

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday 5 February 2022 20:54
To: CARBON BUDGET CONSULTATION
Subject: Consultation on carbon budgets

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Dear Minister Ryan,

I would like to submit the following points in relation to the Carbon Budget.

1) Ireland needs to be more ambitious now.

The UN says that emissions reductions of 7.6% are needed globally on average each year until 2030 for a chance of keeping global temperature increases to below 1.5%. The Irish Government promised 7% in the Programme for Government. However, the experts estimate that the current carbon budgets are only equivalent to average annual reductions of less than 6%. The draft budgets also postpone a lot of the reductions until the second period of 2026-2030. I am concerned that this is not ambitious enough and that a lot of the heavy lifting is postponed until later years. We are in a climate emergency now, and we cannot afford any delay or 'backloading' in climate action. This has been emphasised by scientists like Professor John Sweeney who said that we should be taking urgent action in the next 18 months rather than putting it off. The agility and sense of urgency displayed by the Irish government in responding to the Covid crisis has demonstrated that emergency actions are possible, and the state of our planet undoubtedly requires the same emergency attitude and response.

2) Carbon budgets must count emissions and savings in the relevant 5-year period

The government should not allow any accounting tricks that involve borrowing carbon removals/savings from future budgets. Counting future benefits on paper when not proven or materialised yet is both misleading and extremely unethical in the context of a global crisis where many communities are already suffering the effects of climate change. Budgets need to be clear and factual and focused on the period in question.

3) The carbon budgets should be stronger in terms of international climate justice

By global comparisons Ireland is a wealthy country with high emissions. Under principles of climate justice we should do more to address our debt to other countries that are suffering the worst impacts of climate change without having contributed much to creating climate change. The proposed carbon budgets use more than our 'fair share' of the global carbon budget. Again, this means that we should aim to be more ambitious and comply more fully with the principle of 'differentiated responsibilities' under the Paris Agreement.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed carbon budgets and look forward to seeing strong momentum on climate action and fair transition initiatives that will achieve the required emissions savings.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]