

## Sectoral Emissions Ceilings

Q4: What do you view as the key actions required to ensure the emission reduction targets set out in the Sectoral Emission Ceilings are met?

### Individual 2:

Introduce / upgrade public transport networks, locally and nationwide.

Provide cheap/free subsidised public transport for commuters and students.

Implement a fixed monthly fee for unlimited access to all public transport services, with the fee linked to income (learning from Germany's €9-a-month scheme)

We should ensure that no one is more than 10km from a frequent bus or train which can carry a bicycle, and that all rural towns and villages have regular reliable public transport.

Transport could be partly paid for by a tax on employers, (as part of p.r.s.i ?) and retailers in shopping areas.

Supermarkets should be compelled to offer delivery, and facilitate taxis.

Take all fossil fuel production and distribution companies into state agency - nationalise them; or introduce 100% tax on profits.

Abolish the €2 billion in fossil fuel industry subsidies, including fossil fuel tax exemptions. Subsidising fossil fuels should have ended years ago. Do it now: immediately.

Apply excise duty to aviation fuel, (and raise €626 million), and work with other EU countries to do the same.

Antonio Guterres: 'Investing in new fossil fuels infrastructure is moral and economic madness'.

Ban the installation of new fossil fuel boilers, and inefficient cookers, in homes, and end the expansion of the fossil gas distribution network

Ensure that supports for retrofits and solar PV will specifically also apply to traveller caravans which are occupied year-round

Previous governments and the EU have misled farmers and fisherpeople into an unsustainable and unviable food production systems.

Transform agriculture to ensure access to locally grown nutritious organic food grown in harmony with nature and the planet.

Introduce a range of supports for regenerative farming, which is a biodiversity-supporting, low-carbon, organic approach to farming.

Support alternative to reliance on fertilizer and inputs produced using fossil fuels.

Introduce grants to farmers to plant biodiversity enhancing trees.

Ensure that commercial forestry consists of mixed native broadleaf species and will benefit local farmers rather than foreign investors

Provide supports to incorporating and fruit and nut plants and trees into landscapes and gardens in a way which supports biodiversity and makes for an edible landscape.

Support development of supply chains and markets which enable people to eat local and organic food.

Q5: What do you view as the main challenges/obstacles to the Sectoral Emission Ceilings being met?

Individual 2:

The main problem is that the government is failing to act like this is a crisis.

It may not be evident but this is worse than covid. This is worse than Ukraine. It is not as obvious, it main not appear as urgent, but this is much more serious.

And the main problem is the failure of government and media to say this to the citizens.

Leaders should lead, not try to hide people from the terrible truth.

People are practical and realistic: they mobilised to fight covid. Many people have volunteered to help Ukraine.

If people are told the truth about what must be done, they will act accordingly.

## Carbon Pricing & Cross-Cutting Policies

Q6: Are there any unintended barriers within the planning system that should be addressed at national policy level in order to deliver our climate ambitions?

Individual 2:

The planning system should prevent:

- any new or expanded large-energy-consuming industry, including data centres, unless they adhere to a strict regime of investment in renewable energy and energy storage infrastructure, and do not cause fossil fuel emissions directly on site or indirectly through forcing the grid to procure new fossil fuel infrastructure

- any new fossil fuel infrastructure, including fossil fuel exploration, importation and LNG regasification

- any new fossil fuel electricity generators and infrastructure (arguments that this is needed to meet demand need to be addressed by reducing that demand)

- expansion of the road network (except to facilitate local minibus services in remote areas)
- homes being built in isolated areas where it is not feasible to live without a private car
- homes being built with fossil fuel boilers
- developments which harm biodiversity or carbon sinks
- development of dumps - we need to reduce waste instead

Q7: What further opportunities exist within our taxation system, beyond measures already implemented and planned, to promote emissions reductions, either on an economy-wide basis, or in specific sectors?

Individual 2:

Introduce a FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX

We need to apply a 100% windfall tax on the profits of fossil fuel companies and suppliers in coordination with international and EU levels. We should also apply a windfall tax on the excess profits of electricity suppliers. The proceeds of this tax should be distributed half to households to help with energy bills, and half to go towards community and publicly owned renewable energy and storage infrastructure. This has the dual purpose of a) removing funds from fossil fuel corporations which would be invested in fossil fuel infrastructure and b) generating revenue to fund energy poverty interventions.

We should be abolishing the €2 billion in fossil fuel industry subsidies, including fossil fuel tax exemptions. The State spent 2.5 times more on fossil fuel subsidies than climate supports over past decade. Subsidising fossil fuels is something which should have ended years ago, so we should now do it immediately.

We should apply excise duty to jet fuel, which will raise €626 million, while working with our European neighbours to ensure they do the same. We should also ban Russian oil as airline fuel, which currently comprises a quarter of European airline fuel, and not replace it with other sources but rather ensure that overall jet fuel consumption is restricted.

Q8: Further to recent reforms to Ireland's green budgeting and public procurement policies, are there any additional measures that could be taken to integrate climate considerations into these policy frameworks?

Individual 2:

Public procurement should ensure circular approaches, procuring second hand items wherever possible, and promoting re-use and repair.

Public procurement should procure locally produced goods wherever possible to reduce transport

Public procurement of food, including food services in trains, in hospitals and school meals programs, should procure locally produced, organic and low packaging food served in re-usable containers.

Green public procurement of all transport vehicles for the public sector, and procurement of public transport services, should be zero-carbon, using electric rail wherever possible, and other zero carbon approaches

## Individual 2:

ESB networks are currently blocking the development of small scale community owned renewables through the bureaucratic and expensive process required for connecting to the ESB network. The structure and ethos of ESB networks in this regard needs to be overhauled. ESB networks are not treating this as a climate emergency in which community owned renewables have a central role to play.

In addition, the mandate of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities needs to specifically be re-focused on climate change as well as stability/reliability of supply. For example, the CRU should not be calling on data centres to install fossil fuel generation on site.

Any regulation of the tariff regimes which electricity retailers or the grid charge to customers should be based on principles such as:

Large energy consumers pay tariffs which reflect the full economic and environmental cost of their use of the grid

Households should get a minimum energy guarantee based on household size at low rates, and pay high rates in excess of this which reflect the economic and environmental cost of their usage. Households trapped in energy poverty due to not yet having access to retrofits should get allowances to help them pay while they wait for their retrofit.

Rates should be varied in real time as much as possible in order to incentivise reducing demand at peak times and at times when availability of wind and other renewables is low

Feed in tariffs including for rooftop solar, or for returning electricity to the grid from batteries, should be at rates which encourage investment in rooftop solar, with feed-in tariffs varying over time so that they are higher at times when other renewables are low and demand is high on the grid.

## Renewable Gases

### Q22: What measures can be introduced to reduce to F-Gases in the Enterprise sector?

#### Individual 2:

The issue of demand for the outputs of manufacturing should be addressed. The question should always be asked - are the products being produced really necessary or could this product be scaled back or removed in light of the need to address the climate crisis? Can we reduce and repair products instead of manufacturing new ones?

We should require all advertising to include mandatory "health warnings" about the impact of the good or service on people and planet. This will include appropriate warnings on all goods and services on the degree to which they have contributed to environmental destruction in the extraction of resources, climate breakdown, deforestation, unsustainable waste and human rights abuses.

For cement in particular, the demand for cement can be greatly reduced through increased use of alternative building materials such as wood, cob, hemp, lime etc.

For manufacturing which must be continued to meet essential needs, the responsibility needs to be clearly placed on industry to ensure manufacturing is done in a zero carbon way. There are a variety of technologies including using electricity when there is excess renewables on the grid and using green hydrogen for heating, and ensuring waste heat from one process is used for heat in other processes. The onus needs to be clearly placed on industry to figure this out as a pre-condition of continuing to operate.

We need to ban the use of F-gases in many new types of equipment where less harmful alternatives are widely available, such as fridges in homes or small businesses, air conditioning, foams and asthma sprays.

We need preventing emissions of F-gases from existing equipment by requiring checks, proper servicing and recovery of the gases at the end of the equipment's life.

People should be enabled and educated to build their own homes using low-impact materials such as wood, cob, hemp and lime. Centres such as The Hollies in Cork should be supported to expand their education programs, and education in such techniques should be incorporated into all architecture, construction and engineering courses. Planning permission for homes which use these techniques should be facilitated. Construction of new housing and buildings by developers should be required to use alternative materials and lower the use of cement. All vacant housing should be occupied, and a vacant building tax applied, to ensure we maximise the use of our existing housing stock to reduce the quantity of new housing needed.

Similarly alternatives should be prioritised for construction of other infrastructure.

Carbon capture and storage is not a solution, it is a way for the fossil fuel industry to perpetuate itself through greenwashing. The energy involved in capturing carbon with CCS is a significant, so producing energy in a way which emits carbon, then using that energy to capture the carbon again is

not efficient - the result is very little energy and carbon which needs a place to be stored indefinitely, without leakage. It is far more efficient to not emit the carbon in the first place. The places in which carbon could potentially be stored should instead be used for storing green hydrogen. Blue hydrogen (using fossil fuels and CSS to produce hydrogen) is not a solution, it is a greenwashing attempt by the fossil fuel industry. By far the best way of capturing carbon is trees and carbon sinks such as bogs.

## Enterprise, Waste & Circular Economy

### Q22: What measures can be introduced to reduce F-Gases in the Enterprise sector?

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## Q25: What other opportunities exist to drive the decarbonisation of the enterprise sector?

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Q71: What are the main barriers to consumers embracing the Circular Economy, e.g. lack of awareness, increased costs compared to disposable products, lack of access to circular goods and services?

#### Individual 2:

We need to move away from extracting resources, processing them, using them for a short time and dumping them. We need to have a circular economy which provides the things we genuinely need through a system of re-use, repair and passing things on from people who don't need something anymore to people who do. We need to become a society aware of the impact of every purchase on people and planet.

We should introduce a range of supports for the circular economy including repair shops and second-hand buy-and-sell services, including enterprise development supports for small businesses working in this area.

We should introduce financial penalties for unnecessary packaging and promote refill-based retail and supply chains.

We should require all advertising to include mandatory "health warnings" about the impact of the good or service on people and planet.

This should include appropriate warnings on all animal products, to encourage the move to more plant based diets.

This should include appropriate warnings on all goods and services on the degree to which they have contributed to environmental destruction in the extraction of resources, climate breakdown, deforestation, unsustainable waste and human rights abuses.

We should ban all fossil fuel advertising and sponsorship, including direct sales of fossil fuels as well as ads about cars, boilers or flights that use fossil fuels

We should develop and launch a comprehensive long-term Government information campaign on climate, energy and biodiversity, as we have done on road safety and smoking over decades.

We should mandate the Food Safety Authority of Ireland to revise their “Healthy Eating Guidelines” to take into account the water, air and climate pollution impacts of different food types.

## Agriculture & LULUCF

Q61: What are the opportunities to increase take-up of measures identified in AgClimatise and encourage adoption of other practices which reduce emissions?

### Individual 2:

Previous governments have misled farmers and fisherpeople into an unsustainable and unviable future. We should transform agriculture so we all have access to locally grown nutritious organic food grown in harmony with nature and planet.

We should introduce a range of supports for regenerative farming, which is a biodiversity-supporting, low-carbon, organic approach to farming.

We should support alternative approaches to reliance on fertilizer and inputs produced using fossil fuels. Chemical nitrogen fertilizer grew 28% after 2010 to 408,000 tonnes a year, and has fallen this year due to the skyrocketing price of the fossil fuels used to make it. We should ensure that the usage of chemical fertilizer does not rise again and continues to decline, to less than 200,000 tonnes by 2030.

We should introduce grants to farmers to plant biodiversity enhancing trees on farmland, which will reduce carbon levels as well as enhancing biodiversity

We should ensure that commercial forestry consists of mixed native broadleaf species and will benefit local farmers rather than foreign investors

We should provide supports to incorporating fruit and nut plants and trees into landscapes and gardens in a way which supports biodiversity and makes for an edible landscape.

We should support development of supply chains and markets which enable people to eat local and organic food.

Defining renewable gas as gas produced from agricultural waste, manure, municipal waste, plant material, sewage, green waste and food waste: Biogas is one use of the above wastes. The potential use of these wastes for biogas should be weighed against the other potential uses of these wastes, including composting and returning fertility back to the land, in the context of the need to ensure that the usage of chemical fertilizer (produced from fossil fuels with a high carbon impact) does not rise again and continues to decline, to less than 200,000 tonnes by 2030.

We should fund recommendations of the citizens assembly on biodiversity, and mainstream biodiversity in all planning processes

We should fund the National Parks and Wildlife Service at 1 bn, recognising the vital work they do conserving nature and biodiversity.

We should ban use of pesticide in urban areas and on roads and public places.

We should increase Ireland's Marine Protected Areas by at least 30% before 2030

We should set aside large areas for re-wilding, bog restoration and native woodland