

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 20 September 2022 15:02
To: Call For Evidence
Subject: Call for Evidence for Climate Action

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To whom it may concern;

I support the points made by Friends of the Earth but would like to add that the understanding of the ecological functions driving climate change seems to be sadly missing in most of the public debate surrounding the actions proposed to address climate change.

For example I am very concerned that those proposing to reduce the national herd seem to be misinformed and misguided. For anyone who believes that a reduction in the national herd is necessary I beseech them to listen to the following webinar with [REDACTED] on restoring water cycles and the role herbivores play in reducing methane and improving carbon sequestration.

[REDACTED]

After considerable research and training in Holistic Planned Grazing I am firmly of the opinion that scientific research and evidence underpins regenerative agriculture and in particular holistic planned grazing as one of the main ways Ireland can address climate change. Intensive conventional agriculture whereby livestock are kept in sheds most of the time is not only cruel, unhealthy and expensive, it is an agricultural practice which ultimately damages the land (through the removal of livestock & regular cutting of silage using heavy machinery). Intensive conventional agriculture is also vulnerable to changes in the costs of inputs such as feed, water, manpower and electricity. The mindset whereby more animals in the shed means more profit is not financially or ecologically viable in the medium to long term. In an ideal world I would ban the housing of animals apart from times of exceptionally cold weather and if necessary when the animals are sick and/or in quarantine. Animals like cattle, sheep, pigs and horses are happier and healthier when kept outside.

Below is a presentation about the technique of intensive rotational grazing. This 35 minute video talks about how intensive rotational grazing works and the intent and the science behind the practice. It has been proven that this low input outdoor rearing of livestock is the most profitable way to farm, assuming that the farmer has worked out that he/she has enough grass to feed their livestock all year round.

[REDACTED]

It requires a change of mindset from the current practice of set stock grazing to holistic planned grazing, a practice not too dissimilar to farming in Ireland before the introduction of artificial fertiliser in the early 20th century if [REDACTED] is anything to go by. It would be very helpful if policy makers could understand the ecological and economic motivation to change farm practice in order to enhance carbon sequestration and farm profitability. I think it's important to emphasise that working to address climate change will enhance farm profitability however in the changeover from traditional set stock grazing to holistic planned grazing and from conventional tillage to multi-species tillage farmers will need 4-5 years support as they adjust their farming practices.

Going forward Data Centres are a necessary feature of modern living. There is no reason why these cannot be self-sufficient when it comes to power. I would like to see data centres with a geothermal power

generating plant which serves their own needs and sends surplus into the grid. The by-product of geothermal energy generation is hot water so this could be used for district heating and/or heating greenhouses located next to the data centre for the production of fruit and vegetables. (The geo strata best for geothermal power generation is Kentstown granite which runs roughly from Drogheda to Clare).

Finally solar panels need to be on every south facing roof capable of taking them. I have solar panels and track my electricity generation using an App so when they're charging I put on the washing machine, dishwasher and other items requiring electricity as necessary. In a small farm setting we generate 38% of our own energy and send 16% of energy generated into the grid. If every household, farm, factory, shopping centre etc was doing this it would go a long way towards solving our energy crisis.

All new housing should ideally be passive in design with solar panels and rainfall capture systems for the flushing of toilets and gardening. The use of clothes dryers should be phased out - line dry outside or use a ceiling mounted clothes airer or clothes horse. I got rid of the dryer after refurbishing our home by placing a well insulated hot water tank in my utility room which is in the centre of my house. Now a pair of jeans dries overnight from the heat generated by the washing machine when its washing on night saver electricity and the heat from the hot water tank. All new houses and apartments should have a well vented utility room where clothes can be washed and hung up to dry.

I hope the points made above are of interest and helpful. Nobody likes change but the end results which should improve the well being of everyone in Ireland will be worth the effort.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name] Meath Environmental Pillar