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Sent:

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Tuesday 8 February 2022 13:35

CARBON BUDGET CONSULTATION

Submission

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The current proposals for the Carbon Budgets are simply not ambitious enough. We are a wealthy country that should be leading, aiming to do more than average so that when we failed to achieve our targets, we at least achieve the average. We must keep 1.5 alive.

The proposed size of the budgets needs to be reduced to bring them into line with UNEP recommendations.

Each budget needs to deal in a clear and realistic way with emissions *during the life of that budget* only. No trickery when the life of the planet is on the line. Certainly there should be no counting or assuming of future reductions: count them only when they occur in a measurable fashion.

The back-loading of the budgets should be urgently reconsidered. This is simply kicking the can down the road and will not address the urgent issues. Furthermore, we have the chance to lead, and to gain economic advantage from this. Waiting for others to develop technology makes us a buyer in a sellers market, which is very poor strategy.

Concrete actions to be undertaken in the first 18 months of the first budget should be widely advertised. This is chance to win over the Irish public, to create the reality of the 'green' image of Ireland.

The first budget in particular needs to be re-evaluated in line with the principles of climate justice, and common but differentiated responsibilities. We need a more thorough-going analysis of Ireland's fair responsibilities in line with the Paris Agreement.

County Councils and local authorities need to be encouraged to look at existing practices and aim to conserve existing climate and biodiversity friendly amenities. One simple example here is regular hedgerow cutting: this is an endemic practice which reduces carbon capture at a stroke while destroying habitat for biodiversity. Improved hedgerow management is an easy win.