

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 8 February 2022 17:30
To: CARBON BUDGET CONSULTATION
Subject: Consultation on Carbon Budgets

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A Chairde,

I am writing to give some input into the CCAC proposal for the three economy-wide carbon budgets for the period 2021-2035. I do so in the sure knowledge that absolutely nothing I, nor anyone else will say on this matter will make the slightest bit of difference, given how unscientific or urgent the response outlined in the proposal is.

The fact of the matter when it comes to climate crisis is that the Irish energy system needs a full-scale decarbonisation. We should at least attempt to fully electrify our energy system through a fully publicly-owned renewable resource energy production and distribution network. The question of transition to a zero-carbon economy is not therefore a technocratic one solely about energy production. It is a question of the ownership of energy production. Who profits, who is energy produced for? Without public ownership, even the very minimal reductions targets outlined in this utterly inadequate report will not be reached.

As regards slippage in the targets, I obviously agree with the expertise that discussed this at various points in the drafting of this proposal. I would further add that given the targets have reduced from 7% in the first instance to 5.7% evinces this slippage phenomenon. I expect this not only to slip further given the lack of leadership and competence of the political stakeholders involved, but to fail in its totality.

Climate action which sees costs rather than the opportunity to revolutionise our existence and make it sustainable will inevitably pass those costs onto those with the least resources to meet them, workers and carers. Without a public, state-led decarbonisation where the purpose is to protect citizens and not profits, these proposals are meaningless and wasteful of time and expertise.

Finally, I will point out, again knowing this will not be heeded; there has been a persistent thought in environmental politics that there is an "incentive" for capitalism to resolve the issue of climate crisis by itself, given that climate crisis would ultimately destroy any opportunity for capitalism to generate profit. Despite this destruction of ability to generate profit being objectively true, the ruling class has proven itself incapable of ameliorating and stopping climate crisis. This is because of the inherent logics of the normal operation of capitalism. This cannot be extricated from climate crisis and to attempt to do so is to begin climate action from an incorrectly theorised position.

Le gach dea-ghn,

Ceannaire An Rabharta Glas - Green Left