

**From:**  
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**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Monday 7 February 2022 18:11  
CARBON BUDGET CONSULTATION  
Public Consultation on Carbon Budgets

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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing a concerned citizen to voice my concerns regarding Ireland's first two carbon budgets, currently open for public consultation.

It is my view, as well as that of many more qualified and better informed than I, that these budgets are not nearly ambitious enough, and leave a troubling amount of room for procrastination and prevarication.

In brief:

1. We must aim for a greater reduction in carbon consumption.

To be consistent with the UNEP "average per annum reduction of 7.6%" the proposed carbon budgets of 495 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq budgets should be reduced by about 41 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq – to a total of 454 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq. This would bring us in line with UN guiding principles for aiming for only 1.5 degrees of warming. Ireland as a wealthy country should be aiming to do more than the average 7.6% reduction, we certainly shouldn't be doing less.

We must do our bit to keep 1.5 alive. We will regret it if we don't.

2. It is essential that the MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq amount in each Carbon Budget relates only to emissions and removals measurable within the time period of that budget. Any emission reduction or removals which may occur after that time period must not be included when calculating or assessing achievement of that carbon budget. Now is not the time to go looking for ways to let ourselves off the hook. Now is the time to ensure that we hold ourselves accountable. Again, all of us will pay the price if we don't.

3. Earlier action is better action. The first budget puts off too much until later budgets, when earlier action would achieve much better results, and later action risks no results at all. Economically speaking, the current suspension of EU fiscal rules and access to low or no interest finance mean that if we act now Ireland can afford both long term public investment and urgent supports for sectoral change. A Just Transition can be both fast and fair. The Minister should reconsider the backloading between budgets, take full advantage of current macroeconomic opportunities to deliver a fast and fair just transition and take urgent actions to ensure emission reductions in first 18 months.

In all sincerity, the months and years ahead will be the most critical in the fight against climate change. These carbon budgets will determine how Ireland acts, or fails to, in that fight. We should not be found wanting. Unfortunately, the current targets are found wanting.

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