanguard in relation to action on climate change”.

As with the other topics the Assembly has already considered, this topic is incredibly broad, wide-ranging and affects us all in one way or another. It has previously been the subject of a number of Government policy documents, strategies and reviews. Given the relatively recent establishment of the National Dialogue on Climate Action by Government, and the publication of the National Mitigation Plan and then [draft] National Adaption Framework by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr Denis Naughton,

T.D., I believe that the timing of the Citizen's Assembly deliberations on this topic was particularly opportune. I very much hope that the work of and recommendations made by the Citizens' Assembly can contribute to the wider public engagement and national discourse on the issue.

As before, the importance of structuring a discussion which was fair, informative and evidence based was the guiding principle which I continued to apply during this phase of the Assembly's work.

As this report, and the appendices which support it, show, in considering this topic, the Members of the Assembly (the Members) once again had the benefit of an array of expertise and perspectives. Over two weekends they heard from 15 experts and 6 individuals who shared their personal experience of becoming a leader in the area of climate change in Ireland. They actively took part in over 26 hours of listening, discussion and deliberation. In addition, the Members prepared diligently for meetings, reading papers in advance and reviewing the submissions received by the Assembly on this topic.

All of the public proceedings were live-streamed on the Assembly's website, [www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie), and the recordings are all available to view on the Assembly's YouTube Channel. All of the papers and presentations made to the Members were uploaded on the website as they were delivered.

As I outlined in both the first and second reports, the Assembly is an exercise in deliberative democracy, meaning that, I, as Chairperson, listened to the requests of my fellow Members when devising our work programme. Throughout both weekends, we had open feedback sessions when we heard from the Members about what they wanted to hear in order to allow them make informed recommendations about *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*, which would add value to the work that Government is currently doing.

Initially, as I said previously, we expected to hold only one weekend on this topic. However, taking account of proposals from the Members, the challenges faced in covering the topic adequately in one weekend and appointment of a new Expert Advisory Group, it was agreed that two weekends would, in fact, be required. Considering the breadth of the topic, it was clear to me that we would have to concentrate our efforts on specific issues in the development of an appropriate programme for Assembly meetings.

Just over 1,200 submissions were received by the Assembly on this topic. Of these, 1,185 have been published. Submissions were invited across the full spectrum of issues in relation to climate change but in particular we sought views on Ireland's energy, transport and agriculture sectors. Submissions were received from advocacy groups, professionals and academics with experience and expertise on the topic and from individuals with a concern for the environment.

Many of the submissions were solution focussed, analysing existing policy and presenting suggestions for alternative actions at National/International/EU policy level, as well as suggestions on how individuals could simply reduce their carbon footprint.

In order to assist the Members to consider the topic, the Secretariat prepared a "Signpost Document" which identified, in order of popularity, the key issues/topics/themes which presented in the submissions. It is fully acknowledged that such a document could not capture the full range of issues raised in all of the submissions received. This exercise was done to give the Members an overview of the main issues and the range of perspectives which had emerged in the submissions.

Taking account of the issues which arose through the submissions process, the consultations with the Members, and discussions and advice from the Expert Advisory Group, it was agreed that the focus of the first weekend on this topic would be climate science, the impacts of climate change and energy policy. On the second weekend it was agreed that the focus would be on the areas of transport and agriculture policy. These were the areas that came through most frequently in the submissions received.

On the first weekend at the end of September, the Assembly heard presentations on the science of climate change, current efforts being made nationally and internationally to tackle climate change, the impact of climate change and the status of the climate in Ireland. Members also heard about the National Mitigation Plan and the National Dialogue on Climate Action. This was followed up with an examination of the energy sector – specifically heat and power. Members heard what Ireland would look like as a leader in climate change in these areas and also listened to first hand examples of leadership in communities and workplaces in Ireland.

On the second weekend, in November, the Members focused their attention on the transport and agriculture sectors and examined climate change under current policy for each. This was followed in both cases by an examination of what policy might look like if Ireland was a leader in tackling climate change. The Members also heard international perspectives on the

issue including both the Danish and Scottish experiences. On Saturday afternoon, 4 November, the Members heard first hand examples of leadership in agriculture, food and land use, which was then followed by a panel discussion and questions and answers (Q&A) session.

The work programme for the second weekend took account, insofar as possible given the tight timeframe for completion of the topic, of the feedback from Members at the first weekend and the other topics which came through most strongly from the submissions process.

In Chapter 3 a summary of the material presented to the Members at both weekends is included. This gives an overview of the material received and acts as a direction to the more detailed material. Appendix F contains the full suite of material provided to the Members, including the agendas, expert papers and presentations, Secretariat papers prepared for each weekend, and the transcript of the public proceedings on Sunday 5 November 2017 when Members discussed the Ballot Paper.

As with both of the previous topics, I would strongly encourage each member of the Oireachtas and the public with an interest in this issue to review the footage of the Q&A and feedback sessions from both weekends. It will once again be seen as evidence of the diligence with which the Members approached the task, and the thoughtful, thought provoking and considered questions they asked of our speakers, of the Expert Advisory Group and of the Secretariat alike. They continued to take their role seriously and with dedication and once again, I urge the members of the Oireachtas to view their recommendations with the respect and due consideration that they deserve.

### **Voted Recommendations**

The substantive recommendations of the Assembly were the result of the ballots which took place on the second weekend in November 2017. Chapter 1 of this report gives these in detail and also provides a full explanation of the changes to the draft Ballot Paper as requested and agreed by the Members over the course of the weekend.

The recommendations were reached by ballot paper voting and followed two weekends of deliberation which focused on the energy, transport and agriculture sectors, international best practise and existing national policies and activities.

A total of 13 questions appeared on the ballot and the recommendations were reached by majority vote.

The following recommendations were made by the Assembly:

- i. 97% of the Members recommended that to ensure climate change is at the centre of policy-making in Ireland, as a matter of urgency a new or existing independent body should be resourced appropriately, operate in an open and transparent manner, and be given a broad range of new functions and powers in legislation to urgently address climate change.
- ii. 100% of the Members recommended that the State should take a leadership role in addressing climate change through mitigation measures, including, for example, retrofitting public buildings, having low carbon public vehicles, renewable generation on public buildings and through adaptation measures including, for example, increasing the resilience of public land and infrastructure.
- iii. 80% of the Members stated that they would be willing to pay higher taxes on carbon intensive activities, subject to the qualifications identified in the question.
- iv. 96% of the Members recommended that the State should undertake a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of all critical infrastructure (including energy, transport, built environment, water and communications) with a view to building resilience to ongoing climate change and extreme weather events. The outcome of this assessment should be implemented. Recognising the significant costs that the State would bear in the event of failure of critical infrastructure, spending on infrastructure should be prioritised to take account of this.
- v. 99% of the Members recommended that the State should enable, through legislation, the selling back into the grid of electricity from micro-generation by private citizens (for example energy from solar panels or wind turbines on people's homes or land) at a price which is at least equivalent to the wholesale price.
- vi. 100% of the Members recommended that the State should act to ensure the greatest possible levels of community ownership in all future renewable energy projects by encouraging communities to develop their own projects and by requiring that developer-led projects make share offers to communities to encourage greater local involvement and ownership.
- vii. (a) 97% of the Members recommended that the State should end all subsidies for peat extraction and instead spend that money on peat bog restoration and making proper provision for the protection of the rights of the workers impacted; and

(b) 61% recommended that the State should end all subsidies on a phased basis over 5 years.

- viii. 93% of the Members recommended that the number of bus lanes, cycling lanes and park and ride facilities should be greatly increased in the next five years, and much greater priority should be given to these modes over private car use.
- ix. 96% of the Members recommended that the State should immediately take many steps to support the transition to electric vehicles.
- x. 92% of the Members recommended that the State should prioritise the expansion of public transport spending over new road infrastructure spending at a ratio of no less than 2-to-1 to facilitate the broader availability and uptake of public transport options with attention to rural areas.
- xi. 89% of the Members recommended that there should be a tax on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture. There should be rewards for the farmer for land management that sequesters carbon. Any resulting revenue should be reinvested to support climate friendly agricultural practices.
- xii. 93% of the Members recommended the State should introduce a standard form of mandatory measurement and reporting of food waste at every level of the food distribution and supply chain, with the objective of reducing food waste in the future.
- xiii. 99% of the Members recommended that the State should review and revise supports for land use diversification with attention to supports for planting forests and encouraging organic farming.

### **Ancillary Recommendations**

As noted earlier, the topic of climate change is broad and wide ranging. Consequently, following consultation with the Members, and based on the topics which came through in the submissions process, the Assembly focussed its discussion on the energy, transport and agriculture sectors, together with an examination of what leadership in the area of climate change looks like.

However, it was acknowledged that there may be other areas, not covered in the discussion during the two weekends, which Members of the Assembly would like to see reflected in the recommendations.

Therefore, the Members were provided with a response form on the final weekend to complete. The form - "Member Reflective Exercise" - is included at Appendix B. The purpose of the exercise was to allow the Members to make comments and suggestions on such further recommendations to be referenced in the final report. I undertook to deliver any emerging consensus themes or issues as ancillary recommendations in the final report.

The four ancillary recommendations set out below are informed by the matters on which the greatest consensus emerged.

### Ancillary Recommendations

- I. Greater emphasis should be placed on providing positive information to the public which encourages people to make changes to the aspects of their behaviour which impact on climate change. Such information should be targeted at all age groups using a wide variety of formats. The information provided should be focussed on highlighting the economic, social, health and other benefits of taking action rather than focussing on the negatives associated with a failure to act.
- II. Steps should be taken to reduce packaging, particularly plastic packaging, and resulting waste. Suggestions for such steps include the eradication of single use plastics particularly in supermarkets and the imposition of penalties for failure to comply and the introduction of a deposit return scheme on plastic bottles.
- III. The agriculture sector in Ireland requires ongoing support to make a transition towards models of production which give rise to lower GHG emissions. Cognisance must be taken of the impact which the sector has on the economy, particularly the rural economy.
- IV. All new buildings should have a zero or low carbon footprint and planning permission should only be granted for new builds which comply with these requirements. The government should provide incentives to retrofit homes to achieve better energy efficiency ratings.

### **Acknowledgements**

I wish to acknowledge the continued professionalism and expertise of all of our suppliers – **The Grand Hotel Malahide, Roomaxx Ltd., Richard Jolly TV/Switch New Media, Gwen Malone Stenography, Q4PR, Beatrice.ie, Bridge Interpreting, Maxwell Photography,**

**pTools Software** and the **Office of Public Works**. They continue to provide us with an exceptional level of service and make the challenging logistical operation of Assembly meetings as smooth as possible.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the **Expert Advisory Group** - Professor Anna Davies (Trinity College Dublin), Dr Margaret Desmond (University College Cork), Prof. John Garry (Queens University Belfast), Dr Áine Ryall (University College Cork), Professor Peter Thorne (Maynooth University) and Dr Diarmuid Torney (Dublin City University) - for their expertise over the course of the months leading to and during the weekend meetings and the tremendous support and advice they provided to the Secretariat and myself.

The Expert Advisory Group had a critical role in identifying appropriate **speakers** to present to the Assembly in their professional capacity on the various issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely all of the speakers who gave their time at no charge to the Assembly. They demonstrated the huge impact of climate change on us all. As explained in Chapter 3, all of the material presented (papers, PowerPoint presentations and oral presentations) are available on the Assembly website and are available at Appendix F of this report. In addition, a summary of the papers and presentations is included in Chapter 3. I consider it important to emphasise that the material presented by each of the expert speakers was technical and detailed and I would urge interested readers to access the complete papers and presentations to get a full and detailed picture of the information provided to the Members.

At the November meeting we had the benefit once again of the expert advice and services of **John Fitzpatrick**, former returning officer for County Dublin, **Ciaran Manning** and their team on the voting. Again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to John, Ciaran and their team for their advice and support both in advance and on the day.

The members of the **Secretariat** continue to play a pivotal role in the smooth and effective operation of the Assembly. Sharon Finegan, Secretary to the Assembly, and her team work tirelessly to support me, the Expert Advisory Group and the Members throughout the process and make sure each meeting runs smoothly.

The staff of the **Department of the Taoiseach** who help out at the weekend meetings are a very important part of the smooth running of these events and I am sincerely grateful to the Secretary General for his continued support.

And finally once again, I thank the **Members** for their continued enthusiasm, interest and commitment to the Assembly process. Even after a year of deliberations on three different topics they still willingly give up their weekends and work hard to ensure that they understand the issues before making carefully considered, informed recommendations. I continue to be truly astounded by their commitment, energy, openness and hard work and I greatly admire the collegiality they display and their welcome to the new Members who have joined the Assembly.

### **The Report**

In the Chapters of this report and the appendices which follow, there will be provided a clear, complete and accurate record of the work of the Assembly on *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*.

As in the first and second Assembly Reports, my objective has been to demonstrate what happened, both before and at the two meetings, so that there is openness and transparency on the manner in which the Members were informed on this topic.

**The Hon. Mary Laffoy**

**Chairperson**

**April, 2018**

# Chapter 1: Assembly Recommendations

## A. Background

1. Over the course of two weekends, in September/October and November 2017, the Assembly considered *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*. It was originally intended to spend just one weekend on this topic but it became apparent that a further full weekend would be required.
2. This chapter is a description of the voting which took place on the Sunday of that second weekend (5 November).
3. All of the Assembly's public proceedings, including the voting, were broadcast live and the footage is now available on the Assembly's YouTube Channel. In addition, a full transcript of the final weekend's public proceedings is available on the Assembly's website and is contained in Appendix F.
4. The Assembly's recommendations were determined by a balloted vote. Details are provided below about the development of the draft questions on the Ballot Paper, amendments made by the Members and the results of the questions.
5. The Assembly is also making four further ancillary recommendations. These were made by seeking the view of the Members on other areas, not covered in the discussion during the two weekends, which Members would like to see reflected in the recommendations. While these recommendations cannot have the same standing as those which were voted upon in accordance with the Oireachtas resolution, it is the view of the Chairperson that it was important to gather the Members' views on these areas. Full details are provided below.

## **B. Voting Arrangements**

6. According to the resolution approving establishment of the Assembly:

*“all matters before the Assembly will be determined by a majority of votes of members present and voting, other than the Chairperson who will have a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes”.*

The Sunday of the second weekend (5 November) comprised a series of important steps:

- agreeing on the issues to be included in a ballot;
  - agreeing on the precise wording of the ballot; and finally
  - voting.
7. Once again, the Chairperson enlisted independent oversight of the voting process. Mr. John Fitzpatrick, retired returning officer for County Dublin, together with a small team working with him, was available at the weekend and provided his expertise on the following matters:
- The mechanism and infrastructure for voting to be carried out in secret (e.g. the use of voting booths and ballot boxes);
  - The counting of Ballot Papers and the accurate presentation of results.
8. Mr. Fitzpatrick also provided the Secretariat with advice in advance in relation to the structure of the ballot and the time allocated on the Agenda for voting and counting of the votes.
9. In advance of the November 2017 weekend, the Members were provided with two key documents on voting arrangements –
- a note on the voting arrangements that would operate for the weekend;
  - a draft Ballot Paper.

Both documents are available on the website and in Appendix F. Members were asked to read and familiarise themselves with these documents in advance of the weekend.

### **C. Development of a Draft Ballot Paper**

10. At the end of the September/October meeting of the Assembly (the first weekend on *How to make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*) Members were invited to make comments and preliminary suggestions on the types of issues they thought should be voted upon or included on a Ballot Paper at the second weekend meeting on the topic. The Secretariat collated all of these suggestions and these informed the preparation of a preliminary draft Ballot Paper. This work was led by the Chairperson, with the assistance of the Secretariat and the Expert Advisory Group.
11. Given that the Assembly is first and foremost an exercise in deliberative democracy, it was important that the Members took ownership of the ballot. The preliminary draft Ballot Paper was first presented to the Steering Group on 19 October 2017 who made initial comments and suggestions. Given the extent of the commentary received from the Steering Group, the draft Ballot Paper was revised and a second meeting was held with the Steering Group to seek their input on 26 October 2017.
12. Following revisions made on foot of these suggestions, the original draft Ballot Paper was then circulated to the wider membership in advance of the November 2017 meeting. Comments, suggestions, amendments and observations were sought from the Members in the week prior to the November 2017 meeting.
13. The Secretariat also sought and received further observations throughout the course of the November 2017 meeting. These observations were received from Members, by email, in writing, orally and through feedback from the roundtable discussions on Saturday 4 November 2017.
14. A revised Ballot Paper, taking these changes and suggestions into account was prepared by the Chairperson, with the assistance of the Secretariat and the Expert Advisory Group overnight, following the conclusion of formal proceedings on Saturday, 4 November 2017.
15. Copies of the original draft Ballot Paper, the revised draft and the final version which the Members voted on are all provided in Appendix F.

16. Time was spent on Sunday 5 November 2017, before voting commenced, explaining each of the questions individually; why they were included on the Ballot Paper, any changes which were made to the original draft Ballot Paper and the reasons for those changes.
17. The explanation was provided by the Chairperson. Time was also set aside for roundtable discussion and Q&A sessions on each individual ballot to allow the Members sufficient time to examine the draft and ask questions of the Chairperson, Secretariat and Expert Advisory Group.
18. In order to maximise the time available to discuss the questions which the majority of Members expressed a desire to discuss and suggest changes to, each table was first asked to provide feedback to the Chairperson, on the questions they did not want to see a substantive discussion on. Taking account of this feedback, the Chairperson concluded that substantive discussion was only required in respect of questions 1, 2, 7, 9, 11 and 13 of the revised draft Ballot Paper. However, should Members suggest amendments to other questions in the course of the discussion (and they did) this would be facilitated.
19. Once all questions were agreed by the Members, time was provided in the Agenda to allow the Secretariat to produce the final version of the Ballot Paper as required. All of the public sessions were live streamed on the Assembly website. In addition, a transcript of the public session where the Ballot Paper was discussed and agreed was put on the website after the meeting. That transcript is included in Appendix F.
20. The final Ballot Paper voted on by the Members was divided into four sections –
  - A. Putting climate change considerations at the centre of policy-making; (questions 1-4)
  - B. Energy Policy; (questions 5-7)
  - C. Transport Policy; (questions 8-10) and
  - D. Agriculture and Land Use Policy (questions 11-13).
21. The questions on this Ballot Paper were very much framed as statements on what the State should do to achieve a leadership role for Ireland based on deliberations of the Members over the course of the two weekends they considered this topic.

## **D. Overview of Voted Recommendations**

22. In summary, the Assembly recommended by a majority vote the following:

### Section A: Putting climate change considerations at the centre of policy-making

- i. 97% of the Members recommended that to ensure climate change is at the centre of policy-making in Ireland, as a matter of urgency a new or existing independent body should be resourced appropriately, operate in an open and transparent manner, and be given a broad range of new functions and powers in legislation to urgently address climate change.
- ii. 100% of the Members recommended that the State should take a leadership role in addressing climate change through mitigation measures, including, for example, retrofitting public buildings, having low carbon public vehicles, renewable generation on public buildings and through adaptation measures including, for example, increasing the resilience of public land and infrastructure.
- iii. 80% of the Members stated that they would be willing to pay higher taxes on carbon intensive activities, subject to the qualifications identified in the question.
- iv. 96% of the Members recommended that the State should undertake a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of all critical infrastructure (including energy, transport, built environment, water and communications) with a view to building resilience to ongoing climate change and extreme weather events. The outcome of this assessment should be implemented. Recognising the significant costs that the State would bear in the event of failure of critical infrastructure, spending on infrastructure should be prioritised to take account of this.

### Section B: Energy Policy

- v. 99% of the Members recommended that the State should enable, through legislation, the selling back into the grid of electricity from micro-generation by private citizens (for example energy from solar panels or wind turbines on people's homes or land) at a price which is at least equivalent to the wholesale price.
- vi. 100% of the Members recommended that the State should act to ensure the greatest possible levels of community ownership in all future renewable energy projects by encouraging communities to develop their own projects and by requiring that

developer-led projects make share offers to communities to encourage greater local involvement and ownership.

- vii. (a) 97% of the Members recommended that the State should end all subsidies for peat extraction and instead spend that money on peat bog restoration and making proper provision for the protection of the rights of the workers impacted ; and  
(b) 61% recommended that the State should end all subsidies on a phased basis over 5 years.

### Section C: Transport Policy

- viii. 93% of the Members recommended that the number of bus lanes, cycling lanes and park and ride facilities should be greatly increased in the next five years, and much greater priority should be given to these modes over private car use.
- ix. 96% of the Members recommended that the State should immediately take many steps to support the transition to electric vehicles.
- x. 92% of the Members recommended that the State should prioritise the expansion of public transport spending over new road infrastructure spending at a ratio of no less than 2-to-1 to facilitate the broader availability and uptake of public transport options with attention to rural areas.

### Section D: Agriculture and Land Use Policy

- xi. 89% of the Members recommended that there should be a tax on GHG emissions from agriculture. There should be rewards for the farmer for land management that sequesters carbon. Any resulting revenue should be reinvested to support climate friendly agricultural practices.
- xii. 93% of the Members recommended the State should introduce a standard form of mandatory measurement and reporting of food waste at every level of the food distribution and supply chain, with the objective of reducing food waste in the future.
- xiii. 99% of the Members recommended that the State should review and revise supports for land use diversification with attention to supports for planting forests and encouraging organic farming.

## **E. Detailed Breakdown and Explanation of Assembly Recommendations and Ballot Results**

23. This section of the report provides a detailed explanation of the wording that appeared in each question on both the original and the revised draft Ballot Papers. The explanation of the meaning of the wording as provided by the Chairperson to the Members in advance of discussion and Q&A sessions is also provided. An account of any changes to each of the Ballot Papers sought and agreed by the Members is also provided.

### **Section A: Putting climate change considerations at the centre of policy-making**

#### **Question 1**

24. The questions about putting climate change considerations at the centre of policy-making began with question 1 and also included questions 2, 3 and 4.

#### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

25. Question 1 in the original draft Ballot Paper circulated to Members before the second weekend was worded as follows –

“To ensure climate change is at the centre of policy-making in Ireland, a new or existing independent body should be resourced appropriately, operate in an open and transparent manner, and be given a broad range of new functions in legislation to urgently address climate change. Such functions and powers should include, but not be limited to those outlined below.

1. To examine any legislative proposals it considers relevant to its functions and to report publicly its views on any implications in relation to climate change; the relevant Minister must respond publically to the views expressed in a [any] report prior to the progress of the particular legislative proposal;

2. To propose national sectoral targets for emissions reductions, to be implemented by the Oireachtas, with regular review and reporting cycles;
  3. To institute proceedings in any Court for the purpose of obtaining redress of any wrong in respect of any matter concerning climate change.”
26. The statement in this question looked at the establishment of a new body or the augmentation of the functions and powers of an existing body to hold the State to account in tackling climate change. It is not a choice between either establishing a new body or expanding the role of an existing body– the essence of the question is whether an independent body should statutorily have the power to ensure climate change is at the centre of government policy-making.
27. The three functions proposed broadly encompassed advisory, ambition setting and compliance and enforcement roles. In the feedback at the end of the first weekend and in the engagement with the Members subsequently, it was clear that the Members wanted to be able to provide a mechanism for achieving leadership on the issue of climate change. This question seeks to articulate in broad terms the specific gaps which were identified by the Members in current leadership and proposes potential solutions to remedy these gaps.
28. The draft question sought to avoid focussing on the specific functions and powers which the independent body could possess. Instead its aim was to provide a clear direction on what such a body could authoritatively do.
29. This question was informed by the material presented to the Assembly by a number of the speakers at the second weekend.
30. In the revised version of the Ballot Paper produced on the Sunday morning (5 November), this question was re-worded for clarity and comprehension following Member feedback. Specifically the following amendments were made to the text:
- the inclusion of an explicit reference to powers of the body, so it would have “*a broad range of new functions and powers*”;
  - the second function/power was reworded to include a timeframe for the targets, a clear distinction between national and sectoral targets for emission reductions and a reference to these being implemented by the State; and

- the third function/power was re-worded to read “*To pursue the State in legal proceedings to ensure that the State lives up to its legal obligations relating to climate change*”.

### ***Deliberation on Wording***

31. This question generated a large amount of discussion amongst the Members and numerous amendments were suggested and questions were raised. A full account of this discussion is provided in the transcript at Appendix F. However, the main concerns arising were as follows:

- Members should be able to vote “Yes” or “No” to each of the questions constituent parts i.e. the functions/powers numbered 1, 2 and 3;
- The new body should be able to penalize and hold Government Departments directly accountable for failing to meet the annual climate change targets for that Department and the Department should only have targets that are endorsed by the new body;
- there should be no further delay in the establishment of the new body and that there should be some emphasis on expediting its establishment; and
- instead of 'to *propose* national sectoral targets for emissions reductions' in function 2, 'to *set* national sectoral targets for emissions reductions' -was suggested.

32. The Chairperson explained that the three functions outlined were simply examples of the types of functions and powers such a body could possess. Their inclusion was designed to provide greater context to the type of work such a body could do, they were not included for the purposes of the Members specifically recommending what such a body's functions should be.

33. For this reason, the Ballot Paper was not amended to include the option to vote individually on each suggested function/power.

34. In response to the desire to ensure there is no further delay in the establishment of such a body or the augmenting of an existing body's functions, the phrase “as a matter of urgency” was included.

### **Agreement on Wording**

35. Members were requested to indicate their acceptance by a show of hands in respect of the amendments to the text and a count was taken.

36. The majority voted to accept the changes. The final text as agreed by the Members is provided below.

### **Reporting on this question and determining the majority**

37. In terms of reporting on this question, the Members were asked to indicate agreement or disagreement with the statement in the question by marking X in one box – either “Yes” or “No”. In other words, it was a simple referendum style question. A majority, and therefore the recommendation of the Assembly, would be determined by reference to the total votes cast in favour of ‘Yes’ and ‘No’, with the answer with the highest number of votes deemed to be the majority, with the Chairperson having a casting vote, if required.

### **Result of Question 1**

38. The result of Question 1 was as follows:

*Question 1: To ensure climate change is at the centre of policy-making in Ireland, as a matter of urgency a new or existing independent body should be resourced appropriately, operate in an open and transparent manner, and be given a broad range of new functions and powers in legislation to urgently address climate change. Such functions and powers should include, but not be limited to those outlined below.*

- 1. To examine any legislative proposals it considers relevant to its functions and to report publicly its views on any implications in relation to climate change; the relevant Minister must respond publicly to the views expressed in a report prior to the progress of the particular legislative proposal;*
- 2. To propose ambitious 5 year national and sectoral targets for emissions reductions to be implemented by the State, with regular review and reporting cycles;*

3. *To pursue the State in legal proceedings to ensure that the State lives up to its legal obligations relating to climate change.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	0
Total Valid Poll:	75
Yes	73 (97%)
No	2 (3%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The majority of Members (97%) voted “Yes” in comparison to 2 Members (3%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 1.

**Recommendation 1:** To ensure climate change is at the centre of policy-making in Ireland, as a matter of urgency a new or existing independent body should be resourced appropriately, operate in an open and transparent manner, and be given a broad range of new functions and powers in legislation to urgently address climate change (97%).

## Question 2

### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

39. Question 2 posed a statement to which the Members should answer ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. The text of the question in the original draft Ballot Paper circulated to Members before the second weekend was as follows –

“The State should take a leadership role in addressing climate change through mitigation options, including, for example, retrofitting public buildings, electrification of public vehicles, renewable generation on public buildings and through adaptation

measures including, for example, increasing the resilience of public land and infrastructure.”

40. In the spirit of the terminology of this topic as outlined in the resolution – *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change* – this question looks to confer a leadership role on the State in terms of addressing climate change through both mitigation and adaptation measures.
41. The question urged the State to both guard against and actively take measures to prevent the impacts of climate change. This question was very much informed by the strong feedback from the Members at the first weekend, particularly in the final feedback session when the Members discussed the National Dialogue on Climate Action.
42. In the revised draft Ballot Paper produced for the Members on the Sunday morning (5 November), “mitigation options” was changed to “mitigation measures” for the purposes of consistency in the text, because further down the question “adaptation measures” were mentioned.

### ***Deliberation on Question***

43. During the questions and answers session, a number of suggested amendments to the revised Ballot Paper were made by the Members at various tables.
44. One suggestion was to replace the term 'leadership' at the start of the question to “ownership”. The Chairperson explained that the language used in the question replicates the wording that is used in the resolution of the Houses of the Oireachtas approving the Assembly’s establishment.
45. Another table suggested the inclusion of '*consideration of renewable generation on public buildings*'. The reasoning behind this was that in order to upgrade historic buildings damage could be done by adding renewable technologies to them. The Chairperson explained that those considerations by the State were implicitly captured in the question.

46. It was also suggested that the term 'electrification' should be changed to a more open statement which would include other new technologies, such as hydro.

47. There was a suggestion that the State's leadership role should be enshrined in legislation or the Constitution. The Chairperson explained that the ancillary recommendations were the appropriate vehicle by which members could express their support for this, should they wish to do so.

### ***Agreement on wording***

48. The suggestion to change the reference from "the electrification of public vehicles" to "low carbon public vehicles" was put to the Members.

49. Members were requested to indicate their acceptance by a show of hands and a count was taken.

50. The Members voted to accept this change. The final text as agreed by the Members is provided below.

### ***Reporting on this question and determining the majority***

51. Question 2 was a simple referendum style question which asked a straightforward question with 'Yes' or 'No' options.

52. In terms of reporting for this question, the Members were asked to mark X in one box – either "Yes" or "No". A majority, and therefore the recommendation of the Assembly, would be determined by reference to the total votes cast in favour of 'Yes' and 'No', with the answer with the highest number of votes deemed to be the majority, with the Chairperson having a casting vote, if required.

### ***Result of Question 2***

53. The result of Question 2 was as follows:

*Question 2: The State should take a leadership role in addressing climate change through mitigation measures, including, for example, retrofitting public buildings, having low carbon public vehicles, renewable generation on public buildings and through adaptation measures including, for example, increasing the resilience of public land and infrastructure.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	0
Total Valid Poll:	75
Yes	75 (100%)
No	0 (0%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. All those present and voting (100%) voted “Yes”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 2.

**Recommendation 2:** The State should take a leadership role in addressing climate change through mitigation measures, including, for example, retrofitting public buildings, having low carbon public vehicles, renewable generation on public buildings and through adaptation measures including, for example, increasing the resilience of public land and infrastructure (100%).

### **Question 3**

***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

54. Question 3 also posed a statement to which the Members should answer ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. The text of the question in the original draft Ballot Paper circulated to Members before the second weekend was as follows –

“There should be much higher progressive taxes, which build year-on-year, on carbon intensive activities (for example carbon tax on the use of petrol and diesel and the use of fossil fuels for home heating). The revenue raised by these taxes should

only be spent on measures that directly aid the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient Ireland (for example making solar panels more cheaply and easily available, retrofitting homes, flood defenses, developing infrastructure for electric vehicles).”

55. The question sought to establish a willingness, or not, on behalf of the Members for greater financial contributions from the public to fund the transition to a low carbon future by penalizing carbon intensive activities.

56. In the revised draft Ballot Paper, which took account of initial feedback from the Members and was circulated to the Members on the Sunday morning (5 November), the question was rephrased to aid comprehension. The bulk of the text of the question as originally drafted was moved out of the main body of the question and included as qualifications. The Members were presented with two options: they would be willing to pay higher taxes or they would not be willing.

57. The full text of the question, voted on by the Members, was as follows –

“Subject to the qualifications below:

- I would be willing to pay higher taxes on carbon intensive activities
- I would not be willing to pay higher taxes on carbon intensive activities

Qualification 1: Any increase in revenue would be only spent on measures that directly aid the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient Ireland: including, for example, making solar panels more cheaply and easily available, retrofitting homes and businesses, flood defenses, developing infrastructure for electric vehicles.

Qualification 2: An increase in the taxation does not have to be paid by the poorest households (the 400,000 households currently in receipt of fuel allowance).

Qualification 3: It is envisaged that these taxes build year-on-year.”

58. No further amendments to the revised question were suggested by the Members. In light of these changes the Chairperson decided to remove what had been question 4 on the original draft ballot paper. This question originally dealt in more detail with the amount of tax that Members would be willing to pay. However, based on Member feedback the Chairperson decided that the important points raised were now adequately reflected in Question 3.

### **Reporting on this question and determining the majority**

59. In terms of reporting on this question, Members were informed that the recommendation of the Assembly would be the option which obtained the highest number of votes with the Chairperson having a casting vote, if required. The majority was determined by reference to the total votes cast in favour of the options available.

### **Result of Question 3**

60. The result of Question 3 was as follows:

*Question 3: Subject to the qualifications below:*

- *I would be willing to pay higher taxes on carbon intensive activities*
- *I would not be willing to pay higher taxes on carbon intensive activities*

Qualification 1: *Any increase in revenue would be only spent on measures that directly aid the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient Ireland: including, for example, making solar panels more cheaply and easily available, retrofitting homes and businesses, flood defenses, developing infrastructure for electric vehicles.*

Qualification 2: *An increase in the taxation does not have to be paid by the poorest households (the 400,000 households currently in receipt of fuel allowance).*

Qualification 3: *It is envisaged that these taxes build year-on-year.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	0
Total Valid Poll:	75
Yes	60 (80%)
No	15 (20%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The majority of Members (80%) voted “Yes” in comparison to 15 Members (20%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 3.

**Recommendation 3:** The Members said they would be willing to pay higher taxes on carbon

intensive activities (80%), subject to the qualifications identified in the question.

#### **Question 4**

#### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

61. Question 4 (Question 5 in the original draft Ballot Paper) looked to put an onus on the State to undertake an assessment of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure with a view to building resilience to climate change and extreme weather events and their consequences. It was a simple referendum style question with “Yes” or “No” options to reflect agreement or disagreement with the statement.

62. The original wording was as follows:

“The State should undertake a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure (including energy, transport, built environment, water and communications) with a view to building resilience to ongoing climate change and extreme weather events. The outcome of this assessment should be implemented. Recognising the significant costs that the State would bear in the event of failure of critical infrastructure, infrastructure spending should be prioritised to take account of this.”

63. In the revised draft Ballot Paper produced for the Members on the Sunday morning (5 November), a number of very minor amendments were included. Reference was made to “the vulnerability of *all* critical infrastructure” and “infrastructure spending” was changed to “*spending on infrastructure*”.

64. No further amendments to the wording of the question were suggested by the Members.

#### ***Result of Question***

65. The result of Question 4 was as follows:

*Question 4: The State should undertake a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of all critical infrastructure (including energy, transport, built environment, water and communications) with a view to building resilience to ongoing climate change and extreme weather events. The outcome of this assessment should be implemented. Recognising the significant costs that the State would bear in the event of failure of critical infrastructure, spending on infrastructure should be prioritised to take account of this.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	1
Total Valid Poll:	74
Yes	71 (96%)
No	3 (4%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The valid poll was 74. The majority of Members (96%) voted “Yes” in comparison to 3 Members (4%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 4.

**Recommendation 4:** The State should undertake a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of all critical infrastructure (including energy, transport, built environment, water and communications) with a view to building resilience to ongoing climate change and extreme weather events. The outcome of this assessment should be implemented. Recognising the significant costs that the State would bear in the event of failure of critical infrastructure, spending on infrastructure should be prioritised to take account of this (96%).

## Section B: Energy Policy

### Question 5

66. The questions on energy policy began with question 5 and also included questions 6 and 7.

#### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

67. Question 5 (Question 6 in the original draft Ballot Paper) was originally worded as follows:

“The State should enable, through legislation, the selling back into the grid of electricity from micro-generation by private citizens (for example energy from solar panels or wind turbines on people’s homes or land) at a price which is at least equivalent to the wholesale price.”

68. It was a simple referendum style question with “Yes” or “No” options.

69. There were no differences in wording between the draft Ballot Paper and the revised draft Ballot Paper produced on the Sunday morning (5 November).

70. This question was framed with reference to the information provided by Marie Donnelly and Brian Motherway who both made presentations to the Assembly on the energy sector. It was an issue which the Members raised in feedback and one which many indicated they wished to see included on the Ballot Paper.

71. With respect to the reference to the resale price being “at least equivalent to the wholesale price”, this was designed to reflect the intention that, at a minimum, the private citizen who is selling energy back to the grid would get the same price that energy is being sold to suppliers.

72. No amendments to the original proposed wording were suggested by the Members.

### **Result of Question 5**

73. The result of Question 5 was as follows:

*Question 5: The State should enable, through legislation, the selling back into the grid of electricity from micro-generation by private citizens (for example energy from solar panels or wind turbines on people’s homes or land) at a price which is at least equivalent to the wholesale price.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	1
Total Valid Poll:	74
Yes	73 (99%)
No	1 (1%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The valid poll was 74 Members. The majority of the Members (99%) voted “Yes” to the question with just one Member (1%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 5.

**Recommendation 5:** The State should enable, through legislation, the selling back into the grid of electricity from micro-generation by private citizens (for example energy from solar panels or wind turbines on people’s homes or land) at a price which is at least equivalent to the wholesale price (99%).

### **Question 6**

#### **Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson**

74. Question 6 (Question 7 in the original draft Ballot Paper) was originally worded as follows:

“the State should act to ensure the greatest possible levels of community ownership in all future renewable energy projects by encouraging communities to develop their own projects and by requiring that developer-led projects make share offers to communities to encourage greater local involvement and ownership.”

75. It was a simple referendum style question with “Yes” or “No” options.

76. There were no differences in wording between the draft Ballot Paper and the revised draft Ballot Paper produced on the Sunday morning (5 November).

77. This question featured prominently in the feedback received from the Members.

78. The Chairperson emphasised that there were two distinct elements to the question, the first being to ensure community ownership insofar as possible and, secondly, in relation to developer led projects, that there should be share offers to communities involved.

### ***Deliberation on the wording***

79. A number of suggestions were received from Members about the wording of this question in the draft Ballot Paper, expressing a view that all future renewable energy projects should be publicly State owned, in light of concerns about Ireland's energy security into the future and a desire to retain ownership of our renewable energy assets. The Chairperson explained that this could involve complex areas of European Union law including issues such as state aid rules. As the Members had not covered either the factual ramifications of such a proposal or its legal implications, it was deemed inappropriate that the Assembly should vote on this.

### ***Result of Question 6***

80. The result of Question 6 was as follows:

*Question 6: The State should act to ensure the greatest possible levels of community ownership in all future renewable energy projects by encouraging communities to develop their own projects and by requiring that developer-led projects make share offers to communities to encourage greater local involvement and ownership.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	0
Total Valid Poll:	75
Yes	75 (100%)
No	0 (0%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. All those present and voting (100%) voted “Yes” to the question. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 6.

**Recommendation 6:** The State should act to ensure the greatest possible levels of community ownership in all future renewable energy projects by encouraging communities to develop their own projects and by requiring that developer-led projects make share offers to communities to encourage greater local involvement and ownership (100%).

### Question 7

#### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

81. Question 7 (Question 8 in the original draft Ballot Paper) was about peat extraction and was originally worded as follows:

“The State should immediately end all subsidies for peat extraction and instead spend that money on peat bog restoration and retraining those workers impacted and providing new employment opportunities for them.”

82. It was a simple referendum style question with “Yes” or “No” options.

83. There were no differences in wording between the draft Ballot Paper and the revised draft Ballot Paper produced on the Sunday morning (5 November).

### ***Deliberation on Wording***

84. During the questions and answers session on the revised draft Ballot Paper on the Sunday morning, a number of suggested amendments to the revised Ballot Paper were made by the Members.
85. There was a suggestion from one table that the question be split into its constituent parts so that the Members could vote individually on them, and would read: *"The State should immediately end all subsidies for peat extraction and instead (a) spend that money on peat bog restoration (b) retraining those workers impacted and (c) providing new employment opportunities for them.* The Members would vote "Yes" or "No" to statements (a), (b) and (c). There was no further support for this proposal from the floor.
86. A number of suggested amendments revolved around the time frame for the phasing out of the subsidies for peat extraction. A number of tables suggested dividing the text into two distinct questions – the first stand alone question could ask whether the State should phase out all subsidies for peat extraction and the second stand alone question could ask whether this should occur immediately or on a phased basis.
87. Some of the Members had concerns around the text regarding the actions to lessen the impact on workers affected. One suggestion was to substitute 'improve employment opportunities' for "providing new employment opportunities". Another suggestion was "to give workers impacted suitable alternative work or a substantial remuneration package".

### ***Agreement on Wording***

88. The following suggested amendments were put to the Members:
- Splitting Question 7 into two distinct questions 7 (a) and 7 (b);
  - Amending the text of the first part 7 (a) to "making proper provision for the protection of the rights of the workers impacted"; and
  - The second part 7 (b) would ask the Members what time frame they preferred for the phasing out of subsidies – either immediately or on a phased basis over a period of 5 years, the period of 5 years being selected for consistency with Question 1.

89. Members were requested to indicate their acceptance by a show of hands and a count was taken.

90. The Members voted to accept these changes.

**Result of Question 7 (a)**

91. The agreed amendments to the Ballot Paper were made by the Secretariat and the question was divided into two distinct parts – (a) and (b).

92. The result of Question 7 (a) was as follows:

*Question 7 (a): The State should end all subsidies for peat extraction and instead spend that money on peat bog restoration and making proper provision for the protection of the rights of the workers impacted.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	0
Total Valid Poll:	75
Yes	73 (97%)
No	2 (3%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The majority of Members (97%) voted “Yes” in comparison to 2 Members (3%) voted against the proposal. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 7(a).

**Result of Question 7 (b)**

93. The result of Question 7 (b) was as follows:

*Question 7 (b): If the State should end all subsidies, should it do so:*

*Option 1: Immediately or*

*Option 2: On a phased basis over a period of 5 years*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	1
Total Valid Poll:	74
Option 1: Immediately	29 (39%)
Option 2: On a phased basis over a period of 5 years	45 (61%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The valid poll was 74. The majority of Members (61%) voted for *Option 2: On a phased basis over a period of 5 years* in comparison to 29 Members (39%) voting for *Option 1: Immediately*. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 7b.

**Recommendation 7:** (a) The State should end all subsidies for peat extraction and instead spend that money on peat bog restoration and making proper provision for the protection of the rights of the workers impacted (97%); and (b) the State should end all subsidies on a phased basis over 5 years (61%).

## Section C: Transport Policy

### Question 8

94. The questions on transport policy began with question 8 and included questions 9 and 10.

#### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

95. Question 8 was a simple referendum style question which asked a straightforward question with 'Yes' or 'No' options.

96. The wording of the question was as follows:

“The number of bus lanes, cycling lanes and park and ride facilities should be greatly increased in the next five years, and much greater priority should be given to these modes over private car use.”

97. This question did not appear in the original draft of the Ballot Paper. It was a new question, introduced in the revised draft produced on the Sunday morning in response to Members deliberations the previous day.

### **Result of Question 8**

98. The result of Question 8 was as follows:

*Question 8: The number of bus lanes, cycling lanes and park and ride facilities should be greatly increased in the next five years, and much greater priority should be given to these modes over private car use.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	0
Total Valid Poll:	75
Yes	70 (93%)
No	5 (7%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The majority of Members (93%) voted “Yes” in comparison to 5 Members (7%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 8.

**Recommendation 8:** The number of bus lanes, cycling lanes and park and ride facilities should be greatly increased in the next five years, and much greater priority should be given to these modes over private car use (93%).

## Question 9

### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

99. Question 9 (Question 10 in the original draft Ballot Paper) was a simple referendum style question which asked a straightforward question with 'Yes' or 'No' options about support for the transition to electric vehicles.

100. The question as it appeared in the original draft Ballot Paper was as follows:  
"The State should immediately take the following steps to support the transition to electric vehicles:

- Develop an expanded national network of charging points;
- Introduce a range of additional incentives to encourage motorists towards electric vehicle ownership in the short term. Such measures should include, but not be limited to targeted help-to-buy schemes, reductions in motor tax for electric vehicles and lower or free motorway tolls.
- Progressively disincentivise the purchase of new carbon intensive vehicles through year-on-year increases in fuel tax, motor tax and purchase taxes for petrol and diesel vehicles."

101. The presentations from Anne Graham, CEO of the National Transport Authority, and Brian Caulfield the previous day identified some of the perceived pitfalls of electric car ownership, including range anxiety. This question outlined a number of actions the State could take to encourage greater numbers to purchase electric vehicles.

102. A number of minor textual amendments were included in the revised draft produced for the Members on the Sunday morning. In response to the feedback from the Members the previous day, reference was made to the special role the car plays in transport in rural Ireland. "Fuel tax" was also removed and replaced with an explicit reference to "taxes on petrol and diesel".

### ***Deliberation on Wording***

103. As in Question 1, it was suggested that the Members should be allowed to vote separately on each one of the examples included. The Chairperson reiterated that these were included only as examples to illustrate the question further and it was not intended that each of them would constitute an individual recommendation of the Assembly.

104. One table suggested that they would like to add an additional example about the State leading by example by using electric cars where practical. The Chairperson pointed out that this was covered by Question 2.

105. Other suggestions included the replacement of “reductions in motor tax” with “abolishment of motor tax” and the replacement of “electric vehicles” with “carbon neutral vehicles”. Ultimately, there was limited support for these suggestions and as such no further amendments were agreed.

### ***Result of Question 9***

106. The result of Question 9 was as follows:

*Question 9: The State should immediately take the following steps to support the transition to electric vehicles:*

- *Develop an expanded national network of charging points;*
- *Introduce a range of additional incentives, particularly aimed at rural communities, to encourage motorists towards electric vehicle ownership in the short term. Such measures should include, but not be limited to, targeted help-to-buy schemes, reductions in motor tax for electric vehicles and lower or free motorway tolls.*
- *Measures should then be introduced to progressively disincentivise the purchase of new carbon intensive vehicles such as year-on-year increases in taxes on petrol and diesel, motor tax and purchase taxes for petrol and diesel vehicles.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75

Invalid Votes:	0
Total Valid Poll:	75
Yes	72 (96%)
No	3 (4%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The majority of Members (96%) voted “Yes” in comparison to 3 Members (4%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 9.

**Recommendation 9:** The State should immediately take many steps to support the transition to electric vehicles (96%).

### **Question 10**

#### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

107. Question 10 was a simple referendum style question which asked a straightforward question with ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ options.

108. The question as it appeared in the original draft Ballot Paper was as follows:

“The State should prioritise the expansion of public transport spending over road infrastructure spending at a ratio of no less than 2-to-1 to facilitate the broader availability and uptake of public transport options with particular attention to rural areas.”

109. A minor addition was included in the text of the question that appeared in the revised draft Ballot Paper that was produced for the Members on Sunday morning. Reference was made specifically to “*new road infrastructure*”. This was to emphasise the fact that the State should prioritize the expansion of public transport particularly in rural areas over the further future development of road infrastructure which continues to contribute to our car based transport system.

110. No further amendments to the wording of the question were suggested by the Members.

**Result of Question 10**

111. The result of Question 10 was as follows:

*Question 10: The State should prioritise the expansion of public transport spending over new road infrastructure spending at a ratio of no less than 2-to-1 to facilitate the broader availability and uptake of public transport options with particular attention to rural areas.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	1
Total Valid Poll:	74
Yes	68 (92%)
No	6 (8%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The valid poll was 74. The majority of Members (92%) voted “Yes” to the question, in comparison to 6 Members (8%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 10.

**Recommendation 10:** The State should prioritise the expansion of public transport spending over new road infrastructure spending at a ratio of no less than 2-to-1 to facilitate the broader availability and uptake of public transport options with attention to rural areas (92%).

## Section D: Agriculture and Land Use Policy

### Question 11

112. The questions on agriculture and land use policy began with question 11 and included questions 12 and 13.

#### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

113. Question 11 was a simple referendum style question which asked a straightforward question with 'Yes' or 'No' options.

114. The question was worded as follows:

“There should be a tax on green house gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture. There should be rewards for the farmer for land management that sequesters carbon. Any resulting revenue should be reinvested to support climate friendly agricultural practices.”

115. This question did not appear in the original draft of the Ballot Paper. It was a new question, introduced in the revised draft produced on the Sunday morning (5 November) in response to Members deliberations on the previous day, specifically following on from the presentation from Alan Matthews, and the discussions which followed in the Q&A session.

#### ***Deliberation on Wording***

116. There was a request from the floor to split the question into two separate questions, so that the first would deal with reducing emissions from agriculture and the second would be about rewards for the farmer. This suggestion arose from a concern that there were no incentives for farmers to install solar panels or sell surplus electricity back to the grid.

117. The Expert Advisory Group explained that the issues raised would be covered by Question 5. Further explanation was given about the rationale for including a more complex question such as this on the Ballot Paper, with the penalty and the incentive combined in one question.

118. A further suggestion was to swap the order of the first and second sentences so that rewards appeared in the question before the penalty. A compelling reason to rearrange the question in this manner was not identified and the Expert Advisory Group pointed out that the root of the question was to encourage a reduction in agricultural emissions through taxation and to reward reductions.

119. Ultimately, there were no changes made to the text of the question as introduced.

### **Result of Question 11**

120. The result of Question 11 was as follows:

*Question 11: There should be a tax on green house gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture. There should be rewards for the farmer for land management that sequesters carbon. Any resulting revenue should be reinvested to support climate friendly agricultural practices.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	2
Total Valid Poll:	73
Yes	65 (89%)
No	8 (11%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The valid poll was 73. The majority of Members (89%) voted “Yes” in comparison to 8 Members (11%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 11.

**Recommendation 11:** There should be a tax on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture. There should be rewards for the farmer for land management that sequesters carbon. Any resulting revenue should be reinvested to support climate friendly agricultural practices (89%).

## Question 12

### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

121. Question 12 was a simple referendum style question which asked a straightforward question with 'Yes' or 'No' options.
122. Question 12 was originally worded as follows:
- “According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation's 2015 Food Waste Footprint & Climate Change report, food waste generates around 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions annually. To address this issue in Ireland, legislation should be developed requiring food retailers with premises larger than 200sqm to donate to charities a minimum of 50% of good quality food approaching its best-before date, which currently goes to landfill.”
123. Following Iseult Ward's presentation on behalf of FoodCloud the previous day, and the discussion which followed, the question was re-worded in its entirety.
124. The reformulated text of Question 12 in the revised draft produced for the Members on the Sunday morning (5 November) read:
- “With the objective of introducing appropriate measures to reduce food waste in the future, the State should introduce a standard form of mandatory measurement and reporting of food waste at every level of the food distribution and supply chain.”*
125. Such a measure as envisaged in this reworded question would place Ireland in a leadership position in relation to tackling food waste.
126. No further amendments to the wording of the question were suggested by the Members.

**Result of Question 12**

127. The result of Question 12 was as follows:

*Question 12: With the objective of introducing appropriate measures to reduce food waste in the future, the State should introduce a standard form of mandatory measurement and reporting of food waste at every level of the food distribution and supply chain.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	0
Total Valid Poll:	75
Yes	70 (93%)
No	5 (7%)

75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The majority of the Members (93%) voted “Yes” in comparison to 5 Members (7%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 12.

**Recommendation 12:** The State should introduce a standard form of mandatory measurement and reporting of food waste at every level of the food distribution and supply chain, with the objective of reducing food waste in the future (93%).

### **Question 13**

#### ***Ballot Paper wording including explanation as provided by the Chairperson***

128. Question 13 was a simple referendum style question which asked a straightforward question with 'Yes' or 'No' options.

129. It was signalled in the original draft Ballot Paper that a question would appear about land diversification, but the text had not been developed.

130. The question introduced in the revised draft produced on the Sunday morning (5 November) was in response to Members deliberations the previous day and was as follows:

“The State should review and revise supports for land use diversification with particular attention to supports for planting forests and encouraging organic farming.”

#### ***Deliberation on Wording***

131. During the questions and answers session, a number of suggested amendments to the revised Ballot Paper were made by the Members.

132. One table suggested the inclusion of a reference to the State reviewing and revising regulation, alongside supports.

133. A number of tables made suggestions for additional examples to be included in the text of the question, including 'encouraging solar farms' and 'all other carbon reducing measures'. The Chairperson and the Expert Advisory Group advised against the further addition of specific references to other examples in the interests of brevity. The question explicitly made it clear that the areas referenced were only there as examples.

134. It was suggested that reference should be made to “best environmental practices”.

135. A number of tables were concerned about the perceived permanency of land use diversification, i.e. land that is placed permanently into forestry and cannot be reversed. One table suggested the forestry schemes could be modified so that a farmer could opt out of forestry after 30 to 40 years. In response to this, the Expert Advisory Group explained that the rationale for the question is to encourage the State to review and revise current policies, such as the one mentioned, that are potentially negatively affecting the levels of uptake. The Members concerns are implicitly captured by the purpose of the question as it was currently framed without requiring a vote on the exact issue.

**Agreement on Wording**

136. The following suggested amendments were put to the Members:

- the inclusion of a reference to the State reviewing and revising regulation; and
- the inclusion of a reference to best environmental practice.

137. Members were requested to indicate their acceptance by a show of hands and a count was taken.

138. The Members voted to accept these two changes.

**Result of Question 13**

139. The result of Question 13 was as follows:

*Question 13: The State should review and revise regulation and supports for land use diversification for example in relation to supports for planting forests in accordance with best environmental practice and encouraging organic farming.*

Number of Eligible Voters:	75
Number of Votes Cast:	75
Invalid Votes:	1
Total Valid Poll:	74
Yes	73 (99%)

No	1 (1%)
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75 Members of the Assembly were present and voted. The valid poll was 74. The majority of the Members (99%) voted “Yes” to the question with just one Member (1%) voting “No”. This constitutes the recommendation of the Assembly in respect of Question 13.

**Recommendation 13:** The State should review, and revise supports for land use diversification with attention to supports for planting forests and encouraging organic farming (99%).

## Ancillary Recommendations

### Background

140. The topic of climate change, which the Members considered over two weekends, is broad and wide ranging. Following consultation with the Members, and based on the topics which came through in the submissions process, the Assembly focussed its discussion on the energy, transport and agriculture sectors, together with an examination of what leadership in the area of climate change looks like.

141. However, it was acknowledged that there might be other areas, not covered in the discussion during the two weekends, which Members would like to see reflected in the recommendations.

142. Therefore, on the final weekend, the Members were provided with a response form entitled “Ancillary Recommendations on Climate Change Member Reflective Exercise” to be completed by them. The purpose of the exercise was to allow the Members to make comments and suggestions on such further recommendations to be referenced in the final report. The Chairperson undertook to deliver any emerging consensus themes or issues as ancillary recommendations in the final report.

143. Completion of the form was not mandatory and the responses received were returned to the Secretariat voluntarily.

144. The four ancillary recommendations set out below are informed by the matters on which the greatest consensus emerged.

145. A copy of the form distributed to allow for the expression of these further recommendations is available in Appendix B together with the verbatim text of the 35 completed forms.

### Ancillary Recommendations

- I. Greater emphasis should be placed on providing positive information to the public which encourages people to make changes to the aspects of their behaviour which impact on climate change. Such information should be targeted at all age groups using a wide variety of formats. The information provided should be focussed on highlighting the economic, social, health and other benefits of taking action rather than focussing on the negatives associated with a failure to act.
- II. Steps should be taken to reduce packaging, particularly plastic packaging, and resulting waste. Suggestions for such steps include the eradication of single use plastics particularly in supermarkets and the imposition of penalties for failure to comply and the introduction of a deposit return scheme on plastic bottles.
- III. The agriculture sector in Ireland requires ongoing support to make a transition towards models of production which give rise to lower GHG emissions. Cognisance must be taken of the impact which the sector has on the economy, particularly the rural economy.
- IV. All new buildings should have a zero or low carbon footprint and planning permission should only be granted for new builds which comply with these requirements. The government should provide incentives to retrofit homes to achieve better energy efficiency ratings.

## Chapter 2: Background to the Assembly

### A. Introduction

146. A detailed note on the background to the Assembly, including material in relation to its predecessor, the Convention on the Constitution, the concept of deliberative democracy, together with details on the Key Principles and Rules and Procedures of the Assembly, and details of the facilitation and note-taking provided during the meetings of, and research undertaken about, the Assembly were included in the Report on the *Eighth Amendment of the Constitution*, published in June 2017. Anyone with an interest in these matters should consult this report as none of the content covered in those sections has changed since that report was published.
147. Establishment of the Assembly was approved by a Resolution of both Houses of the Oireachtas in July 2016. The Resolution of Dáil Éireann is at Appendix A.
148. The Assembly was tasked with the consideration of five discrete topics:
- the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution;
  - how we best respond to the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population;
  - fixed term parliaments;
  - the manner in which referenda are held; and
  - how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change.
149. Under the Oireachtas Resolution, the Assembly was asked to first “*consider, make recommendations and report to the Houses of the Oireachtas on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution.*” The Assembly would then consider, make recommendations and report on each of the remaining topics as soon as it had completed its deliberations on the first topic.

150. The resolution provided that the Assembly would consist of 100 Members, a Chairperson appointed by Government and 99 citizens entitled to vote at a referendum, randomly selected to be broadly representative of Irish society. All of the Members are on the electoral register and are eligible to vote in a referendum.

151. In the interests of clarity, it is appropriate to point out that two of the matters that the Assembly has been asked to consider (*How We Best Respond to the Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population* and *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*) do not, *ex facie*, have constitutional implications.

152. The Assembly held its inaugural meeting in Dublin Castle on 15 October 2016, and held meetings on the *Eighth Amendment of the Constitution* from November 2016- April 2017 and on *How We Best Respond to the Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population* in June and July 2017.

153. Meetings on the third topic considered by the Assembly - *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change* - were held on the following weekends:

- 30 September – 1 October 2017;
- 4 – 5 November 2017.

## **B. Membership**

### **Background and recruitment of the Members**

154. The Assembly consists of 100 Members – the Chairperson and 99 citizens.

155. The representative sample of 99 members of the public and also substitutes were recruited by REDC Research and Marketing Ltd. (REDC), which was appointed following a competitive tendering process.

156. Recruitment was undertaken so that the Members, chosen at random, would be broadly representative of the following demographic variables as reflected in the Census: age, gender, social class, and regional spread. Members are also on the

electoral register and eligible to vote in a referendum. With demographic variables controlled, the random nature of selection should ensure a natural fall out of other variables in line with the population. It is understood that this is the same approach used for all national opinion polling.

157. A comprehensive document compiled by REDC, which explains the methodology used to recruit the Members, is available on the Assembly website. This provides details of how recruitment was undertaken and the rules which applied.

158. All Members are willing participants in the process and are fully informed about all aspects of the process before committing to taking part. Members were provided with a detailed information booklet about the Assembly, a copy of which is available on the website. No information about a Member is made available to the public beyond his/her name and the general area from which he/she comes.

### **Replacement of Members**

159. Going into the final meeting on *the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution* in April 2017, there was a complement of 95 Members. A total of four Members had withdrawn following the February 2017 meeting and a decision was made not to replace them given the complexity of the material already considered.

160. Between April 2017 and the first of the two meetings on the second topic *How We Best Respond to the Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population* in June 2017, all four of those Members, along with a further three who withdrew from the process after the April 2017 meeting, were replaced, bringing the total Member complement back to 99 going into the June 2017 meeting. However, sadly one Member passed away unexpectedly just before the June 2017 meeting and was not replaced.

161. Following the June 2017 meeting, a further five Members withdrew from the process and all members were replaced before the July 2017 meeting, once again giving a full complement of 99 Members going into the July 2017 meeting.

162. Two Members then withdrew before the September 2017 meeting, one of whom was replaced before the September 2017 meeting and one of whom was

replaced before the November 2017 meeting. This was followed by a further five withdrawals in advance of the November 2017 meeting, one of whom was replaced bringing the total number of withdrawals up to the November 2017 meeting to 44. There was a complement of 98 members going into the September 2017 meeting and 95 going into the November 2017 meeting.

163. In summary, 24 replacements were made from October 2016 to April 2017 during consideration of the *Eighth Amendment of the Constitution*, a further 13 replacements were made before and during consideration of *How We Best Respond to the Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population* and three more replacements were made before and during consideration of the third topic - *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*.

164. Most of those who withdrew from the process did so for personal reasons including illness, illness of a family member, change in employment or other personal circumstances. Full details about recruitment and replacement of Members are available on the Assembly website.

### **Member Attendance at Assembly Meetings**

165. The turnout for Assembly meetings on this topic from the 99 Members was as follows:

September 2017	82 Members attended
November 2017	80 Members attended

166. For the most part, the reasons why Members could not attend on any particular weekend were similar to the reasons why Members withdrew from the process - personal, illness, illness of a family member, bereavement, work commitments or previously planned engagements. Those who could not make a meeting were strongly advised to follow the proceedings live on line over the course of the weekend, or catch up afterwards on the Assembly website. All papers, speaker presentations, and the questions and answers sessions with experts were made available on the Assembly website following each meeting.

167. Member packs, containing the papers for each weekend, were also available from the Secretariat afterwards, if the Member who could not attend wished to receive them by post.

168. Throughout the process the Chairperson acknowledged the engagement of the Members in every aspect of the meetings and commended each and every one of them for their continued commitment and energy over the course of three very demanding topics and many months of deliberation.

## **C. Steering Group**

### Background

169. The Rules and Procedures for the Assembly state that a Steering Group shall be established to support the Assembly in the efficient and effective discharge of its role and functions. The Steering Group consists of the Chairperson, the Secretariat and a representative group of Members elected by the wider Assembly membership.

170. The Steering Group makes such decisions as are necessary for the smooth conduct of Assembly business, except in cases where it is more appropriate to seek wider Assembly approval. The Steering Group is supported by the Assembly Secretariat.

### Functions

171. The Steering Group's responsibilities are to assist the Chairperson in:

- Oversight of all planning and operational issues for Assembly meetings;
- Ongoing monitoring of the Work Programme;
- Ratification of the specialists/ experts to appear before the Assembly following advice from the Expert Advisory Group and the Chairperson; and
- Evaluation of the Assembly procedures and arrangements.

## Commitments

172. Over the course of the Assembly's consideration of *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*, participation in the Steering Group involved meeting in Dublin as detailed below for approximately two hours on each occasion. Members of the Steering Group were also required to deal (by e-mail, phone call etc.) on an ad hoc basis with issues as they arose during the run-up to Assembly weekends.

## Composition and Meetings

173. Following the conclusion of the Assembly's work on *the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution*, a number of members of the Steering Group resigned their positions to allow other Members an opportunity to take part. Expressions of interest were sought from the Members and four new members joined the Steering Group, bringing the membership to 12 before the June 2017 Assembly meeting. Membership of the Steering Group remained the same during the Assembly's deliberations on the next two topics *How We Best Respond to the Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population* and *how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change*.

174. On the issue of *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*, the Steering Group met three times as follows:

- 24 August, 2017 in advance of the September 2017 meeting
- 19 and 26 October 2017 in advance of the November 2017 meeting

175. Each meeting followed the following general format:

- The draft Agenda for next meeting of the Assembly was discussed;
- The Secretariat and members of the Expert Advisory Group, as appropriate, gave the Steering Group an overview of the format of the weekend and the speakers' presentations;
- Any proposals by the Steering Group were subsequently discussed by the Expert Advisory Group and incorporated where possible;
- The draft agenda and speakers were ratified by the Steering Group;

- Each meeting served as an opportunity to seek the Steering Group’s input before the agenda for the Assembly meeting was finalised.

176. In addition, the meeting on 26 October 2017 was convened to discuss the proposed Ballot Paper in advance of the November 2017 Assembly meeting.

#### **D. Expert Advisory Group**

##### Background

177. The Oireachtas Resolution, approving establishment of the Assembly, states that *“an Expert Advisory Group will be established to assist the work of the Assembly in terms of preparing information and advice”*.

##### Membership of the Expert Advisory Group on *How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling Climate Change*

178. The Expert Advisory Group on *How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling Climate Change* was comprised of academics/ practitioners and administrative experts across a number of specific fields of interest including:

- Political/ Social Science;
- International relations/ governance/ global climate and energy politics;
- Sustainability/ sustainable consumption/ adaptation/ environmental governance;
- Environmental law;
- Climate science.

179. The members of the Expert Advisory Group were chosen by applying the following criteria:

- Relevant expertise and experience;
- Impartiality/ objectivity on the topics before the Assembly about which they were assisting;
- Willingness/ availability to participate.

180. The members of the Expert Advisory Group for this topic were:

***John Garry, Queens University Belfast***

John Garry continued as the Assembly's advisor on deliberative democracy. John is Professor of Political Behaviour at Queen's University Belfast and one of his principal research interests is in the area of deliberative democracy and the design of Citizens' Assemblies.

***Dr. Diarmuid Torney, Dublin City University***

Dr. Diarmuid Torney is a lecturer in International Relations. He holds an MPhil and DPhil (PhD) in International Relations from the University of Oxford, as well as BA and MA degrees from University College Dublin.

His research focuses on the comparative and global politics of climate change and energy, particularly in the European Union, China, and India, as well as in small European states. He is author of *European Climate Leadership in Question: Policies toward China and India* (MIT Press, 2015). He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy's Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committee, and a member of Future Earth Ireland.

***Prof. Anna Davies, Trinity College Dublin***

Professor Anna Davies is a professor at the School of Nature Sciences in Trinity College Dublin and Chair of Geography, Environment and Society. She is the Chair of Future Earth Ireland and Secretary of the European Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production. She holds a PhD in Geography from Cambridge University and an MSc in planning and environmental impact assessment from Oxford Brookes University and is an expert in environmental governance, specifically focusing on consumption, sustainability transitions and public participation in environmental decision making.

She is a member of the Climate Change Advisory Council.

***Dr Áine Ryall, University College Cork.***

Dr Áine Ryall is a senior lecturer in environmental law in UCC. A qualified barrister (called to the Irish Bar in 1995), her research focuses on implementation of EU environmental law in

Ireland as well as on questions around public participation in environmental decision-making, access to environmental information, and other themes related to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. She is a member of the advisory committee of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

***Prof. Peter Thorne, Maynooth University***

Prof. Peter Thorne is Centre Director of the Irish Climate Analysis and Research Unit and is Professor of Physical Geography (Climate Science) at Maynooth University.

He has worked in a mix of government, academia and research SMEs across 4 countries (UK, USA, Norway and Ireland) including at the UK Met Office and the University of East Anglia. He was a Lead Author on Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (AR5) and the 2014 US National Climate Assessment.

***Margaret Desmond, Research Specialist at Environmental Protection Agency Ireland***

Dr. Margaret Desmond is a Senior Research Fellow in the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) in University College Cork. She specializes in climate change impacts and adaptation research, policy analysis and implementation. She is currently, working on an EPA funded project to explore the transition to a climate resilient Ireland. A graduate from UCC, she holds a PhD in Geography and has post graduate qualifications in teaching and environmental management.

She is a member of the Royal Irish Academy's Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committee, Co-lead of JPI Climate Action Group on "Enabling Societal Transformations in the Face of Climate Change and a Committee member of the National Adaptation Steering Committee.

181. The composition and focus of the Expert Advisory Group changes during the lifetime of the Assembly. Further details on the Expert Advisory Groups on the other topics being considered by the Assembly are available on the website.

## Terms of Reference

182. The main roles of the Expert Advisory Group established for each topic, include the following:

- Supporting the Chairperson and Secretariat in constructing a fair, balanced and comprehensive work programme for the Assembly on each of the topics;
- Providing background expert advice on the issues being discussed;
- Advising on the criteria for selecting specialists/ experts to appear before the Assembly;
- Recommending names for the specialists/ experts to appear before the Assembly, for ratification by the Steering Group;
- Working with the Chairperson and Secretariat to select speakers from civil society and advocacy groups.

183. The Expert Advisory Group make no public comment on their work for the Assembly while the work on the relevant topic is ongoing.

## Selection of specialists/experts to appear before the Assembly

184. The Expert Advisory Group assisted the Chairperson in devising a structure for the two weekends on which the Assembly considered the third topic.

185. The Expert Advisory Group used the following criteria as the basis for proposing the names of experts/ specialists for consideration by the Steering Group and, where appropriate, the wider Assembly:

- Demonstrated expertise in the field, e.g. university academics, members of the legal profession or other subject specialists;
- Good communicators, capable of expressing themselves clearly to a diverse audience;
- People who are not seen primarily as advocates on one side or another of the issue at hand;
- In the case of issues where expert views are contested (i.e. where experts can make credible arguments that directly conflict with one another), the Expert Advisory Group will ensure that both sides of the argument will be represented.

### Role of Expert Advisory Group at Assembly Meetings

186. In order to best allow the Expert Advisory Group to provide this support, where possible, members of the Group attended the Assembly meetings in the Grand Hotel in Malahide. Their role at those meetings was as follows:

- To observe proceedings and reflect on how the material presented was received by the Members;
- To consider how best any feedback coming from roundtable discussions during the first weekend could be incorporated into the Assembly work programme at the second weekend on this topic;
- Where appropriate, and at the discretion of the Chairperson, the Group also provided clarification on questions from the Members, with answers being provided in plenary session.
- For the second weekend of the Assembly on this topic, when the Members considered and voted on the Ballot Papers, members of the Expert Advisory Group answered questions from the Members on issues arising during the Q&A and feedback sessions.

### Meetings of the Expert Advisory Group

187. The Expert Advisory Group met 8 times between June and October 2017.

## Chapter 3: Work Programme on how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change

### Agenda and Work Programme

188. The agenda and work programme of the Assembly on *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change* was developed and advanced over the months from June to November 2017. As was the case with the Assembly's work on *How we best respond to the Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population*, the agenda and work programme was to a large extent informed by the submissions received on the topic.
189. The submissions process opened on 9 June with a closing date of 11 August 2017. Further details on the submissions process are provided in Chapter 4. Many submissions directly addressed the core question as set out in the terms of reference of the Assembly "*How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*". In these submissions, many of the points raised were intertwined with comments about current Government policy.
190. During the final weekend on *How we best respond to the Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population* in July 2017, Members of the Assembly were asked what they wanted to see included on the work programme of the Assembly's discussions on climate change. As such, the views of the Members were an important part of the work programme development.
191. The Members' interest in this topic was clearly demonstrated when they decided back at the January meeting to bring forward our consideration of climate change; it was originally intended that this would be our final topic. The Members then decided that they wanted to dedicate a second weekend to its consideration.
192. At the start of the first meeting on climate change (September 2017) the Chairperson recalled the terms of reference for the Assembly on this topic and

outlined how the Assembly would interpret them for the purpose of constructing a work programme for the two weekends.

193. In this she noted that the wording of the Oireachtas resolution was clear and quite specific. It mandates the Assembly to consider and to make such recommendations as it sees fit and report to the Houses of the Oireachtas on '*How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*'. Implicit in this wording is an acknowledgement that climate change is real and climate change is happening. As such the Assembly decided that the starting point for the deliberations must be that climate change is here and that it must be tackled, with the focus very quickly turning to how the State can best meet this challenge in a way that is ambitious.

194. Climate change is a wide ranging and expansive topic. Developing a comprehensive work programme, which took account of the key issues raised in the submissions, the views of the Members and the advice of the Expert Advisory Group presented a significant challenge.

195. The first weekend meeting (September 2017) provided the Members with a factual introduction about the science of climate change, including an overview of the physical scientific basis for climate change as well as some of the broader related environmental issues, and the impact of climate change both in Ireland and internationally. During the first weekend, the Members began to consider the core objective of the Assembly's work- *how the state can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change*. In order to do this the Assembly considered the sectors in which that action could be taken, beginning with the energy sector.

196. The programme for the second weekend meeting (November 2017) was based on the other two key sectors which have the highest emissions in Ireland; transport and energy. The Sunday of that weekend (5 November) was dedicated to agreeing the issues to be included and the precise wording of the Ballot Paper and voting.

197. In the case of the three sectors being considered - energy, transport and agriculture- the Members first heard from experts in relation to the current position in Ireland with regard to emissions from these sectors, the impact of the sectors on climate change and the current efforts by Government to reduce emissions. The

second speaker at each session was then asked to consider 'if Ireland was a leader in tackling climate change, what would this sector look like'.

### Background documents

198. Members were advised in advance of the meeting of documents which might be of interest to the discussions on climate change. These documents were also made available on the Assembly's website submission page. The documents provided were as follows:

- Environmental Protection Agency fact sheet on Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change
- National Mitigation Plan (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, July 2017)
- National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, January 2014)
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015
- Climate Change Advisory Council - Periodic Review Report 2017
- Climate Change Advisory Council - First Report
- European Commission 2030 Climate and Energy Framework
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- The Paris Agreement (United Nations, 2015)
- Draft National Adaptation Framework (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, September 2017)
- Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2013
- Environmental Protection Agency: State of the Environment Report, 2016

### Summary of Assembly Meetings on *How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change*

199. Provided below is a short summary of each of the two weekends where the Assembly considered the third topic in its terms of reference, *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*.

200. This is provided as a guide for members of the Oireachtas; to give an overview of the material presented and to act as a signpost to allow the members of the Oireachtas to access all of the detailed material. Appendix F contains the full suite of material provided to the Members including the agendas, expert papers and presentations, Secretariat papers prepared for each weekend, and the transcript of the public proceedings on Sunday 5 November when Members discussed the Ballot Paper.
201. All of the papers and presentations, together with the video footage from each session are available on the Assembly website. Members of the Oireachtas, and any member of the public with an interest in this topic, can therefore read all of the material in full.
202. The proceedings on the Sunday of the second and final weekend on this topic (5 November) concerned the preparation of a draft Ballot Paper, agreement on the Ballot Paper and voting. This has been covered in Chapter 1, and is therefore not repeated here.
203. The papers, PowerPoint presentations and oral presentations are very comprehensive and contain a wealth of useful and relevant material in relation to the issues discussed by the Assembly. It is worth noting that on occasion the presentation developed or elaborated on points raised in the written paper. As such, in order to get a complete picture of the material which the Members considered it is necessary to consider the full suite of materials. The summary, which follows is designed to give an overview and does not reflect how comprehensive and detailed the material was.
204. The summary does, however, give insight as to the matters which informed the questions and proposals raised on the Ballot Paper and, in particular, the Member contributions.

## **Weekend One: 30 September & 1 October 2017**

### **Saturday Morning:**

#### **Session 1: The Science of Climate Change**

205. **Dr Conor Murphy** Lecturer in the Department of Geography at Maynooth University presented a paper which provided the Members with an overview of the physical scientific basis for climate change. Dr. Murphy's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

206. In the information he presented to the Assembly Dr. Murphy provided the Members with an explanation of some of the central issues and key concepts around the science of climate change. Many of these had been included in Dr. Murphy's paper based on direct queries received from the Members in advance of the weekend. The key issues covered by Dr. Murphy were:

- The scientific evidence which tells us that climate change is real and is happening;
- The causes of climate change and the scientific evidence that tells us that humans are responsible;
- An explanation of what is meant by 'emissions' and why they are important when we are discussing climate change;
- An explanation about how climate change is manifesting itself including in relation to temperature rises and sea level rises etc, including in particular the impact in Ireland;
- A projection of the changes we are likely to see in Ireland and globally over the coming decades in different emissions scenarios;
- A brief explanation of the difference between mitigation and adaptation as means of responding to climate change.

## Session 2: Climate Change in a broader Environmental context

207. **Ms. Laura Burke**, Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), presented a paper outlining the impact of climate change on the environment in Ireland. Ms. Burke's paper, a transcript of her presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of her oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

208. In the information presented to the Assembly Ms Burke provided the Members with information on the following:

- Details of the key drivers of GHG emissions in an Irish context, most notably in the transport, agriculture, and energy sectors, together with an overview of how emissions from these sectors have changed over time, noting the impact of population growth and employment;
- An analysis of Ireland's emissions profile compared with other European countries, noting that Ireland's GHG emissions per capita are amongst the highest in Europe;
- An overview of Ireland's environment with respect to air quality, inland and marine waters, water (quality and quantity), nature and biodiversity, waste, land & soil and an explanation of how climate change interacts with our environment;
- An explanation of the co-benefits of responding to climate change and how transitioning to a low carbon climate resilient society benefits society more broadly, including health and ecosystem improvements, developing more resilient infrastructure, developing a more competitive economy, creating more energy efficient and warmer homes, and preserving wetlands and habitats.

## Session 3: Tackling climate change - current efforts in Ireland and Internationally

209. **Mr. Joseph Curtin** is Senior Fellow for climate policy at the Institute of International and European Affairs and a Research Fellow at the Environmental Research Institute, UCC. He is also a member of the Government's Climate Change Advisory Council.

210. He presented a paper outlining Ireland's current commitments to tackling climate change at national, EU and international level. Mr. Curtin's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

211. In the information presented to the Assembly Mr. Curtin covered the following:

- An explanation about the purpose and focus of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) including an overview of how this body functions with a view to addressing climate change and the progress made to date including the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement;
- An overview of Ireland's commitment to the UNFCCC as part of the collective EU pledge to reduce GHG emissions by 20% by 2020, at least 40% by 2030 and between 80% and 95% by 2050 and confirmation in the case of Ireland that none of these targets are on track to be met;
- Details of the domestic policies and legislative measures which are currently in place to tackle climate change and allow Ireland to reach these international targets, together with an examination of how effective they are likely to be and a brief introduction to the financial costs of non-compliance for Ireland;
- His conclusion that Ireland is not doing enough to make a contribution to global decarbonisation and that the solution must address technological, economic and political challenges and, in particular, societal acceptance challenges.

## Saturday Afternoon:

### Session 4: The Impact of Climate Change: International Evidence and Experience

212. **Prof. Peter Stott**, Acting Director of the UK Met Office Hadley Centre (MOHC) and Professor of Detection and Attribution at the University of Exeter presented a paper detailing the international evidence and experience on the impact of climate change. Prof. Stott's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the

questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

213. Prof. Stott continued on with the evidence first presented by Conor Murphy on the science of climate change and he covered the following:

- A presentation of the scientific evidence which shows the link between recent extreme weather events and man-made climate change together with some specific examples (rainfall, droughts, heatwaves etc) of extreme weather which have occurred as a result of climate change;
- An explanation of the process for the detection and attribution of climate change including details of how the scientific community assesses the relevant data and makes determinations about changes being as a result of climate change and not just weather variations;
- An examination of the future impacts of climate change, based on three future scenarios of climate change: 1) No mitigation with expected temperature rises of +5.2°C, 2) Emissions capped at Intended National Determined Contributions with expected temperature rises of + 3°C, and 3) Strong further action to meet 2°C with expected temperature rises of + 2°C. In each scenario, the projected impacts on heatwaves, cropland decline, flooding and water stress are presented. The information provided clearly demonstrated that taking action to mitigate climate change through reducing GHG emissions will significantly limit the severity of key impacts on people and society.

#### Session 5: Current Status of Climate in Ireland

214. **Dr. Saji Varghese**, Head of Research, Environment and Applications Division in Met Éireann presented a paper on the current status of climate in Ireland. Dr. Varghese's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

215. In the information presented to the Assembly Dr. Varghese covered the following:

- An overview on the role of Met Éireann with respect to climate change;
- Ireland specific data on climate observations, outlining that on average, surface air temperature has increased by about 0.8°C during the period 1900-2016; about 0.07°C per decade, and that seasonal minimum and maximum temperatures show an increasing trend;
- Data which also showed that the number of frost days has decreased while days with temperature above 20°C have increased since 1960, and also data about rainfall increases since 1960 and sea level rising since the early 1990s;
- The projections for changes to Ireland's climate in the future, with average temperatures expected to rise by 1-1.6 °C by mid-century, the number of frost days projected to decrease by over 50%, large decreases expected in rainfall (annual, spring and summer) and the frequency of heavy precipitation events (winter and autumn) expected to increase by up to 30%.

#### Session 6: National Mitigation Plan and Draft National Adaptation Framework

216. **Mr. Brian Carroll**, Assistant Secretary General leading the Climate Action and Environment function at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment presented a paper on the National Mitigation Plan and the [Draft] National Adaptation Framework<sup>1</sup>. Mr. Carroll's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation are all available on the Assembly's website.
217. In the information presented to the Assembly Mr. Carroll covered the following:
- An outline of the EU approach to managing emissions, through the Emissions Trading System (ETS) which deals with emissions from electricity generation and large industry, and the non-ETS sector (emissions from agriculture, transport and the built environment) which are dealt with by Member States through legally binding targets for emissions reductions

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<sup>1</sup> During the Assembly's deliberations the consultation process was ongoing on the draft National Adaptation Framework. The final version of this document was published on 19 January 2018 and is available on the website of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

- Details of existing Government commitments in the area of climate change, in particular, the commitment to chart a course towards achieving a low carbon and climate resilient future and an environmentally sustainable economy by 2050; and the policies which are currently in place to achieve that objective, including the National Policy Position on Climate Change (2014) and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, and the establishment of the Climate Change Advisory Council;
- Details of the National Mitigation Plan which was published in July 2017, and the Draft National Adaptation Framework which was published in October 2017.

### Session 7: National Dialogue on Climate Action

218. The presentation on the National Dialogue on Climate Action was also presented by **Mr. Brian Carroll** as Mr Pat Gilroy, who was originally scheduled to speak was unable to attend the Citizens' Assembly due to personal circumstances.

219. The presentation (which is available in Appendix F) together with a video archive of his oral presentation and the views of the Members on the National Dialogue which were publically presented in a feedback session are all available on the Assembly's website.

220. In the information presented to the Assembly Mr. Carroll covered the following:

- An overview of the concept of the National Dialogue on Climate Action, including details on the purpose, plans and timeline;
- The objectives of the Dialogue which include creating awareness, engagement and motivation to act in relation to the challenges presented by climate change and to creating structures and information flows to facilitate people gathering to discuss, deliberate and maximise consensus on appropriate responses to these challenges, and to enable and empower appropriate action;
- That the dialogue will comprise of regional gatherings with an initial series of four events with a focus on general awareness raising on the impacts of climate change, the scientific evidence-base for climate change, global and

national responses on mitigation and adaptation and engaging local communities and individuals, including innovative consultation methods and potential topics for initial round of consultations;

- That a range of other events will also take place including local community conversations and actions, continued implementation of National Climate Change Action and Awareness Programme in schools and communities, professionally moderated expert debates and lectures on key policy issues, and engagement with the political system.

221. In the interests of promoting cross government co-operation, following the presentation the Assembly went into private session where the Members had a brainstorming session to allow them to feed into the work of the National Dialogue on Climate Action. The Members were invited to consider the following questions posed during the presentation, in relation to the National Dialogue:

- i. Why do you think some people switch off when they hear about climate change?
- ii. What are the challenges facing communities and individuals in taking action against climate change?
- iii. How can individuals and communities best communicate their concerns about climate change?
- iv. How should Government engage with people on this issue? Town hall meetings, social media, TV and radio (both advertising and programming), education (schools and universities)?
- v. Addressing climate change will need action by everyone, what roles do you see for public authorities, private sector, civil society and individuals in taking action?

222. Feedback from each of the tables was provided in a public feedback session following the Members' discussion, with the facilitators presenting a summary of the issues emerging at each of the tables on behalf of the Members. Footage from this session is available on the Assembly website and a transcript of the session is available at Appendix F. A summary of the views expressed by the Members, prepared by the Secretariat, is also available at Appendix F.

## Sunday Morning:

223. Sunday morning (5 November) began with the first of the Assembly's sessions examining the sectors which have the greatest impact on climate change: energy, transport and agriculture. The Assembly first looked at energy policy, and two speakers were invited to present: one outlining the current position with regard to energy provision and the other presenting a forward looking paper, imagining what the provision of energy in Ireland would look like if Ireland were a world leader. This structure was followed in the subsequent sessions on transport and agriculture at the November 2017 meeting.

### Session 1: How do I heat, power and service my home and place of work?

224. **Ms. Marie Donnelly**, Former Director Renewables, Research & Innovation and Energy Efficiency at DG Energy of the European Commission presented a paper on how energy is currently provided in Ireland and the impact that energy provision has on climate change. Ms. Donnelly's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of her oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

225. In the information presented to the Assembly Ms. Donnelly covered the following:

- The proportion of income spent by Irish consumers on energy. It was noted that Irish consumers spend approximately €1,800 for heating and €700 per annum for electricity for the average three bed semi, with transport coming on top of these figures. Further, Ireland imports 88% of energy at approximately €5 billion per annum and therefore has little control over its price.
- It was noted that the cheapest energy today is the energy we do not use i.e. energy efficiency (using less energy to provide the same service). However, evidence presented, based on a recent assessment, showed that policy

instruments designed to improve energy efficiency have had limited effectiveness.

- In relation to Ireland's reliance on fossil fuels for heating, it was noted that, while in the EU 75% of heating comes from fossil fuels, Ireland has an even higher percentage share at 80%, with oil heating at 39% here versus 10% for the rest of the EU. The need to move away from fossil fuels and towards technological advancements such as heat pumps, district heating and cooling and smart homes was emphasised.
- In relation to the sources of Ireland's electricity resources, it was noted that electricity in Ireland is still dominated by fossil fuels with only 26% coming from renewables such as wind, solar, hydro, biomass, and ocean energy, despite the advantages of renewables.

Session 2: How would I heat, power and service my home and place of work if Ireland was a world leader?

226. **Dr. Brian Motherway**, Head of the Energy Efficiency Division at the International Energy Agency, presented a paper outlining what Ireland's energy sector could look like if Ireland was a world leader in tackling climate change. Dr. Motherway's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

227. In the information presented to the Assembly Dr. Motherway covered the following:

- The benefits of taking a leadership position in the area of energy including reducing air pollution in cities, enhancing our competitiveness, creating jobs and making us more resilient to the effects of climate change;
- At an individual level, that a transition away from fossil fuels would mean individuals would have warmer, healthier homes, lower energy bills and more control over the heat in their homes;
- An outline of the areas in which leadership in energy is possible including energy efficiency and exploiting our clean energy sources;

- The steps which it is necessary to take at a policy and individual level to accelerate action on reducing emissions. It was noted that while a broad range of policies exist and are welcome and worthwhile, the most important ingredient will be commitment and that success depends on a sense of seriousness and prioritisation across society. This, it was stated must permeate into all areas of policy making so that pro-climate decisions are made in all domains.

### Session 3: Energy Generation and Efficiency Examples

228. The purpose of this session was to give the Members of the Assembly real, first-hand experience of leadership in Ireland in the area of energy. In so doing, Members were given tangible examples of how the ambitious low carbon future described in session 2 by Dr. Brian Motherway is already possible in Ireland.

229. In this session, the Members of the Assembly heard how three organisations or individuals have shown how leadership in the area of climate change is possible, how it is achievable and discussed what actions can be taken by Government to make the successes, which they have already achieved, transferrable to the wider population.

#### **Mr. Paul Kenny (Tipperary Energy Agency)**

230. Paul Kenny is responsible for Energy Management, Policy, Water, Renewable Energy at the Tipperary Energy Agency. Tipperary Energy Agency has expertise in community *energy*, renewable *energy* and *energy* efficiency and enables local authorities, communities and businesses to become more sustainable in their energy use. Mr. Kenny's paper outlined the demonstration projects from Tipperary including the Templederry community windfarm, the Superhomes project which undertook a deep retrofit of 70 homes, collaborations with Tipperary County Council, and the development of a sustainable energy action plan for the county.

231. Based on its experience, the Tipperary Energy Agency believes that the following enablers are required for a societal transformation:

- A clear plan with milestones and the resources required to achieve implementation;

- Regulations and incentives to reduce the use of fossil fuels, including phasing out their use from existing buildings and ensuring that new builds are zero carbon. The public sector should lead by example by improving energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption;
- That individuals should be allowed to take part in the energy market and in particular to become energy producers; as international experience has shown that this is one major catalyst of engaging people in what we collectively need to do to transition to low carbon;
- Improving the take up of retrofitting of the existing building stock by removing the well-documented barriers to take up such as, lack of knowledge, lack of access to financial supports and improvements to independent advice available to consumers;
- Provision of advice and support for national programs with local governance and delivery.

**Mr. Neil McCabe (Kilbarrack Fire Station)**

232. Neil McCabe is a fireman at Kilbarrack Fire Station. He is often referred to as the 'green fireman' due to the steps he took to make Kilbarrack Fire Station the first carbon neutral fire station in the country. The success of Kilbarrack is now being replicated across other Dublin Fire Stations, and indeed is being championed via the GreenPlan© as an exemplar for sustainability objectives. Based on his experience Mr. McCabe believes in the impact that individuals can make in tackling climate change and becoming part of the overall solution.

233. Mr. McCabe's paper outlined the steps taken in Kilbarrack Fire Station to reduce emissions which have since been replicated in other fire stations. These included:

- A major insulation project, insulation moulding, cavity insulation and new roofing;
- The installation of an Air Source Heat Pump, Micro Urban Wind Turbines and an underground waste water treatment plant;

- The installation of a complete rainwater harvesting system and a new heat management system with advanced controllers and new gas condensing boilers;
- The introduction of Biodiversity Action Plan on fire station grounds.

**Ms. Donna Garland (Codema)**

234. Donna Gartland is Strategic Sustainable Energy Planner at Codema. Codema is Dublin's Energy Agency and was set up as a not-for-profit limited company by Dublin City Council in 1997 under the SAVE II Programme of the European Union. It was one of 14 local energy agencies set up around Ireland to help local authorities meet their energy performance targets through professional development and implementation of good and best practice. Codema and Dublin City Council recently won a major European award for the Home Energy Saving Kits, which are available for the public to borrow from all of the council's public libraries across the city.

235. Based on its experience, Codema believes that the following measures should be undertaken to effect meaningful change at a local level in Ireland in order to reduce carbon emissions:

- Improved supports for local level initiatives like community energy groups, energy agencies and local authorities which can help to effect change from a bottom-up approach. In this regard, Local Authorities can lead the way by working together and implementing regional Climate Change Action Plans;
- Long term planning and tough decisions need to be made at a national level to achieve leadership level in the area of climate change;
- An increased focus on de-carbonising the transport and heat sectors. Transport and heat being local level issues, the decisions on what fuel we use for heating and the decisions on how we move around our towns and cities are being made by individuals locally and there should be more resources and support available for local initiatives;
- Ireland needs to look at all energy sectors together and how they can help to benefit each other to lower emissions in an overall smart energy system; we need to ask how can we maximise the use of our renewable electricity resources and how can we make the best use of our biomass resources to

meet our electricity, transport and heating needs, which can only be achieved when local level and national level actions and policies work together.

## Weekend Two: 4-5 November 2017

236. The work programme for the second weekend was influenced by feedback received from the Members at the end of the first weekend, together with the input from the Expert Advisory Group and the issues raised in the Submissions process. Proceedings on Saturday 4 November 2017 focused on the transport and agriculture sectors, together with an examination of leadership models from other European countries.

237. On Sunday 5 November 2017, the Members heard from the final expert speaker and the remainder of proceedings were dedicated to agreeing on the issues to be included in a Ballot, agreeing on the precise wording of the Ballot Paper and voting.

### Saturday Morning

#### Session 1: Current Transport Policy in Ireland- is Climate Change a consideration?

238. **Ms. Anne Graham**, Chief Executive Officer with the National Transport Authority presented a paper outlining current transport policy in Ireland and the sector's impact on emissions. Ms. Graham's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of her oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

239. In the information presented to the Assembly Ms. Graham covered the following issues:

- The current characteristics of Ireland's transport network including: the number of annual new car registrations, the modal shares of transport journeys, the average journey distance and duration, and the primary purpose of those journeys;

- The impact of the transport sector on Ireland's overall emissions profile - the sector as a whole is contributing 21% of GHG emissions in Ireland, with cars, road freight and aviation the primary contributors. The sector is the largest fuel consumer in the economy (33%), and the sector with the largest share of energy related CO2 emissions (35%).
- Current and proposed efforts by Government to reduce emissions in the transport sector, including changes to VRT/ Motor Tax, the introduction of carbon tax and the biofuels obligation scheme, supports for electric vehicles, and the introduction of CO2 emissions performance standards for cars and vans together with investments in sustainable transport and the promotion of modal shifts.
- Detail on reduction strategies with a medium to long lead in time including a greater level of integration of land-use and transport planning, a greater share of people using sustainable transport, and a transition to low emission technology.

Session 2: If Ireland was a leader in tackling climate change what would Transport Policy look like in Ireland?

240. **Dr. Brian Caulfield**, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, Trinity College Dublin presented a paper outlining how and what options are available to Ireland to reduce emissions in the transport sector. Dr. Caulfield's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

241. Based on the current make up of the emissions profile in the transport sector, Dr. Caulfield outlined the necessary steps required to reduce emissions from this sector and to move towards a leadership position. The steps included the following:

- Changing how we fuel our transport: electrification of our vehicles, improving vehicle technologies and the use of bio-fuels;

- Reducing our reliance on private vehicles and shifting towards public transport, shared car usage, walking and cycling;
- Changing land use and planning policy for housing, retail or industrial uses to bring about reduced travel distances and decreased emissions;
- State support for a wide range of initiatives including: an expanded public transport network, including climate change considerations and a quantification of wider economic benefits in the evaluation of investment in transport projects, the introduction of a range of pilot schemes to test new ideas, and the introduction of schemes and education campaigns to bring about behavioural change.

### Session 3: How to be a leader in tackling climate change- the Danish experience

242. **Ms. Connie Hedegaard** is a Danish politician who was European Commissioner for Climate Action in the European Commission from 10 February 2010 through 31 October 2014.

243. Ms. Hedegaard made a presentation to the Assembly about the Danish experience of a transition towards a low carbon economy. Ms. Hedegaard's PowerPoint presentation, a transcript of her presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of her oral presentation are all available on the Assembly's website.

244. In the information presented to the Assembly Ms. Hedegaard provided the following details about the Danish experience of reducing emissions:

- Denmark's response to climate change began as a response to the oil crisis in the 1970's when there was a desire to become less dependent on coal and oil. Today, approximately 30% of all energy consumption stems from renewable energy sources. In addition, 50% of all electricity is generated from wind energy. This has all lead to a significant decrease in energy and CO2 intensity in the Danish economy.

- The Danish Government used taxation and subsidisation tools to provide consumers with an economic incentive to divest from fossil fuels. As a result of these tools energy prices for the Danish consumer are above average; however, there are reductions available for energy intensive companies to ensure that competitiveness can be maintained.
- The development of the 'clean tech' sector in Denmark has led to the creation of 60,000 jobs, many of which are in rural areas, and export of clean tech is one of the fastest growing export markets in Denmark.
- 41% of all commuting in the city of Copenhagen is by bike, and those selecting this mode do so because it's faster, easier, provides an opportunity for exercise, is cheap, convenient and eco-friendly.
- The decision to take action on climate change enjoyed full cross party support in Denmark, and this is seen as a significant success factor.

#### Session 4: How to be a leader in tackling climate change- the Scottish experience

245. **Prof. Andrew Kerr**, Executive Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation presented a paper about the Scottish experience of a transition towards a low carbon economy. Mr. Kerr's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

246. In the information presented to the Assembly Prof. Kerr covered the following issues:

- The most prominent visible response to climate change in Scotland has been in the electricity system with the shift towards renewable energy, but there are also extensive new forestry plantations across the country, a steady improvement in the energy efficiency of homes and businesses, and an improvement in waste recycling and reduction of waste to landfill;
- The three central reasons why the Scottish Government considered it important to take steps to tackle climate change which included:

- It enabled Scotland to take an international position of leadership in one of the great challenges of the twenty first century;
  - The local economic benefit as well as global environmental benefit from action;
  - Evidence showed that it could be delivered in practice in line with wider Scottish goals.
- The structural changes implemented by the Scottish Government to ensure that climate change considerations were brought to the forefront of the policy making agenda, which included:
    - The development of a Climate Change Delivery Plan, which for the first time brought together the evidence and analysis about the possible options for Scotland to deliver substantial emission reduction
    - The enactment of Scotland's Climate Change Act 2009 which laid out targets of 42% emission reduction by 2020 from 1990 levels and 80% by 2050
  - The progress made to date in Scotland to tackling climate change: Scotland has hit its 2020 emission target five years early and has gone from delivering 10% to 60% of its electricity consumption from renewables over the past 15 years. It is on track to get near its 100% target in the early 2020s. However, the Scottish Government has acknowledged that it will become increasingly hard to deliver radical emission reductions without more structural changes in the way in which Scotland heats its homes and its means of transporting people and goods.
  - An outline of community and cross sector support for action on climate change.

### Saturday Afternoon:

#### Session 5: Current Agriculture/ Land Use Policy in Ireland- is climate change a consideration?

247. **Prof. Gary Lanigan**, Principal Researcher Officer at Teagasc presented a paper on current agriculture and land use policy in Ireland and its impact on climate change. Dr. Lanigan's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the questions and

answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

248. In the information presented to the Assembly Prof. Lanigan covered the following issues:

- The profile of Irish agriculture, where the agri-food and drink sector accounts for 7.6% of Ireland's economy-wide Gross Value Added (GVA), 10.7% of Ireland's exports and 8.4% of total employment. In 2016, Gross Agricultural Output (GAO) was valued at €6.92 billion with Irish agri-food and drink exports increased by an estimated 2% to approximately €11.15 bn. In terms of the impact on climate change, Agriculture comprises one third of GHG emissions (proportionately the highest in Europe) and virtually all of ammonia emissions.
- Existing EU climate targets on Irish Agriculture under the current EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package and associated Effort Sharing Decision and Ireland's contribution to the Paris Agreement via the Nationally Determined Contributions proposed by the EU on behalf of its Member States.
- An overview of existing Government policy measures designed to reduce emissions and achieve 'carbon neutrality', including:
  - the Green, Low Carbon Agri-Environmental Scheme (GLAS) which has a number of measures available to preserve traditional hay meadows and low-input pastures and maintain high nature value habitats.
  - All farms in receipt of the single farm payment are expected to maintain Good Agricultural Environmental Conditions;
  - Research initiatives such as the Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Initiative for Ireland, which is aimed at aligning research activities and providing added value to agricultural GHG monitoring and mitigation in Ireland and other initiatives, such as Nutrient Management Planning online (a support tool to help farmers optimise fertiliser application based on the soil nutrients already in his/her fields), the BETTER farms programme (a programme of flagship farms) and Carbon Navigator (a tool to allow farmers to improve their carbon footprint).

Session 6: If Ireland was a leader in tackling climate change what would Agriculture/ Land use Policy look like in Ireland?

249. **Prof. Alan Matthews**, Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy at Trinity College Dublin, presented a paper outlining what agriculture and land use policy in Ireland would look like if Ireland was a world leader. Prof. Matthews paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

250. In the information presented to the Assembly Prof. Matthews covered the following issues:

- An overview of carbon neutrality and an examination of whether an ambition of carbon neutrality can be seen as taking a leadership position on climate change, noting in particular the need to reduce the source of emissions as well as increasing the sinks (e.g. forestry) available if it is to be achieved;
- The importance of achieving emissions reductions through increased efficiency in the sector through improvements in grassland management, feed efficiency, genetics, animal health and greater use of "no-till and cover crops";
- What a sustainable agriculture sector might look like, one which would include expanded areas of land under forestry, a further reduction in suckler cow numbers, greater emphasis on energy crops, and changes in cropping and livestock systems;
- That in order for Ireland to become a leader in tackling climate change in the agri sector it should consider pricing carbon in the sector (either by a tax on carbon emissions or by an equivalent subsidy for sequestering carbon) so that the costs caused by the GHG emissions associated with agricultural production are taken into account by farmers when deciding how much to produce;
- The objections to the carbon pricing method, including the practical difficulties in applying a carbon price signal, either a tax or subsidy, in agricultural production and the fact that including such a taxation scheme in Ireland would make it uncompetitive relative to producers in other countries.

## Session 7: Agriculture, food and land use panel discussion on leadership

251. The purpose of this session was to give the members of the Assembly real, first-hand experience of leadership in Ireland in the area of agriculture. In this session, Members were given tangible examples of how the ambitious low carbon future described in session 6 by Prof. Alan Matthews is already possible in Ireland.

252. In this session, the Members of the Assembly heard how three organisations or individuals have shown how leadership in the area of climate change is possible, how it is achievable and discussed what actions can be taken by Government to make the successes, which they have already achieved, transferrable to the wider population.

253. **Mr. Andrew McHugh** is a dairy farmer near Newtownforbes in County Longford. He is a Board member of Lakeland dairy co-op. Andrew was invited to the Assembly to describe his experience participating in the Smart Farming Initiative, which is a voluntary resource efficiency programme led by the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA), in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

254. In the information presented to the Assembly Mr. McHugh covered the following issues:

- Some background information on how the Smart Farming Initiative aims to increase efficiencies in the farming sector by improving farm returns and enhancing the rural environment through better resource management;
- That the objectives of the scheme are to identify savings of €5,000 on each participating farm and identify ways to reduce climate impact by 5-7%;
- Having taken part in the Smart Farming Initiative, Mr. McHugh took the following steps on his own farm and reduced his GHG emissions by 21.3%:
  - Increased the grazing season length by one week in March and November, leading to reductions in the proportion of dietary energy lost as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), with the shorter housing season also leading to reduced slurry methane and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O);

- Increased the genetic merit of his herd thereby reducing calving intervals and replacement rates, thus reducing enteric CH4 emissions per unit of product and resulting in an increased milk yield per unit of grazed grass and improved milk composition, earlier and more compact calving and improved survival and health with a reduction in deaths and disease incidences;
- Increased nitrogen efficiency by increasing the use of clover in swards thereby reducing Nitrogen usage, better soil fertility management, effective grazing management leading to high levels of grass production and utilisation, improvements in the timing and application of fertiliser nitrogen and the application of the most appropriate Nitrogen fertiliser type for the prevailing conditions;
- Improved slurry management; and
- Better energy management.

255. **Ms. Iseult Ward**, co-founder and CEO of FoodCloud, a social enterprise redistributing surplus food from the food industry to the charity sector presented to the Assembly on the background to FoodCloud and what they have achieved to date.

256. In the information presented to the Assembly Ms Ward covered the following issues:

- 30% of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted across the global food system. If food waste were a country, it would be the third largest emitter of GHG emissions after the US and China. Food loss and waste accounts for about 8 percent of annual global GHG emissions.
- In Ireland, we waste one million tonnes of food annually and 600,000 people are affected by food poverty, with one in five Irish children going to school or bed hungry. It is estimated that each kilogramme of food waste costs approximately €3.00;
- FoodCloud's vision is for a world where no good food goes to waste. FoodCloud has developed a unique solution that uses innovative technology, overcoming some of the traditional barriers that retailers and food rescue organisations face in managing surplus food donations directly to local charities.
- FoodCloud now works with over 6,000 charities and more than 2,500 retail stores in the UK and Ireland, and the organisation has helped redistribute a

total of over 25million meals since launch, weighing in at 5,000 tonnes in the past 18 months alone;

- FoodCloud and FoodCloud Hubs redistribute the equivalent of over 1.5million meals per month to more than 6,000 charities in Ireland and the UK;
- Based on their experience FoodCloud believes that Ireland needs to do more to encourage more businesses to reduce their food waste and also donate their surplus food to people. They believe that a “liability relief statute” should be enacted to encourage the donation of surplus food, as has been done in other countries, and that Ireland should develop an international leadership position on measuring and reporting on food waste across the supply chain potentially becoming the first country to adopt the EU Commission Food Losses and Food Waste (FLW) Standard as explained.

257. **Mr. Tony Garahy** is the owner/manager of Lough Boora Farm, one of the longest established organic farms in the Irish midlands.

258. In the information presented to the Assembly Mr. Garahy covered the following:

- An outline of his experience to date farming in Ireland, in particular, outlining the rationale for his decision to diversify into some forestry and finally how his interest in organic farming emerged and developed.
- Today Lough Boora farm has a suckler herd of 33, some sheep, and 95 acres under forestry. But the major diversification has taken Mr. Garahy into organic vegetables. The farm employs four people in the production of the vegetables and another three in the pack-house/distribution side. He initially started with less than one acre and one polytunnel, and now has about 10 acres in vegetable production and 7 large polytunnels.
- This approach has allowed Lough Boora farm to enjoy significant economic success. The positive impacts of the farm on the local economy, environment and biodiversity were also presented.
- Based on his experience, Mr. Garahy believes that converting land from chemical farming to organics offers part of the solution to climate change. In order to promote organic farming, there should be more investment in organic grant schemes, and there should be State backed research aimed at improving efficiencies in organic farming in the way there is for conventional dairying or livestock production. The export potential for organic produce

should be exploited. He also believes that changing land use from farming to forestry offers another part of the solution. An enhanced forest premium scheme with much higher payments for the broadleaved species that will thrive on better land and a much longer premium payment period is required to achieve this.

## Sunday Morning:

### The Climate Change Advisory Council

259. **Prof. John Fitzgerald**, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC) presented a paper outlining the role and functions of the CCAC, and the Council's views on current climate change policy in Ireland. Prof. Fitzgerald's paper, PowerPoint presentation (both of which are available in Appendix F) and a video archive of his oral presentation and the questions and answers session with the Members which followed, are all available on the Assembly's website.

260. In the information presented to the Assembly Prof. Fitzgerald made the following points:

- The Climate Change Advisory Council (the Council) was established formally as an independent advisory body in January 2016 under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. Its role is to provide advice to the Government on how Ireland can become a low-carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.
- It has a broad role under the 2015 Act to provide advice and recommendations to the Government in respect of any policy of the Government (or any policy that is proposed to be submitted to the Government for approval) that will have implications for the reduction of GHG emissions or adaptation to the effects of climate change.
- Current climate policy means that Ireland will miss its agreed emissions reduction target for 2020 by a substantial margin. Without major new policies and measures Ireland will also miss its 2030 EU target and its national transition objective of reducing our emissions of carbon dioxide by at least 80%, on 1990 levels, by 2050, by a very large margin. The Council believes that the government needs to urgently

introduce a range of new policies and measures to put Ireland on track to meet its climate change targets for 2030 and 2050.

- To move to becoming a leader, it is the view of the Council that Ireland needs to take urgent action to move the country back onto a sustainable path, so that it will at least meet its target for reducing GHG emissions by 2030. To do this there needs to be action from all sectors of society and the economy:
  - There needs to be leadership from Government and from the citizens;
  - The State needs to stop supporting activities that are driving climate change and damaging to the environment (e.g. subsidies for burning peat), needs to exploit our natural renewable resources like wind and solar and ensure appropriate community involvement;
  - We must support and incentivise behaviour and investments that help reduce emissions;
  - We need citizens to be engaged and become active in the fight against climate change;
  - There needs to be a focus on how land use change could help reduce net GHG emissions and implementing policies to reduce the carbon footprint of the agricultural sector.

## Chapter 4: Submissions on how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change

### Submissions Process

261. The Oireachtas Resolution states that “*the Assembly may invite and accept submissions from interested bodies and will seek such expert advice as it considers desirable*”.
262. Submissions on this topic were accepted from 9 June, 2017 to 5pm on 11 August 2017.
263. **1,205** submissions were received, of which 1,180 were received online and 25 were received by post.
264. Submissions were invited across the full spectrum of issues in relation to climate change, but in particular the Assembly requested to hear views on Ireland's energy, transport and agriculture sectors.
265. A number of steps were taken to encourage the public to engage with the submissions process. Advertisements were placed in a number of national newspapers on 12 June 2017. The submissions process was also promoted on the Assembly's Twitter account @CitizAssembly and by using the hash tag #citizensassembly.
266. Of the 1,205 submissions received, **1,185** were published on the website. In total 20 were not published. The reasons for not publishing are set out below:
- One submission was withdrawn by the author;
  - Five submissions were not relevant to the topic;
  - 14 submissions were duplicates;

As regards duplicates, where an exact submission was made more than once by the same individual this was only published once. In many cases this happened because the individual made the same submissions in multiple formats, i.e. by post, on line and by email.

### Submissions Rules/ Guidelines

267. The following rules applied in respect of submissions received by the Assembly and were published in advance.

- The Assembly welcomed submissions from Irish citizens and non-citizens living in Ireland or living abroad.
- All submissions received were published on the website and displayed with a full name (first name, surname)/ name of organisation, if appropriate.
- Anonymous submissions were not accepted. Submissions made with just a first name listed were not published. Equally, submissions received with an initial and surname (e.g. J Smyth) were not published. **Exception:** *Submissions received with a series of initials that are commonly recognised as being a name (i.e. JP, PJ, AP) and a surname were published.*
- In the case of personal stories and sensitive submissions, all personal data and related identifiable details were removed or redacted if requested.
- Each submission received, either on the website or by post, was treated as an individual submission including any or all signatures to that submission. If, for example, a submission was received with 20 signatures it was treated as one submission. If the same submission was received 20 times, each signed individually, they were treated as 20 submissions.
- The Assembly reserved the right not to accept a submission if it was deemed offensive or inappropriate.
- In accordance with the Assembly's agreed rules and procedures, following receipt of submissions on any matter, the Assembly may have chosen to hear oral presentations from any representative group or individual to assist in its deliberations.

### Use of the Submissions and Discussion by the Members

268. In order to assist Members in incorporating the submissions into their considerations, the Secretariat created a signpost document to outline some of the

key issues and some possible solutions identified by individuals, non-governmental organisations, and professionals.

269. The signpost document covered many of the areas highlighted from the submissions received and is available to view on the website in addition to all submissions published on this topic. Where individual submissions were referred to and an extract was provided, the website reference number was provided to allow the Members to consider the complete submission in more detail. A copy of the signpost document is available at Appendix E.

270. The Secretariat acknowledges fully that a signpost document such as this cannot capture the full range of issues raised in all of the submissions made to the Assembly. Instead, the document was designed to give the Members an overview of the main issues and the range of perspectives which emerged in the submissions. It was hoped that it would be of assistance to them in considering the topic before them.

271. Many of the Members read the submissions in full online as they were being published.

## Chapter 5: Engagement of the Public with the Assembly

### Engagement by the Public

272. Engagement by the public on the issue of *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change* has occurred through various means:

- The submissions process (which was dealt with in Chapter 4);
- Written correspondence with the Secretariat – by post and email;
- Phone calls to the Secretariat;
- Meetings between the Secretariat and various interest groups.

273. To put the level of contact with the public into perspective, during a four month period from July 2017 to November 2017, the Secretariat responded to in the region of 550 e-mails and letters from members of the public, advocacy and representative groups and members of the Oireachtas. This was in addition to the 1,205 submissions received.

274. Queries ranged from requests to observe at the meetings of the Assembly to specific questions about submissions made on *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change*.

### Live Streaming at the Assembly

275. Following a competitive tendering process in advance of the Inaugural meeting of the Assembly in October 2016 Richard Jolly TV Ltd/ Switch New Media was selected to provide live streaming/broadcasting of the Assembly and any additional related services including filming, recording and the production of video files.

276. The public sessions of the Assembly are broadcast live on the Assembly's website, and following each meeting each of these sessions are archived and made available on the Assembly's YouTube channel. The live Assembly feed is often

syndicated to a range of news outlets, thereby increasing the audience for the Assembly's work.

#### Irish Language at the Assembly

277. Following a competitive tendering process, Beatrice.ie was selected to provide Irish language translation services for the meetings of the Assembly. Translation is provided from English to Irish & vice versa for live streaming purposes and for the Members of the Assembly who wish to avail of this service. Technical support for the installation, testing, monitoring and removal of the booth and equipment has to date been provided by SICL who work in partnership with Beatrice.ie.

278. The same translators have worked on all meetings of the Assembly to date. The interpreters ensured an exceptional standard and seamless delivery of Irish on the live streaming channel.

#### Irish Sign Language at the Assembly

279. Following a competitive tendering process, Bridge Interpreting was selected to provide Irish Sign Language (ISL) services for the meetings of the Assembly. The same interpreters have worked on all meetings of the Assembly to date.

280. Engaging the services of Bridge Interpreting has enabled the Assembly to reach out to the deaf community and feedback from the community has been extremely positive. Prior to each meeting of the Assembly, Bridge Interpreting also place links to the live feed on their social media channels in order to reach and engage with as many members of the deaf community as possible. The interpreters worked seamlessly within the meeting room and delivered an exceptionally high standard of interpretation at all times.

#### The Assembly Website

281. The Assembly has a dedicated website [www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie). The Assembly Secretariat designed the website, with the assistance of technical support of pTools Software, and updates the content on an ongoing basis. It is designed to be topic-led and a valuable resource for all material relating to the Assembly.

282. All papers, presentations (by the Chairperson, Secretariat and invited speakers) and other documentation provided to the Members are available to read on our website. Detailed speaker biographies are also available. All press releases made to the media can be viewed and footage of the Assembly's proceedings can be watched back there.

283. Papers and presentations were made available online to the public on a rolling basis throughout the course of each weekend meeting on climate change. They were uploaded as the meetings progressed in the interests of allowing viewers at home to access the material being considered in real time. When relevant, details of what was decided during private sessions of the Assembly were published on the website.

284. The website was the most popular mechanism for receiving submissions on this topic. As mentioned previously in this report, 1,205 submissions were received in total, 1,180 of which were received online.

285. Between 9 June and 11 August 2017, the period during which submissions were accepted on this topic, the Assembly's website received 46,022 views. It is however likely that many of these views were in respect of earlier topics considered by the Assembly. The submissions received page on *How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change* received 2,823 views during this period.

#### Attendance of Observers at the Assembly

286. In accordance with the Rules and Procedures of the Assembly, members of the public are not granted access to the meetings of the Assembly. It is recognised that certain organisations/ individuals may have a legitimate interest in being present at the meetings to observe proceedings first hand. Representatives from the following categories may be permitted to be present at the plenary sessions of the meetings of the Assembly:

- Advocacy Groups, Non Governmental Organisations and Religious groups
- Embassies
- Political parties
- Academics
- Social Partners

287. The Secretariat took steps to ensure that as many observers as possible were accommodated and all requests to observe the Assembly were facilitated. The only limit that was put on observers was that a maximum of two people from each organisation could be in the room to observe live proceedings at any one time, in order to accommodate as many organisations and individuals as possible.

# **Appendix A**

**Resolution of Dáil Éireann approving  
establishment of the Citizens' Assembly**

## Resolution Approving Establishment of the Citizens' Assembly

“Go ndéanann Dáil Éireann:

a cheadú go ndéanfar Tionól Saoránach a ghairm chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar na nithe seo a leanas agus chun cibé moltaí a dhéanamh is cuí leis agus chun tuairisciú do Thithe an Oireachtais:

- (i) an tOchtú Leasú ar an mBunreacht;
- (ii) conas is fearr is féidir linn tabhairt faoi na dúshláin agus na deiseanna a bhaineann le daonra atá ag dul in aois;
- (iii) parlaimintí ar théarma seasta;
- (iv) an modh ina seoltar reifrinn; agus
- (v) conas is féidir leis an Stát a chinntiú go mbeidh Éire ina ceannródaí maidir le dul i ngleic leis an athrú aeráide; agus

a thabhairt dá aire:

- gur 100 duine mar a leanas a bheidh i gcomhaltas an Tionóil:
  - Cathaoirleach a bheidh le ceapadh ag an Rialtas; agus
  - 99 saoránach atá i dteideal vótáil i reifreann, arna roghnú go hamasach sa chaoi go mbeidh siad ionadaitheach do shochaí na hÉireann i gcoitinne;
- féadfar ionadaithe a cheapadh faoi réir na gcritéar roghnóireachta thuas, agus beidh na hionadaithe sin in ann páirt a ghlacadh sna himeachtaí agus vótáil faoina n-ainm féin;
- comhaontóidh an Tionól a rialacha nóis imeachta féin d'fhonn a ghnó a sheoladh go héifeachtach ar shlí a bheidh chomh heacnamúil agus is féidir;
- sa chéad ásc, tabharfaidh an tionól tuarascáil, agus déanfaidh sé moladh, do

That Dáil Éireann

approves the calling of a Citizens' Assembly to consider the following matters and to make such recommendations as it sees fit and report to the Houses of the Oireachtas:

- (i) the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution;
- (ii) how we best respond to the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population;
- (iii) fixed term parliaments;
- (iv) the manner in which referenda are held; and
- (v) how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change; and

notes that:

- membership of the Assembly will consist of 100 persons as follows:
  - a Chairperson to be appointed by the Government; and
  - 99 citizens entitled to vote at a referendum, randomly selected so as to be broadly representative of Irish society;
- substitutes may be appointed subject to the selection criteria above, who will be entitled to contribute to the proceedings and vote in their own name;
- the Assembly will agree its own rules of procedure for the effective conduct of its business in as economical a manner as possible;
- the Assembly will first make a report and recommendation on the matter set out at (i) above to the Houses of the

## Resolution Approving Establishment of the Citizens' Assembly

Thithe an Oireachtais ar an nÍ a leagtar amach ag (i) thuas, agus ar an méid sin a fháil tarchuirfidh Tithe an Oireachtais an Tuarascáil lena breithniú chuig Coiste den Dá Theach, ar Coiste é a dhéanfaidh a chuid tátal a chur faoi bhráid na dTithe chun díospóireacht a dhéanamh orthu;

- tuairisceoidh an Tionól do Thithe an Oireachtais agus déanfaidh sé moltaí dóibh ar gach nÍ eile a luaithe a bheidh a phléití críochnaithe aige agus, in aon chás, tráth nach déanaí ná bliain amháin ó dháta an chéad chruinnithe den Tionól;
- iarrfar ar an Tionól freisin breithniú a dhéanamh ar cibé nithe eile a tharchuirfear chuige;
- bunófar Gasra Comhairleach Saineolaithe chun cabhrú le hobair an Tionóil, ó thaobh faisnéis agus comhairle a ullmhú;
- féadfaidh an Tionól aighneachtaí a iarraidh ó chomhlachtaí leasmhara agus glacadh leo agus lorgóidh sé cibé comhairle shaineolaíoch is dóigh leis is inmhianaithe;
- déanfar gach nÍ a bheidh os comhair an Tionóil a chinneadh trí throllach de vótaí na gcomhaltaí a bheidh i láthair agus a vótálfaidh, seachas an Cathaoirleach a mbeidh vóta cinniúna aige nó aici i gcás comhionannas vótaí; agus
- tabharfaidh an Rialtas freagra i dTithe na Oireachtais ar gach moladh a dhéanfaidh an Tionól agus, má tá sé chun glacadh leis an moladh, cuirfidh sé an creat ama in iúl ar lena linn atá sé ag brath aon reifreann gaolmhar a sheoladh;

Oireachtas, which on receipt will refer the report for consideration to a Committee of both Houses which will in turn bring its conclusions to the Houses for debate;

- the Assembly will report and make recommendations to the Houses of the Oireachtas on each remaining matter as soon as it has completed its deliberations, but in any event not later than one year from the date of the first Assembly meeting;
- the Assembly will also be asked to consider such other matters as may be referred to it;
- an Expert Advisory Group will be established to assist the work of the Assembly in terms of preparing information and advice;
- the Assembly may invite and accept submissions from interested bodies and will seek such expert advice as it considers desirable;
- all matters before the Assembly will be determined by a majority of the votes of members present and voting, other than the Chairperson who will have a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes; and
- the Government will provide in the Houses of the Oireachtas a response to each recommendation of the Assembly and, if accepting the recommendation, will indicate the timeframe it envisages for the holding of any related referendum.”

July 2016

## **Appendix B**

**Reflective Exercises completed by  
Members of the Citizens' Assembly on 5  
November 2017 upon which the  
Ancillary Recommendations from the  
Citizen's Assembly are based**

**Containing:**

- **Note explaining purpose of reflective exercise**
- **Copy of form used by the Members**
- **Responses Returned**

## **NOVEMBER Meeting of the Citizen' Assembly**

### **Reflective Exercise**

Across two weekends between September and November 2017, the Citizens' Assembly met to consider its third topic, *how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change*.

The topic of Climate Change is broad and wide ranging. Following consultation with the Members, and based on the topics which came through in the submissions process, the Assembly focussed its discussion on the energy, transport and agriculture sectors, together with an examination of what leadership in the area of climate change looks like.

However, it was acknowledged that there may be other areas, not covered in the discussion during the two weekends, which Members of the Assembly would like to see reflected in the recommendations.

The purpose of this exercise was to allow the members to make comments and suggestions on such further recommendations to be referenced in the final report. A copy of the form distributed to allow for the expression of these recommendations is on the next page.

Completion of the form was not mandatory and the responses below were returned to the secretariat voluntarily.

A summary of the key issues and recommendations that arose most frequently from the members comments is contained in the main body of the Report. In the interests of clarity and transparency, the text of 35 completed forms is included verbatim here.



## Responses Returned

### Response 1: -

The carbon footprint on a lot of things are (-illegible-), e.g. building a house. Also applied to Industrial use. The material put into it has more carbon footprint than anything else that we use.

It cost so much carbon footprint wise is that we will never get it out of it.

Its lifespan is in carbon footprint price the low lying materials first rather than updating later and saying its low carbon now, they will never repay themselves because they can't. Over 50 years, if you heated it normally, it would be easier.

We live conveniently and are ethically wrong.

### Response 2: -

Incentives for people to buy low carbon cars.

Incentives for households to change over to energy efficient products.

Solar powered farms.

Households to sell back electricity to the grid.

### Response 3: -

Waste and recycling needs to be included in any climate change policies.

Waste and recycling charges should come from central taxation or the Local Property Tax.

There should be no charges for green waste.

Build offshore (<1km) wind farms.

Impose a ban on burning solid fuel in private homes. In particular peat.

**Response 4: -**

I believe that we have a problem with climate change. It would be great to be a leader. Before these two weekends, I was uneducated on this topic. I feel lucky to have been present during these discussions however it makes me worry about the rest of the population. They are not educated on it. They are not aware of what needs to be done. They are not aware of how to make changes. We need to educate people make them aware of how and why. The government needs to make it possible. Introduce incentives to help people make these changes. I firmly believe that, if educated, the majority of the people would make these changes. The stumbling block, I believe, is the financial implications: it costs a lot to implement these changes. People do not have that cash readily available to them.

**Response 5: -**

Climate change must be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Farming practices must change and the supporting organisations need to actively commit to education this sector and finding cost effective methods to ensure no jobs are lost of livelihoods affected.

Far greater responsibilities in industry and transport for their impact on the environment- (this seems to be slightly overlooked).

Alternatives to diesel/petrol cars in rural areas and greatly increase incentives for encouraging motorists towards electric cars e.g. lower costs and remove VRT.

**Response 6: -**

Recommend: Interdepartmental co-operation between relevant departments and joined up thinking and implementation of policies so they are not all working against each other, i.e. Agriculture, Communications, Social Welfare and Finance.

Mandatory course – or sessions like we have received by all members of Dáil all parties as government is a minority government and needs cross party support to enact policies. If policy makers had been as well informed as we have been hopefully they could put the interests of the Irish Citizens going forward - with regard to looking after our beautiful counties and its people for the future.

If no 'in-service' available for politicians 'legislators' then could they sign up for a multiparty member policy this would mean they wouldn't have to worry about another politician being 'populist' in their views.

Going forward the carrot approach should be adopted and people who are cash strapped would not be terrified that they can't afford to have a car or heat their houses due to taxes penalties imposed.

#### **Response 7: -**

Have a climate change 'supremo'- i.e somebody to drive incentivise and / or penalise. This is probably covered on Q1 on ballot paper but it should be priority number one.

Have an educational programme in all primary and secondary schools to emphasise the positives of best practice.

- Less pollution
- Warmer homes
- Better transport solutions

Have 3 big initiatives implemented immediately. All to be revenue neutral i.e. taxes ring fenced to by for subsidies incentives etc.

- Carbon Tax
- Change in heating/power generation sources
- Farming to go Green

#### **Response 8: -**

I think there should be amendments made for the farmers so that should they plant trees on their land that they do not have to keep the land as a forestry area forever. The next generation might want/have to change that for their better good.

As for electric cars more information needs to be given as to the benefits of having an electric car- how easy it is to use.

Again easy steps to take for the benefits on reducing food waste in the household. How much an average household can save money wise by reduction their food waste.

**Response 9: -**

Lock the scientists' away and get the practitioners to the forefront. Too much apocalyptic speculation and condescension with the terms like "denier" attributed to those who see to question their speculations.

As Andy Kerr said succinctly and powerfully on the reasons for becoming more energy effect "I'm not to trying to save the polar bear".

Having to buy into scientific apocalypticism (sic) is a (-illegible-), and unnecessary distraction to the whole issue of energy efficiency.

So my ancillary recommendations: Bin the scientism and promote pragmatism through the plain speaking, uncontroversial and successful practitioners.

**Response 10: -**

All government departments engage in a campaign to promote the economic opportunity, economic health, social and political returns including but not explicitly community ownership, regarding investment in renewable energy projects.

Because Ireland has similar climate and demographics/population spread as Scotland, Ireland should adopt the Scottish model to address the carbon problem forthwith; all political parties must agree this, policy for the short, medium and long term future.

Amendment in the Constitution to embed the 2030 & 2050 targets as requirements that must be met.

All political parties must endorse any plan to meet the 2020, 2030, and 2050 targets. We cannot have carbon tax on diesel becoming an election issue. We cannot allow this issue to separate urban and rural communities. We cannot have policies that have to be implemented becoming election issues.

Option for a nation to buyout carbon credits to meet a target in 2020 should be removed; this option is just a nicer way to pay a fine. Fines should be imposed on nations that do not meet targets. Name and shame.

**Response 11: -**

The state can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change by not just implementing international and EU directives but by going further than these directives. Seeking derogation from any of these directives is a major cop out of our obligations to our citizens. A minister should be appointed to implement these directives and failure to reach targets should mean that "heads should roll".

Everything that is admirable about Northern Ireland's approach to tackling climate change should be emulated in this jurisdiction. Grants for solar panels and buying back surplus should be prioritised.

Fish caught that are surplus to fish quotas should not be thrown back to the sea but instead should be distributed gratis to poorer sections of our community. This current practice is polluting the seas.

All plastic bottles and containers should be phased out and this continued use should be heavily taxed.

**Response 12: -**

Re. Q1 of ballot paper, if this leads to a new body or significant change, it must NOT be allowed to delay policy- making and action to tackle climate change. The time for procrastination is past.

**Response 13: -**

We could make/encourage large companies such as Intel/Apple and any large employer to offer employee transport to work to reduce carbon emissions... (large profit making companies). Some large companies already offer this such as Amazon in Co. Cork.

The move to electric cars/transport would see a far bigger increase if the government offered grants or a reduced reduction in the cost.

**Response 14: -**

Cross party political cohesiveness is need. Members of government need to commit to this and be leaders themselves if we are to reach our targets. Set short, medium, long term goals and a plan to stick to them. Educating people show them how changing to sustainable sources of energy will benefit them and their children. Connect the dots between extreme weather events and climate change make it hit home for people. Invest in public transport particularly in rural areas.

**Response 15: -**

As part of the GLAS (Green Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment) Scheme farmers should be paid to take soil samples on their farms. They are currently paid to undertake various activities that protect the environment but are not as effective as what this simple exercise would be. Soil sampling focuses the farmer to where the fertiliser needs to be spread in deficient soil and increases profitability but also prevents pollutant processes such as eutrophication if correct amounts of phosphorous are spread. This can only be done through understanding the results of a soil sample. I recommend that this measure be introduced into the GLAS scheme.

**Response 16: -**

In terms of climate change in the transport sector and public transport, all areas beyond the pale need to be given the same or similar consideration when implementing new buses trams etc. Dublin is already over populated, shortage of houses and larger commuters look at the other cities like Limerick or Waterford or Galway in the west.

We dealt with food and how to start using up the 30% of food that gets wasted. What about looking at the packaging our food comes in. I live alone, have very little food waste but every fortnight my recycling bin is full of packaging coming off the food I use. Surely less packing on food would go to help climate change.

**Response 17: -**

There is no silver bullet to fix this problem. It has to be a multifaceted approach. We are custodians of this planet and there is an onus on each of us to improve our carbon footprint. This can be achieved by the way we do our daily business, looking at the way we use our transport, heat our homes, do our shopping.

Government policy in relation to energy, transport, agriculture and land use policy has to be driven by both the carrot and the stick approach. I believe we have to minimise any increases in carbon tax on fuel as it could have a disproportionate effect on people in rural areas who rely on their cars and have no alternative forms of transport available to them, it could also cause inflation if increases were significant.

It would be beneficial if we had an all Ireland policy on climate change though this may be difficult with Brexit looming, Ireland should not become a dumping ground for old diesel cars imported from the UK which do not comply with UK standards relation to emissions.

**Response 18: -**

Education of the nation is required to tackle climate change through media outlets.

I think insulation for homes should be given tax breaks to make it more affordable, i.e. Manufacturers of insulations and companies that install same.

Promote save you money rather than save the polar bear.

Public Transport made more accessible to rural communities.

**Response 19: -**

The government should appoint a dedicated minister for climate change to provide leadership and co-ordination.

Alternative methods for energy production should be explored and developed to reduce our current dependence on fossil fuels.

**Response 20: -**

Have more land use in forestry.

Subsidise the capital spend on older homes to convert to solar energy and also insulation to make homes more energy efficient.

**Response 21: -**

Cross sectoral approach to climate change is needed. Implications and opportunities are an issue for all departments and a coordinated departmental approach should be adopted.

As with Slainte Health a cross party commitment should be sought to address climate change in Ireland.

A ban on all off-shore exploration and/or extraction activities should be put in place. The granting of licences in these areas should be halved immediately if we are to show leadership and live up to our targets for 2030.

Oireachtas should pass the fossil fuel divestment bill asap.

Educational / informational public campaign needed to highlight not only the implications of C.C. for Ireland but the implications current carbon intensive activities have on our public health. This has been shown as an effective way to encourage behavioural change e.g. increased respiratory illness rates in children from diesel cars and wood burning stoves in urban centres. There is increasing evidence linking to Alzheimer's among other health concerns - this also speaks for the cross-sectoral approach that's needed – could national dementia strategy include provisions to reduce air pollution as an identifiable risk factor.

Immediately stop subsidising peat. A phased approach is already in place and is not working. A just transition for peat farmers should be considered.

Constitutional amendment to reflect right to an environment.

**Response 22: -**

Constitutional Change: It would serve the purpose of maintaining focus on the issues when other distractions cause us to look elsewhere. It would guide future governments so that previous inactions aren't repeated. Multiple benefits.

All long term targets must be translated, broken down, into realistic manageable deliverables - short term annual targets. Other longer, targets becoming meaningless & pointless.

Adopting a "can do" attitude: There will be mistakes and setbacks. We must have a resilient attitude and over the long-term maintain the overriding objectives.

Set the bar high: Allowing for our current position, we must quickly make up ground. Be bold vigorous, ambitious in our targets and actions.

Cross party intent: Our politicians from the outset must seek cross party agreement in identifying climate change as a serious genuine objective. With reduced in-fighting and trickery we will be able to move faster to where we need to be.

Removal of contradictory policies/practices: e.g. we must stop subsidising diesel for both fuel and car tax. In doing so the government is conveying the correct message to the people/electorate.

DOE should allocate resources to promote and education fighting climate change at all educational establishments at all levels, including politicians, citizens, children and adults.

DCCAE: Identify those projects that will have the “biggest bang for our buck” and immediately get moving on these nationally. All departments and organisations not reaching their targets will be receiving less funds as a result.

Strong government and regulation: Being bold and ambitious will be severely weakened and outcomes watered down if we allow vested interested to circumvent the efforts of others

Org of National Energy Agencies: Work towards 100% of counties having their own Energy Agency. Currently only 40% e.g. Tipperary Energy Agency and Codema.

Communications: Improve climate change communications to education / inform everyone by making the conversation more tangible (e.g. How to make your home warmer and cheaper to heat” rather than “2050 targets”.)

**Response 23: -**

The conversion period for organic farms should be reduced from the current two years or there should be support for famers on the conversion period by means of financial aid.

Ireland should “go for larger targets”. Much like Scotland did in 2008, as the current ESR emissions reduction target has been revised down in the interests of “cost-effectiveness” and an increase in the target for 2030 would genuinely show leadership and highlight that climate change is a priority for Ireland.

Climate change requires political leadership to be tackled effectively; cross party politics should not impede the fight against climate change.

**Response 24: -**

Cost reduction measures need to be implemented to make school buses more accessible for all and combat people needing to own cars specifically for this purpose.

Get rid of peat subsidy as a matter of urgency.

Divest funds from spending on roads and instead focus funding on public transport and smarter travel schemes for example bike lanes in urban areas outside of Dublin, car share schemes etc.

Move toward eradication single use plastics particularly in supermarkets. Encourage sale of loose fruit and vegetables in paper bags. Penalise supermarkets otherwise. Polluter pays principle.

Increase funding within agricultural sector to facilitate retrofitting of farms and knowledge transfer within sector.

Too many chiefs- one department and junior minister should be specifically delegated the responsibility in this area. At the moment it appears to be a somewhat fragmented approach and that will get us nowhere. We need progress to procrastination. There's no coordination.

We should absolutely not buy carbon credits for 2020, it's a waste of resources that would be best spent investing in to reducing 2030 targets. Pay the fines, feel the string and use it fuel change.

**Response 25: -**

Ireland should go for larger target, much like Scotland did in 2008 as the current ESR emission reduction target has been revised down in the interest of cost-effectiveness and an increase in the target for 2030 would genuinely show leadership and highlight that climate change is a priority for Ireland.

**Response 26: -**

This is a question that I would have liked to have seen on the reflective exercise: Do you have any ideas on how the government could be more engaged on the issue of climate change? My answer is: The government should provide subsidies/offer more attractive grants to make homes eco-friendly and/or to achieve the A3 target, i.e. get 50/50 grants meaning the government meets halfway.

Make a long-term plan to lay down electric trams throughout the country, especially or starting with connecting major routes.

Moving public transport to electric modals e.g. buses with the capacity for the public to carry on bikes (that way more people will use bikes).

Moving focus on better bike lanes from the city to (satellite) towns and all villages with proper parked bikes with security.

Support local energy generators in conjunction with the creation of on and off shore wind farms.

Positive marketing campaign which will target citizens directly like Scotland's approach as opposed to Al Gore's approach which is fear driven.

**Response 27: -**

Urgently move to a situation where our electricity generation is based on renewables.

All new homes have no fossil fuels burning appliances (chimneys etc).

Roads in new housing estates should include cycle lanes.

All new building should not get planning permission unless they are built to A3 specification.

Grants for solar panels and to retrofit existing house.

Educate public again with regards to protecting environment.

Stop building natural gas pipelines and gas into new housing estates. (Case in point- new gas pipeline to Central Park in Longford)

Programme in National schools re climate change.

**Response 28: -**

There has been a wealth of research done by Teagasc and other on ways of mitigation GHG emissions if you but there needs to be more funding for both research and educating farmers in this area.

**Response 29: -**

I think the government need to get behind the suggestions of the assembly and they need to show the Irish people real leadership in their approach to climate change.

We need to stop forcing/ overly encouraging farmers to plant forests on land that then goes out of use. It is unfair to expect a farmer to take a piece of land out of use permanently.

There so many draft documents and white papers produced the government need to act on these for once.

Major retailers, Dunnes Stores etc need to be forced to make sure that they have a solution for their food waste, that is not the bin, and there should be legislation introduced to prevent food waste and to use this support community organisations which may need this.

I would like to see regulations and a constitutional protection for the environment, so that the government can be brought to account if they fail in their targets.

It is an absolute disgrace that the elected representations of the people of Ireland cannot, and have not worked and come together to support and push through measures such as carbon tax, that will benefit future generations of this country. They should be ashamed.

**Response 30: -**

Action must be immediate and radical.

More use of the low-interest loans to enable ordinary people to get on board.

More emphasis on radical action as best economic practise.

We cannot afford to rely on oil and other fuel imports.

Make Ireland economically self-sustaining in terms of (a) energy (b) food production.

Another body should not be (-illegible-) but the Climate Advisory Council that already exists should have more powers. They already have the brains and the expertise.

The issue of grants and subsidies is wasted on poorer people who can't raise the initial costs. So there should be more community investments to enable ordinary citizens to partake in change.

**Response 31: -**

Two topics that have not been addressed are:

1) The growing problem that plastics are causing to our oceans and also by adding to our growing litter problems. Why not, as other countries have done, to introduce a deposit scheme on plastic bottles? Think of how successful the plastic bag scheme has been.

2) Also I feel that serious consideration should be given to all Local Authorities to implement integrated wet lands. These wet lands help to control and eliminate pollution especially that caused by farmyards. One of the submissions that I read would have details but I cannot remember who wrote it.

**Response 32: -**

Housing- new houses should be low carbon if not zero carbon.

Huge focus on micro-generation (Feed back to electricity grid) Available immediately.

Spatial strategy to be prioritised (nationally).

Be visionary, bold and people will row in behind – fairness in “carrot-stick” approach.

Electric vehicles – Reduce/remove VRT for a period of 5 years.

ESB to install solar panels etc on all houses if owner wants and can pay back over time through their bills or by selling back excess energy. Government to make this law.

Retrofitting of old building stock needs for more support.

Government to plant new trees - local native species.

**Response 33: -**

Review the whole scheme of subsidies in agriculture energy and transport with a view to ensuring that GHG emissions are reduced.

**Response 34: -**

Need to have more affordable grants available for people to buy solar panels. Just because technology is always changing doesn't mean we should wait for something to be "old" in order to be affordable. Personal households as well as farmers on land/sheds would benefit.

Instead of creating extra public transport, for the present time, which does not cost money, we need to improve the services we have. Make the transport arrive on time and no more ghost buses.

Electric cars will become a thing of the future but we would use them now if garages would stop profiting from higher prices. These E.Vs. can be manufactured cheaply but companies drive up the prices making it impossible to afford. €5000 grant is not enough in these cases.

Electricity needs to be sold back to the grid. This has to happen. Can be done in other countries!

**Response 35: -**

Agriculture needs a TAMs (Targeted Agriculture Modernisation) like scheme which provides grant aid for updating safety equipment for GHG reducing equipment if you want to decrease the greenhouse gas emission from agriculture.

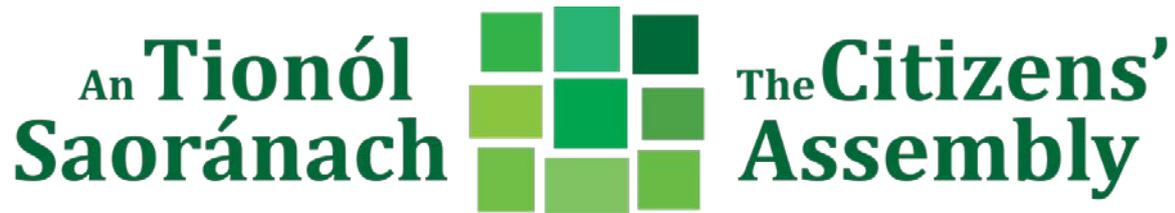
It would be unfair to impose a tax before you give farmers a realistic, affordable alternative.

Like public transport, Irish Agriculture is essential to the economy and the environment and provides food (an essential) and the reduction of the National Herd especially the suckler herd ignores the fact that if our beef stock reduce to such an extent we will be importing beef from Brazil, carbon footprint of that beef will be much higher and we will have lost an integral part of our agriculture heritage for nothing.

There was no recognition of farmers as a profession that protects the Irish environment and the role they already play in guarding our land and the environmentally friendly policies they already abide by.

Agri carbon tax would just be costly admin – pointless unless the whole world is doing the same.

The issue of peat subsidies divided us because 1) It won't stop those who cut for their own use. 2) Peat has been many people's livelihood for years and some of understand the ramifications of taking away a man's/woman's livelihood and ways of life. Be cognisant of tradition while we move forward.



# **Appendix C**

## **Citizens' Assembly Rules and Procedures**

## **The Citizens' Assembly**

### **Rules and Procedures**

#### **1. Timing, Frequency and Openness of meetings**

Meetings of the Assembly will generally take place in a hotel at weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) during 2016 and 2017. Full details of the proposed dates for these meetings are available on [www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie). Members of the public will not have access to the meetings but the plenary sessions will be streamed live at [www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie).

#### **2. Role and duties of the Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall be the sole judge of order and shall be responsible for the smooth running of the Assembly in accordance with these rules and the terms of the Resolution of the Houses of the Oireachtas of July, 2016. She shall engage such support services as are necessary for the effective administration of the forum and, from time to time, make such recommendations to the Assembly on the management of business as she sees fit.

#### **3. Work Programme**

The work programme shall be agreed by the Assembly on foot of a proposal by the Chairperson. The programme shall be reviewed regularly but any subsequent changes shall only take effect with the agreement of the Assembly.

#### **4. Steering Group**

A Steering Group shall be established to support the Assembly in the efficient and effective discharge of its role and functions. In practice, the Group shall assist with planning and operational issues associated with the work programme. The Steering Group shall consist of the Chairperson and a sample of the members (need to consider how these would be selected and if they would rotate) and such other representatives as the Assembly sees fit.

#### **5. Protection of Members' Privacy**

While the names and general areas where Members come from will be made available on [www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie), other personal details of the Members will be treated in strictest confidence. Any individual or organisation which attempts to contact a Member

to try to influence their views on a particular topic will be automatically excluded from taking part in the Assembly.

## **6. Debates/speaking arrangements**

The format and structure of speaking arrangements shall be agreed in advance and as a general principle, all contributions by members should be brief, respectful and non-repetitive. Any member wishing to speak should indicate and will be called upon by the Chairperson, who will endeavour to ensure fairness in the allocation of speaking time to all members. In an effort to make most efficient use of time in plenary session, members are encouraged to use the opportunity of roundtable discussions to express their views, ask further question of the experts and deliberate with one another. These discussions can be reflected in a brief report to the plenary session.

## **7. Tabling and Circulation of Papers**

All documents received by the Assembly secretariat shall be made available to all members of the Assembly via the [www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie) website. Alternative arrangements will be made for those members who are not in a position to access the site. Deadlines for receipt of submissions and circulation of documents in advance of plenary meetings should be agreed by the Assembly.

## **8. Presentations to the Assembly**

Following receipt of submissions on any matter, the Assembly may choose to hear oral presentations from any representative group or individual to assist in its deliberations. For the efficient administration of the process, the Steering Group may wish to make recommendations in relation to the selection of interested bodies to present to the Assembly. Invitations shall be issued by the Chairperson on behalf of the Assembly.

## **9. Voting**

Votes, if required, shall be by secret ballot of the members present and voting. Votes shall be overseen by the Chairperson with the support of at least 2 members of the Assembly.

## **10. Expert Advisory Group**

As provided for in the Oireachtas Resolution, the Assembly shall establish an Expert Advisory Group to assist with its work in terms of preparing information and advice. The Expert Advisory Group will be comprised of academics/practitioners across a number of specific fields of interest including political/ Social Science; Constitutional Law and Theory; Medical Law and Ethics; Medicine and Obstetrics. The composition and focus of the Expert Advisory Group may change during the lifetime of the Assembly.

## **11. Irish language facilities**

A simultaneous translation service from Irish into English will be available for all plenary sessions of the forum if required.

## **12. Accessibility of Services and Information for Persons with Disabilities**

In line with the provisions in the Disability Act 2005 and the Code of Practice on Accessibility of Public Services and Information Provided by Public Bodies, the Assembly will ensure that services and information will be accessible to all Members including those with a disability insofar as is practicable and appropriate. It is noted that all Assembly members have been selected at random to represent the views of the people of Ireland and are broadly representative of society as reflected in the Census.

## **13. Press and Communications**

Authorised members of the media shall be permitted to attend plenary sessions of the Assembly, subject to such terms and conditions as may be laid down by the Assembly. As a general principle, the Chairperson shall act as spokesperson in relation to administrative or procedural matters.

## **14. Members Interaction with the Media**

Members shall refrain from media interviews or public commentary while the Assembly is actively considering a topic. This shall also apply to social media.

## **15. Reports**

Reports of the Assembly shall be published as soon as practicable after a decision has been reached at each meeting. It shall be possible to finalise the detail of the content of each report other than in plenary session, subject to the agreement of the Assembly.

## **16. Review of Procedures**

The Chairperson shall consult with members of the Assembly and other interested parties and conduct such reviews of the procedures and administration of the Assembly as she sees fit.

## **17. Assembly secretariat**

The Chairperson shall have direction and control over the staff of the secretariat and other supports and resources available, subject to the wishes of the Assembly.

# **Appendix D**

## **Practical Guide to Facilitation at the Citizens' Assembly**

## **Practical Guide to Facilitation at The Citizens' Assembly**

### **What's Covered in this Guide**

1. Purpose of the Citizens' Assembly
2. Outline of First Weekend
3. The Role of the Facilitator
4. Groundrules
5. Facilitating the Conversations at your Table
6. Checklist

Appendix I: Tips for Successful Facilitation

Appendix II: Suggestions for Keeping the Conversation on Track

## **1. Purpose of the Citizens' Assembly**

The Citizens' Assembly was established by Resolution of both Houses of the Oireachtas. Its purpose is to allow a cross-section of the public to hear presentations from experts and civil society groups and to engage in rational and reasoned discussion, and to then make recommendations to the State on the options available.

The Assembly has been asked to look at the following issues:

1. the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution;
2. how we best respond to the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population;
3. fixed term parliaments;
4. the manner in which referenda are held;
5. how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change.

The Assembly may also be asked to consider other matters that may be referred to it.

There are 100 Members of the Assembly, including the Chairperson. Members are being chosen at random to represent the views of the people of Ireland, and will be broadly representative of society as reflected in the Census, including age, gender, social class, regional spread etc. They must also be on the electoral register to vote in a referendum.

## **2. The Role of the Facilitator**

As facilitators, you'll provide a very valuable service to the Citizens' Assembly members, enabling the small groups to have a considered debate about very important topics of national interest.

You'll serve the meeting best by putting all of your attention into the meeting process and how the group is working, and by holding back from contributing to the meeting content. In this way, you'll create the best possible conditions for views, ideas and suggestions to emerge and ultimately to be included in the recommendations to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

It's very satisfying to be the enabler who helps to bring out other people's views and ideas. People love to be listened to and appreciate when their views and suggestions are valued. It leads to a lively, positive atmosphere, with the focus on new possibilities rather than on problems. Further tips for successful facilitation are included in Appendix I.

## **3. Groundrules**

Healthy debate and idea generation is greatly helped by observing some simple process groundrules. The following are the guidelines for behaviour that will *encourage and support people to participate and contribute to group discussions* during the Citizens' Assembly.

You are invited to share these groundrules with the people at your table and ask them if they are happy to commit to them or put forward others. If they agree, you will have the authority to make interventions in the discussion and improve the process.

### **○ Share the airtime**

*Every group has individuals who are more reticent and others who love to talk. It's vital to hear the views of the quieter people, both for the inherent value of those views and suggestions and to give due respect to everyone present. At this session, everyone has an equal voice.*

- **Ask participants to headline their views/suggestions; then give some background**

*To ensure that each person is heard when they speak, ask them to catch people's attention by making a headline for their argument first (the 'hook' of their view/suggestion) and then follow up with their background thinking. (We want the news headlines, not the full bulletin!)*

- **Be Respectful**

*Listen to and show respect for the opinions of others. Engage in the discussion: do not get involved in disruptive side conversations or talk over others. It's important that we have one conversation at a time. Keep your mobile phone and other devices packed away while the Citizens' Assembly is in session. There will be lots of breaks for you to catch up with the outside world!*

- **Make connections**

*New thinking and fresh ideas emerge when you allow your mind to freewheel and to make connections between seemingly unconnected things. When a group sets out to invent something new, one idea or suggestion can trigger another in surprising and productive ways. Spot the unlikely connections.*

- **Don't evaluate views/suggestions**

*It's vital that each participant is allowed (by the group) to express his/her views and alternative suggestions without fear of being dismissed. If suggestions are evaluated prematurely, they're unlikely to survive and grow. This damages the morale and courage of those present.*

- **Keep track of thoughts, views and suggestions that come to you**

*Follow the theme - stay focused and on track. In a group, it's inevitable that people have to wait their turn to contribute. To free your mind during this waiting time, jot down any ideas that come to you. Then you'll be better able to listen for connections and further ideas.*

You'll be supported in your role as facilitator by the Chair, the Secretariat and the Advisory Group. The Chair will guide everyone present through each of the steps and keep you on track regarding time-keeping. Members of the Secretariat and Advisory Group will be available in the room to support you and to encourage participants to observe the groundrules if necessary. Don't be afraid to put your hand up and ask for assistance if you need it. Also in the room will be the expert speakers. These people will be available as a resource to participants to answer questions or clarify points. If your table wishes to speak to an expert, let them know that they should ask you to invite them to the table. As the experts will be in demand, please focus the question that is being put to them so that they can move to answer others' queries.

#### 4. Facilitating the Conversations at your Table

You'll facilitate a number of conversations at your table, each of which will be kick-started by an issue for consideration by the people at your table. The Chair will introduce each issue and call an end to the discussion when the time is up. The issue (s) will be highlighted on a screen at the top of room so everyone can see them. You will facilitate the discussion around the issue in question.

Use the questions below only as guidelines as to the kind of approach you might take to get the conversation going, to explore issues and to help the participants to think in new ways. You are trying to give them the responsibility for making the conversation a success, rather than taking that responsibility on yourself.

Probe participants deeply and intently - not like a dentist or a piranha going after the bait - but like an interested friend hanging on to every detail. Maintain a demeanour of 'benign curiosity' and encourage participants to explore views and ideas with each other (rather than respond only to questions by you).

- This is what we're being asked to do. How should we start?
- Let's take the first issue ... can we give that 10 minutes?
- What interests you about this topic?
- If Ireland were a 'best example' on this issue, what would we see?
- Can you tell me more about that?
- In what ways is this important to you?
- How does this issue affect you?
- What do you wish were different?
- How do you think that problem could be solved? What steps could be taken?
- What needs to change for this to work really well?

#### Some points to note:

- Phrase in *rapport* talk not *report* talk
- Convey positive regard and appreciation, no matter what views are expressed
- Evoke essential values, aspirations and inspirations

#### Managing Negatives

People should feel free to talk about things they believe require fixing. However, if they are allowed to focus for too long on negatives, the dynamic of the discussion will change. This can be managed in several different ways:

- **Postponing:** Tell them you will make a note of what they have said and keep it on record. The question "*What would you change if you could change anything about (the issue)?*" is a place to collect this 'negative' data.
- **Redirecting:** If you have listened sufficiently to the seemingly negative issues, find a way to redirect the person back to the task at hand. "*I think I understand some of the*

*problems...*” Paraphrase a few of the problems that you’ve heard and check with the person for clarity. *“Right now, however, I would like to focus on times when things were working at their best. Can you think of a time, even the smallest moment, when this [situation] was at its best?”* If the person says it never happened at its best, before giving up find out whether the person ever had a good experience in any context anywhere. Then ask how this good experience could be applied here.

- **Listening:** If someone feels real intensity about what he or she wants to say about issues, let the person say it. If it is very strongly felt, you are not going to get ideas for change until the person speaks their mind. This may mean muddling through quite a bit of manure and the biggest threat is that you will take this personally and lose sight of the goal. Pay attention to your inner feelings and try to maintain a level of detachment. You must be empathetic without taking responsibility for the person’s grievance. Maintain a caring and affirmative spirit.
- **Using Negative Data:** Everything people find wrong represents an absence of something they hold in their minds as an ideal image. What processes if present (rather than absent), might create the ideal situation, which the negatives imply? Data is data and is a useful source of information particularly as it is conditioned by affirmative images. The trick is to focus on using the negatives as springboards for finding the ideal, and then asking the person to generate ideas as to how to achieve the ideal.

You will find additional tips on keeping the conversation on track in Appendix II.

## 5. Checklist

In a nutshell, here’s what we’d like you to do over the weekend:

- Take your seat 10 minutes before each session begins and personally welcome participants to your table.
- Distribute surveys and ballot papers at your table and ask participants to complete them.
- Outline the ground rules that will guide the table conversations.
- Facilitate conversations at your table.
- Work with the note taker at your table to ensure objections/concerns about Rules and Procedures and ideas to strengthen them are documented.
- Work with the note taker at your table to ensure the accurate documentation of key issues and alternative proposals/amendments arising at your table in relation to each item under deliberation.
- Support the Chair at the plenary sessions by inviting relevant participants at your table to contribute their views.
- Ask a member of the Secretariat or the Advisory Group for support if you need it.
- Assist the team to count ballot papers.
- Attend the facilitators debriefing session following the meeting.

## **Appendix I: Tips for Successful Facilitation**

### **1. Summarise & Assimilate Inputs**

- Make sense of what is happening in the group (by observing and listening – this will help you to make the correct interventions)
- Keeping the group focused on the task and the theme or question
- Reflect back what you hear verbally and/or visually
- Pull together diverse inputs and draw connections between contributions
- State clearly your understandings or paraphrase to check understanding and make a participant feel heard

### **2. Observe the Mood:**

- Awareness of emotional undercurrents, gleaned from tones, body language, intuition
- Ask deeper questions

### **3. Manage the Process**

- Lead the group through the process and remind them of any ground rules (see below)
- Manage the process so that people can focus on the content
- If a conflict emerges, help each person feel heard, and seek common ground
- Help people understand each other by translating information from a participant into terms that the other participants can also grasp

### **4. Timekeeper:**

- Keep an eye on the clock
- Warn the group well ahead of any deadlines

### **5. Engage Participants:**

- Keep track of whose turn it is to speak

### **6. Stay out of the Content**

- It is not your job to have a point of view about any aspect of the discussion
- Try not to be drawn into giving a view, advice or direction

## Appendix II: Suggestions for Keeping the Conversation on Track

Keeping the participants on track starts with good preparation and includes the use of appropriate process intervention. Process intervention is an interruption by the facilitator of the conversation process in order to refocus the participants and/or to rebalance group interactions.

Most interventions can link back to the ground rules. As a guideline, always start with the lowest level of intervention, which is the least obvious and least threatening to the individual or group. As facilitator, your goal is to support the participants in achieving their desired outcomes by staying on track and balancing participation with results, so interventions must be supportive. Speak the intervention clearly using assertive language, with supportive tone of voice and body language.

The following are examples of the 6 most common situations requiring intervention to keep the conversation on track, with example suggestions on how to intervene in each situation.

- Side-Bar Conversations
- Staying on Time
- Never Ending Discussion
- Conflict (personal attacks)
- Returning from Breaks
- Texting, tweeting and use of mobile phones

Topic	Situation	Intervention
<b>Side Bar Conversations</b>	A member of the group is having sidebar conversations with other participants throughout the session	1. A friendly reminder: “Just a reminder, we agreed to ‘one conversation at a time’ in our groundrules for the session.”
		2. Direct the reminder: Make eye contact (with Susan) and restate, “One conversation at a time please.”
		3. Personalise it: “Susan do you have a clarification question?” or “Susan I can see that you have something to contribute; when Sam has finished we’ll hear from you.”
		4. Make a direct request: “Susan, please hold your comments until Sam has finished.”
	If Susan is the only one interrupting or having side conversations.	5a. Talk to her at break, one-on- one.
	If there are many people interrupting or having side conversations.	5b. Put the process on hold and ask the group “Do we need to take a break?”

<b>Staying on Time</b>	The group has a lot to cover in the session, but they seem to go down rabbit holes and may veer off into other topics.	1. Invoke the “keep focused” ground rule: Suggest the concern is ‘ <b>parked</b> ’ – capture items that need to be pursued, but are not the focal points for this session.
		2. Specifically re-focus on the particular topic/agenda item: “I’d just like to remind you that we are discussing question 2. Please hold discussion on other topics until we get to them.”
	The discussion has continued for some time and you are running out of time for the item.	3. Attempt closure of item: “We have 10 minutes remaining for this item. We need to re-focus. What do we still need to discuss to conclude this item?” “We are almost out of time for this item, there appears to be more discussion required. Is that true?” Follow-up a ‘yes’ response with, “What do you need in order to close on this item?” or “Why are we unable to close on this item?” If the item is truly important and just wasn’t given sufficient time for the necessary discussion and action....
		4. Give participants a choice on how they spend their time: “Is this item more important than staying with the theme we’re discussing?” <i>Note: If so, go with the group’s energy and capture the issue</i>

<b>Never-Ending Discussion</b>	<b>Information Barriers</b> Sometimes a discussion will not come to closure, usually because of information that is insufficient, inaccurate, or unreliable. Sometimes a topic leads to significant emotional reactions.	Follow the same guidelines under “Staying on Time”. It may be that there is insufficient valid information to progress, in which case park the item for another meeting.
	<b>Personal Agenda or “Hobby Horse”</b> Whenever a particular topic comes up, an individual may begin to recount the same war stories, etc. You can often tell by reading the faces of the other participants (look for rolling eyes!). The individual, often oblivious of the reactions of others, settles into the story.	1. Gentle interruption: Once you’ve determined that an individual is in a familiar story mode, and what’s being said does not appear to contribute to the item under discussion, gently interrupt him to ask, “John, excuse my interruption, but I’m not sure how this fits with our topic. Can you clarify for me?”
		2. Direct the enquiry: Make eye contact with John and ask, “This sounds like familiar ground; is this a recurring theme?” Then make eye contact with the

		other participants. At this point John will usually confess that this is either a war story or a favourite 'complaint.' Acknowledge him and then move on.
		3. Personalise the request: "John we agreed that this item would remain parked, has anything changed its status?"
	It is unlikely that a person will continue raising the issue. In the event that he does....	4. Firmly restate the request: You can restate the intervention comments under either 2 or 3 and that should allow the group to continue forward without using up valuable time.

<b>Conflict: Personal Attacks</b>	<b>Individual Attacked</b> A group member takes "pot shots" at other team members. For example, Bill is taking 'shots' at Joe.	1. Apply gentle humour: observe Joe's reaction and Bill's demeanour and body language. Say nothing the first time unless you are sure that it was intentional, or make light of the first occurrence: "I hope that comment isn't an indication that we need armour for this meeting!"
	Bill takes another shot	2. Restate the ground rules: Make eye contact with Bill and say, "Our ground rules clearly state that....We welcome all ideas, comments that build or clarify ideas etc., but not negative comments."
	Once again, Bill aims another sarcastic or belittling remark at Joe	3. Confront Bill directly: firm words, supportive tone and stance. "Bill this is not the first time that you have targeted Joe with your remarks, please stop." Then redirect him with "What is the concern you have with the issue/idea? How would you modify it to improve it?"
	Bill persists with comments aimed at Joe	4. Gentle, public reprimand: In a gentle tone say, "Bill despite my reminders, you continue to make critical comments towards Joe's ideas. If there is a personal disagreement between the two of you, it is inappropriate to play it out here. Can you participate in this session productively?" (This gives Bill the opportunity to bow out. If he chooses to leave, ask the team if they can continue without him.) The same intervention could be made one-on-one with Bill at break.
<b>Group Attacked</b>	Bill is taking potshots at everyone.	1. Apply gentle humour:, observe their reactions and Bill's demeanour and body language. Say nothing the first time unless you are sure that it was intentional, or make light of the first occurrence: "I hope that comment isn't an indication that we need armour for this meeting."
	Bill takes another	2. Restate the ground rules: Make eye

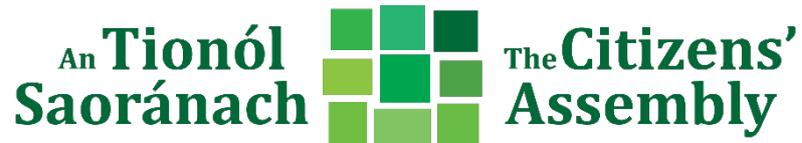
	shot	contact with Bill and say, “Our ground rules clearly state that....We welcome all ideas, comments that build or clarify ideas etc., but not negative comments.”
	Bill continues. At this point he has made several remarks to various group members and you have redirected his comments and reminded him of the ground rules.	3. Address problem directly: “Bill you have made several negative comments to group members. Is there something else going on that is interfering with your ability to participate here today?” Or throw it to the group. “Everyone, how do you feel when Bill makes this type of comment?”
		4. Personal Confrontation: If the attacks continue and the group is reluctant to say anything to Bill when discussed as in 3 above, then speak to Bill at break as in Step 4 above.

<b>Returning From Breaks</b>	Team members are late returning from breaks.	1. Light reminder: “Remember, you agreed to return from breaks on time because it helps the session to finish on time; it’s one of your ground rules.” Just before the next break remind the team to be back on time, advise them of when that is and suggest that you all synchronise your watches.
	Team members are chronically late returning from breaks. If it is the same members each time then remind them when they return.	2. Ask for input: “Out of curiosity, why do you have a ground rule that says return from breaks on time, and yet consistently several people are late returning from break each time? What do we need to do for this to work?” Members may need some flexibility from time to time to accommodate other needs – advise the group that the participant will be stepping out for a while.
<b>Texting, tweeting and use of mobile phones</b>	Team members are continually using their phone or other device whilst the Table Conversation is taking place.	Remind the person of the groundrule about phone usage and ask if they would defer using their phone until there is a break. Alternatively, if their need is urgent please ask them to leave the table to do their business and return when they can give the conversation their full attention.

# **Appendix E**

**Signpost Document for Assembly  
Members on Submissions  
received on third topic for  
consideration:**

***How the State can make Ireland  
a Leader in tackling Climate  
Change***



**Submissions to the Citizens' Assembly on the third topic for consideration**

*How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change*

**Signpost Document for Assembly Members**

**Key issues raised and themes covered**



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## Submissions Process - Background information

The submissions process for the third topic considered by the Citizens' Assembly (Assembly), "How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change" was open from 9<sup>th</sup> June to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

A number of steps were taken to encourage the public to engage with the submissions process. Advertisements were placed in a number of national newspapers on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2017. These papers included: The Irish Examiner, The Irish Times, The Irish Independent, The Irish Mirror and The Irish Farmers Journal.

The Assembly has over two thousand followers on Twitter (social network) and engages with the social media network during Assembly meetings via the hash tag **#citizensassembly**.

Submissions were invited across the full spectrum of issues in relation to Climate Change. In particular the Assembly requested to hear views on Ireland's energy, transport and agriculture sectors. A copy of the call for submissions is provided at Appendix 3.

In total, the Assembly received 1,205 submissions. Full details on the breakdown of these submissions are provided below.

Of the 1,205 submissions received, 1,180 were received online and 25 were received by post.

Of these, 1,185 have been published on the Assembly's website. In total 20 were not published. Of those submissions received and not published the reasons were as follows:

- 1 submission was withdrawn by the author;
- 5 submissions were not relevant to the topic;
- 14 submissions were duplicates.\*

*(\*Where an exact submission was made more than once by the same individual this was only published once. In many cases this happened because the individual made the same submissions in multiple formats, i.e. by post, on line and by email)*

The Secretariat began publication of the submissions received in late June 2017 and all of the submissions published have been available online since the end of August 2017. On 23<sup>rd</sup> August, Members of the Assembly were made aware by the Secretariat that submissions were available to view on the website over the summer period.

## **Purpose of this Signpost Document and Methodology**

### **Purpose**

This Signpost Document aims to identify, in order of popularity, the key issues/topics/themes which presented in the submissions. The full text of the 1,185 published submissions is available on the Assembly website ([www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie)). The Assembly Secretariat has grouped them into broad thematic areas and has attempted to present a selection of the perspectives which were received.

As the note below on methodology outlines, this document provides a brief summary of a selection of the submissions received. It is hoped that it will give the Members of the Assembly a good sense of the broad range of views which emerged.

In all cases, where an individual submission is referred to, the Secretariat has provided the corresponding reference number to allow that submission to be read in full.

The Secretariat acknowledges fully that a Signpost Document such as this cannot capture the full range of issues raised in all of the submissions made to the Assembly. Instead, this document is designed to give the Assembly Members an overview of the main issues and the range of perspectives which emerge in the submissions. It is hoped that it will be of assistance to them in considering the topic before them.

### **Methodology**

The Secretariat took a number of steps to ensure that this Signpost Document presented a broad cross section of submissions. In order to get a broad cross section, the Secretariat has prepared this document with reference to a range of the total submissions selected as follows -

- 1) all **153** of the NGOs, advocacy and interest groups, academics and commercial entities who made a submission on the topic. A full list is provided in Appendix 1 of this document.
- 2) a random sample of **100** of the total 1,185 submissions published.

In respect of the random sample, the methodology applied to select the sample is identical to that used by the Secretariat for earlier samples and was developed with the assistance of the Central Statistics Office. The steps followed are as outlined below:-

- Each individual submission was given a unique alpha numeric identifier. This allowed each record to be individually identified and retrieved once the random selection took place.
- No categorisation or filtering took place in advance.
- A formula was applied using a random number generator and a sample of 100 submissions was selected.
- It is noted that this sample may include some level of duplication in the submissions already included (i.e. submissions from NGOs etc).

It should be noted that some submissions raised multiple issues and therefore appear in more than one category. Similarly, this Signpost Document may not include a specific

reference to each of the 153 submissions from NGOs, advocacy and interest groups, academics and commercial entities. As would be expected, many groups make similar points, and therefore this document merely attempts to bring the issues to the Members' attention.

### **Caveat**

As outlined above, the purpose of this document is to provide the Members with a high-level overview of the key issues/topics/themes, in order of popularity, as they appear in the representative sample and the submissions received from NGOs, advocacy and interest groups, academics and commercial entities who made a submission to the Assembly.

The submissions detailed in this document contain a wide variety of views, perspectives and opinions. **Inclusion in this document does not mean that the views expressed are shared or supported by the Assembly. The Assembly does not endorse any of the assertions made in the submissions referenced in this document.** Descriptions of individual submissions are intended to give the reader an overview of the material that is contained in the longer, original submission.

### **Key Reference Documents**

Readers of the Signpost Document should also be aware that in advance of their consideration of this topic, Members of the Assembly were invited to read the following key national and international documents associated with to this topic:

#### **International Documents**

- The work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in particular the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5)
- The European Commission 2030 Climate and Energy Framework
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- The Paris Agreement

#### **National Documents**

- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015
- Environmental Protection Agency: State of the Environment Report
- Environmental Protection Agency: Fact sheet on Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change
- National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development
- The National Mitigation Plan, 2017
- Climate Change Advisory Council - First Report
- Climate Change Advisory Council - Periodic Review Report 2017
- Draft National Adaptation Framework- September 2017

Copies of these are available on the Assembly's website. Many of these were referred to during the Assembly's consideration of this topic.

## Introduction

1,185 submissions were published by the Assembly in relation to the Climate Change topic, covering a broad range of issues from a wide variety of individuals and groups. Submissions were received from advocacy groups and professionals and academics with experience and expertise on the topic. However, the majority of submissions came from individual members of the public who wished to engage with the process and had viewpoints that they wished to see considered in the context of Climate Change.

A notable feature of many of the submissions was that many were solution focussed, with detailed analysis of existing policy presented and suggestions for alternatives presented.

These proposals included suggestions for action at National/International/EU policy level as well as suggestions on how an individual could reduce their own carbon footprint.

Many submissions directly addressed the core question as set out in the terms of reference of the Assembly “how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change”. In these submissions, many of the points raised were intertwined with comments about current Government policy.

A broad range of submissions dealt with the science of Climate Change, with detailed information presented about the available data and analysis.

In addition to the Signpost Document, which identifies the substance of some of the key issues emerging in a sample of the submissions, it was also decided that it would be beneficial for the Members of the Assembly to have a list of all the issues raised in the full complement of published submissions. As such the Secretariat undertook a separate process of tagging the key issues raised in each submission, using key words/ themes. The Secretariat recorded the number of times a particular topic was raised. Details of this are provided in Appendix 2 below.

The following is a brief selection of some of the key points raised in the submissions.

# 1. Overarching Themes

## Scientific evidence of Climate Change

Many submissions framed their contributions with reference to the science of Climate Change and the evidence of the role that humans have played in Climate Change as reflected in recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports. Many submissions providing consistent material in relation to the pressing and immediate risk that Climate Change poses. Some of the points which emerged on this issue were:

- *“Among the predicted adverse impacts of climate change are sea level rise, more intense storms, increased likelihood and magnitude of river and coastal flooding, adverse impacts on water quality, decrease in rainfall in spring and summer, an increase in intensity of storms and changes in distribution of plant and animal species”* **Social Justice Ireland** (C1-42NGAP53EBCB)
- *“While the direct effects of climate change are environmental, the indirect impacts are widespread, diverse and are felt across society.”* **Trócaire** (C1-YH8NB0FNIE1B)
- *“The data on climate change are stark. Unequivocal. We have delayed far too long. It is past time to act. We can change the ending and consciously direct our evolution in another direction. But we must move swiftly, deliberately, consciously and bravely.”* **Culturework** (C1-DJ27X8HS5AC9)

Others urged caution in taking a leadership role on Climate Change. **Prof. Ray Bates** from the **Meteorology and Climate Centre in UCD** (C1-KXMUQ7OT817K) states in his submission that *“the Assembly should be aware that the latest climate science points to lower climate sensitivity to increasing GHG levels than estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Therefore the Assembly should exercise caution about recommending that Ireland play a leadership role in any costly emissions reduction measures.”*

In its submission, **Ógra Fianna Fáil** (C1-H9PWXOKV0E4W) state: *“While the fight to curtail climate change to a minimum (ideally at the 2 degrees Celsius as outlined in the Paris Climate Accord) is a valid one and one of the great challenges of our generation we recognize that it must not encroach on the cost of living and household incomes as much as it has in the past 10 years.”*

## The role of Ireland in global emissions and policy efforts to date

An issue which frequently emerges in the submissions is Ireland's emissions foot print, and the efforts undertaken to date to make reductions. **Patricia Greene** (C1-6909FTBRFSUA) suggests that Ireland has amongst the highest emissions per person of any country in the world.

The concept of divestment in fossil fuels and seeking alternative energy sources emerges frequently. In its submission, the **Green Party** (C1-1C2DYCRHILFE) states: *“In order to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C, we need large changes in investment patterns. We need to keep 80% of the already discovered fossil fuel resources in the ground. Unfortunately the reality of what is happening is that we are burning three times the amount that can be released in order for the world to have a chance of avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. Failure to incorporate this scientific reality into financial and market analysis poses a fundamental risk to the stability of the current economic system.”*

**Trócaire** (C1-YH8NB0FNIE1B) strongly advocates for “divestment from fossil fuels” as something “which offers the State the opportunity to show genuine global leadership in tackling climate change”.

**Clean Air Network Ireland** (C1-7WRXEIA10MEI) suggest: “a fundamentally simple approach that has been showed to work elsewhere”. “Essentially we need to decarbonise electricity and then electrify everything. Our government’s recent National Mitigation Plan unfortunately is a missed opportunity in presenting a clear effective vision for achieving a clean air, low emissions future for Ireland.”

**Gluaiseacht** (C1-GUO7T28HDYKR) suggest that the emissions from cement production “accounts as the third largest contributor to carbon emissions globally at around 5% of total emissions”, with an Irish company part of the top 20 companies globally involved in cement production. Governments internationally account for half of all cement purchases and the industry must be encouraged to adopt more sustainable measures of production and the CSI (Cement Sustainability Initiative) recommendations should become mandatory.

In its submission the **IE-NETs Team from Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and Dublin City University (DCU)** (C1-08NQHFMPVYC) notes that even if we reduce ongoing emissions very rapidly, this may not be sufficient on its own to align Ireland’s transition to a low-carbon society with the Paris Agreement goals. The submission continues “In that case, it is now being argued that we will also have to try to proactively remove some, or a lot, of the greenhouse gases that are already accumulating to dangerous levels in the atmosphere: that is, through achieving some level of “negative emissions”. This is true on a global basis, but is especially true for countries like Ireland that have very high current (per capita) emissions.”

**Dr Peter Brennan, EPS Consulting** (C1-78QKD8O06591) refers to the National Mitigation Plan (NMP) and proposes that the draft NMP<sup>1</sup> is not a fully resourced action plan to put Ireland on a pathway towards sustainable climate neutrality. However, the paper concludes “It is to be hoped that the final version of the NMP will explain how Ireland’s renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate change and agriculture emissions policies and supporting taxation and subsidy arrangements will be better aligned and somewhat more consistent than is the case today....The current version of the NMP needs substantial re-editing to meet the OECD benchmark and the wishes of the Climate Change Advisory Council”.

In its submission the **Presentation Sisters** (C1-ZR4SQP790TDK) state: “speaking plainly the NMP is unfinished, non-binding, un-costed (in many places), not incisive or insightful enough with many proposed actions not time defined”.

**Rathgar Action for a Cleaner Earth (RACE)** (C1-A6FH965ZAJ03) believe that the NMP is “wholly lacking in the ambition, targets and policy approaches required for the State to take its climate obligations in any way seriously. We believe that the State must have a climate change plan which contains concrete policy recommendations and emissions reduction targets which are guided by the science. Therefore the NMP requires urgent and fundamental improvement. In particular, the NMP should be amended to include an overall carbon budget for the achievement of the mitigation element of the National Transition Objective by 2050 (i.e., an 80% reduction in combined emissions from energy, transport and

<sup>1</sup> Some of the submissions refer to the National Mitigation Plan (NMP) which was published in draft for consultation in March 2017, pursuant to Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act, 2015. The final NMP was published in July 2017.

*buildings and an approach to carbon neutrality in agriculture by 2050 that does not compromise sustainable food production).*”

In its submission, **Dóchas** (C1-CTHUDH8JVHV) recommends that the NMP should set out clearly how Ireland will reduce emissions over the time-frame of that plan as they feel that the *“recently published plan is vague on these points”*.

## **Leadership**

Many submissions express the view that greater Government ownership of/ responsibility for this issue is required to make a change. There was an overall sense that individuals cannot make an impact on Climate Change unless there are clear Government policies backing climate action.

**The Environmental Pillar** (C1-X00EV658P85J) expresses the view that *“Climate change is clearly not a priority for Government. This is because actions necessary to address it would compromise short term profitability for key interests in agriculture and transport”*. They go on to assert that *“Due to the short-term nature of our electoral system very few politicians are willing to support the necessary binding long term strategies that hold fast through changes of government.”*

**Eric Glitzenstein** (C1-A56OAPQXOGTU), a partner in a public interest environmental law firm in Washington DC, urges Ireland to *“do whatever is feasible to take a leadership role on this issue while also being sensitive to the importance of minimizing avoidable adverse wildlife impacts”*, given the negative effect the position the current administration of the USA has on the climate crisis.

**Ivana Bacik**, on behalf of the **Labour Party** (C1-2K4EQOQOYWQI) submits that *“Climate Change demands systematic action from all areas of State and climate action needs to get communities, rural and urban, all involved. We need to mitigate against the worst impacts of climate change while also adapting to a carbon-free world.”*

**An Taisce, the National Trust for Ireland** (C1-T2MBA7F9N15O), believes the State can make Ireland a leader on tackling Climate Change *“by incorporating the over-riding imperative for urgent climate action directly into our fundamental law, Bunreacht na hÉireann, the Constitution of Ireland. Action to cut greenhouse gas emissions continues to be delayed with each change of Government. By constitutionally defining Ireland’s ‘forever’ national carbon budget – our fair share of the global carbon budget – Irish society can plan a path to zero carbon emissions in line with reality”*.

This view is again echoed by the **Environmental Pillar** (C1-X00EV658P85J) in its submission notes: *“Below we outline the challenge and the lack of action to date by Irish governments, and the detailed reasons why a constitutional amendment is the only way to ensure that Ireland moves from being a laggard to a leader in its actions on climate change. This is a unique moment for the people of Ireland to decide the constitutional basis for a framework that reflects the significance of climate change and its impacts, as well as our commitment to safeguarding an environment that supports our wellbeing both for now and for future generations”*.

**Tony J.Carey** (C1-ZOSFKAC76BL4) suggests that there is strong confirmation that theoretical models based on the greenhouse effect of carbon dioxide and other gases have overestimated their contribution to global warming. *“Such an additional factor is emerging from research since the last IPCC report and is described below. It could prove game-*

*changing to the whole area of climate change. So, being still at an early stage of development and with potential for international interest, this perspective represents an opportunity for Ireland, through focus of its climate research, to create for itself a leadership role in this area – something that could be ‘kick-started’ by Ireland organising a conference on the weaknesses in, and alternatives to, the presently dominant greenhouse gas models of climate change”.*

**Joe O’Brien** (C1-C6VWD036IBE9A) proposes a national programme to make towns throughout the country carbon neutral within 10 years. He provides a concept document on this proposal for Skerries in North County Dublin.

**Galway City Community Network** (C1-OESQJ0HON7NR) notes in its submission that , *“The state could take real leadership on climate change by setting clear targets and roadmaps that will catalyse a transformation of Ireland’s energy system to meet the challenges posed by climate change”.*

**The Green Foundation Ireland** submission (C1-J2CADABN62K4) recommends the creation of an *“Ombudsman for future generations – similar to the one in Wales- to have a long term vision and to make recommendations on plans and projects”.*

In his submission, **Thomas Noone** (C1-IW83X5GUAQQ7) discusses the role that public figures can play in helping to make in promoting the efforts required to tackle Climate Change.

### **Public Engagement, education and awareness**

The importance of public engagement, education and awareness on this issue came through in many of the submissions. A prominent theme which emerged is that many people feel that they cannot contribute meaningfully to addressing Climate Change in their everyday lives.

**The Waterford Constituency Branch of the Green Party** (C1-YCB9C8SHJ58Z) is of the view that *“If the State wants to make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change, we need to engage ordinary citizens and communities with climate change issues, and empower everyone to participate in the ‘just transition’ to a carbon-free Ireland. We need to highlight positive alternatives and to give people, communities and businesses strong incentives to move away from fossil fuel dependency”.* The submission notes also a number of other considerations such as renewable energy at a community level, domestic planning regulations, rethinking what we eat, how our food is produced and waste.

The **Eco-UNESCO** (C1-HLNQLPPT0567) submission states: *“with over 600,000 young people in Ireland between the ages of 10 to 19 (CSO 2016) young people are a key stakeholder in any discussion on Climate Change as they are not only citizens of the present they will also be the ones most affected by changes in our Climate into the future. Young people should be provided with opportunities to become actively engaged in sustainability and Climate change to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to make positive contributions to mitigate climate change”.*

**University College Cork (UCC)** (C1-O4AMIBOT5MIP) identifies a number of ways they engage with the public - workshops and dialogs and continuing professional development and masters programs.

In its submission, **Transition Monaghan** (C1-329JOW7X1P8U) draws attention to a public survey of 90 participants compiled by **Ms Theresa O'Donoghue** of the Transition Ireland Northern Ireland Steering Committee, to see how the systems in our society are perceived concerning knowledgeability, capability, importance and what actions each should take.

Many submissions called for a direct media campaign directed at engaging people on the issue of Climate Change. **Brendan Meghan** (C1-D9MZ11OBI83I) notes there are many visible campaigns in the media on various issues but states: *"I have not seen a Government sponsored campaign to explain why we need to act urgently on climate change. There appears to be either a lack of education or a resistance to change"*.

**Mary O'Donnell** (C1-3S129Y02YWGK) suggests that we should be *"using TV and technology to heighten awareness on this so as to change behaviour. We spend millions advertising other things!"*

**Joan Campbell**, for **Wicklow Planning Alliance** (C1-I5TGP51TNTJ1) states: *"Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, CO -2 Emissions, Agricultural Emissions, Transport Emissions; energy inputs and outputs (NOx, methane). This terminology is difficult to understand. What are fossil fuels? We need a better language and narrative to explain Climate Change"*.

**Duncan Martin** (C1-FCFGHYEX106O) outlines the success of the **Cloughjordan Ecovillage** and says *"there are few places where so many of the approaches to tackling climate change are demonstrated in one place, let alone in the context of a thriving community"*. This submission notes a number of the measures used which demonstrate an example of action on Climate Change including 55 energy-efficient homes, all constructed of renewable materials with heating and hot water exclusively from renewable energy.

**Pat Brereton** from **The School of Communications, DCU** (C1-5TXT82Z9YXJ8) calls for the development of environmental literacy at all levels of education, including higher education as well as the promotion of documentary and fictional coverage of Climate Change. These, the submission notes, will help create a tipping point for Irish citizens and a change in behaviour.

**Verena Brennan** (C1-A540O1MM9N6K) points to the importance of social marketing which *"is the discipline of changing people's mindsets and having a positive influence on their lives"*. This, the submission notes *"is something not currently valued or maybe recognised in Ireland"*. However Germany, which the submission provides as an example, has embraced a *"national movement towards a low-carbon economy: the Energiewende. In fact it has become so popular that the German word is used in various countries now to show the power of this movement and a Twitter hashtag has been trending. What Ireland needs is a push to change people's mindset and cooperate with a range of organisations to send out this message. This does not require a huge budget but rather utilising existing communication channels and creating synergies among companies to work together on this"*.

### **Fairness, climate justice and social justice**

**The Green Party** (C1-1C2DYCRHILFE) notes that we need to ensure that Ireland's and EU's Climate Change policies do not have a negative impact on developing countries. The submission quoted former Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki Moon who stated in 2015: *"Ireland has been a champion of efforts to conquer hunger. But today, one cannot be a leader on hunger without also being a leader on climate change. The rise in extreme*

*weather associated with climate change could drastically reduce harvests and degrade arable land. I encourage Ireland to align its climate efforts with its admirable work against hunger”.*

In its submission, **Sinn Féin** (C1-0EJT417V8UHK) notes *“There is an onus on Western nations to lead the way in fossil fuel reduction at home, whilst encouraging renewable energy led development both at home and abroad.”*

In her submission, **Margaret Murphy** (C1-FW97LXICK7CM) shares her belief that food subsidies which prevent developing countries from being able to compete should be banned, while **Dóchas, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations** ( C1-CTHUDH8JVFHV) points to a recent report by **Trócaire** and **Maynooth University** which projected the impacts of climate change in five countries where **Trócaire** are working, which stated that not all areas of the world are experiencing the effects of Climate Change at the same rate.

The **Dóchas** submission recommends that we *“endorse global solidarity by progressing Ireland’s development programming and increase Overseas Development Assistance to 0.7% of GNI to support those most affected by climate change”.*

In its submission **SIPTU Trade Union** (C1-G45P0L5BSU4O) states: *“a just transition for all towards an environmentally sustainable economy needs to be well managed and contribute to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion, and the eradication of poverty “.* The SIPTU submission goes on to say that *“Communities dependent on high carbon industries will be hardest hit by a shift to clean energy. Governments and industries must support a strong social protection system to ensure communities are supported as their workforce retrain and builds new clean industries“.*

**Christian Aid Ireland’s** (C1-YCPV5LEW9IEQ) submission to the Assembly notes how the poorest countries in the world did the least to contribute to Climate Change, but it is they who are suffering the impacts of our Climate Change. The submission highlights their active membership in the Stop Climate Chaos coalition and also notes how Governments in the developed world constantly defer essential, drastic action to some later date. The submission includes a case study on El Salvador.

**The Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI)** (C1-5FXB1OHCUSDN) state: *“if climate change is not tackled we know there will be more humanitarian disasters, more forced migrations, and potentially more conflicts. We in AMRI have witnessed Ireland’s leadership in supporting the eradication of global poverty and therefore, appeal to the Government to ensure that it strengthens its multilateral identity promoting and pursuing reliable increased financing for international poverty-focused climate change action, overseas development aid and humanitarian response.”*

**Paul Donnelly** (C1-EE37G2PX4JI4) discusses the Paris Agreement in his submission and notes a number of issues with the agreement *“such as the pace of reduction of emissions for countries at different levels of wealth and development have not been agreed”.*

### **Impacts of Climate Change**

A number of submissions were made on the health implications of Climate Change. **The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland** (C1-E9NGX291A5G2) recommend *“mainstreamed and funded climate change adaptation planning in the health sector, so that any*

*opportunities from climate change are maximised and adverse health impacts are prevented or minimised”.*

**Claudia Tormey** (C1-I5XAP1KX2XIX) suggests that Climate Change affects not only our external environment but also our mental health which should be invested in.

**The Cork Greens** (C1-F1E74LNVWA7P) raise the issue of flooding and note that a more proactive approach should be taken if Ireland is to become a Leader in Climate Change. The effects of increased rainfall, the submission notes, could be reduced by planting forestry. The submission further discusses forestry and biodiversity.

**Ruth Minogue** (C1-480NFKMPKXHV) believes that there needs to be a greater cross sectoral interaction to adapt and mitigate impacts of Climate Change. She continues *“For example forestation as a means to mitigate our carbon footprint needs to be carefully considered at landscape scale and to ensure adverse effects on other habitats, species, humans and landscape are avoided”.*

**Barry Foster** (C1-40EVIFPE9DII) notes the increase of forest fires and their contribution to air pollution stating *“The regular occurrence of large scale fires in our forests, uplands and moorlands is a major contributor to air pollution and climate change.”*

## 2. Transport

The Assembly received more submissions which mentioned transport than any other topic. In these submissions, significant points were raised in the following broad subcategories: cars (including electric vehicles), public transport, cycling and other public transport models.

Provided below is a brief summary of some of the issues raised in these submissions.

### Domestic Cars

Many submissions referred to the role that domestic cars play in producing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in Ireland. Many mentioned the need to divest from fossil fuel and move towards other forms of sustainable transport.

**Cosáin** (C1-SD3NHFAWMGF8) notes that, in the context of gradually increasing population and ongoing growth in the Irish economy, it is essential that Government policy does not prioritise private motorised travel. Its submission focuses on the prioritisation of urban planning and design for pedestrians and cyclists. The submission includes eight principles to guide sustainable transport and development.

In her submission, **Jane Jackson** (C1-YGCMEI5BUHRP) advocates the reduction of the speed limits on all roads to 80km/ hr. She contends that research completed in the Netherlands shows that a maximum speed of 80km/hr on all roads will reduce emissions by 30% in the long term and 16% in the short term.

**Sinn Féin** (C1-0EJT417V8UHK) notes that 22.4% of new sales market and 1 out of every 100 vehicles on Norway's roads are electric

**Elena Soldatkina** (C1-XMCVFB412YBE) proposes that Ireland should take steps towards cancelling Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT) on electric cars, so the price of such cars becomes comparable to the US and other EU countries.

In her submission **Bridget Bennet** (C1-F4G97CAA1DZG), has sought a commitment that Ireland would make a statement that new cars running on fossil fuels will no longer be sold in the country after 2020.

**Robert Goss** (C1-J3W1PWOPH38H) notes that *“local government needs to take the lead in installing 4 EV chargers, ideally with local micro generation in the form of a solar carport, at each of their council offices”*.

In its submission **80 Max** (C1-YGCMEI5BUHRP) calls for *“energy rating labels on cars for sale the same as home appliances and BER rating”*.

**David Timoney** (C1-KZMWB48MK1CR), Director of the **Master of Engineering (Energy Systems)** degree programme at **UCD** states: *“Electric vehicles (EVs) are most certainly not “Zero Emissions” vehicles. Based on a CO2 intensity estimate of 450 gCO2 per kWh for Irish electricity used to charge them, the emissions from an EV equate to about 81 gCO2 per km as compared to about 140 g per km for a diesel vehicle. This calculation ignores the very substantial amount CO2 emitted (elsewhere) in the manufacture of the battery. For a 30kWhr battery (such as used in the 2016 Nissan Leaf), the manufacturing process will*

*generate approximately 4,500 to 6,000 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. This will offset the gains made during the first 75,000-100,000km of vehicle operation”.*

## **Public Transport**

A large number of solutions were offered in submissions regarding public transport utilisation over private vehicles. Many other submissions note there should be a preference for public transport, walking and cycling over privately owned transport. Many submissions spoke about the need for a fundamental reimagining of transport options in Ireland.

**Catriona Finnegan** (C1-C4WCOMBQJGJB) mentions amongst other things in her submission, that *“large scale housing developments should be build where there are pre-existing good transport links and networks”*. This, the submission notes, cuts down on car use and carbon emissions. She proposes that all housing developments should be within walking distance of shops and public amenities.

In her submission **Elly Shaw** (C1-1D894EWCW8IK) argues that *“we need better public transport options all around the country and smarter ways of thinking about how people work and go to work. Watching everyone drive into the city in lines of traffic (Dublin) at the moment and then drive out again in rush hour traffic is ridiculous. If it is accepted that people are going to have to live outside Dublin (or Cork, Galway, Limerick etc) then there needs to be fast commuter trains or trams (or driverless buses with special lanes!) that are practical for the average commuter to use than actually drive.”*

The lack of public transport facilities in rural areas was referred to in a number of submissions. **Irish Rural Link** (C1-5U5D2GRBSRKS) state that this *“necessitates car ownership in order to access employment, basic services and amenities. Census 2016 showed that 91% of rural households had at least one car, highlighting the high dependency rate people in rural areas have on a car”*.

**Trinity College Environmental Society** (C1-UEMW8AX6GFYF) suggests that well serviced connections between towns and into cities was necessary to revitalise rural areas.

## **Cycling/ Walking**

**Cork Cycling Campaign** (C1-MHJHED0IU9SO ) along with many other submissions called for more use of ‘the ordinary bicycle’. *“There has been much talk recently about electric cars but these will not reduce emissions significantly and will simply move the emissions from the vehicles to the power stations. Renewable energy is of course ideal but this will take a long time to become reality. In the meantime the ideal solution is right under our noses, the ordinary bicycle!”*

The importance of safe cycling infrastructure was identified by student **Rachael Carter** (C1-7UFD0DH3HKWQ) in her submission where she says *“I think that it is too dangerous to cycle anywhere in rural Ireland, there’s not much public transport and not many people can afford electric cars.”*

In its submission, **Cyclist.ie** (C1-0F5Y34515QPA) states that none of the targets in the 2009 Smarter Travel policy are being met. They argue that *“as a minimum 10% of our capital spending on transport should be allocated to cycling”*, pointing not just to the air quality benefits, but also to other health benefits. That submission goes on to say *“81% of total commuting trips in the morning were for a journey time of up to 30 min. Many of those*

*distances lend themselves to a walking or cycling modal-shift. A 5 km urban morning commuting trip can be made easily by bicycle in 20 min. We note that in The Netherlands, for example, that 26% of all trips in the Netherlands are made by bicycle while in Ireland approx 2.5% of trips have the bicycle as the main mode of transport “.*

In her submission, **Margaret Murphy** (C1-FW97LXICK7CM) states that a “bike to school” scheme should be introduced and compliance monitored.

## **Freight**

A significant number of submissions suggested that sustainable models for freight transport need to be integrated into the solution for emissions from the transport sector. In its submission, **Young Friends of the Earth** (C1-BU09V6MB5MCW) suggest that “*we need to stop building unsustainable motorways and build new electrified railway lines. Freight needs to move from road to rail and ports need to be in this network.*”

**Gas Networks Ireland** (C1-BWSSHDDFVX4P) notes the effect of Ireland’s reliance on imported oil on the transport industry. They suggest that transport in Ireland is 98% reliant on imported oil at present. The organisation is actively working on the development of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for use in transport vehicles and has commenced a rollout programme of a network of CNG refuelling facilities.

**John Cross** (C1-4R5Y0BKMIQRV) suggests that we should improve commuter rail services and make railways more attractive for carrying freight. This suggestion was made in a number of submissions.

## **Aviation**

A number of submissions outlined the effects of air transport on Climate Change.

**TCD** (C1-UEMW8AX6GFYF) notes that flying is the fastest growing cause of Climate Change and states: “*If aviation was a country, it would be the 7th worst polluter globally. However flying is an elite activity; only one in twenty people worldwide have ever flown. Therefore a tiny minority of wealthy frequent flyers are making an enormous contribution to climate change. Furthermore the majority of flights are taken by a small percentage of frequent flyers, for example in Britain 15% of people take over 70% of flights. Therefore a tax on frequent flyers, which gets progressively higher with each additional flight taken per year, has the potential to reduce the total number of flights taken by Irish people while avoiding negative impacts on those citizens who fly only occasionally.*”

### **3. Energy**

Submissions on this topic were broad-ranging and included references to renewable energy, energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy, as well as a wide variety of submissions noting the role the sector plays in relation to Climate Change.

This section of the Signpost Document draws attention to some of the most significant themes and viewpoints which emerged on this topic. It should be noted that there were differing views on the viability of wind energy in particular.

#### **A move away from fossil fuels**

Once again use of fossil fuels was a very common and urgent thread in submissions around energy, with many identifying a need to prioritise a move away from all fossil fuels. However, there was a significant degree of variation in the responses and suggestions as to how this should be achieved.

The submission from **Friends of the Earth** (C1-2QS8KITQEZ2N) outlines, amongst other things, how we can phase out fossil fuels for generating electricity, retrofit buildings to reduce energy demands and “*ramp up renewables*”.

**The Electricity Association of Ireland** (C1-9UITLJYOSG32) believes that “*good progress has been made by the electricity sector at national level in removing carbon dioxide from electricity generation to date and the sector is committed to full “decarbonisation” by 2050 at the latest*”.

**Gluaiseacht** (C1-GUO7T28HDYKR), suggests that the State should identify all subsidies and licences regarding fossil fuels and then work to cease subsidising these fuels.

In his submission **Mr Fran Brady** (C1-Z8O6B874QLHG) states: “*The Fossil Fuel Divestment Bill [a private members Bill proposed by Thomas Pringle T.D. in 2016] offers an opportunity to ensure strategic and ethical use of public money and offers an opportunity to send a much needed signal with regard to Ireland’s intentions in meeting its international climate obligations under the Paris Agreement*”.

#### **Biodiversity**

A number of submissions mentioned the impact of fossil fuel extraction on biodiversity.

In her submission, **Eimear Manning** (C1-OFA27IV2KJHW) notes that continued drilling for oil and gas will have a negative effect on our marine ecosystems. “*They expect to find 5 billion barrels of oil, which ultimately will push our country over the safe 2 degrees limit of global warming - not to mention how decimating this will be for Ireland’s fish and marine mammal populations, and also for our plankton communities - the basis of our marine ecosystems.*”

The campaign group **Not Here, Not Anywhere** (C1-7EHOF6XYDL5M) states that one blast from oil exploration “*can kill up to 64% of zooplankton*” – which is the basis of the marine ecosystem in the area.

## The role of Renewable energy - Wind, Wave and Solar

The submission from **Mieke Vanflerteren** (C1-UD63BG9CB7N7) proposes sustainable forestry, a move to small scale community solar energy projects and making green energy production cheaper than “polluting” energy production.

**James McLaughlin** (C1-7C4SL9MCQC3N) suggests that the cost of solar/photovoltaic roof panels could be reduced and states: “As Germany, Austria and the Scandinavians are to the forefront of best environmental practices, could a fact-finding delegation not undertake some visits?”.

The use of wind and wave as energy sources is often mentioned in submissions. In its submission **Funky Renewables** (C1-UT18HQTF4B07) states: “Ireland’s landmass is 70,000km<sup>2</sup> with over 10 times the amount of sea which can be used for off shore wind both fixed and floating wind turbines, wave power and tidal. With so much resources Ireland has the potential to export surplus energy and become a World leader in off shore renewable energy. More R&D funding into this area and Government support in terms of grants and feed in tariffs”.

**The Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA)** (C1-MSRXI7116TU1) states that Ireland is in a very fortunate position since it has one of the best renewable electricity resources in the world in the form of onshore wind and that Ireland has the resources, skills, knowledge and investment to lead the transition to a 100% renewable energy system by 2050, primarily based on existing technologies.

**Wind Aware Ireland** (C1-8J4UQGCM1PF) argues that “...wind turbines spread over some of the most beautiful parts of Ireland save a paltry 3 to 4% of overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions...according to the SEAI, and possibly half of this according to other analysts”. The submission goes on to say that “The social impacts of wind energy in rural Ireland are enormous.... ‘Community gain funds’ and payouts have resulted in disharmony and disagreement...”.

**Catriona Finnegan** (C1-C4WCOMBQJGJB) suggests that energy companies must be legally bound to provide energy to households that is clean and affordable but she recognises that with privatisation of the energy sector, this area becomes very difficult.

## Community Involvement in/ Acceptance of renewable energy development

The thread of community energy was common in many submissions. Amongst its many proposals, the **Green Party** (C1-1C2DYCRHILFE) notes “At the same time as we divest from fossil fuels we can make the switch to a renewable alternative that is owned by the Irish public. The deployment of renewable energy technology will become increasingly contentious if we prioritise large private developers over communities or state-owned enterprises.”

**Kevin Dennehy** (C1-FQ81S7OE3DKJ) outlines how community energy schemes set up on a co-operative basis could do a lot to reduce carbon emissions, improve local economies, in both rural and urban areas, and help reduce reliance on imported oil and gas.

In its submission, **Community Energy** (C1-1NW4191R8DC0) states: “for individuals and community groups who are not in a position to develop their own renewable energy project, it is essential that they have the right to participate in developer-led projects in their areas.

*This must include more than just a consultation exercise, and more than compensatory 'benefit' or 'gain' payments. It must, rather, require developers to enter into partnerships with communities and offer them the opportunity of an equitable stake in any development."*

A number of submissions made suggestions for models of shared ownership which might be acceptable. Amongst other proposals in her submission, **Kylie O'Brien** (C1-G2B2XWAWN45L) suggested that where a developer is proposing a renewable energy project, it should be made compulsory that they offer 20% of the ownership to the local community through reasonably priced shares.

**Martin Lavelle** (C1-5J5SVLV7LP3E) suggests that surplus energy created could be sold back to the grid. He also suggests that grants could be provided to towns and villages to become energy sustainable.

### **Energy Efficiency**

Many submissions highlighted the ancillary benefits that a move towards greater energy efficiency provides. In its submission, **Climate Action Network Europe** (C1-PMSGP8TLOUVM) notes that *"ambitious energy efficiency targets will generate huge economic and social benefits"*.

A number of submissions also suggest that taking action on energy efficiency is a sensible way to reduce emissions. In its submission, **Energy Conservation Options** (C1-LSDO9FL0GZW4) suggest that there should be *"increase emphasis on helping public and financial decision makers understand that efficiency should take economic and environmental priority over alternative energy. (This does not mean don't do alternatives, rather do efficiency first)"*.

As part of a very comprehensive and wide-ranging submission, **Brian Ó Gallachóir** from the **MaREI Institute, UCC** (C1-ZSAKYTOPXLJV) made the following observation in relation to energy efficiency: *"The real challenge therefore is to reduce the amount of energy we use in heating our homes, in our workplaces, for industry, the energy to transport ourselves and transporting goods around the place. We have made progress with new homes (through building regulations) and improving the efficiency of our car fleet (through taxation). But this is not nearly enough. We also face challenges in retrofitting existing homes and workplaces so that they use less energy"*.

Energy efficiency in households is a major factor that impacts on consumption levels, as well as causing energy poverty in an estimated 28% of the population, suggests **The Society of St Vincent de Paul** (C1-NZA8UJ8U9GAS). A solution could be to extend the warmer home scheme to those other than owner occupiers. The submission states: *"SVP proposes therefore that the Warmer Home Scheme be extended to landlords who agree to make their properties available to social housing tenants for at least three years"*. The submission recommends that planned consultation on energy standards in the rental sector be progressed. Additionally, *"The take up of Pay-As-You-Go electricity and gas meters over the last number of years, which SVP has been closely involved in advocating for and promoting, have helped families to keep track of energy usage and better budget their expenses. However, many private landlords do not allow the installation of Pay-as-You-Go meters and SVP recommends that new standards for the rental sector should remove this potential barrier. We further recommend that surcharges on top ups should not be allowed."*

It was suggested by **Lucy Jago** (C1-X218ARFUFNU4) that in relation to energy, the State should *"increase the promotion and uptake of the Better Energy Homes Scheme for*

*improving the energy efficiency of private dwellings, and extending this scheme to include commercial property.”*

**Orla Hegarty**, Architect, Assistant Professor at the **UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy** (C1-H9NMGLQA8VKC) discusses a range of issues in relation to energy efficiency. She notes the challenges of achieving energy-efficiency standards in newly constructed buildings against the backdrop of a fractured construction sector stating: *“recovering from almost 10 years of recession and a critical loss of staff and skills. Higher energy standards have been introduced during this period of very low levels of building activity, meaning that there have been limited opportunities for education and up-skilling”*.

**The Irish Green Building Council (IGBC)** (C1-4MBS84X54F) states that buildings must play a key role in reducing carbon emissions as they cross nearly all sectors driving carbon emissions in Ireland. A more integrated approach is needed by Government for lower carbon communities and buildings. The submission notes that considerable progress has been made in the residential sector towards the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) standard.

**The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI)** (C1-B4W4QW2H8CLI) is supportive of the implementation of the EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings including NZEB standard for new and existing buildings. They state however, that suitable regulation, guidance and supports should be forthcoming from government to ensure that there is a suitable qualified cohort of design and building professionals available to meet the challenges posed by the implementation of the NZEB standard.

A submission from **David Hughes, Passive House Association of Ireland** (C1-UNJKO8UATZ6I) advocates the use of a low energy design methodology called the “Passive House”, which started with new builds and was subsequently extended to deal with existing buildings, known as retrofitting. The Passive House Standard of retrofit can save 90% and a less onerous standard can easily save 75% of the energy consumed in a residential building. This methodology shows it is possible to design a new building or retrofit an old one using substantially less energy than one built according to traditional building regulations – without the loss of comfort.

In his submission, **William Mc Sweeney** (C1-62NCBH5HOIBB) suggests that Ireland should retrofit houses with high quality insulation, instead of focusing on allowing wind farm developers to become wealthy, *“from an overhyped self publicized industry that will make very little difference to solving the issue of global warming”*.

## **Other Energy Sources**

### **Natural Gas**

**Ervia** (C1-9KNG47755NEA) outlines its belief that *“natural and decarbonised gas have an essential role in tackling climate change in Ireland. Switching from coal and peat to natural gas in the power generation, oil and diesel to gas in the heating and transport sectors can achieve significant reductions in emissions”*.

**TCD** (C1-UEMW8AX6GFYF) notes in its submission that Fracked gas is a fossil fuel and a significant contributor to Climate Change. While welcoming the ban on this in Ireland, the submission continues to note it is highly hypocritical that Ireland should import fracked gas from the USA and other countries.

**Gas Network Ireland** (C1-BWSSHDDFVX4P) notes in its submission that *“gas-fired power stations are a vital system component to accommodate sudden changes in electricity demand or supply. Ireland has one of the highest levels of wind penetration in Europe and requires the security of gas fired power plants and the gas network to back up this intermittent source of renewable energy. The severe weather conditions experienced in both January and December 2010, demonstrated the need for significant backup to renewable generation”*.

### Nuclear Energy

Nuclear fusion, the **Marconi Institute** (C1-C43SMXE37G6C) submission states, is a clean source of nuclear energy, and the time to get involved is now. It argues that Ireland should join the international consortia researching this. With sufficient funds it suggests, full fusion power generation should be available within a decade.

**Laois Ógra Fianna Fáil** (C1-H9PWXOKV0E4W) echoed the call for using nuclear energy and called for a full and frank reinvestigation and debate of the viability of nuclear power in Ireland which is currently forbidden by the Electricity Regulation Act (1999).

In its submission, **Better Environment with Nuclear Energy** (C1-RAMT56SR6FHY) calls on the Assembly to consider recommending *“removal of the statutory prohibition on the construction and operation of nuclear power plants in Ireland. This would entail two simple amendments to current legislation<sup>6</sup> and would have no meaningful impact on an actual decision to construct a nuclear power plant in Ireland. It would, however, enable a genuine consideration of the pros and cons of nuclear energy in an Irish context”*.

### Biomass

**Biofuelwatch.org.uk** (C1-MF4G348N6K6D) makes the following observation: *“the accounting now used for assessing compliance with carbon limits in climate legislation generally does not count CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from tailpipes and smokestacks when biomass is being used. It also does not count changes in emissions from land use when biomass for energy is harvested or grown. This accounting erroneously treats all biomass as carbon neutral regardless of the source of the biomass, which may cause large differences in net emissions”*.

The **TCD/DCU Team** (C1-08NQHFMPVYC) also proposes a process called *“BioEnergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) ” which can exploit the energy embodied in plant material (the “biomass”) while at the same time, re-capture the CO<sub>2</sub> that is released, and put it into some kind of stable, long term, storage. A second possible approach to negative emissions is proposed to echo the role of plant photosynthesis in BECCS with machinery that is capable of filtering and concentrating CO<sub>2</sub> from air directly. This is called “Direct Air Capture [of CO<sub>2</sub>]” or DAC.*

In relation to Bio fuel, **Margaret Murphy** (C1-FB13MY1X3KVW) states that moving towards biomass burning stations is not a good idea. In her submission she states: *“It is highly unlikely that sufficient biomass could be produced in Ireland to support the running of these power stations. For example, over 300,000 hectares of land would be required to grow biomass to fuel Moneypoint alone”*.

## Other potential energy sources

Detailed below is a selection of some of the other alternative energy sources which were suggested in the sample of submissions which the Secretariat examined. The Secretariat is aware that this is not a comprehensive list of available alternative energy sources.

**Richard O'Donoghue** (C1-4ZZ2HLMRYED) proposes alternatives to wind energy and his submission makes a number of suggestions in this regard such as: *“Convert Money Point to Bio fuel and re-forest the country - costed and proven solution. More grants for Forestry - Native Irish trees that encourage bio diversity and a future supply of valuable hard woods when managed correctly. Stop on shore Wind Turbines- They destroy the local environment, killing animals and limiting tourism and not a dependable source of power. Re-create our bogs - carbon sink - at the moment they are covered in industrial sized wind turbines with massive concrete foundations - hardly the way forward. Future generations will laugh at the way we are destroying this rare eco system. Stop supporting the wind industry with subsidies and use this money to upgrade our current housing stock with extra insulation - so we use less energy to heat them. This is not done because energy companies would lose profits. Hydro power is one of the most efficient ways to produce electricity - we are inundated with rain and possible areas this could be a possibility. Off shore Wind - There is a practically an unlimited amount of powerful wind coming from the Atlantic ocean - this we can tap, again once the wind turbines are off shore and not destroying environments. There is no point trying to save the planet whilst destroying local environments.”*

**Tim Vierhout** (C1-UL1E2WUCRKSF) proposes the use of vacuum operated toilets which would generate energy and which would use considerably less water. Significant economies of scale would be available he suggests, for larger facilities such as hospitals, prisons etc.

In her submission, **Natasha Harty** (C1-WOXFBP0KMVXV) states how “biochar” products should be encouraged. She states: *“Biochar is ground up charcoal, charcoal is wood burned without oxygen. Biochar is a very stable form of carbon, so long as you don't burn it. According to the World Bank, biochar is the most efficient way to lock up carbon in the soil. Each kg of biochar is the equivalent of 2 1/2 kg of CO2 in the air. Bury it in the soil and the carbon is locked away for 1,000 years”.*

## 4. Agriculture and Food Production

Many submissions refer to the tension which exists between Agricultural policy (the current Government Strategy for the food sector, Food Wise 2025) and Climate Change. Responses on how to deal with this vary from improving agricultural production practices, changing the makeup of our diets and increasing the diversification of our land use. A selection of some of the perspectives raised is provided below.

### The future shape of Ireland's agricultural sector

In her submission, **Norma O'Hea** (C1-FY4SNIF8FZCM) makes the following observation: *"Both Food Harvest 2020 and Food Wise 2025 are industry-led policies which have been adopted by Government and heavily promoted by the agri-food industry. Food Harvest 2020 (coinciding with the abolition of milk quotas) has already led to a major expansion in livestock numbers, particularly in the dairy sector, which will inevitably have negative effects on biodiversity, water and soil quality, and GHG emissions, despite assertions to the contrary by the agri-food industry"*.

In its submission, **Transition Galway** (C1-OBWKDRT7AU56), notes that in relation to the NMP on Climate Change *"Decisions are being made in agriculture in the name of climate change policy which is unsustainable in terms of soil fertility, monoculture and biodiversity destroying pesticide use"*.

In his submission, **Wendel Trio**, Director, **Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe** (C1-PMSGP8TLOUVM) highlights that the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), is an opportunity for Ireland to modernise its agriculture sector and reap the co-benefits of reduced emissions.

A significant thread in submissions is the proposal that Ireland should make an effort to move away from animal based agriculture. **Barbara Bourke** (C1-9HUAXIRE5FD2) suggests that we set a target of a 50% reduction in agricultural emissions by 2030. She suggests that emissions from cattle will account for 47% of Irish domestic sector emissions by 2020.

**Robin Keenan** (C1-GC88EXSHR7GB) states that red meat and dairy production are major contributors to CO2 emissions in Ireland. He concludes that low carbon alternatives should be incentivised with incentives through grants for vegetable and fruit farming.

**Biba Hartigan** from **CLIMATES Network** (C1-FPZHJWB8XYIZ) outlines a diet they have developed which provides people with an easy and effective way of cutting their carbon. *"The climatarian diet aligns low carbon climate friendly food choices with a healthy diet promoting an increased consumption of seasonal, local fruit and vegetables and reduced meat consumption, especially of red meat which is not only the most carbon heavy but is also linked to an increased risk of heart disease and cancer"*.

In its submission, **Macra na Feirme** (C1-QPDAT2UVVJWW) outlines how research has shown that both methane and nitrous dioxide emissions can be reduced through targeted and accurate land management. The submission also makes the point that *"Increasing the use of Anaerobic Digestive units as (a) method to reduce the need for electricity to be produced from non renewable energy should be incentivised"*.

**The Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)** (C1-UJENGQ3AS7EA) concludes its submission by stating: *"from an agricultural perspective great strides have been made to make Ireland a sustainable country to produce food in, tackling climate*

*change while ensuring food security will be a constant challenge for the industry. However the temperate grass based system of farming employed here is one of the most environmentally viable ways of producing beef and dairy in the world. This needs to be highlighted and realised.”*

In its submission, **The Irish Farmers Association (IFA)** (C1-Y9ZJ7Q88NZDU) contends that 87% of the measures in Ireland’s Rural Development Programme have climate reducing elements. These measures include the Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme, or GLAS, the Beef Data and Genomics Programme and the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme, which assist farmers to reduce emissions and increase productive efficiency. The IFA also contends that *“Ireland is the only country in the world that monitors, measures and manages carbon from farm to fork”*.

The **Green Party** (C1-1C2DYCRHILFE) recommends that we should build on the success of agri-environmental schemes that have been shown to serve both our environment and farmers that engage with them, and develop new ones that address the concerns we have today.

**The Uplift Community** (C1-8PTL3X3XDDWR) raises the subject of rural communities. The submission notes the results of a survey on Climate Change issues which has been taken from their 173,000 members over the last 18 months and from the responses to the survey that *“it was clear from members’ responses that any changes to Ireland’s climate change policies should make sure that rural and marginalised communities are taken into account”*.

**Gas Networks Irelands** (C1-BWSSHDDFVX4P) submission in relation to agriculture states that the use of farm-wastes to produce biogas - is a way of addressing emissions and creating a useful source of energy. The submission continues: *“Biogas can be upgraded to biomethane, which is also a form of renewable gas, and injected directly into the gas network. This can be done where the network is close to the source of biomethane, or can be collected and centrally injected to the gas network where it is not close to the network. Renewable gas provides diversity of supply, enhancing energy security and increasing the penetration of renewable”*.

### **Changing the makeup of our diets**

**Fran Brady** (C1-Z8O6B874QLHG) suggests that *“subsidies are paid to keep beef farming and the meat industry afloat in an over saturated beef market”*. He believes that subsidies and support payments would be better spent on supporting local organic food growing which would also result in the reduction of food-miles and thereby lower emissions from long distance transportation of food.

**Janet Hawker** (C1-JOVPFUVRD3UP) makes the following observation *“localising food production has great potential to create jobs, reduce long distance transport, improve health with better produce. We can grow vegetables all year round here without protection and increase variety and growing period with some protection. In August in Kerry in an extreme coastal garden I currently have peas, french beans, runner beans, spinach, salads, courgettes and sweet corn coming on. And there are lots of other things that could be on that list. Yet except in small wholefood shops I won't find hardly any of these vegetables produced in Ireland”*.

## **Diversification of land use and Biodiversity**

Many submissions refer to the damage which the effects of Climate Change are having on our biodiversity. In their submission, **The Religious Sisters of Charity** (C1-DO3JZWM41OIW) state: *“the loss of biodiversity – of plants, insects and animals (birds and other species) is something to be regretted not just by the few but by the many. Yet, unfortunately, there are many of our citizens who are totally unaware of the devastation being wreaked on our natural habitat by our actions.”*

**Birdwatch Ireland** (C1-8I2J0Z1VM7Z0) outline the effects of Climate Change on birds and biodiversity and it notes that Ireland must cut GHGs for all sectors to reduce the impacts of Climate Change. Birdwatch Ireland advocate that Ireland must work to protect birds and other biodiversity from the effects of Climate Change by better protecting our network of protected sites and ensuring permeable landscapes.

**Klaus Harvery** (C1-9PXN4NUFCBZ7) suggests that *“Specific emphasis should be placed on feeding the soil and building soil fertility. Explore and use agroforestry as a way to produce food such as fruit and nuts, prevent or reduce flooding and as a means of carbon storage.”*

In its submission, **The Community Wetlands Forum** (C1-WBG4Q53ODHD1) outlines the importance of wetlands stating that *“in the past, the value of wetlands was significantly undervalued by society in terms of its economic, education and social value. In more recent times, the value placed on wetlands has increased significantly”*.

**Rathgar Action for a Clean Earth (RACE)** (C1-A6FH965ZAJ03) submits that we should *“Repair, restore and re-wet Ireland’s bogs”*. Ireland’s peat lands should undergo an intensive restoration programme so they can be turned from a carbon source, into a carbon sink. *“Such work would also create sustainable, climate friendly jobs in the midlands”*.

**Trinity College Dublin Environmental Society** (C1-UEMW8AX6GFYF) recommends the restoration of the peat lands to forested lands so they can become function carbon sinks instead of carbon sources.

## 5. Reduce/ Prevent Waste/ Prevalence of Plastic

There were a large number of submissions on the topic of waste, with many focussing on the prevalence of plastic and the effect that consumerism is having on the environment. Many submissions noted the importance of having less packaging on items, increased promotion of recycling and the importance of reducing food waste. The manner in which we dispose of our waste was also raised in a number of submissions. A snapshot of some of the perspectives which appeared is provided below.

### Consumerism, Recycling and dealing with waste

**Mindy O'Brien** from **VOICE Ireland** (C1-EBWUQJ9YH9ZE) suggests some action points including transitioning Ireland to a more circular economy and moving away from single use, throw away consumption.

Some submissions recommend that there should be a cash reward for recycling of bottles and cans while other suggest that we should ban supermarket waste, as has been done in France.

**Natasha Harty** (C1-WOXFBP0KMXV) states that we should *“act in line with the EU Commission's January 2017 recommendation to EU member countries to have a moratorium on new incinerators”*.

In order to reduce waste, **Finbar Hurley** (C1-JNNVEUXWNDWH) suggests that a law should be passed to *“ensure that any article being sold to the public should have clear, functional instructions from the manufacturer how to recover, and recycle the packing, when no longer required... Manufacturers of all products should have labels on each product re sustainable disposal of the product”*.

In her submission, **Catriona Finnegan** (C1-C4WCOMBQJGJB) proposes that recycling symbols on packaging should be more uniform, and that bin collectors should be legally required to provide a leaflet with the recycling symbols that would appear on plastics that they recycle.

**Geraldine Reilly** (C1-GV0CRRHKWCQD) notes: *“The continuous improvements in recycling green and brown waste are very welcome but landfill is a major issue. Incinerator emission standards in line with those in Vienna as an example of waste would make us self sufficient in waste management and public fears of incineration could be allayed with a policy of transparency of the issues involved”*.

**Clodagh O'Rourke** (C1-BJIJTBECRIJ3) opposes the use of incinerators and feels that we should seek to have most of our waste compostable.

### Impact of Plastic on the Environment

The submission of **Zero Waste Ireland Group** (C1-4VAUM2U77MW8) deals with the interaction of plastics with marine life. The submission points to a waste reduction bill that was proposed by the Green Party and supported by Labour and Fianna Fáil. Furthermore, it notes the effect on the environment of microbeads used in cosmetic and hygiene products' such as toothpaste and body scrubs. *“These microbeads are washed down Irish drain each day by the billion, entering directly into our waterways in many cases. The British government have recently announced a plan to enforce a ban on microbeads in the UK, with*

*the US and Holland also among leaders moving to ban these products from sale in their countries.”*

In her submission **Aisling Cunningham** (C1-YOMRIKDW58TR) suggests *“banning of one use plastics (especially cutlery) and better monitoring of microplastics in products both produced in Eire and imported. Banning of non-recyclable packaging in our supermarkets at a national level would severely reduce our need for general waste bins”*.

**Zero Waste Alliance Ireland (ZAWI)** (C1-VNAHT22I3AZK) proposes to *“Implement an affordable Food Waste prevention strategy to ensure Food Waste is no longer rotting in Landfills. This means regulation, monitoring and enforcement. They cannot rely on the private sector alone to deliver a nationwide solution.”*

## **6. Taxation/ Funding/ Incentives**

There were a number of submissions in the area of fiscal and taxation measures to bring about action on Climate Change. Some submissions also stated that some current fiscal supports are contrary to Climate Change objectives. A snapshot of some of the perspectives raised is provided below.

**Corinne Voces** (C1-DKLYA2DDVL25) notes in her submission that there is very little incentive to “be green”. People often have to make a choice between their environment and their pocket. In her view *“It is the responsibility of the government to allow citizens to have more options to move to environmentally friendly choices”*.

**Clare Public Participation Network (PPN)** (C1-0B268LIMF53X) believes that the Government should pilot a program where it rewards communities and individuals who come up with ways to reduce Ireland’s carbon footprint. Clare PPN also calls for a national and local programme of financial and administrative support for individuals and businesses to become self-sufficient in energy needs.

**The Green Party** (C1-1C2DYCRHILFE) notes: *“The Citizens’ Assembly is considering this climate change issue at the same time that that Department of Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform is conducting a midterm review of our National Capital Plan. If our ambitions to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions are to mean anything then we need to see a radical redirection of money to new low carbon transport systems within that plan”*.

**Sinn Féin** (C1-0EJT417V8UHK) suggests that Ireland should invest in green economy to provide sustainable employment opportunities through public investment in infrastructure for water and waste systems and invest in ‘distributed power’ grid and renewable energy generation.

**Ross Walsh** (C1-E4H9J0G0NITJ) proposes: *“the Citizens Assembly should recommend that the State divert more funding into research on renewable energy. By increasing the funds available for Ireland's scientific community to develop new and improved methods of harnessing the energy of the sun, the wind, and sea and other sources, our state can not only help save our planet but also provide an example to other countries around the world”*.

Amongst many other suggestions, **Una McNamara** (C1-LB3IN9ZQXBFK) puts forward the following: *“Grants and incentives be given to all areas that promote sustainable living in Food/Agriculture, Energy, Transport and Housing”*. She goes on to suggest that *“Grant aid, promotion and awareness of solar panels for heating, hot water and electricity to be a priority for the state. All the above would create new jobs and renewable local industry”*.

Amongst many of its recommendations **Gluaiseacht**, (C1- GUO7T28HDYKR), suggests that subsidies to the aviation and fossil fuel industries be reduced or eliminated and we should begin incentivising micro-generation of renewable energy from households by paying a generous Feed-In-Tariff for small scale producers of wind and solar energy so as to make the pay-back period for the initial investments a short number of years.

In its submission, the **Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability (Feasta)** (C1-N9H0MSVKJVIL) offers many suggestions for incorporating action on climate with substantive action on inequality and poverty and significant improvements to the quality and freshness of food. Feasta believes that amongst other measures, the Irish Government should lobby on the EU level for changes in the way Euros are issued by the European

Central Bank, phase out the use of the GDP growth as a measure of progress and a shift in the tax base in all European countries towards taxing of unearned income from the use of collective goods.

### **Taxation**

**Social Justice Ireland** (C1-42NGAP53EBCB) propose: *“one way of tackling this challenge, whilst also broadening the tax base, is through environmental taxation. Eco-taxes, which put a price on the full costs of resource extraction and pollution, will help with the transition towards a resource efficient, low carbon green economy. Environmental taxation enforcing the polluter pays principle and encouraging waste prevention can help to decouple growth from the use of resources and support the shift towards a low carbon economy”.*

**Rathgar Action for a Clean Earth (RACE)** (C1-A6FH965ZAJ03) propose: *“the State should make contributions to the UN Green Climate Fund that are in line with Ireland's capacity and responsibility in order to support developing countries to adapt to climate change and contribute to the global effort. The Government's current contribution of €2million is over 30 times lower than the EU average”.*

## **Appendix 1- List of Submissions from Advocacy Groups**

### **Submissions Process on Climate Change**

**Submissions received from NGOs, advocacy groups, commercial entities,  
academics**

**If you are an organisation that made a submission to the Assembly and are not on  
this list please contact us at [info@citizensassembly.ie](mailto:info@citizensassembly.ie).**

*This list is presented in alphabetical order according to Group name*

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Ref</b>
1	Ciara	Barry	'Not Here, Not Anywhere' Campaign	C1-7EHOF6XYDL5M
2	Jane	Jackson	80Max	C1-YGCMEI5BUHRP
3	Kieran	Cunnane	A Vision for Galway	C1-OBWKDRT7AU56
4	Joseph	Murray	Afri	C1-Z3DGUMSGCBPD
5	Ryan	Fintan	Airline Captain*	C1-87KTVAUPLF48
6	Gerald	Doherty	All Together in Dignity Ireland	C1-XZ48TGM2GFBO
7	Sheila	Curran	AMRI	C1-5FXB1OHCUSDN
8	Attracta	Uí Bhroin	An Claiómh Glas	C1-5UBR5KFJJANT
9	Maria	Flanagan	An Cosán VCC, Carlow Institute of Technology	C1-CNGOTIY22M6
10	Phil	Kearney	An Taisce	C1-T2MBA7F9N150
11	Sheila	Curran	Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland*	C1-5FXB1OHCUSDN
12	Denis	Duffy	Better Environment with Nuclear Energy	C1-RAMT56SR6FHY
13	Pete	Deane	Biofuelwatch	C1-MF4G348N6K6D
14	Oonagh	Duggan	Bird Watch Ireland	C1-8I2J0Z1VM7Z0
15	Caroline	Whyte	CapGlobalCarbon	C1-H9S94VLTE760
16	Jennifer	Higgins	Christian Aid Ireland	C1-YCPV5LEW9IEQ
17	Andrew	Orr	Church of Ireland & Society	C1-Y6IGDXLYIKNJ

			Commission	
18	Sarah	Clancy	Clare Public Participation Network*	C1-0B268LIMF53X
19	Pat	Morrissey	Clean Air Network Ireland	C1-7WRXEIA10MEI
20	Wendel	Trio	Climate Action Network Europe	C1-PMSGP8TLOUVM
21	NJ	Crowley	Climate Conversations Activist Group	C1-QMPGGPBWXQXO
22	Biba	Hartigan	Climates Network	C1-FPZHJWB8XYIZ
23	Duncan	Martin	Cloughjordan Eco-Village	C1-FCFGHYEX106O
24	Helen	Gelletlie	Coastal Concern Alliance*	C1-6BCDEKI1UPJ3
25	Dara	Ó Maoildhia	Comharchumann Fuinnimh Oileáin Árann Teoranta	C1-HI5FQZX4RPBU
26	Kate	Ruddock	Community Energy	C1-1NW4191R8DC0
27	Louise	Lennon	Community Wetlands Forum	C1-WBG4Q53ODHD1
28	Roisin	Cuddihy	Cork Climate Action	C1-OYT2L32F3DGZ
29	Adam	D'Arcy	CORK CYCLING CAMPAIGN	C1-MHJHED0IU9SO
30	Lorna	Bogue	Cork Greens	C1-F1E74LNVWA7P
31	Simon	Comer	Cosain	C1-SD3NHFAWMGF8
32	Hugh	Weldon	Counting Carbon	C1-BAUZHEHGOSIX
33	Paula	Downey	Culturework	C1-DJ27X8HS5AC9
34	Dr. Mike	McKillen	Cyclist.ie	C1-0F5Y34515QPA
35	David	O'Flynn	Dawn Meats	C1-EXDSWABIBZVY
36	Suzanne	Keating	Dóchas*	C1-CTHUDH8JVFHV
37	Ollan	Herr	Dundalk Cycling Alliance	C1-P8AMR906VYXJ
38	Eugene	Conlon	Dunleer Community Development Board*	C1-1G6239OM2DO5
39	Andrew	Orr	Eco-Congregation Ireland	C1-HF8G429I4BTM
40	Richard	Bloomfield	EcoQuakers	C1-TXWDB0HKDSEZ
41	Elaine	Nevin	ECO-UNESCO	C1-HLNQLPPT0567
42	Valerie	Hedin	Eirgrid	C1-LCNMMMOGNEM1Z
43	Owen	Wilson	Electricity Association of Ireland	C1-9UITLJYOSG32
44	Michael	Doyle	Energy Conservation Options	C1-LSDO9FL0GZW4
45	David	Widdis	Energywise Consultants	C1-AN3MOZFBGLGX
46	Tim	Vierhout	ENVIERHO AQUA PROTECT LTD	C1-UL1E2WUCRKSF

47	Michael	Ewing	Enviroment Pillar	C1-X00EV658P85J
48	Eilish	Scott	Eriva	C1-9KNG47755NEA
49	Peter	Brennan	EPS Consulting	C1-78QKD8O06591
50	Rachelle	Sena de Freitas	Europe Insoumise	C1-U5V6C3JN6ZH6
51	Eimhin	McEvoy	Fianna Fáil Ogra	C1-H9PWXOKV0E4W
52	Fergal	Anderson	Food Sovereignty Ireland	C1-UTMMDZCGX8LZ
53	David	Connolly	Former Associate Professor in Energy Planning, Aalborg University, Denmark	C1-ZA8U575MCI69
54	Colm	Tong	Fossil Free TCD	C1-IBHQ96T3KCG
55	Morag	Friel	Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability (Feasta)	C1-N9H0MSVKJVIL
56	Oisin	Coghlan	Friends of the Earth	C1-2QS8KITQE2N
57	Fergal	McEntee	Funky Renewables	C1-UT18HQT4B07
58	Paul	Leech	GAIA ecotecture.eu	C1-HPARN2Z8GDBI
59	Ann	Irwin	Galway City Community Network	C1-OESQJ0HON7NR
60	Pauline	O'Reilly	Galway City West Representative of the Green Party	C1-ZP85O230SAMR
61	Ann-Marie	Colbert	Gas Networks Ireland	C1-BWSSHDDFVX4P
62	Eoin	O'Leidhin	Gluaiseacht	C1-GUO7T28HDYKR
63	Aedín	McLoughlin	Good Energies Alliance Ireland	C1-48J9PS3EA07D
64	Duncan	Stewart	GREEN FOUNDATION IRELAND	C1-JE4HSU9VQVTB
65	Ann	O'Conarain	GREEN FOUNDATION IRELAND	C1-J2CADABN62K4
66	Eamon	Ryan	Green Party	C1-1C2DYCRHILFE
67	Marc	O'Cathasaigh	Green Party	C1-YCB9C8SHJ58Z
68	Mark	Henry	Green Party	C1-O3ZYSZBR8OS7
69	Claire	Byrne	Green Party Councillor for Pembroke – South Dock	C1-FY0YKG90SCU0
70	Joe	O'Brien	Green Party Fingal	C1-C6VWD036IBE9

71	Peter	Cunnane	Hands Across the Corrib Ltd.	C1-JQZ5MACS9FVW
72	Aine	O'Connell	ICMSA	C1-UJENGQ3AS7EA
73	Barry	McMullin	IE-NETs Project Team, Trinity College Dublin and Dublic City University *	C1-08NQHFPMPVYC
74	Hamilton	Hamilton	IFNC Irish Forum on Natural Capital	C1-KEIF37OGUV2A
75	Matt	Kennedy	International Energy Research Centre	C1-QCBDWNA60LQ3
76	Joe	Healy	Irish Farmers Association	C1-Y9ZJ7Q88NZDU
77	Marion	Jammet	Irish Green Building Council	C1-4MBSPTS84X54F
78	Patrick	Shannon	Irish Offshore Operators' Association	C1-DB1YKNKJS88T
79	Tristram	Whyte	Irish Peatland Conservation Council	C1-MXT7PH3N3ZUE
80	Louise	Lennon	Irish Rural Link	C1-5U5D2GRBSRKS
81	Adam	Ledwith	Irish Wind Energy Association	C1-MSRXI7116TU1
82	Donal	Whelan	Irish Timber Growers Association	C1-ZBAV5762VJ9V
83	Catherine	Devitt	Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice	C1-X5RS5NRTKIJL
84	Jim	O'Brien	Jim O'Brien CSR Consulting*	C1-WXPNNB6986V7
85	Mary	Shanahan	Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-Op	C1-574D9ESQZF9W
86	Ivana	Bacik	Labour Party	C1-2K4EQOQOYWQI
87	Hilary	Scanlan	Local Link Kerry	C1-USADS6GOUFR4
88	Mark	Dearey	Louth East Meath Green Party Constituency Group	C1-G9P6X5SMAYX1
89	Paul	Smith	Marca na Feirme	C1-QPDAT2UVVJWW
90	A	Wisdom	Marconi Institute	C1-C43SMXE37G6C
91	Brian	O'Gallachoir	MaREI	C1-ZSAKYTOPXLJV
92	Denise	Boyle	Mercy International Association	C1-A2XHPJDV7404
93	Ray	Bates	Meteorology and Climate Centre, UCD	C1-KXMUQ7OT8I7K

94	David	Hughes	Passive House Association of Ireland and ICOMOS National Scientific Committee on Energy Sustainability and Climate Change	C1-UNJKO8UATZ6I
95	Theresa	O'Donohoe	People's Energy Charter*	C1-GGVLJI4FVB96
96	Tom	Crilly	Peace and Neutrality Alliance	C1-3GLYAAQNLLIK
97	Brian	O' Toole	Presentation Sisters	C1-ZR4SQP790TDK
98			Rathgar Action for a Clean Earth (RACE)	C1-A6FH965ZAJ03
99	Mairead	Ni Chuiric	Religious Sisters of Charity	C1-DO3JZWM41OIW
100	PJ	McCarthy	Renewable Gas Forum Ireland	C1-R5CZA1ZMFYWX
101	June	Simmons	Rescue The River Shannon Group	C1-ZERGMKJ6MWWO
102	Tony	Carey	Psychologist*	C1-55KOKMLU14Z6 C1-8M5RSSTAKWEO C1-ZOSFKAC76BL4
103	Tom	Kirley	Royal Dublin Society RDS	C1-SOOR95GH8HTS
104	Mike	Jones	Royal Irish Academy (RIA)	C1-OGD5HF8IHIHY
105	Justin	Kilcullen	Sage - Shankill Action for a Green Earth	C1-CBO9YRLJ5TBY
106	Pat	Brereton	School of Communications, DCU	C1-5TXT82Z9YXJ8
107	Yvonne	O' Callaghan	Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU)	C1-G45P0L5BSU4O
108	Alan	Nolan	SIMI	C1-6K367R4XNVMJ
109	Ilmea	Nicholson	simplenowastelife	C1-VPN0EWBWY6H2
110	Sam	Roch-Perks	Simply Blue Energy	C1-PFPVX9UDVO4E
111	Brian	Stanley	Sinn Féin	C1-0EJT417V8UHK
112	Michelle	Murphy	Social Justice Ireland	C1-42NGAP53EBCB
113	Tim	Gleeson	Soil Scientist*	C1-IO2PS811RL04
114	Gerard	Doyle	Society for Co-Operative Studies for Ireland	C1-W3MGZ2AF5EBT

115	Sinéad	Mercier	SIPTU's Global Solidarity Committee, IMPACT's Just Transition Committee, researcher for the Green Party	C1-YN6DO1EKG2D
116	Lisa	Fahy	SSE	C1-CTY8LS3D3SM6
117	Brian	Farrell	Stop Climate Chaos and the Trinity Environmental Society	C1-M22RC9IDVEIT
118	Jerry	MacEvilly	Stop Climate Chaos & the Environmental Pillar*	C1-1GL4ZVESROY
119	Raoul	Empey	Sustineo	C1-05AEJ399FZTQ
120	Jessie	Dolliver	Trinity College Dublin Environmental Society	C1-UEMW8AX6GFYF
121	Owen	Wilson	The Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI)	C1-9UITLJYOSG32
122	Valerie	Duffy	The National Youth Council of Ireland	C1-RO8JSTUGSOTP
123	Ina	Kelly	Royal College of Physicians of Ireland	C1-E9NGX291A5G2
124	Joe	Miller	The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI)	C1-B4W4QW2H8CLI
125	Hazel	O'Byrne	The Society of St Vincent de Paul	C1-NZA8UJ8U9GAS
126	Siona	Cahill	The USI -Equality & Citizenship	C1-YI1GCT1UWW4J
127	Kevin	Dennehy	TINI	C1-FQ81S7OE3DKJ
128	Paul	Kenny	Tipperary Energy Agency	C1-U3RF34BUKJZD
129	Mícheál	Callaghan	Transition Ireland and Northern Ireland	C1-RLKAC1J55SMV
130	Thomas	O'Connor	Transition Kerry	C1-WMNJ3NF730DZ
131	Thomas	O'Connor	Transition Kerry	C1-FE91SO3TAJSQ
132	Micheal	Callaghan	Transition Monaghan	C1-329JOW7X1P8U
133	Elizabeth	Garvey	Trócaire	C1-YH8NB0FNIE1B
134	Paul	Deane	University College Cork	C1-87A0UZ5H7DWU
135	James	Glynn	University College Cork	C1-EHILF0CIA7IL
136	Orla	Hegarty	UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental	C1-H9NMGLQA8VKC

			Policy	
137	John	O'Halloran	University College Cork	C1-O4AMIBOT5MIP
138	David	Timoney	University College Dublin	C1-KZMWB48MK1CR
139	Emily	Duffy	Uplift	C1-8PTL3X3XDDWR
140	John	McAreavey	Various Bishops	C1-XZHEXVDDFB9H
141	Rory	Harrington	VESI Environmental Ltd.	C1-WZCGCBP5BRZJ
142	Mindy	O'Brien	Voice	C1-EBWUQJ9YH9ZE
143	Joan	Campbell	Wicklow Planning Alliance	C1-I5TGP51TNTJ1
144	Kathleen	Connelly	Wind Aware Clare	C1-EQ82J9AGEKQO
145	Henry	Fingelton	Wind Aware Ireland	C1-8J4UQGCMT1PF
146	Paula	Byrne	Wind Aware Ireland	C1-C56HGO9XS055
147	Sarah	Caughey	YMCA Ireland	C1-GLN1OY87FAA1
148			Young Friends of the Earth	C1-FZKCZKOL8J3Q
149	Paul	Allen	Zero Carbon Britain	C1-7SUPOPOAI8RY
150	Sean	Cronin	Zero Waste Alliance Ireland (ZWA)	C1-VNAHT22I3AZK
151	David	Desmond	Zero Waste Ireland Group	C1-4VAUM2U77MW8
152	Jessica	Beresford	Zoological Society of Trinity College	C1-RL4Q93K4U3LO
153	Daniel	Dunleavy	Zoological Society of Trinity College	C1-EAOGC1E65H1A

*\* This list was originally circulated to members in advance of the Citizens' Assembly's first meeting on Climate Change in September 2017. The list has since been updated to include additional organisations which were inadvertently omitted from the original list. For clarity these have been marked with an asterisk.*

**Appendix 2 – List and frequency of issues raised in submissions process**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>
Transport	376
Energy	363
Agriculture	317
Food	220
Fossil Fuels	215
Waste	190
Education	186
Plastics	149
Government	127
Electric Vehicles	106
Infrastructure	105
Targets	91
Forestry	86
Incentives	86
Solar	79
Housing	78
Leadership	76
Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	71
Cycling	66
Community	57
Wind	51
Smart Grid	43
Economy	38
Paris Agreement	37
Retro Fitting	35
International Examples	35
Taxation	28
Stop Climate Chaos	27
Wind Negatives	23
Fracking	21
Environment	21
Aviation	20
National Mitigation Plan	19
Rural	19

Goals	18
Ocean	17
Health	14
Water	14
Biomass	13
Constitution	12
Tourism	12
Peat lands	10
Bog lands	10
Climate Justice/ Social Justice *	9
Nuclear	9
Planning	9
Co-operatives	8
Wave	7
Seaweed	7
Population	7
Corporations	7
Flooding	7
Laudato Si	6
Hemp	6
Eco Driving	6
Heating	5

\* It should be noted that the issue of fairness also featured prominently; this is reflected in the Signpost Document. This list captures the number of times that the phrases Climate Justice/ Social Justice were mentioned.

## **Appendix 3 – Call for Submissions**

**This call for submissions appeared in the Irish Times, the Irish Independent, the Irish Examiner, the Irish Mirror and the Irish Farmers Journal on 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2017.**

### **Submissions to the Citizens' Assembly invited on Climate Change**

The Citizens' Assembly is inviting submissions on the third topic the Assembly will consider - How the State can make

Ireland a Leader in Tackling Climate Change.

The Citizens' Assembly was established following a Resolution passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas. The Assembly is an exercise in deliberative democracy, placing the citizen at the heart of important legal and policy issues facing Irish society today.

**Submissions can be made online or by post to Citizens Assembly, 16 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, to arrive no later than**

**5pm 11 August 2017.**

All documents received by the Assembly secretariat may be listed on the website, in order of date received and displayed

with a name/name of organisation, and the title of the submission.

**For more information on the Assembly or to make an online submission visit**

**[www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie)**

Fáiltíonn an Tionól Saoránach roimh aighneachtaí ar an dara hábhar atá le breithniú ag an Tionól - Mar a fhéadfaidh an Stát tír cheannródaíoch a dhéanamh d'Éirinn maidir le dul i ngleic le hathrú aeráide.

I ndiaidh do dhá Theach an Oireachtais glacadh le Rún is ea a bunaíodh an Tionól Saoránach. Is ionann an Tionól is pléghrúpa daonlathach a chuireann an saoránach i gcroílár ceisteanna tábhachtacha dlí agus beartas atá roimh phobal na hÉireann sa lá inniu.

**Is féidir aighneacht a dhéanamh ar líne nó tríd an bpost chuig An Tionól Saoránach, 16 Cearnóg Parnell, Baile Átha Cliath 1, tráth nach déanaí ná an 5pm 11 Lúnasa 2017.**

Is féidir doiciméid a fhaigheann rúnaíocht an Tionóil a liostú ar an láithreán gréasáin, de réir na ndátaí a bhfuarthas iad, agus a thaispeáint mar aon le hainm/ainm na heagraíochta, agus teideal na haighneachta.

**Chun tuilleadh eolais faoin Tionól a fháil nó chun aighneacht ar líne a dhéanamh, téigh chuig**

**[www.citizensassembly.ie](http://www.citizensassembly.ie)**