



CREATING CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

A TOOLKIT ON THE IMPACTS OF
CLIMATE CHANGE IN IRISH COMMUNITIES

●● feminist communities
●■ for climate justice

ABOUT

FEMINIST COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Feminist Communities for Climate Justice is a campaign for climate justice that reflects feminist and community work values. The project is developing a feminist and community work analysis of climate justice in Ireland in work, groups and communities.
- This campaign is a partnership between the National Women's Council and Community Work Ireland. We seek to amplify the voices of women and marginalised communities that are most impacted by climate breakdown, building momentum in communities to engage, understand and influence climate policies¹.
- The campaign is funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. It is funded through strand two of its Community Climate Action Programme, which focuses on building capacity and know-how within communities to develop low carbon communities and further engage in climate action.



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"WE FEEL LIKE WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL BECAUSE WE AREN'T PERFECTLY VEGAN, ZERO-WASTE, FLIGHT FREE, ETC. WE TELL OURSELVES THAT ONCE WE HAVE CHANGED X ABOUT OUR LIFESTYLE, THEN WE WILL BE 'QUALIFIED' TO TAKE ACTION TO HALT THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL CRISIS. TAKE THAT IDEA, AND THROW IT AWAY."

- MIKAELA LOACH

WHAT IS THIS TOOLKIT FOR?

This toolkit is for community workers, climate coaches, conversational hosts and facilitators. This toolkit will help to introduce you to the impacts of the climate crisis on the day-to-day lives of communities, making climate change a more real and immediate issue, along with the solutions to recognise and respond to these impacts. You will learn some key definitions that relate to climate change, and how climate change is connected to areas of day-to-day life for every community. The areas are:

- Energy & Housing
- Transport
- Food
- Health
- Care

Following these sections are suggested prompts to engage communities in thinking about the impacts of the climate crisis on their lives, and what actions they can take to address them.



The climate crisis, and how the Government plans to address it, already have impacts on our day-to-day lives – the homes we live in, the transport we use, the food we eat and our health. It is not always obvious, however, how climate change is influencing or causing these impacts. **These impacts will also be more pronounced for communities that are already marginalised or disadvantaged**, which makes it more important for those communities and workers engaged with them to be aware of these impacts in order to co-create community-owned responses.

You don't have to be an expert on climate change and climate justice to host and start these conversations within your community. This toolkit aims to give you some knowledge and confidence on these topics so that you feel more comfortable in beginning these conversations, allowing you to bring communities along with you in a collective journey towards climate justice.



Some of the content featured in this toolkit was developed for the **Community Work in a Changing Ireland: Feminist Climate Justice** programme. This certificate programme was run in collaboration with **Maynooth University's Department of Applied Social Studies**.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit is part of an 'educate/agitate and organise' set of two toolkits surrounding climate justice developed by the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice project. This toolkit is the **'educate/agitate'** of the set, aiming to inform community workers and facilitators and highlight existing and future injustices related to climate change which will impact those already marginalised in Irish society. It can be used in tandem with the second toolkit, **'Community Action for Feminist Climate Justice'**, but is also usable on its own.

This toolkit is designed primarily to educate community workers and facilitators working with communities either in waged or un-waged capacities on the impacts that climate change will have on key sectors of Irish society (listed in the previous section), and is inspired by community work methods and approaches which in turn have been influenced by feminist analysis and associated processes and methods since the 1960s. Understanding how climate change is an immediate problem that is already impacting our day-to-day lives and the lives of communities, as well as how to communicate this immediacy, have been highlighted as key needs for community workers/facilitators. The toolkit is written in accessible language, with key terms explained and case studies included, to help community workers/facilitators feel confident in their own knowledge on climate change as well as helping them communicate these impacts with the communities they work with.

Although primarily for use in building community worker/facilitator knowledge on climate justice issues in Ireland, this toolkit also has a workshopping section with some examples of prompts that can be used to start discussions concerning climate justice with communities. Whilst climate change itself can seem like a vast and global problem that is not immediately relevant to many communities, issues such as the cost of fuel, poor public transport links and flood damage are likely to be identified as causes for concern in the community - and they can all be used to start having discussions about climate justice. Facilitator confidence in the topic is important for fostering these conversations and eventually helping to catalyse them into further action.

A baseline level of facilitation skills is recommended for the activities included in this toolkit, as well as for hosting the conversations that come out of it. You may want to tailor conversations and case studies in this toolkit, or further distill them, to better fit the context of the community/ies you are working with.

THE CLIMATE JARGON BUSTER, CREATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND THE NATIONAL ADULT LITERACY AGENCY (NALA), EXPLAINS COMMON CLIMATE ACTION TERMS IN PLAIN ENGLISH. YOU MIGHT FIND IT A USEFUL RESOURCE WHEN HAVING CONVERSATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE/JUSTICE WITH COMMUNITIES.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY WORK?

Community Work and/or Community Development are defined as, “a developmental activity comprised of both a task and a process. The task is social change to achieve equality, social justice and human rights, and the process is the application of principles of participation, empowerment and collective decision making in a structured and co-ordinated way.”² This definition echoes all understandings of the community work/development approach in Ireland as well as global understandings of it. Community work/development in Ireland is underpinned by five values:

- Collectivity: collective analysis, action and outcomes for a just and equal society
- Community Empowerment: increasing knowledge, skills, consciousness and confidence of communities
- Social Justice & Sustainable Development: promoting environmentally, economically and socially sustainable policies and practises

- Human Rights, Equality & Anti-Discrimination: affirming human rights, promoting equality and challenging discrimination
- Participation: communities identifying their needs and engaging in responses

KEY DOCUMENTS

COMMUNITY WORK

All Ireland Standards for Community Work: <https://www.aieb.ie/all-ireland-community-work-standards/>

Climate Action and Climate Justice - A Guide for Community Workers: <https://www.cwi.ie/cpd-climate-action-and-climate-justice-a-guide-for-community-workers/>

Towards Climate Justice: <https://www.cwi.ie/product/towards-climate-justice/>



FLOODING IN MIDDLETON, CO. CORK

IN OCTOBER 2023, A MONTH'S WORTH OF RAIN FELL IN MIDDLETON, CO. CORK OVER TWO DAYS DURING STORM BABET. THIS LARGE VOLUME OF RAINFALL MADE THE NEARBY RIVERS SWELL, AND IN EIGHT MINUTES THE MAIN STREET OF THE TOWN WAS KNEE-DEEP IN FLOODWATER. IN MIDDLETON AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS, AROUND 600 HOMES AND 300 BUSINESSES WERE FLOODED, WITH DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT ALMOST €200 MILLION. ALTHOUGH A FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME WAS PROPOSED FOR MIDDLETON AS EARLY AS 2015 AFTER IT WAS FLOODED THAT YEAR, IT WILL LIKELY NOT BE DELIVERED UNTIL 2030. IN THE MEANTIME, INTERIM FLOOD RELIEF MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN. HOWEVER, MANY HOUSEHOLDS ARE FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO INSURE THEIR PROPERTIES IN THE FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change is the change in climate and weather patterns caused by global warming. In Ireland, we are likely to see changes such as:

- Increased frequency and strength of storms
- Increase in flooding and heavy rainfall
- Pressure on our water supply and impacts on our water quality
- Increased frequency of heatwaves and drought
- Reduced frosty days every year and shortening of our frosty season
- Effects on natural ecosystems and species that cannot adapt to rising temperatures and climatic changes
- Rise in sea levels and coastal erosion

The primary culprit of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, gas and peat that release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, that in turn trap the sun's energy causing a global temperature rise.

In other countries, changes can include drought; more frequent and intense flooding and tsunamis; more frequent and intense tornadoes; sea level rise; heatwaves; glacial and ice melting; and wildfires.

Climate change can occur for natural reasons and human-made reasons. Although there has always been natural changes and fluctuations to the climate, **the current rate of extreme and rapid change is due to human-made reasons³**. Natural reasons for climate change include the planet's tilt towards the sun; the energy output of the sun changing; and the occurrence of Ice Age events.

The principal causes of climate change, which are human-made, are the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation (or cutting down trees).

Fossil fuels are natural but non-renewable energy sources formed from the remains of ancient plants and animals that have been buried and subjected to heat and pressure over millions of years. They are primarily coal, oil and natural gas, along with peat. Since the dawn of the industrial revolution in the eighteenth century, these fuels have been extracted and burned to power manufacturing, industrial and transportation systems on an increasingly global and devastating scale.

Some people use the term **climate crisis** rather than climate change to better communicate the scale and urgency of this issue, believing that climate change as a term is too passive.



WILDFIRES IN LOS ANGELES, AMERICA

IN JANUARY 2025, A SERIES OF FEROCIOUS WILDFIRES ERUPTED ACROSS THE AREA OF LOS ANGELES IN AMERICA, WHICH WERE FUELLED BY VERY DRY WEATHER AND WHIPPED UP BY STRONG WINDS. MORE THAN 200,000 PEOPLE WERE TOLD TO EVACUATE THE AREAS IMPACTED BY MULTIPLE WILDFIRES, WHICH DESTROYED MORE THAN 23,000 ACRES OF LAND INCLUDING 12,000 STRUCTURES. MANY PEOPLE LOST THEIR HOMES, AND HOMES THAT REMAINED LOST POWER AS POWER LINES WERE DESTROYED IN THE FIRES.

WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

Global warming is when the planet heats up due to natural and/or human-made climate change. While natural processes can cause climate changes over hundreds of thousands of years, **human activities are the leading cause of global warming.**

Greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide trap some of the heat from the sun that should leave our atmosphere and escape back into space. This heat instead remains in our atmosphere, further heating the planet up, like how a greenhouse captures the heat of the sun to allow plants within it to grow. Scientists have warned that emissions of these greenhouse gases need to cease completely by mid-century.

WHAT IS CLIMATE JUSTICE?

Certain companies, countries and people drive activities that release a lot more greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere than others, worsening global heating and climate change⁴. These drivers of climate change are part of global systems that also produce social inequalities, such as capitalism, colonialism and patriarchy. Wealthier countries and people tend to engage in these activities more than poorer people and countries.

However, poorer countries and people will face the worst of the impacts of climate change despite having much less responsibility for it. They won't have the same resources like money, housing and land to defend themselves or move out of harm's way.

This is what climate justice as a concept captures – the fact that **those who are least responsible for the climate crisis will be the most impacted by it, with the least resources to respond.**

Climate justice recognises that the impacts of climate breakdown will not be felt evenly, and that those in society who are already disadvantaged or socially excluded will face more negative impacts.

Achieving climate justice means that we must recognise and reduce inequalities in society at the same time as we work to reduce our reliance

on fossil fuels. We should strive to create a greener world that is also fairer and more equal. This means creating systemic change, rather than 'greening' business-as-usual - otherwise, we risk creating a society which has reduced the greenhouse gases it produces but retains social injustice. This means we must also dismantle the systems of capitalism, colonialism and patriarchy which create inequality on a global scale.

"WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME OCEAN (CLIMATE CHANGE), BUT NOT IN THE SAME BOAT. SOME ARE IN CRUISE SHIPS, SOME ARE IN YACHTS. SOME ARE IN CANOES. SOME PEOPLE DON'T HAVE A BOAT AT ALL."

CLIMATE JUSTICE

- FIVE DIMENSIONS

Climate justice, like many concepts, has a variety of differing definitions. Our own definition, shaped by our Feminist Climate Justice Report⁵, takes five aspects of injustice in relation to climate change into account.

Marginalised and socially excluded groups in the face of climate change:

- Have contributed the least greenhouse gases causing climate change
- Are more exposed to the impacts of climate change
- Tend to be burdened by climate policy to tackle climate change
- Are least likely to see the benefits of those climate policies
- Do not have their voices heard in decision-making spaces and are less likely to be in those spaces

KEY DOCUMENT:

FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE REPORT

THE FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE REPORT, PUBLISHED BY THE FEMINIST COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE PROJECT, PROVIDES A BASELINE REVIEW OF IRISH ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE POLICY, FOCUSING ON ITS IMPACTS ON WOMEN AND MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES IN IRELAND.

WHAT IS FEMINISM?

Feminism is the belief in and pursuit of equality between men and women in social, political and economic life. It is also a political tool, a social movement and an analysis of power and oppression along the lines of gender. Feminism is about all genders having equal rights and opportunities.

Being a feminist simply means believing in equal rights for all genders - **anyone can be a feminist, including men and boys.**

Feminism recognises that women's experiences, identities, knowledge and strengths are not equally reflected, valued or respected in the world. Although crucial feminist struggles, such as the right to vote and the right to work, have been won, there are still many gender inequalities in our society today. These include the gender pay gap, the lack of women in leadership positions, and gender-based violence. All of these impact women and girls' ability to participate on equal footing with men and boys in our societies.

WHAT IS FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE?

Feminist climate justice asks us to pay particular attention to **how the dimensions of climate justice affect individuals and communities according to their gender and the intersectionality** of their lived experience and identity.

Like climate justice, feminist climate justice speaks to the need for systemic change and dismantling systems like capitalism, colonialism and patriarchy, which produce the inequalities that create intersectional discrimination and oppression.

INTERSECTIONALITY REFERS TO THE WAY THAT MULTIPLE FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION - SUCH AS CLASSISM, SEXISM, RACISM, AGEISM, ABLEISM, ETC. - CAN COMBINE OR OVERLAP IN THE LIFE OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR FOR A COMMUNITY, SHAPING THEIR EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN LIFE.

FOR EXAMPLE, A BLACK WOMAN MAY EXPERIENCE RACISM AND SEXISM IN HER LIFE, BUT SHE WILL EXPERIENCE RACISM IN A DIFFERENT WAY TO BLACK MEN, AND EXPERIENCE SEXISM IN A DIFFERENT WAY TO WHITE WOMEN. HER EXPERIENCE IS SHAPED BY THESE TWO EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION INTERSECTING.

KEY DOCUMENT:

THE CLIMATE ACTION

AND LOW CARBON

DEVELOPMENT

(AMENDMENT) ACT 2021

THE CLIMATE ACTION AND LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 SUPPORTS IRELAND'S TRANSITION TO NET-ZERO AND MAKES ACHIEVING A CLIMATE NEUTRAL ECONOMY BY NO LATER THAN 2050 LEGALLY BINDING. IT ENSURES THAT IRELAND MEETS ITS EUROPEAN UNION AND INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE OBLIGATIONS.

NET-ZERO EMISSIONS MEANS THAT WE ARE REDUCING OR CAPTURING THE SAME VOLUME OF GREENHOUSE GASES THAT WE PRODUCE, ESSENTIALLY CANCELLING THEM OUT.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Ireland as a country has to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions it produces by half in 2030, and to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. These targets are legally binding, and Ireland will face economic penalties if they are not met.

In order to meet these targets, Ireland will have to change the way that the entirety of our social and economic systems currently operate. Our transport, energy use and generation, food production, construction methods, and more will have to change to become less reliant on fuels such as coal, gas and oil, ensuring that they produce less greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide and do less damage to the environment. Land use, and farming methods will have to change too, such as by increasing the amount of land under forestry and diversifying the agricultural model to increase land under horticulture, tillage and wetland restoration.

Everyone's way of life will be impacted by the required changes to meet these legally binding targets. We can already see examples of actions taking place, such as the ban on smoky fuels, the introduction of electric cars (EVs), and an increase of wind and solar energy production.

Two of our dimensions of climate justice **reference climate policy directly**. This is because if issues of inequality are not taken into consideration when the Government creates policies, laws and actions in response to the climate crisis, existing inequalities in society can be worsened. Some examples include:

- Some people might not have enough money to buy a new electric car
- Some people might live in homes that are not eligible for retrofitting
- There are jobs that will be made obsolete in the green transition
- People who are already struggling to make ends meet will face further difficulties if all 'green' actions require payment to participate; they will also struggle if penalties for non-participation are fines or taxes
- Benefits for being an early adopter of green technologies, like tax reliefs or discounts on the full purchase price, are more likely to go to those with ample disposable income, rather than lower-income communities or individuals who would need them more.

KEY DOCUMENT:

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IS AN ANNUALLY UPDATED ROADMAP WHICH LAYS OUT ALL OF THE ACTIONS AND CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE CARRIED OUT IN IRELAND TO ENSURE WE MEET OUR LEGALLY BINDING GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TARGETS. THE ANNUAL UPDATES MEAN THAT ACTIONS AND CHANGES CAN REFER TO THE NEWEST SCIENCE AND INFORMATION ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AS POSSIBLE.



MAPA

MOST AFFECTED PEOPLE AND AREAS

We have already discussed that poorer countries and people will face the worst of the impacts of climate change despite having less responsibility for causing it, and those in society who are already disadvantaged or socially excluded will face more negative impacts from climate change.

Climate policies, if not created with attention to existing inequalities, can also make those inequalities worse.

Climate justice is a concept that covers the global and local, showing that even in the wealthier countries that are driving climate change, there are communities who will face more negative impacts.

The concept of **MAPA** – an acronym for **Most Affected People and Areas** – is helpful for making the global-to-local connection around climate justice. MAPA allows us to discuss climate justice on a local and global level, acknowledging inequality on a **global scale** and inequality **within** countries when discussing the climate crisis⁶.

On the global scale, richer countries in the Global North have contributed the bulk of greenhouse gases causing global climate change, but countries in the Global South are seeing the worst impacts of the climate crisis, despite contributing very little to the emissions causing climate change.

GLOBAL NORTH AND GLOBAL SOUTH ARE TERMS USED TO DESCRIBE DIFFERENCES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE WORLD. THE GLOBAL NORTH IS MADE UP OF ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA. THE GLOBAL SOUTH IS MADE UP OF COUNTRIES WHICH ARE STILL DEVELOPING ECONOMICALLY OR THAT ARE LEAST DEVELOPED, INCLUDING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA. MANY COUNTRIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH HAVE EXPERIENCED COLONISATION IN THE PAST. AUSTRALIA, DESPITE BEING IN THE SOUTH OF THE WORLD, IS A GLOBAL NORTH COUNTRY.

The historic impacts of colonisation have created an ongoing power imbalance between countries in the Global North and Global South⁷, meaning that countries and frontline communities most impacted in the Global South lack sufficient resources and money to adapt to and defend against climate change impacts.

FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES ARE THOSE LIVING ON THE 'FRONTLINES' OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS, EXPERIENCING THE FIRST AND WORST IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THESE GROUPS ARE OFTEN ALREADY SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND LIVE IN AREAS MORE VULNERABLE TO IMPACTS LIKE FLOODING, DESERTIFICATION OR 'LESS DESIRABLE' AREAS, SUCH AS THOSE NEAR MINES OR INDUSTRIAL DUMPS.

On the local scale, even in the wealthier countries of the Global North who are largely responsible for climate change, there are marginalised communities with less power:

- to consume as much fossil fuel energy
- to defend themselves from climate impacts
- to be in decision-making spaces
- to have their experiences recognised

This is also true of countries in the Global South with vast wealth inequality. Inequality **within** countries is now growing at a faster pace than inequality **between** countries.

Wealth is a key factor – the wealthy in marginalised groups will produce greenhouse gas emissions more in common with non-marginalised groups. Wealth can also buy protection and provide mobility in the face of climate disasters.

MAPA, AS A CONCEPT, INCLUDES:

- Countries in the Global South
- Poorer people in the Global North and South
- Women and Girls
- People of Colour
- Disabled People
- Rural Communities
- Offshore Island Communities
- Indigenous Communities
- Traveller and Roma Communities
- LGBTQI+ People
- Older People
- Children and Younger People

All of these areas and people will face more negative impacts in the face of climate change.





CONNECTING CLIMATE TO EVERYDAY LIFE

Climate change can seem like an irrelevant or inaccessible topic for many people, particularly those who are struggling to pay rent, put food on the table or keep their homes warm. Climate change can also appear as a daunting topic due to its association with hard science – many people feel like they need to be an expert on climate science to talk about it with others.

Climate change as a topic also comes with its own vocabulary of terms which can be inaccessible to those not familiar with them. But some of these terms, like energy poverty, just transition and food poverty are very relevant to the day-to-day lives of people, particularly those who might be socially excluded or on lower incomes. Connecting climate terms to everyday life makes the climate crisis more immediate and real for people, rather than a problem that is not pressing for Ireland and should be solely dealt with by politicians and scientists.

Connecting climate change to issues like the mouldy homes, poor public transport links and access to green spaces like parks can help in having conversations about climate-related issues as they impact on people's day-to-day lives. More importantly, it can help disadvantaged or socially excluded groups recognise climate injustices in their lives and their communities, creating opportunities for collective action and response.

We'll now consider a few key areas that will be of importance to communities, such as housing & energy, transport, food, health and care, and their connections to climate (in)justice. Specific issues for marginalised and socially excluded groups will be highlighted.

The following sections are titled/themed around a theme of, 'We all Deserve...' to highlight the positive change that could come to communities in a world where climate justice is pursued.

JUST TRANSITION⁸ IS A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE TRANSITION FROM OUR CURRENT, FOSSIL FUEL POWERED ECONOMY TO A GREENER ECONOMY WHILST ENSURING THAT NO WORKERS, COMMUNITIES OR COUNTRIES ARE LEFT BEHIND, LEFT OUT OF OR DISADVANTAGED BY THE PROCESS. THERE CANNOT BE A GREEN TRANSITION FOR SOME AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS - JUST TRANSITION MEANS ENSURING JUSTICE IS AT THE HEART OF THE PROCESS.

MARY ROBINSON, FORMER PRESIDENT OF IRELAND AND MEMBER OF THE ELDERS, SAYS THAT JUST TRANSITIONS MUST BE ROOTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR THEM TO BE CONSIDERED AS SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATIONS THAT WILL BENEFIT THE WELLBEING OF ALL PEOPLE⁹.

"THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT
SHOULDN'T BE SEEN AS A
MOVEMENT THAT'S JUST
SPECIFIC FACES, BUT A
MOVEMENT WITH MILLIONS
OF ACTIVISTS FROM
DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE
WORLD. EVERY ACTIVIST
HAS A STORY TO TELL
AND EVERY STORY HAS
A SOLUTION TO GIVE, AND
EVERY SOLUTION HAS A LIFE
TO CHANGE."

- VANESSA NAKATE



WE ALL DESERVE WARM HOMES & CLEAN, AFFORDABLE ENERGY

Housing and energy are presented together in this toolkit as the majority of our energy use will be in the home, where it is also billable. The housing and cost-of-energy crises are key issues in communities all over the country. Access to affordable housing is an ongoing issue in Ireland, where demand greatly exceeds supply and the majority of housing provision is in the hands of market forces such as global investor funds and real estate investor funds rather than the state. This means that housing is provided and priced not to meet need, but to generate profit. Similarly, Ireland's energy market is also dominated by the desire for private providers to generate profit and is vulnerable to extreme fluctuations of the price of imported fossil fuels, such as those seen after the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war. State-owned, secure renewable energy sources, such as wind energy, would stabilise prices and ensure that communities do not have to choose between heating their homes or putting food on the table.

The Government is aware of the negative impacts of the cost of energy for the general public and has been giving out energy credits in recent Budgets to help people pay or reduce the cost of their bills, particularly in the wintertime. The struggle to keep a home warm and/or keep the lights on can be captured with the term energy poverty.

Energy poverty is defined as an inability to heat or power a home adequately¹⁰.

There are three key factors that can influence levels of energy poverty:

- The cost of energy
- The energy-efficiency of the home, or how well it retains heat
- Household income

KEY DOCUMENT:

ENERGY POVERTY

ACTION PLAN

THE ENERGY POVERTY ACTION PLAN DETAILED CURRENT AND FUTURE MEASURES FROM GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO ARE LEAST ABLE TO AFFORD ENERGY TO HEAT THEIR HOMES ARE PROTECTED AND SUPPORTED. IT WAS CREATED IN THE WAKE OF THE COST OF ENERGY CRISIS WHICH IMPACTED HOUSEHOLDS OVER THE WINTER PERIOD OF 2022/23.



Energy use is an **inelastic demand** – meaning that no matter how much the price goes up, demand for energy remains relatively unchanged. This is because we all need a certain level of energy use for our day-to-day survival. As a result of this, poorer and disadvantaged households are hit harder by changes in energy pricing than other households. Groups most susceptible to energy poverty in Ireland include the Traveller community, older people, low-income households, disabled people and female lone parents in private rental accommodation.

As many as 1.5 million Irish homes are considered energy inefficient¹¹; Ireland's housing stock uses about a quarter of Ireland's total energy and is responsible for 15.5% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions as a result¹². Combined with the existing cost-of-energy crisis, it is easy to see why energy poverty is such a pressing issue for the general population – we have expensive energy bills and a lot of energy inefficient housing, meaning we are paying more and more to keep houses that are poor at retaining heat warm.

The Government's plan to address the greenhouse gas emissions associated with our housing stock is to retrofit these homes to make them more energy efficient. The current goal is to retrofit 120,000 homes by 2025 and reach 500,000 homes by 2030.

RETROFITTING REFERS TO ANY IMPROVEMENT WORK ON AN EXISTING HOME TO INCREASE ITS ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND LOWER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. IT MAKES A HOME EASIER TO HEAT, IMPROVES ITS ABILITY TO RETAIN THAT HEAT AND OFTEN INVOLVES TRANSITIONING A HOME FROM FOSSIL FUEL USE TO GREENER, ELECTRIC ENERGY. RETROFITTING CAN INCLUDE INSULATING WALLS, ATTICS AND FLOORS; DOUBLE-GLAZING WINDOWS; ADDING SOLAR PANELS TO A HOUSE; AND INSTALLING 'SMART' THERMOSTATS WHICH CAN TURN APPLIANCES ON OR OFF AT CERTAIN TIME PERIODS.

KEY DOCUMENT:

NATIONAL RETROFIT PLAN

THE NATIONAL RETROFIT PLAN SETS OUT HOW THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACHIEVE ITS RETROFITTING TARGETS.

Improving the energy efficiency of homes reduces the energy use required to heat them, resulting in reduced bills. This is a more permanent way of preventing energy poverty and would be of great benefit to those who already struggle on lower incomes. The Government offers a fully subsidised retrofitting scheme called the Warmer Homes Scheme, which allows those living in very energy-inefficient homes and who are receiving certain social welfare payments to avail of retrofitting.

However, there are still barriers to retrofitting¹³ that prevent those who would benefit from it the most from accessing it.

- The upfront costs of retrofitting, even with Government grants, are still out of reach for many
- The Warmer Homes Scheme requires that the applicant must own their home
- Home ownership is required to avail of all retrofitting, meaning that those renting their home or a room in home cannot retrofit
- Those living in emergency accommodation or in Direct Provision centres cannot avail of retrofitting
- Trailers, caravans and mobile homes are not eligible for retrofitting, which has particular implications for the Traveller community

ENERGY POVERTY &

THE TRAVELLER

COMMUNITY

THE TRAVELLER COMMUNITY ARE ONE OF THE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE GROUPS TO ENERGY POVERTY IN IRELAND. THOSE LIVING IN TRAILERS, CARAVANS AND/OR MOBILE HOMES SPEND FIVE TO SIX TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE ON ENERGY TO KEEP THESE DWELLINGS WARM, AND 77% OF TRAVELLERS LIVING IN THESE DWELLINGS ARE IN ENERGY POVERTY.

TRAVELLERS ARE ALSO MORE RELIANT ON SOLID FUELS LIKE TURF AND COAL, WHICH ARE INCREASINGLY SUBJECT TO BANS AND HIGHER RATES OF CARBON TAXATION. THIS MEANS THEY ARE PAYING CARBON TAXATION ON THESE ITEMS BUT AT THE SAME TIME ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RETROFITTING - THIS IS AN OBVIOUS EXAMPLE OF CLIMATE INJUSTICE FOR THIS COMMUNITY.

BURNING FOSSIL FUELS IN THE HOME IS ALSO A HEALTH ISSUE, AS OCCUPANTS ARE MORE EXPOSED TO THE SMOKE AND POLLUTANTS THAT THESE FUELS PRODUCE WHEN BURNED.



A BUILDING ENERGY RATING (BER) EVALUATES A HOME BASED ON HOW ENERGY EFFICIENT IT IS. THE SCALE GOES FROM A TO G, WITH A-RATED HOMES BEING THE MOST ENERGY EFFICIENT AND G-RATED HOMES THE LEAST.

Those who are renting their home or a room in a home face high energy bills as well as high rent rates – only the owner of the property they live in or their landlord can decide whether the property is retrofitted or not. There is no minimum Building Energy Rating (BER) required to rent out a home or room until new regulations come into effect, meaning that very energy inefficient dwellings can be rented out to tenants. Private lettings are the least energy efficient housing option in Ireland¹⁴. This is a clear connection between one of Ireland's most pressing issues, the housing crisis, and climate injustice.

Energy inefficient housing can also be susceptible to damp and mould, which have serious health impacts. Damp and mould primarily affect the airways and lungs but can also affect the eyes and skin. The effects of damp and mould can cause serious illness and, in very severe cases, death. The death of Awaab Ishak, a two-year old child from Manchester, was linked by a coroner to prolonged exposure to black mould in his home, caused by inadequate ventilation and excess damp¹⁵.



MOULD & DAMP

IN OLIVER BOND

HOUSE FLAT COMPLEX,

DUBLIN 8

MORE THAN 82% OF THE RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE OLIVER BOND HOUSE FLAT COMPLEX SAID THAT THEY HAD PROBLEMS WITH MOULD AND DAMP IN THEIR HOMES. THE FLAT COMPLEX HAS ONLY BEEN REGENERATED ONCE IN THE 84 YEARS SINCE ITS COMPLETION, AND RESEARCH CARRIED OUT BY TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN¹⁶ FOUND THAT RESIDENTS OF THE FLATS ARE 2.4 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO HAVE ASTHMA COMPARED TO OTHER PATIENTS IN THE AREA. EVIDENCE OF ASTHMA WAS FOUND IN 18% OF OLIVER BOND HOUSE RESIDENTS, COMPARED TO JUST 8% FOR PATIENTS SEEN BY LOCAL GPs. OLDER PEOPLE AND CHILDREN WERE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO MOULD SPORES. ADDITIONALLY, 74% OF RESIDENTS SAID THEY HAD ISSUES KEEPING THEIR FLATS WARM - AN EXTRA COST ON TOP OF THE EXISTING HEALTH BURDEN.

Housing and energy issues related to climate injustice can also be linked to health outcomes – mould, damp and exposure to temperatures that are too cold or too hot have poor implications for health.

Whilst energy poverty is often linked to keeping a home warm, **a new issue in the face of climate change is increasing temperatures and more frequent heatwaves.** The majority of our buildings in Ireland are not designed with ventilation for very hot weather, meaning that excess heat remains trapped in the house during heatwaves. Excess heat has a number of health implications, including heatstroke and heat exhaustion, and worsens conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes and asthma. Excess heat makes certain medications less effective; there are also medications which make the body more susceptible to excess heat.

Those who are homeless are some of the most vulnerable to excess heat as they have no home to shelter from its impacts. Outdoor workers, older people and pregnant people are also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of excess heat.

In conclusion, our housing and energy crises have many links to climate change and implications for climate justice. It is very difficult for households to reduce their energy use, and energy inefficient housing stock means that the price of our daily energy use increases. Equitable access to retrofitting schemes is key to stabilising energy prices and reducing energy poverty levels, but these schemes must become available to those who do not own their homes. Energy inefficient housing and energy poverty have a number of negative health impacts also which should be shared with communities, particularly those who might already face barriers to accessing healthcare.

KEY DOCUMENT:

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY POLICY

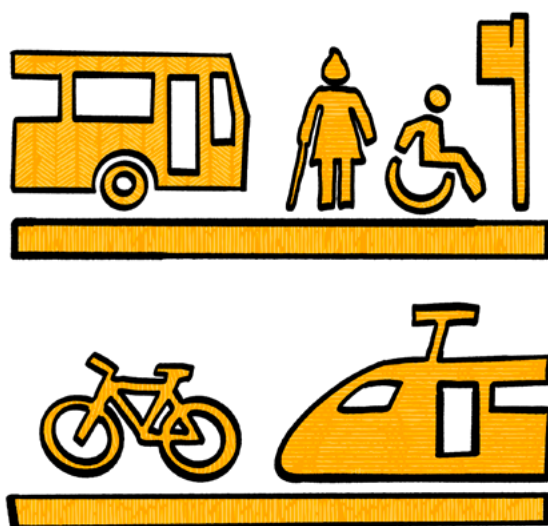
THE NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY POLICY SETS OUT HOW THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACHIEVE ITS 2030 TARGETS FOR ACTIVE TRAVEL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT JOURNEYS TO HELP IRELAND MEET ITS GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TARGETS. IT INCLUDES AN ACTION PLAN TO EXPAND AVAILABLE TRANSPORT OPTIONS TO CAR JOURNEYS, AS WELL AS BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE MEASURES TO REDUCE CAR JOURNEYS.

WE ALL DESERVE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE TRANSPORT

Transport is a key issue in the day-to-day lives of the population – commuting to work, travelling to a doctor’s appointment, accessing education at all levels, picking up shopping and socialising are just some of the reasons why access to transport dominates our lives. Transport is also a pressing sector in terms of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, as the majority of cars, trucks and vans are still using petrol or diesel as fuel.

The Government’s goals for transport’s green transition involve a combination of more than doubling trips taken on public transport, reducing the number of journeys taken by cars, and increasing the number of electric cars and buses on our roads. Active travel journeys – those on foot, by bike, e-scooter or via public transport – are also hoped to increase in the run up to 2030.

For many people, particularly those living in rural Ireland or disabled people, availing of active transport is not feasible. Public transportation links are poor in many rural areas, although this is improving with new



Local Link buses. Footpaths and cycle lanes are also sparse in rural areas, and tactile paving for those who are visually impaired is not always guaranteed when footpaths are available. As a result, many people have no choice but to use a car to travel, even if they would prefer using other methods of transport.

TACTILE PAVING IS A TYPE OF PAVEMENT THAT FEATURES RAISED LINES, DOMES, OR OTHER TEXTURES TO COMMUNICATE SAFETY INFORMATION TO PEOPLE WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

The concept of **transport poverty**¹⁷ can help capture some of the barriers associated with transport use - transport poverty refers to a lack of adequate transport services necessary to access general services and work, or to the inability to pay for these transport services. There are four factors to consider:

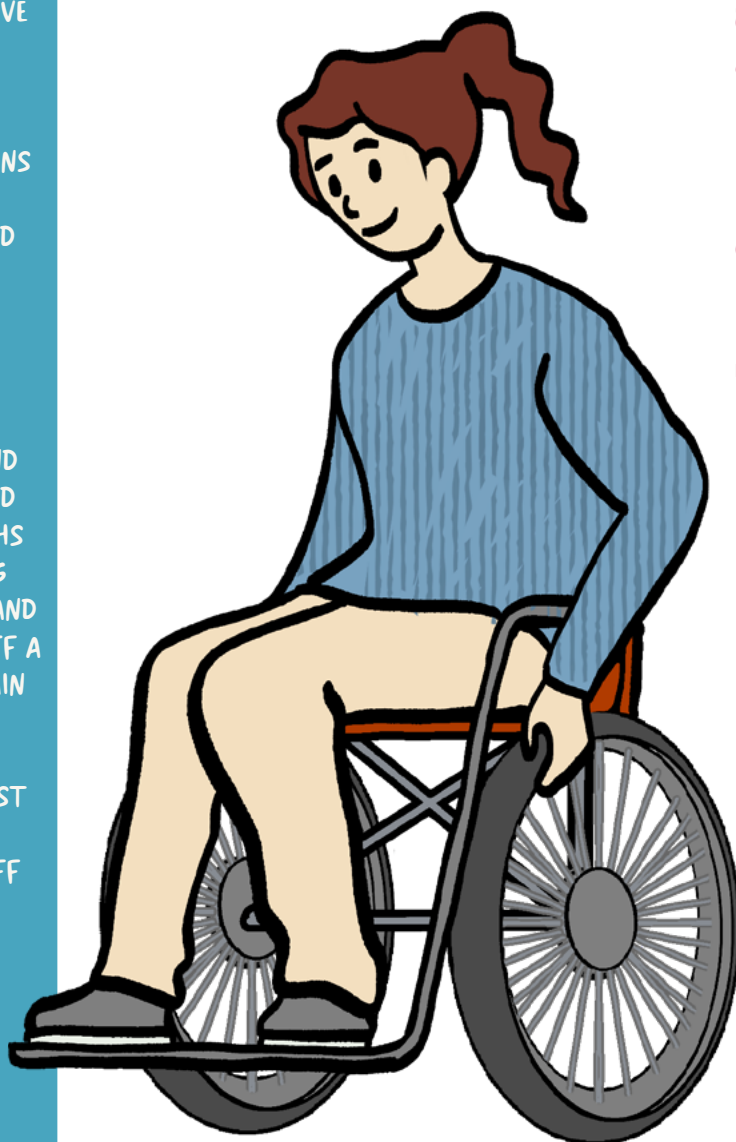
- No transport availability (lack of transport options or low frequency)
- No accessible transport options (particularly for disabled people)
- No affordable transport options (inability to meet the cost of transport)
- Unsafe transport conditions (available transport options are dangerous or unsafe)

DISABLED PEOPLE &

INACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

THERE ARE MANY BARRIERS TO USING ACTIVE TRAVEL METHODS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE, WHICH HINDER INDEPENDENT LIVING AND SPONTANEOUS TRAVEL FOR THEM – AND ONGOING TRANSPORT TRANSITION DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT CONSULTING DISABLED PEOPLE, MAKING GETTING AROUND MORE DIFFICULT.

THE PEDESTRIANISATION OF STREETS IN THE CITY CENTRE, FOR EXAMPLE, NEEDS TO CONSIDER HOW CLOSE DISABLED PARKING SPACES ARE, AS WELL AS HEIGHT DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN FOOTPATHS AND ROADS. THERE ARE ALSO CONCERNS AROUND CYCLE PATHS INTERSECTING ON FOOTPATHS WHERE BUS STOPS ARE LOCATED, CREATING RISKS OF COLLISIONS BETWEEN CYCLISTS AND DISABLED PEOPLE WHEN GETTING ON OR OFF A BUS¹⁸. LIFTS BEING OUT OF SERVICE AT TRAIN STATIONS IS A CONSTANT ACCESSIBILITY PROBLEM FOR THOSE WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS, AND WHEELCHAIR USERS MUST CALL UP TO 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE FOR CERTAIN RAIL STATIONS TO ENSURE A STAFF MEMBER WILL HAVE A RAMP FOR THEM TO GET ON AND OFF OF THE TRAIN. ADVANCED BOOKING IS REQUIRED FOR BUS ÉIREANN JOURNEYS AS WELL, WITH MANY BUSES ONLY OFFERING ONE WHEELCHAIR SPACE. DUBLIN BUS VEHICLES ALSO OFFER ONLY ONE WHEELCHAIR SPACE, WHICH IS SHARED WITH THOSE USING PRAMS OR BUGGIES.



The affordability aspect of transport poverty should also be considered for those who are forced to use cars due to a lack of alternative transport options – there are numerous costs associated with car ownership such as tax, insurance, NCT, fuel and maintenance, all of which can be doubled for households who may need to run two cars to meet their travel needs.

Car ownership is seen as a necessity for those carrying out caring trips in particular, the majority of which are women¹⁹. Caring trips can include taking children to school or childcare,

checking in on elderly relatives and picking up groceries or prescriptions. In Ireland, nearly one quarter of journeys are “companion journeys”²⁰, which include driving children to school, and 68% of all journeys in Ireland are for distances of less than 10km²¹. The numbers of children walking or cycling to school have dropped dramatically – in the 80s, over half of children in primary school in Ireland got to school by walking or cycling. This has since dropped to less than a quarter of the population, with the number of those brought to school by car rising to 60%²². Safety is a primary concern here, but our current public transport system is ill-suited to caring trips, having been designed largely to suit home-work commutes.

KEY DOCUMENT:

TRAVELLING IN A WOMAN'S SHOES

TRAVELLING IN A WOMAN'S SHOES IS A REPORT CREATED BY TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND WHICH EXPLORES THE EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN TRAVELLING IN IRELAND, INCLUDING ANY BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES THEY FACE IN TRAVELLING. SOME OF THESE CHALLENGES INCLUDE PERCEIVED SAFETY WHILST TRAVELLING AND THE NEED TO CARRY OUT CARING WORK.

EV ownership, the proposed transition method for those heavily dependent on cars, comes with its own barriers and also gives no incentive for decision-makers to redesign public transportation to suit a variety of journeys. The upfront cost of purchasing a new EV is an immediate barrier for those on low incomes, but another crucial barrier is the availability of charging infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. There are 2100 charging stations in Ireland for 110,000 EVs currently on our roads. The installation of a home EV charger averages between €800 to €1200, although grants are available providing the EV meets certain criteria. As discussed in the five factors of climate justice, the benefits of early adoption of EVs such as long-term savings in fuel costs will likely go to those with enough income to purchase them, rather than those on low incomes who will face increasing prices on petrol and diesel due to carbon taxation.

In conclusion, the way we travel will be dramatically changed as we reduce our reliance on fossil fuels like petrol and diesel, but we risk furthering climate injustice if we don't pay attention to the differing transport needs of individuals. Accessibility for disabled and

older people is a particular concern, as well as reducing transport poverty for those in rural areas. Our existing and growing public transport must also evolve to fit a variety of travel needs, such as caring trips, and not only a home-work commute. EVs remain out of cost for low-income groups, and further charging infrastructure is key to making them viable for all.

RURAL/ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

& TRANSPORT POVERTY

ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS IMPROVING IN RURAL IRELAND THANKS TO SERVICES LIKE LOCALINK, BUT IS STILL VERY POOR OVERALL. THIS LEAVES COMMUNITIES RESIDING IN CERTAIN AREAS 'LOCKED-IN' TO CAR OWNERSHIP DUE TO LACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN RURAL AREAS. THE COSTS OF CAR OWNERSHIP - TAX, NCT, INSURANCE, FUEL AND MAINTENANCE - ARE STEEP, AND THESE COSTS ARE DOUBLED FOR HOUSEHOLDS WHO NEED TWO CARS. THESE COSTS CAN WORSEN EXISTING INEQUALITIES RELATED TO LOW-INCOME. MANY AREAS DEPRIVED OF GOOD TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL IRELAND ALSO EXPERIENCE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION²³.

IRELAND'S INHABITED OFFSHORE ISLANDS FACE UNIQUE CHALLENGES IN TRANSPORT, WITH MANY ISLANDERS FORCED TO OWN TWO CARS - ONE ON THEIR HOME ISLAND, AND ONE ON THE MAINLAND. CARS ON THE ISLANDS DO NOT NEED NCT, BUT THIS INCREASES THE PRICE OF INSURING THEM. TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE ISLANDS IS CARRIED OUT BY PLANE (FOR LARGER ISLANDS) AND FERRY, BOTH OF WHICH FACE DISRUPTION DURING EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS LIKE STORMS.

"WE CAN'T SEE THE FUTURE,
BUT WE CAN SEE HOW PEOPLE IN
THE PAST ORGANIZED AND
STRUGGLED AND PERSEVERED TO
CREATE THE BEST PARTS OF
OUR PRESENT. WE CAN, LIKE
THEM, DO OUR BEST TO ACT
SO THAT PEOPLE IN DECADES
YET TO COME WILL THANK US
FOR WHAT IS MOST THRIVING
AND ABUNDANT, MOST
BEAUTIFUL AND STABLE,
IN THEIR LIVES, JUST AS WE
THANK THOSE PAST HEROES."

- REBECCA SOLNIT





WE ALL DESERVE NUTRITIOUS AND HEALTHY FOOD

Food is a universal human need, a necessity for our health and important to our cultural and social lives. Food is closely tied to our farmers and agricultural sector, which produces food that we eat and export to sell in other countries. Three of the eleven indicators of enforced deprivation in Ireland are related to food: inability to afford having family or friends for a drink or meal once a month; inability to afford a roast joint (or its equivalent) once a week; and inability to afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish (or a vegetarian equivalent) every second day. This shows how important access to nutritious food is in terms of economic and social wellbeing in Ireland.

ENFORCED DEPRIVATION IS DEFINED AS OCCURRING WHERE A HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCES TWO OR MORE OF THE 11 NATIONAL DEPRIVATION ITEMS:

- GOING WITHOUT HEATING AT SOME STAGE IN THE LAST YEAR
- UNABLE TO AFFORD A MORNING, AFTERNOON OR EVENING OUT IN LAST FORTNIGHT
- UNABLE TO AFFORD TWO PAIRS OF PROPERLY FITTING SHOES IN GOOD CONDITION THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR DAILY ACTIVITIES
- UNABLE TO AFFORD A ROAST ONCE A WEEK
- UNABLE TO AFFORD A MEAL WITH MEAT, CHICKEN, FISH, OR VEGETARIAN EQUIVALENT EVERY SECOND DAY
- UNABLE TO AFFORD NEW (NOT SECOND-HAND) CLOTHES
- UNABLE TO AFFORD A WARM WATERPROOF COAT
- UNABLE TO AFFORD TO KEEP THE HOME ADEQUATELY WARM
- UNABLE TO AFFORD TO REPLACE ANY WORN OUT FURNITURE
- UNABLE TO AFFORD TO HAVE FAMILY OR FRIENDS FOR A DRINK OR A MEAL ONCE A MONTH
- UNABLE TO AFFORD TO BUY PRESENTS FOR FAMILY OR FRIENDS AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

Although our direct interaction with food production systems has been vastly reduced, these systems are very vulnerable to climate change and have an enormous impact on the food we can purchase in shops, as well as how expensive that food can be. Too much or too little rain, too much or too little sun, and the price of energy to power industrial greenhouses all impact food production – as well as the

numbers of pollinating species like birds and bees. Other events such as war or blockages can also impact food supply chains and the cost of food, such as the war in Ukraine or the blockage of the Suez Canal, a key trade route between Europe and Asia.

A FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN REFERS TO THE CHAIN OF PROCESSES THAT BRING FOOD FROM ITS PRODUCER- SUCH AS A FARMER - TO ITS CONSUMER - PEOPLE WHO BUY AND EAT IT. CERTAIN KEY STAGES OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS INCLUDE A FOOD ITEM'S PRODUCTION ON-SITE; CONVERSION INTO AN EDIBLE FORM IF NECESSARY; PACKAGING; DISTRIBUTION TO SHOPS; AND CONSUMPTION BY THOSE WHO PURCHASE IT.

The concept of food poverty describes the inability to have an adequate and nutritious diet due to cost and/or accessibility of food²⁴. This can also include cutting down on portion sizes or going without food, particularly for parents who would go without food to make sure that their children can eat. Food poverty goes beyond being able to afford food in terms of cost, but also asks us to consider if shops that provide a variety of nutritious food are accessible, as well as facilities and skills for people to prepare those foods in their homes. Access to culturally appropriate food is also important for the diverse communities that call Ireland home. The groups most at risk of food poverty in Ireland include women, disabled people, people with chronic illnesses, households with children and low-income households and individuals.

KEY DOCUMENT:

ACTION PLAN

ON FOOD POVERTY

THE ACTION PLAN ON FOOD POVERTY IS A CROSS GOVERNMENTAL ACTION PLAN SETTING OUT THE KEY ACTIONS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO REDUCE AND EVENTUALLY ELIMINATE FOOD POVERTY IN IRELAND.

FOOD POVERTY &

DIRECT PROVISION²⁵

DIRECT PROVISION IS A SYSTEM USED IN IRELAND SINCE 2000 TO ACCOMMODATE AND PROVIDE BASIC WELFARE TO ASYLUM SEEKERS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 47 CENTRES IN TOTAL IN IRELAND, MOST OF WHICH ARE RUN BY PRIVATE CONTRACTORS. RESIDENTS IN DIRECT PROVISION CENTRES DO NOT HAVE A SAY OVER WHEN OR WHAT KINDS OF FOOD THEY EAT, WITH SET MEALS AND MEALTIMES BEING A REALITY OF THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES. AS MANY OF THESE CENTRES ARE RUN BY PRIVATE CONTRACTORS SEEKING TO MAKE A PROFIT, THE QUALITY OF FOOD SERVED CAN BE POOR IN ORDER TO CUT COSTS. RESIDENTS HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO EAT THE FOOD THAT IS GIVEN TO THEM OR GO HUNGRY. CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FOODS ARE SELDOM AVAILABLE AT DIRECT PROVISION CENTRES, DESPITE THE KEY ROLE THAT FOOD PLAYS IN CULTURES AND RELIGIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. FOOD CAN ALSO BE ONE OF THE FEW CONNECTIONS THAT PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM HAVE TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES AND BE A SOURCE OF COMFORT. HOWEVER, RESIDENTS IN DIRECT PROVISION CENTRES ARE NOT GUARANTEED FACILITIES TO COOK WITH - ONLY SOME CENTRES PROVIDE SELF-CATERING FACILITIES. THIS HAS RESULTED IN SOME RESIDENTS COOKING IN BEDROOMS AND BATHROOMS, WHICH INCREASES DANGER OF STARTING FIRES. A WEEKLY ALLOWANCE OF JUST €38.80 FOR ADULTS MEANS THAT MULTIPLE FACTORS OF FOOD POVERTY APPLY TO RESIDENTS IN DIRECT PROVISION.

For farmers, our food producers, the impacts of the climate crisis are impossible to ignore.

Sodden soils caused by above average rainfall in 2024 impacted the growth of staple crops like potatoes. This is on top of other challenges like retaining a consistent supply of produce for market, complaints if produce is unwashed or misshapen, and working 17 to 18 hours a day for a fraction of the living wage – a quarter of Ireland's family farms made less than €5,000 in farming income in 2022²⁶. Supermarkets also try to offer the cheapest prices for produce and charge more money for organically produced food – which is grown with no chemicals and is better for our health and the environment. The majority of food produced in Ireland is exported elsewhere, where the bulk of money to be made goes to 'middlemen' such as processors and exporters rather than farmers and their local communities. Farmers themselves might not even get to consume their own produce, and under the current system they seldom get to form a connection with the customers consuming it. Supports under current Irish agri-food policy favour exports and bulk production for supermarkets, which discourages and makes food production for local communities less viable²⁷.

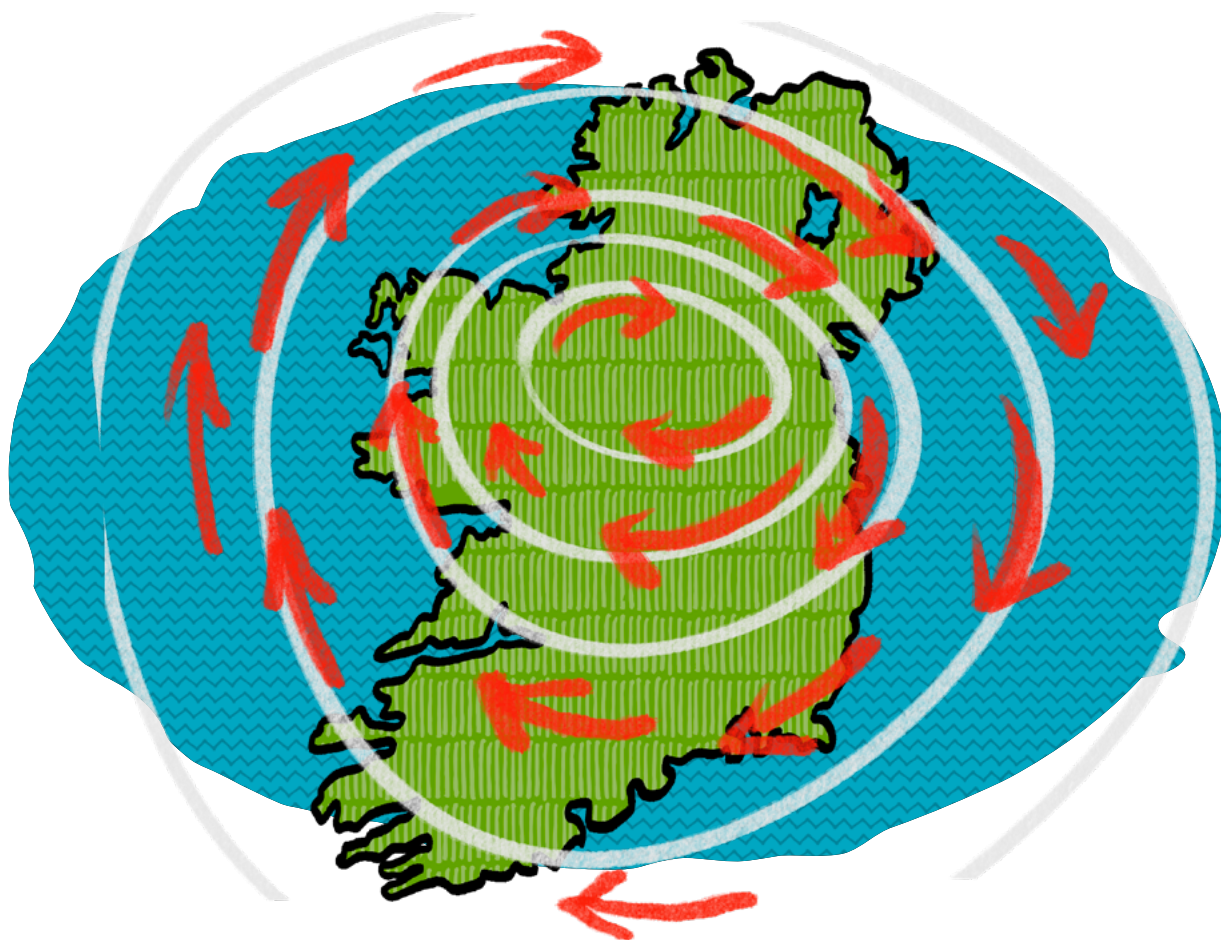
ORGANIC FOOD IS GROWN WITHOUT THE USE OF SYNTHETIC CHEMICALS, SUCH AS HUMAN-MADE PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS, AND CAN INCLUDE FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, MEATS, AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Organic, chemical-free food should not be a luxury product that is only available to those who can afford to purchase it – it is better for our health and should be accessible to all. But farmers must also be able to make a decent living from providing organic food to us, and being able to eat organic food grown locally would also reduce the risk of supply shortages and increased prices due to disruptions in food supply chains in other countries.

FARMING COMMUNITIES &

STORM ÉOWYN

STORM ÉOWYN WAS AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL AND RECORD-BREAKING EXTRATROPICAL CYCLONE WHICH HIT IRELAND ON THE 24TH OF JANUARY 2025. NEARLY ONE MILLION HOMES, FARMS AND BUSINESSES WERE WITHOUT POWER ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND, PARTICULARLY IN COUNTIES GALWAY AND MAYO. THE DAMAGE FROM THE STORM AND PROLONGED POWER OUTAGES (POWER WAS OFFICIALLY RESTORED TO ALL IMPACTED CUSTOMERS BY FEBRUARY 12TH) HAD NEGATIVE IMPACTS FOR FARMERS AND FARMING WORK. THE EFFECTS ON ISLAND AND RURAL COMMUNITIES, WHO WERE WITHOUT POWER FOR UP TO TWO WEEKS, WERE DEVASTATING AS PEOPLE COULD NOT PREPARE HOT MEALS OR HEAT THEIR HOMES, OR ACCESS LOCAL SERVICES THAT ALSO HAD NO POWER. SOME AREAS DID NOT HAVE PHONE LINES AND BROADBAND SERVICES RESTORED UNTIL JUNE. FALLEN TREES, DAMAGED FENCING AND SHEDS, SHATTERED GLASS PANES IN GREENHOUSES, DESTROYED CROPS AND POLYTUNNELS RIPPED OFF BY THE STRONG WINDS WERE JUST SOME OF THE DAMAGES TO FARMING LIVELIHOODS. POLYTUNNELS, USED BY HORTICULTURAL FARMS AND SMALLER LIVESTOCK FARMERS, ARE UNINSURABLE – MEANING A LOSS OF INCOME AND THE BURDEN OF REBUILDING COSTS FOR FARMERS USING THEM. AID SCHEMES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE STORM REQUIRED A MINIMUM ELIGIBLE INVESTMENT OF €7,500, AN EXCESSIVE CONDITION FOR SMALLER FARMS. SOME FARMERS HAD TO RESORT TO STARTING GOFUNDME CAMPAIGNS IN ORDER TO COLLECT MONEY AND CONTINUE THEIR WORK AS STATE SUPPORT WAS OUT OF REACH FOR THEM.



Eliminating food poverty means that all kinds of foods that enable a healthy and varied diet are accessible to everyone, and that disposable income, gender, race, ethnicity, citizenship status and disability are not barriers to these foods either. Healthier foods can also be effective in reducing health risks like diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure.

In conclusion, food is a basic human need – but is also very vulnerable to the changing climate, alongside disruptions to existing food supply chains. The social and cultural aspects of food, such as going out for a meal or being able to access food from your own cultural background, are also important in creating happy and healthy communities. Being able to access local and organic food is not only better for our health, it also protects us from disruptions in food supply chains in other countries – ensuring farmers can make a good living out of producing such food is key to enabling this.

“INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
HAVE, FOR CENTURIES,
EFFECTIVELY MANAGED
MORE THAN 80% OF THE
WORLD’S BIODIVERSITY.
WE, AS HUMANS, HAVE
KNOWN HOW TO DO
THIS FOR A VERY LONG
TIME. WE WILL
REMEMBER HOW TO
DO IT AGAIN.”

- ERIC HOLTHAUS



WE ALL DESERVE TO HAVE GOOD HEALTH

Our health is our wealth, as the saying goes – being in good health physically and mentally is a basic human need and allows us to better participate in our day-to-day lives. Healthcare is another sector in Ireland where private interests versus public provision and need impact accessibility to crucial services in Ireland. The divide in experiences between those who can afford private healthcare compared to those who avail of public healthcare services has been described as ‘Irish Apartheid’ by Professor Sara Burke²⁸. Public healthcare services in Ireland are dominated by months to years long waiting lists, with a record 911,500 people on some form of public hospital waiting list in July 2024. Ireland remains the only western European country without universal coverage for primary care and its health system ranks poorly compared to other European countries, ranking 22nd out of 35 countries and ranking worst overall in terms of healthcare accessibility²⁹. Those with the disposable income to spare can avail of private healthcare services and ‘skip the queue’ when it comes to diagnostics and treatments – it is those people who are poorest, sickest and those with disabilities who will struggle to pay charges, negotiate access, and wait far longer to be seen. Those living in more affluent areas

of Ireland experience shorter waiting times for counselling appointments; waiting lists for public appointments can be as long as six months, a concerning figure when people often only seek out a counselling appointment at a moment of crisis³⁰.

Climate change presents new challenges for Irish healthcare. Some of the impacts of the climate crisis on our health have been discussed throughout this toolkit already, but here we will focus exclusively on how our physical and mental health can be impacted by climate change and issues of climate injustice.

KEY DOCUMENT:

HEALTH CLIMATE CHANGE SECTORAL ADAPTATION PLAN 2019-2024

THE HEALTH CLIMATE CHANGE SECTORAL ADAPTATION PLAN 2019-2024 SETS OUT THE MAIN CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES EXPECTED TO FACE IN THE HEALTH SECTOR IN IRELAND AND PROPOSES CONCRETE MEASURES THAT CAN TAKE TO HELP REDUCE THE SECTOR'S VULNERABILITIES.



There are more obvious, immediate threats to our health posed by the increased frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change, such as flooding, storms and heatwaves – but these events can also make accessing healthcare more difficult, such as flooded, damaged or blocked roads to access hospitals or a GP. These weather events can also damage or destroy healthcare facilities if they are very severe. Falling debris and downed power lines are also risks created by storms.

Floodwater can come into contact with household, medical, agricultural and industrial waste and should be considered contaminated by default – contact with floodwater can cause illness, and it can also leave behind contaminated sediment. Serious risks from flooding include drowning and electric currents passing through flood water from downed power lines and cables.

Heatwaves, as mentioned in our discussion on energy and housing, can have negative impacts on health and on medications. Urban areas with poor tree cover and low areas of green space, which absorb more heat, can be subject to the heat island effect – meaning that the temperature in these areas is higher than areas with less roads, buildings, footpaths and traffic. This means that during heatwaves, those living in urban areas can be exposed to even higher temperatures. Those who are homeless, already mentioned as being vulnerable to heatwave exposure, are also more likely to live in areas that can become heat islands as homelessness in Ireland is concentrated in the urban areas of counties³¹, with the majority being located in Dublin.

GREEN SPACES ARE AREAS THAT ARE OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC WITH NATURAL VEGETATION LIKE GRASS AND TREES SUCH AS PARKS, GARDENS, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND WALKABLE STREETS WITH TREES AND PLANTS³². BEING ACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION WHEN DISCUSSING GREEN SPACES – THIS MEANS THE MANY FIELDS IN RURAL IRELAND, WHICH ARE PRIVATELY OWNED BY FARMERS, SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED GREEN SPACES.

These extreme weather events also impact our mental health – there can be stress and trauma in the aftermath of storms and flooding as communities can face damaged or destroyed homes, schools, businesses, health services and other amenities. Recovery and reconstruction processes after a storm or flood can be long processes, which can prolong stress. Communities that are frequently impacted by extreme weather events can face long-term stress anticipating when the next event will occur.

KEY DOCUMENT:

SHARING THE VISION

- A MENTAL HEALTH

POLICY FOR EVERYONE

SHARING THE VISION - A MENTAL HEALTH POLICY FOR EVERYONE IS IRELAND'S NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH POLICY. IT IS THE FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING IRELAND'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES UNTIL 2030.

Groups that are already disadvantaged or socially excluded will face greater difficulties responding and recovering from extreme weather events – disabled people, older people and those with chronic illnesses are less able to cope with flooding events than others, and households with young children also face additional obstacles. Low-income individuals, households and communities can face enormous difficulty in replacing household items or repairing damage to their homes after extreme weather events and might also lack the income involved in evacuating before an extreme weather event if necessary. Attempting to return to normal life in the aftermath of these events can be incredibly difficult, especially if homes and community amenities have been damaged or destroyed.

Low-income individuals, households and communities can face enormous difficulty in replacing household items or repairing damage to their homes after extreme weather events and might also lack the income involved in evacuating before an extreme weather event if necessary. Attempting to return to normal life in the aftermath of these events can be incredibly difficult, especially if homes and community amenities have been damaged or destroyed.

Air quality is an important factor in health and the just transition to a greener society – emissions and particulate matter from vehicle tailpipes, burning solid fuels and industry are bad for our respiratory health.

Short-term exposure to bad air quality can worsen asthma and bronchitis, as well as bring on headaches and nausea and irritate the nose and throat. Chronic, long-term exposure can impact respiratory and cardiovascular health, making us more vulnerable to ailments that impact those systems. Poor air quality has even been linked to lung cancer and poor birth outcomes, making it a reproductive health issue. Up to 1700 deaths a year in Ireland are linked to poor air quality³³, with children, older people and people with chronic illnesses being most vulnerable to the impacts of poor air quality.

KEY DOCUMENT:

CLEAN AIR STRATEGY

THE CLEAN AIR STRATEGY IS A POLICY FRAMEWORK WHICH OUTLINES HOW GOVERNMENT WILL REDUCE AIR POLLUTION, ENHANCE AND PROTECT THE QUALITY OF IRELAND'S AIR AND REALISE THE FULL ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH BENEFITS OF CLEANER AIR.

CHECK OUT [HTTPS://AIRQUALITY.IE/](https://airquality.ie/) FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AIR QUALITY OF YOUR AREA.

Poor air quality tends to be a localised issue in Ireland. Certain areas have more traffic passing through them, meaning residents are exposed to more tailpipe emissions; areas where solid fuel is still regularly burned for warmth also have poor air quality. Limerick, Dublin, and Waterford cities experience some of the worst air quality in Ireland. The Traveller community, who use more solid fuels than the general public and tend to be placed in halting sites on roadsides, are exposed to two key air pollutants and face greater health impacts. The All-Island Traveller Health Study documented a child asthma rate of 70% in Traveller children reporting a current health problem³⁴.

Air pollution has been described as 'the new tobacco' by the World Health Organisation – the key difference being that while one can walk away from second-hand smoke from cigarettes, it is not nearly as easy to move if you live in an area with poor air quality. This is a key climate justice issue in relation to health, with only those with the financial means being able to move out of harm's way.

IRELAND'S 'SACRIFICE ZONE'

ASKEATON AND THE AUGHINISH

ALUMINA PLANT³⁵

AUGHINISH ALUMINA LTD., LOCATED IN ASKEATON, CO. LIMERICK, IS THE LARGEST BAUXITE REFINERY IN EUROPE AND PRODUCES 36% OF EUROPE'S ALUMINA DEMAND. THE PLANT USES 11% OF IRELAND'S TOTAL GAS DEMAND. THE WASTE GENERATED WHEN BAUXITE IS PROCESSED INTO ALUMINA IS CALLED 'RED MUD' DUE TO ITS APPEARANCE. SINCE 2014, EU LEGISLATION REQUIRES ALL 'RED MUD' SITES TO BE TESTED IN CASE THEY NEED TO BE CLASSIFIED AS HAZARDOUS WASTE DUE TO CHEMICAL THRESHOLDS THAT CAN BE BREACHED.

SINCE THE PLANT OPENED IN 1983 LOCALS HAVE NOTED INCREASED HEALTH PROBLEMS, INCLUDING CLUSTERS OF RARE FORMS OF CANCER. FARMERS HAVE RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT HIGH RATES OF CATTLE ILLNESS, STILLBIRTHS AND DEATH IN THE AREA. SEEPAGE FROM UNDER THE PLANT'S 'RED MUD' AREA AND HEAVY METAL CONTAMINATION IS PRESENT IN GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER, AND SEDIMENTS. PAST FLOODING EVENTS ON AUGHINISH ISLAND HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED, AND FUTURE TIDAL SURGES CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE UP THE ESTUARY COULD RESULT IN FLOODING OF THE RED MUD AREA, CAUSING IT TO FLOW INTO THE SHANNON WITH FURTHER DEVASTATING HEALTH CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH³⁶.

IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO CHALLENGE PLANNING DECISIONS THAT MAY HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL OR CLIMATE IMPACT, DUE TO THE COSTS INVOLVED, THE RISKS OF SLAPP³⁷ ACTIONS, NEW RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE 2024 PLANNING ACT AND THE LEVEL OF EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO MOUNT AN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN.

Climate change can also have impacts on our mental health, with anxiety, hopelessness and depression about inaction on climate change all growing issues among young people in particular. Eco-anxiety, eco-grief and solastalgia are newer terms that have come about as a result of climate breakdown. Climate impacts, as discussed earlier, can cause or worsen stress

also – and extreme weather events have been linked to increases in intimate partner violence. The World Health Organisation has noted that Indigenous communities, younger people and people with low incomes are particularly vulnerable to poor mental health resulting from climate change impacts³⁸.



FIGHTING TO SAVE CULTURE IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- THE ARAN ISLANDS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

"IF WE CAN DO IT, ANY LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT IRELAND CAN DO IT. DE RÉIR A CHÉILE A THÓGTAR NA CAISLEÁIN. (IT IS GRADUALLY CASTLES ARE BUILT.)"³⁹ COMHARCHUMANN FUINNIMH OILEÁIN ÁRANN TEÓ (THE ARAN ISLANDS ENERGY COOPERATIVE) IS A COMMUNITY OWNED ENERGY COOPERATIVE ON THE ARAN ISLANDS. MADE UP OF RESIDENTS OF THE THREE ISLANDS AND USING A BOTTOM-UP APPROACH, THE COOPERATIVE ARE WORKING TOWARDS BECOMING SELF-SUFFICIENT IN LOCALLY GENERATED RENEWABLE ENERGY AND FREE OF DEPENDENCE ON OIL, COAL AND GAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - CREATING A CITIZEN'S

REVOLUTION WHERE POWER REVERTS TO THE LOCALITY AND IS TAKEN AWAY FROM THE BIG CORPORATIONS.

WHILST THE COOPERATIVE DESCRIBES THE THREE 'LEGS' TO THEIR PROJECT AS HEATING, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY GENERATION, ONE OF THEIR KEY GOALS IS TO MAINTAIN THE LANGUAGE, THE CULTURE, AND THE HERITAGE OF THE THREE ISLANDS IN THE TRANSITION TO NET-ZERO. THIS INCLUDES USING THE IRISH LANGUAGE IN THEIR WORK WHEREVER POSSIBLE; ACHIEVING THE ENERGY TRANSITION ON THE ISLANDS WITHOUT DAMAGE TO THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE; AND SUPPORTING IRISH-SPEAKING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT IRELAND IN SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS IN THEIR LOCALITY, AS WELL AS OTHERS OUTSIDE THE GAELTACHT REGIONS.

ECO-ANXIETY

is anxiety related to the climate crisis and the impacts of climate breakdown. It can affect people who haven't directly experienced climate change impacts, who might feel anxious about future climate threats or impacts and the future of the planet if climate change is not stopped.



ECO-GRIEF

is grief related to losses created by climate change and ecological disruptions, such as the extinction of a species or the loss of normal ways of life/culture due to climate change.

SOLASTALGIA

is a concept which describes feelings of sadness or distress related to one's homeland or a treasured place being changed by climate change and biodiversity loss as they are living in it. It is described as, "being homesick while still at home."



Despite all of the impacts on mental health that climate change can create, climate change is not mentioned in current Irish mental health policy⁴⁰, meaning that these impacts will go unaddressed in current plans for Ireland's mental health services. This means that the stress, anxiety and feelings of despair related to the climate crisis which could impact more and more people in the future have not been accounted for in funding, staffing and facilities for mental health services.

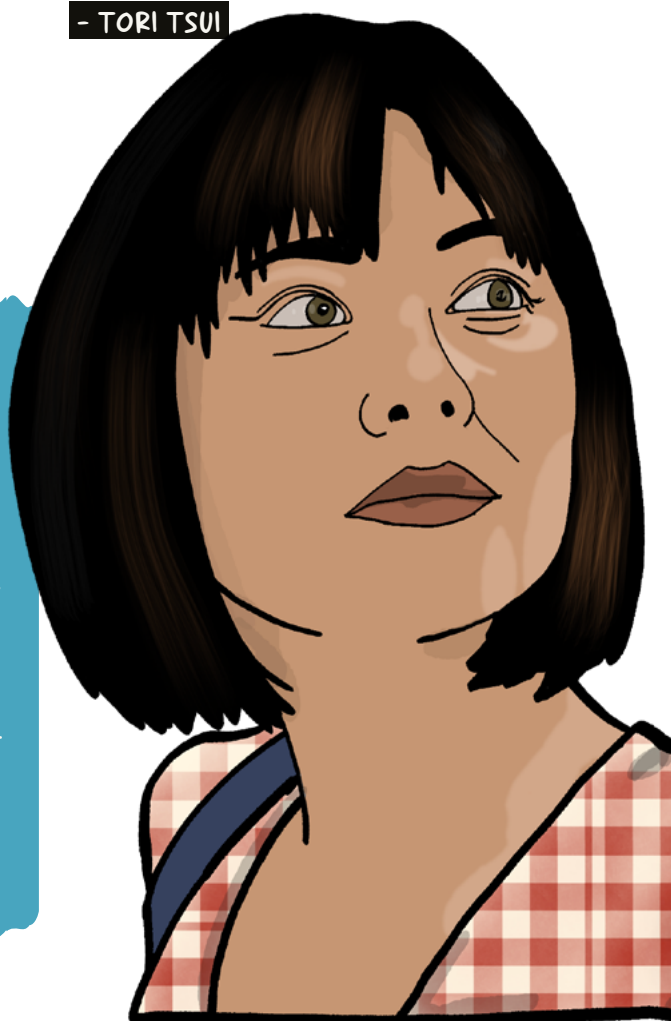
In conclusion, climate change has a number of implications for our physical and mental health – from injuries caused by falling debris in storms, to anxiety about our future in the face of climate breakdown. People without access to shelter from extreme weather events, such as people who are homeless, are more vulnerable to physical health impacts from climate change. Levels of disposable income also play a key factor in who can rebuild after a storm and who cannot.

Anxiety, grief and stress related to climate change worsen mental health, but they are unaccounted for in existing mental health policy in Ireland. It is therefore important for communities to have spaces to discuss such feelings, and for Government to acknowledge the impacts of the climate crisis in future mental health policy.

ACTIVE HOPE IRELAND ARE A GROUP OF FACILITATORS WHO OFFER ACTIVE HOPE AND THE WORK THAT RECONNECTS WORKSHOPS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE TARGETED AT ECO-GRIEF AND ECO-ANXIETY. ACTIVE HOPE IS ABOUT FINDING, AND OFFERING, OUR BEST RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS OF SUSTAINABILITY UNFOLDING IN THE WORLD. IT OFFERS TOOLS THAT HELP PEOPLE FACE THESE CRISES, AS WELL AS FIND AND PLAY A ROLE IN THE COLLECTIVE TRANSITION TO A CLIMATE JUST SOCIETY. YOU CAN FIND ONLINE TRAINING AND RESOURCES ON ACTIVE HOPE ON ITS [WEBSITE](#).

"THERE IS SO MUCH JOY AROUND US. THERE IS SO MUCH THAT WE CAN TAP INTO AND THIS IS SO WORTH FIGHTING FOR. IT'S SO WORTH LIVING FOR AS WELL. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO FOCUS ON THINGS THAT KEEP US INSPIRED AND MAKE US WANT TO KEEP GOING. WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR, IF NOT FOR THE PEOPLE THAT YOU LOVE?"

- TORI TSUI





WE ALL NEED CARE

The final area we will explore in relation to climate change is care. Care might not seem obviously connected to climate change, but it is something that we will all give and receive in our lives – and has particular implications for women and girls in the face of climate breakdown. Caregiving, whether it is unpaid care in the home or paid care work in the formalised care work sector, involves the use of food, energy and transport, and is directly tied to health. As we have discussed how each of these is impacted by climate change, it is easy to see how caring and care work will be impacted, too. What is important to note is that caregiving creates unique energy and transport use patterns which are not seen in those not giving care.

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated how essential care work truly is to our society, especially in uncertain or very difficult circumstances. Climate change presents an uncertain future itself, and throughout it we will need to provide and receive care for each other, especially if normal ways of life become more difficult or cannot be continued.

Despite this, care and caring work are not discussed very much, if at all, within the climate policies of governments throughout the world, including the Irish government⁴¹. Children, those who are sick, older people and some disabled people all require care – all of us will and do.

KEY DOCUMENT:

NATIONAL CARERS' STRATEGY

THE NATIONAL CARERS' STRATEGY SETS OUT GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE, CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH AN ILLNESS OR A DISABILITY. THE STRATEGY'S AIM IS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE TO LIVE IN DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE IN THEIR OWN HOMES AND COMMUNITIES FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. IT WAS PUBLISHED IN 2012, BUT HAS NOT BEEN REVISED OR UPDATED SINCE.

OUR DEFINITION OF CARE WORK COMES FROM OUR FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE REPORT. THIS INCLUDES BOTH PAID AND UNPAID CARE WORK. IT INCLUDES CARE WORK AS PAID WORK IN THE CARE SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY INVOLVING SOCIAL CARE, CHILDCARE AND HEALTHCARE. IT ALSO INVOLVES CARE WORK WHICH IS PAID BUT CARRIED OUT IN LESS FORMAL SETTINGS; INCLUDING CARE RECIPIENT'S HOMES. IT ALSO ENCAPSULATES UNPAID CARE WORK CARRIED OUT IN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING CARE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS, NEIGHBOURS AND NETWORKS OF FRIENDS⁴².

The formalised, paid care sector, similar to housing, energy and health, is also impacted by private interests and the pursuit of profit over fulfilling public need. Childcare, for example, is largely privatised in Ireland and has some of the most expensive fees in the European Union. This particularly impacts the ability of women to take up full-time employment or education – one-third of a woman's median full-time earnings were used on childcare in 2019⁴³. The top private childcare providers in Ireland generated €59 million in profit between 2019 and 2023, with €27 million of that figure being generated in 2021 alone⁴⁴. The workers in this sector, however, are not enjoying the same benefits – there is a 25% staff turnover rate



in childcare, and over 90% of workers stated that they did not see themselves working in the sector in 12 months should current conditions continue, which include low pay, stress and burnout⁴⁵. Profit-seeking motives also result in childcare services being concentrated in areas where there is most money to be made, meaning that less populated areas have a 'drought' of childcare services. Just like energy, health and housing, our care services must be provided to fulfill public need - not to increase the profits of private companies.

CARING INEQUALITIES & WOMEN AND GIRLS

WOMEN AND GIRLS OF ALL AGES ALL OVER THE WORLD CARRY OUT MORE PAID AND UNPAID CARE WORK THAN MEN. THE TIME DEDICATED TO THIS WORK MEANS, DEPENDING ON THE COUNTRY OR CULTURE, WOMEN AND GIRLS MIGHT NOT GO TO SCHOOL OR TAKE UP FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT. IN IRELAND, WOMEN CARRY OUT 15 HOURS MORE OF UNPAID CARE WORK IN THE HOME THAN MEN EVERY WEEK, OFTEN REDUCING THEIR HOURS OF PAID EMPLOYMENT IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THIS UNPAID CARING WORK⁴⁶. ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND HIGH-QUALITY CHILDCARE IS AN ISSUE FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES THROUGHOUT IRELAND, PARTICULARLY FOR WOMEN WHO WANT TO STAY IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OR EDUCATION, AS IRELAND'S CHILDCARE SERVICES ARE SOME OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE IN EUROPE. LONE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS - THE MAJORITY OF WHICH ARE HEADED BY WOMEN - ARE ONE OF THE MOST ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED IN IRISH SOCIETY.

THE FORMALISED, PAID CARE WORK SECTOR SUFFERS FROM POOR WAGES, LONG WORKING HOURS, AND SUB-PAR WORKING CONDITIONS. RATES OF BURNOUT IN THIS SECTOR ARE VERY HIGH, AND ITS WORK FORCE IS LARGELY MADE UP OF WOMEN, PARTICULARLY MIGRANT WOMEN. THE HOME CARE INDUSTRY IN IRELAND, WHICH ALLOWS FOR OLDER PEOPLE TO BE CARED FOR IN THEIR OWN HOMES RATHER THAN A NURSING HOME, IS STILL UNDERREGULATED, LEADING TO EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS AND VARYING STANDARDS OF CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE⁴⁷.

Care work, in the context of climate change, can also include care for the environment and the caring and repairing of communities that must be carried out in the aftermath of extreme weather events. Caring for our environment will need to become a part of our day-to-day lives so that we can tackle the destruction of nature and help to restore it, including our land, water and all of the species we share our communities with.

Although care is so important in our lives, its value is not seen or included in many of the systems we use on a daily basis. As mentioned in the section on Transport, for example, cars are seen as a necessity for caring trips because our existing public transport system has poor compatibility with the travel patterns needed to carry out caring work. Buses can only accommodate one pram or wheelchair at a time, when they have ramp access at all; and elevators at train stations are frequently out of order. Another system care is left out of is our economic system - care work in the home is necessary for our survival, yet this work is not recognised in our economy and is given no economic value. The estimated valuation of unpaid care work in Ireland is €24 billion a year, which would be around 12.3% of the Irish economy⁴⁸.

KEY DOCUMENT:

CARE AND UNPAID WORK IN IRELAND

THIS REPORT, PUBLISHED BY THE IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY COMMISSION, EXAMINES DATA COLLECTED OVER MORE THAN A DECADE TO INVESTIGATE UNPAID WORK IN THE AREAS OF CHILDCARE, CARE OF OLDER ADULTS OR THOSE WITH A DISABILITY, AND HOUSEWORK IN IRELAND. IT ALSO EXAMINES HOW IRELAND COMPARES TO OTHER EU MEMBER STATES.

As well as being valuable and essential work, **care work is also low-carbon work** – it doesn't rely on fossil fuel energy and is environmentally friendly. Research shows that personal care, household and care work for family and pets are relatively low carbon activities. Paid care work in the formalised sector is also low-carbon work, **but current discussions on 'green jobs' don't include care jobs**. Instead, they focus on jobs in renewable energy, retrofitting and recycling – all very important to building our net-zero transition, but not a very inclusive list of all of the low-carbon work in our society. This also leaves out job sectors with high rates of women employed in our net-zero transition, such as health care, social care and education. Including care work as a green job in our climate policymaking would create three positive impacts – improve employment levels, improve gender equality and help meet our climate change targets because of the low carbon nature of the work. Care jobs produce twenty-six times less greenhouse gas emissions than jobs in manufacturing, and more than two-hundred times less emissions than jobs in agriculture⁴⁹.

Building a net-zero transition which does not take care into consideration risks creating a 'care-less' future, where we retain low appreciation of care and the gender inequalities that this results in. Instead, we need to pursue a 'care-full' transition, which centres on the provision of care for the planet and people in all of its actions. We should be building low-carbon transport, energy, housing, health and food systems which better enable us to care for each other and our environment, and steering away from creating systems that make it harder. The Irish Environmental Protection Agency has pointed out that fairer, more equal societies are more resilient to the impacts of climate change – and creating better quality of life for all, including decent work and proper acknowledgment of the value of care, enable this resilience⁵⁰.

In conclusion, the connections between care and climate change might not seem obvious at a first glance, but providing care has implications for our health and how we use transport, energy and food – all areas which

will be impacted by the climate crisis and our net-zero transition. Women and girls, who provide the majority of caring work globally, face unique challenges in the face of climate breakdown as a result. Despite being provided for free in the home, we cannot assume we have an endless supply of care work. Those providing care can become burnt-out, sick and need care themselves. In this way, care work can be linked to our environment and natural resources: both are very valuable and necessary for our social and economic lives, but are seen as being in endless supply and available for free.

Care work should be included in our net-zero transition and climate policies, including the recognition of care work as the low-carbon green job that it is. Concentrating our efforts around creating communities, cities, societies and a world which centres on providing care for the planet and for each other can make us more resilient to the impacts of climate change, create systems which eliminate inequality in our society, and create a more 'care-full' world for us all.

"THERE IS SUCH URGENCY IN
THE MULTITUDE OF CRISES
WE FACE, IT CAN MAKE IT
HARD TO REMEMBER THAT
IN FACT IT IS URGENCY
THINKING (URGENT
CONSTANT UNSUSTAINABLE
GROWTH) THAT GOT US TO
THIS POINT, AND THAT OUR
POTENTIAL SUCCESS LIES IN
DOING DEEP, SLOW,
INTENTIONAL WORK."

- ADRIENNE MAREE BROWN

WORKSHOPPING CLIMATE JUSTICE

Now that we have covered a number of areas showing the impact of climate change on the day-to-day lives of communities, creating spaces for communities to have discussions on these impacts – particularly the ones that might already be present in their lives – is important in raising consciousness and beginning to co-create responses or solutions to these impacts that are community-owned. Our second toolkit, **Community Action for Feminist Climate Justice**, is activity and workshop-based and has multiple activities for community groups to engage in. In this toolkit, a smaller selection of activities are included.

It is important that community workers/facilitators become familiar with the content in this toolkit before facilitating the following workshop/activity ideas. After using the icebreaker/introductory activity, you may approach the other three activity/workshop ideas in any order you wish.

Community Education Principles

- Create a welcoming, supportive and respectful environment for learning and discussion.
- Use participant-centred, creative and interactive methods and materials.
- Encourage a spirit of curiosity and exploration.
- Know your limits as a facilitator – don't be afraid to say you need to check or research something yourself.
- Value the lived experiences and expertise of everyone in the room

THESE PRINCIPLES ARE TAKEN FROM THE CITY OF DUBLIN EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD'S CLIMATE JUSTICE EDUCATION IN PRACTICE TUTOR HANDBOOK

- IT IS A VERY USEFUL RESOURCE AND COMPLEMENTS THE CONTENT OF THIS TOOLKIT.

THE PRINCIPLES OF FEMINIST ORGANISING ARE ALSO KEY TO A COMMUNITY WORK APPROACH - THESE ARE DETAILED IN OUR SECOND TOOLKIT,

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

WHAT IS CLIMATE JUSTICE?



Duration: 45 minutes

Materials: Printed photographs, flipchart paper, markers

Objective: To help introduce the concept of climate justice to a group

1. Print out photos of the following: polar bears; bees; elephants; and frogs. Stick these photos up around your space, and invite your group to name these animals/wildlife.
2. Ask if group members know what these creatures eat? Where they live/make their homes? How they move around? Do they know if they creatures give birth to live young or lay eggs? Do their offspring stay with them for long?
3. If possible, divide your group into smaller groups and assign each of them one of the animals/wildlife. Ask the groups, using the knowledge they have about climate change, if climate change will impact:

- How their assigned creature will get/eat food;
 - Where it lives or how it makes its home;
 - How the creature moves around;
 - Its ability to safely give birth/lay eggs and for its offspring to grow up
4. Allow each smaller group to feedback to the whole group.
 5. Ask the group to consider if it is fair that these creatures' lives will be impacted by climate change. Why/why not? Take down key thoughts/ideas.
 6. Now print out and stick up new photos: a Traveller halting site; an Irish farm; a community living in the desert; a photo of children at school; a person in a wheelchair; and a community living in snow/ice. You might want to add or omit photos to fit the context of your group
 7. Divide the group into their original smaller groups and assign each of them one of the photographs. Ask the groups, thinking about the discussions they just had and again using their knowledge on climate change, if they think climate change will impact:
 - How this person/community will get or eat food
 - Where this person/community lives
 - How this person/community moves around
 - How this person/community can safely continue their current life
 8. Allow each smaller group to feedback to the whole group. Take down key thoughts/ideas for each smaller group.
 9. Ask the group to consider if it is fair that these individuals/communities' lives will be impacted by climate change. Why/why not? Take down key thoughts/ideas.
 10. Introduce the concept of climate justice to the group - that climate change will impact some people more negatively than others.

Does the group agree with this definition? Why/why not? It might be useful for the group to come up with their own definition together.

11. As a final step, encourage your group to reflect on what they have heard throughout this activity. They can do this aloud, or you might use this as a reflective writing prompt for your group to complete in their own time. You might consider prompts like:

- What was something surprising that you learned from this activity?
- Of what you learned today, what are you most comfortable with and what is still 'iffy'?
- Do you feel differently about climate change after this activity? Why/why not?

PROMPTS

CONSIDERING

INTERSECTIONAL

CLIMATE JUSTICE IMPACTS



Duration: 1 hour

Materials: Pens/pencils/markers, flipchart paper, whiteboard/screen and paper

Objective: To help explore how certain communities/groups face different challenges in the face of the green transition.

1. Present the list of groups included in the **MAPA - Most Affected People and Areas** section of the toolkit with your group on a piece of flipchart paper. Ask them to look at this list in silence and think individually about how this list might relate to climate change. Emphasise that there are no right or wrong answers here, and not having an answer is also okay.

Allow everyone in your group to feedback their thoughts, if they feel comfortable doing so. Take down some key thoughts/words on flipchart paper.

2. Divide your group into smaller groups (if possible) and ask them to choose one of the groups on the list. What have they heard about this group in relation to climate change? This does not need to be scientific or research-based - it could be news stories, social media posts, lived experience or overheard conversations.
3. Allow each smaller group to feedback to your group as a whole. Encourage groups who picked other MAPA groups to add their own thoughts on one they didn't discuss, if they'd like to.
4. Next, present the diagram below, either prepared on a whiteboard or on a screen. Do not include the accompanying prompts yet - ask your group to think about these communities now in relation to the words 'green transition' as displayed on the diagram. Do they have any new thoughts with these words rather than 'climate change'? Allow everyone in your group to feedback their thoughts, if they feel comfortable doing so. Take down some key thoughts/words on flipchart paper.
5. Now present the accompanying prompts with the diagram, and ask your group to get into their smaller groups from earlier. Ask them to consider one of the MAPA groups again whilst thinking about the list of prompts. These are only some suggested prompts - you might find creating your own prompts or omitting any that are not relevant to the group you are working with might suit you better. Encourage smaller group members to write down some key thoughts.
6. Allow each smaller group to feedback to your group as a whole. Encourage groups who picked other MAPA groups to add their own thoughts on one they didn't discuss, if they'd like to.
7. As a final step, encourage your group to reflect on what they have heard throughout this activity. They can do this aloud, or you might use this as a reflective writing prompt for your group to complete in their own time. You might consider prompts like:
 - How did your thinking on this topic change from the beginning to the end of the activity?
 - Of what you learned today, what are you most comfortable with and what is still 'iffy'?
 - Do you feel differently about climate change after this activity? Why/why not?

CONSIDER A COMMUNITY

- Will they be able to access retrofitting?
- Can they access healthy food?
- Will the changes needed impact their income?
- Will their health be impacted by pollution of our environment?
- Do they have disposable time and income to participate in climate action?
- Do they have an active role in environmental decision-making at local and national levels?
- Anything else?



PROMPTS

EXPLORING CLIMATE

JUSTICE IMPACTS &

ACTIONS



Duration: 1 hour

Materials: Pens/pencils/markers, flipchart paper, printed images, paper

Objective: To help explore how climate change impacts our lives already through a climate justice lens, and create a climate skills audit of the group.

- Make a list of the areas of everyday life covered by this toolkit - housing & energy, transport, food, health and care. You might want to print images relating to some of the case studies or definitions explored in the toolkit like mouldy homes, solar panels, LocalLink buses, a farmers market, polluted waterways, etc. If there are certain images that will resonate better with your group, print these out instead. Stick these photos up along with the everyday area words around your space.
 - Allow your group to walk around the room and look at the images and words. Ask members of your group to consider how these areas of life might be impacted by climate change. Emphasise that there are no right or wrong answers here, and not having an answer is also okay.
 - Allow feedback from the group - where did they get their ideas from? Lived experience? News stories? Social media? Make note of key thoughts/words on flipchart paper.
 - Ask the group to consider if the feedback they have given or heard resonates with them, someone they know, or their community. Participants do not have to elaborate if they are not comfortable doing so - you might want to ask members of the group to raise their hands instead. Participants can elaborate if they self-volunteer.
- Present the following prompt to the group:
"What would climate justice mean for you, your family, your community?"
 - Ask them to think about how life would be different if the challenges they have identified were addressed. What would their homes look and feel like? What kinds of food would they be eating? How would the community look different - would there be less cars, more trees, etc.? There are no answers too big or too small here. Make note of all ideas on flipchart paper.
 - Ask the group to now consider some (a) opportunities and/or (b) challenges in achieving climate justice - what opportunities would come out of addressing the challenges they have identified? What are the challenges or obstacles in the way of addressing them? Make note of all ideas on flipchart paper.
 - Now ask the group who they think should be responsible for addressing the opportunities and challenges they have listed. Is there anything that communities have to/can do? Are there things that the Government has to/can do? Make note of all ideas on flipchart paper.
 - Finally, ask the group what skills, knowledge and/or experience do they think they have to help achieve climate justice. How can they work towards addressing some of the challenges, or realising some of the opportunities they have named? Can they do something in their own lives or homes? Can they come together as a group to work on something? Do their skills stretch to county or country-wide application?
- The excerpt below from ***We Can't Tackle Climate Change Without You*** might be helpful if the group finds this prompt difficult, or you might want to follow this exercise up with the Climate Action Venn Diagram exercise below.



ACTIONS TOWARDS CLIMATE JUSTICE ARE WIDE IN THEIR VARIATION – COOKING, SOCIAL MEDIA, WRITING, PAINTING, GARDENING, PUBLIC SPEAKING, READING/ RESEARCHING, SPEAKING TO A LOCAL COUNCILLOR, CREATING A VIDEO OR PODCAST, ORGANISING COMMUNITY EVENTS, OR EVEN SPEAKING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE/JUSTICE WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS ARE ALL CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTIONS. YOU MIGHT WANT TO PICK OUT THE SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THAT YOU KNOW MEMBERS OF YOUR HAVE AND HELP MAKE THE CONNECTIONS TOWARDS CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTION.

- Take down the list of skills, knowledge and experience that your group has, and ask the group to review the list. There are likely a lot of items on the list that might not be considered 'climate' skills, knowledge or experience at a first glance – this shows that we need all kinds of people, not just scientists or politicians, to achieve climate justice.

- As a final step, encourage your group to reflect on what they have heard throughout this activity. They can do this aloud, or you might use this as a reflective writing prompt for your group to complete in their own time.

EXCERPT:

WE CAN'T TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE WITHOUT YOU

– MARY ANNALISE HEGLAR

"But the question remains. "What can I do?" Well, now that you understand that the question is complicated, the answer actually emerges as quite simple: Do what you're good at. And do your best.

If you're good at making noise, make all the noise you can. Go to climate strikes, call your representatives, organize your neighbors. Vote. Every chance you get. Join something bigger than yourself because this is so much bigger than any of us alone. It's about all of us, together.

If you're raising children (and they do not have to be your children—nieces, nephews, and play cousins all count!), teach them to love the Earth and to love each other, teach them the resilience that shows up as empathy. If you're good at taking care of people, take care of the legions of weary climate warriors. If you're a good cook, cook. Make it as sustainable as you can within your means, but more than anything, share it, build a community around it.

The artists I spoke to in December lamented the fact that they weren't engineers or scientists or some other type of "expert." But as I told them, it is not their job to design the policy plans for rapid decarbonization, to decide which coal plants to shut down first, and what exactly to replace them with. We have people on that. As the writer Toni Cade Bambara once put it, the role of the artist is to 'make revolution irresistible.'

... We don't know that special thing that you bring to the movement—only you know that. And we can't wait to see the magic that will happen now that you're part of our world."

Full Article: [We Can't Tackle Climate Change Without You | WIRED](#)





CLIMATE ACTION VENN DIAGRAM

Another suggestion for encouraging action within communities is using the **Climate Action Venn Diagram**, created by marine biologist, policy expert and author Ayana Elizabeth Johnson⁵¹. This involves creating a Venn diagram of three overlapping circles, each asking a different question:

1. **What are you good at?** – to consider one's own skills, expertise, networks and resources that could contribute towards climate action.
2. **What work needs doing?** – to consider the areas of climate action/injustice that matter the most to an individual and they would want to work on.
3. **What brings you joy?** – to consider what brings satisfaction and joy to an individual's life, and if this can be incorporated into the climate action that they take.

The centre point of the Venn diagram is then filled out with a climate action that incorporates the answers to all three of the questions. Coming to this final action might not come quickly, but it can create space for all kinds of climate actions – typical and not – to be discussed.

TAKING ACTION

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTION

What we hope that this toolkit has laid out is that even though many communities might not think climate action is relevant to their lives, the chances are that climate impacts are already a part of their lives – the links just haven't been elaborated on yet.

After community workers/facilitators become confident with the material in this toolkit, a space to discuss concerns such as damp and mould in homes, public transport access, lack of green spaces or other concerns can be organised, with the links to climate change being made and the concept of climate justice eventually being introduced. Communities can then begin to identify climate justice issues in their areas, including some they may not have considered before.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH IRELAND'S 'CUPPA FOR CLIMATE'⁵² MODEL IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF CREATING SPACES TO DISCUSS CLIMATE CHANGE. IT IS SIMPLY A COFFEE MORNING WHERE PARTICIPANTS TALK ABOUT CLIMATE ISSUES IN AN INFORMAL WAY – NO NEED FOR SCIENTISTS OR EXPERTS TO BE IN THE ROOM – AND EXPLORE POSITIVE ACTIONS AND SOLUTIONS. GROUPS WHO TAKE PART IN THE COFFEE MORNINGS ARE ENCOURAGED TO STAY CONNECTED THROUGH MEANS SUCH AS WHATSAPP GROUPS AND CONTINUE SPEAKING ON THE CLIMATE ISSUES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES – AND WHAT ACTIONS THEY CAN TAKE NEXT.



Existing community initiatives can also be used to have conversations about climate justice issues. Some examples:

- Community gardens can be used to talk about local food supply chains, food poverty and access to green spaces.
- Walking and cycling groups can be used to talk about access to active transport.
- Art groups can be used to talk about and portray different elements of climate justice.

Opening these existing initiatives up to include climate justice, social inclusion and intersectionality in their approach should be encouraged.

Influencing climate action at multiple levels - including Government level - can be facilitated by community workers/facilitators. For example:

- The Government annually releases an online consultation to the general public to inform the next Climate Action Plan called Climate Conversations⁵³. Climate Conversations allows people to have their say on climate action, how it affects them, and policies they would like to see implemented. In 2024, the areas people could give feedback on included shopping, reuse and recycling, food and food waste, heating our homes and sustainable living, local environment and climate change. Community workers/ facilitators could support their communities in engaging with this consultation, exploring the questions posed together and ensuring that their concerns are reviewed when the Climate Action Plan is being updated.
- Local authorities have developed and are leading on the delivery of their County's local Climate Action Plans, aligning the national Climate Action Plan with the delivery of climate action at a local level. The local climate action

plans run in 5-year cycles – there is opportunity, as a community, to input to a review of these plans when this occurs and or to respond to the consultation of the following iteration of one.

- Get involved in your local Public Participation Network (PPN) if possible and if you are not already. The PPN is a network that connects local authorities with community groups throughout the county. Their websites can offer a lot of information and resources such as policies and plans.
- Get your community work organisation/ group involved in Community Work Ireland and their Climate Justice Working Group to get involved in climate justice campaigns and policy consultations collaboratively with others at local and national level.
- Join the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice National Network.

Finally, as was previously stated, this toolkit is part of an 'educate/agitate and organise' set of two toolkits surrounding climate justice. This toolkit is the 'educate/agitate' of the set, and we encourage community workers/facilitators to use it in tandem with the second toolkit, **Community Action for Feminist Climate Justice, which is the 'organise' of the set and focuses entirely on activism and organising for communities on climate justice.**

CONCLUSION

TOWARDS CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR ALL

Climate Action Plan 2024 stated that, *“We recognise that individuals and communities will be at the heart of the low-carbon transition and that not everybody is equally placed to readily respond to the policies and initiatives that will be implemented by this Plan.”*⁵⁴.

Communities themselves – whether they are communities of geography, identity or interest – are best placed to understand what their needs will be in the face of climate breakdown and the net-zero transition, but they must be equipped with the knowledge and climate literacy to recognise and communicate these needs. This can then lead to the creation of solutions and responses to climate impacts, ranging from what can be done in the community immediately to other avenues of action, such as engaging with local/national decision-makers or the long-term development of solutions. Top-down decisions enacted by Government with little to no consultation with communities – particularly those already vulnerable – can make ways of life more difficult for impacted communities and risks fostering resentment towards climate action.

Climate actions must be pursued not only to make life better for those who have a good standard of living already, but to bring those who are disadvantaged or marginalised to good standards of living as well. Climate justice aims to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions we release into the atmosphere whilst also reducing social inequalities, creating better lives for people and the planet. It is a concept that has enormous potential in engaging all communities in tackling the climate crisis, even those who feel that climate change is not an issue of relevance to their lives. As this toolkit has illustrated, climate change is already impacting our day-to-day lives – ensuring that communities most impacted are ready to respond is key to creating a truly just transition where everyone’s voice is heard and every community can participate. We hope that this toolkit can help create those communities and enable that transition.

“I HAVE LEARNED THAT
YOU ARE NEVER TOO
SMALL TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.”

- GRETA THUNBERG





ENDNOTES

- 1 You can learn more about the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice campaign, including some of the communities we work with, in our introductory webinar.
- 2 All Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training (2016) All Ireland Standards for Community Work, p. 5
- 3 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) state that, "Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020." See their latest summary report here: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf
- 4 "The wealthiest 1% of humanity produce over 1,000 times the emissions of the poorest 1%." - International Energy Agency.
- 5 Dukelow, F., Forde, C. and Busteed, E. (2024) Feminist Climate Justice Report, p. 21
- 6 Fortgang, A. (2021) Countries and Territories Most Affected by Climate Change Also More Likely to Believe it to Be Personally Harmful - Yale Program on Climate Change Communication
- 7 Varanasi, A. (2022) How Colonialism Spawned and Continues to Exacerbate the Climate Crisis – State of the Planet
- 8 Just Transition as a term originates from the trade union movement in 1980s America, and largely concerned compensation and training for those who moved out of environmentally hazardous jobs. A number of definitions now exist, with some framed entirely around employment and others expanding to include social and intersectional inequalities in the transition process.
- 9 The Elders - A truly 'just' transition must be rooted in human rights and equality
- 10 Energy Poverty Action Plan (2022)
- 11 Introducing Minimum Energy Efficiency Performance Standards In The Rental Sector (2019) Irish Green Building Council
- 12 Residential | Energy Statistics In Ireland | SEAI
- 13 An Examination of Blockages to Retrofitting and Heat-pump Installation in Ireland - Friends of the Earth Ireland
- 14 Hanratty, M. (2024) White Paper: Energy Efficiency of Irish Homes - Insights from the SEAI Open BER Data
- 15 Brown, M. (2022) Landlord was warned of mould that killed toddler in Rochdale flat
- 16 Creane et al (2024) The Robert Emmet Community Development Project and Oliver Bond House case study within Optimizing Data to Integrate Health and Social Care in Dublin 8
- 17 Kiss, M. (2022) Understanding transport poverty
- 18 Horne, A. (2023) Getting Nowhere: Reviewing the Government's Approach to Accessible Public Transport
- 19 Travelling in a Woman's Shoes - Transport Infrastructure Ireland (2020)
- 20 Why We Travelled: National Travel Survey 2019 - Central Statistics Office
- 21 National Household Travel Survey 2022 - Final Report (2023) National Transport Authority
- 22 Travel to School, College and Childcare - CSO - Central Statistics Office
- 23 Carrol, P., Benevenuto, R. and Caulfield, B. (2021) Identifying hotspots of transport disadvantage and car dependency in rural Ireland
- 24 Carney, C. and Maître, B. (2012) Social Inclusion Technical Paper: Constructing a Food Poverty Indicator for Ireland using the Survey on Income and Living Conditions
- 25 Rooney, A. (2021) Food in Direct Provision
- 26 57% of farms earned less than €20,000 in 2022 - Teagasc | Agriculture and Food Development Authority
- 27 Talamh Beo is a democratically organised, member-led organisation run by farmers who have direct experience of the issues they campaign on, which includes their own Local Food Policy Framework. Talamh Beo is part of the wider global organisation La Via Campesina.
- 28 Hardiman, N. (2016) Book review – Burke, Irish Apartheid (2009) » UCD School of Politics & International Relations
- 29 Euro Health Consumer Index by Country 2025
- 30 Bowers, S. (2024) Nearly 800 people waiting six months or longer for counselling services – The Irish Times
- 31 "The counties presenting the largest numbers of homeless adults were county Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway. This indicates that homelessness is concentrated in counties with urban areas. 71% (4,158) of these are located in the county of Dublin, 6.5% (385) are located in county Cork, 3.6% (209) in county Galway and 3.5% (206) in county Limerick." - Government of Ireland Social Impact Assessment Series: Homelessness Services (2021)
- 32 Twohig-Bennett, C. and Jones, A. (2018) The health benefits of the great outdoors: A systematic review and meta-analysis of greenspace exposure and health outcomes
- 33 Goodman et al (2023) Air Pollution And Mortality On The Island Of Ireland: Estimating Local All-Cause and Circulatory Mortality Burdens Associated with Fine Particulate Matter Pollution in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland
- 34 All Ireland Traveller Health Study: Our Geels (2010)
- 35 Excerpts from this case study were taken from a presentation by Communities Against the Injustice of Mining (CAIM) at the Mary Robinson Climate & Nature Conference in 2024.
- 36 Jaques, A. (2023) Limerick environmental group halts expansion of Aughinish 'red mud' area
- 37 Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation
- 38 World Health Organisation - Mental health and Climate Change: Policy Brief (2022)
- 39 About / History – Aran Islands Energy Co-op
- 40 Feminist Climate Justice Report, p. 93
- 41 Feminist Climate Justice Report, p. 53
- 42 p. 49
- 43 Doorley et al (2021) Childcare in Ireland: Usage, Affordability and Incentives to Work
- 44 SIPTU Researcher Michael Taft extracted these figures from the Companies Registration Office - see his entire piece on childcare here.
- 45 SIPTU Early Years Union (2024) Towards A Professional Wage For Early Years: Budget 2025 Submission/ General Election Manifesto
- 46 Russell et al. (2019) Caring and Unpaid Work in Ireland
- 47 Migrant Workers in the Home Care Sector: Preparing for the Elder Boom in Ireland - Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (2020)
- 48 Oxfam Ireland (2020) Investing in our care system will help tackle gender inequality
- 49 Feminist Climate Justice Report, p. 51 & 52
- 50 "Fairer and more equal societies are more resilient to impacts and are more likely to adopt progressive transformative policies. Prioritisation of wellbeing and equity in development and climate policy could bolster the democratic social contract in support of transformation, including improved quality of life, decent work and the value of care." - EPA ICCA Synthesis Report, point E.4
- 51 You can find worksheets on the Climate Action Venn Diagram as well as Johnson's TED talk on the concept on her website: Climate Action Venn Diagrams — Ayana Elizabeth Johnson
- 52 Friends of the Earth Ireland - Cuppa for Climate
- 53 See Climate Conversations 2024 here; see years 2021 through 2023 here.
- 54 Climate Action Plan 2024, p. 30

●● feminist communities
●■ for climate justice