

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday 8 February 2022 14:13  
**To:** CARBON BUDGET CONSULTATION  
**Subject:** Public Consultation on Carbon Budgets

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Dear Minister Ryan,  
I have several points to make regarding the Carbon Budgets.

1. **The Size of the Carbon Budgets:** 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. The UNEP estimated that a global average annual reduction of 7.6% would reflect a 66% chance of staying within 1.5°C. The 6% average annual reductions in the current proposed carbon budgets only reflects a 50% chance of staying within 1.5°C. Even reducing it to 454 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq is really not enough. As a rich nation and avid consumer of fossil fuels, we should really be doing much more.
2. **Forward Counting:** 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. Therefore, there must not be any premature counting of potential future removals in current Carbon Budgets. We cannot and must not seek to adjust planetary facts to suit economic interests or incentives. So no accountancy tricks!
3. **The Balance Between the Two Budgets:** Please 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 the first 18 months. We need to stop doing harmful things and show that we are sincere in our role in preventing climate change and biodiversity loss. Emergency actions will be needed in the next 18 months, for example ending Ireland’s derogation from the nitrates directive (added advantage of reducing pollution of our watercourses) or strict new rules on demolition. Ireland’s roadmap to end payment of €2.4 billion per year in fossil fuel subsidies must be published in 2022 not in 2024 as currently planned. Show some urgency and leadership. Lead by example!
4. **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Climate Justice:** Please revise/reduce the proposed Carbon Budgets, to make them more ‘consistent’ with Articles 2 and 4(1) of the Paris Agreement, including ‘equity’ and “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities”. Please also strengthen the consideration and weighting given to climate justice when finalising the proposed Carbon Budgets. There should be more emphasis, analysis & policy tools, including those used by UNEP. They should be applied by CCAC and you to assess Ireland’s “fair share’ of emission reductions under Paris and our responsibilities in terms of climate justice. The 2030-2035 Carbon Budget must deliver on climate justice and be consistent with Paris principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities. A review of the 2026 – 2030 carbon budget should also be scheduled to address these issues. As the first budget is very likely to fall short on climate justice and fair share, it should be accompanied by other measures like new, additional, climate funding.

Finally, I want to add that I, like many other Irish citizens, are hoping that this government will deliver and will act with urgency to tackle the climate crisis. We've had endless meetings, took to the streets, begged, implored, cried and yelled at you - the government - our ministers, the state to sit up and do something. DO THE RIGHT THING. Not window dressing but real action that will make a difference. No backloading, ACT now! Show leadership, take a chance. Many of us will be behind you if you put your neck out. The alternative is a very sad future, full of pain and suffering that will pale in comparison to the minor suffering we may have to endure to meet the annual reduction of 7.6% . Raging fires, drought, famine, catastrophic biodiversity loss. Will there be such a thing as a wild polar bear in

10, 20 years time? Some of our farmers might think they can ignore climate change, that they 'feed' the world when in reality - their actions, OUR actions, if they do not actually address the climate crisis, will lead to many farmers in other parts of the world not being able to feed their families. They will starve to death. This is already happening in some parts of the world but will steadily increase. We, in Ireland, will suffer too with food shortages and the collapse of farming with drought after drought. I pray that you are listening...

Yours sincerely,

