

# Key Policy Asks for Faster and Fairer Climate Action

## We want a Government that will:

### **Deliver MUCH FASTER action to avert climate breakdown**

- Deliver annual reductions in climate-polluting emissions of at least 8% a year within the lifetime of the new Government.
- Support, as a minimum, the European Commission's proposal to put into European law emissions reduction targets of 55% by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.
- Enshrine a national net-zero target for the whole economy *in law*, and implement the package of policies and measures recommended in the cross-party report of the special Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action.
- Revise the legal mandates for key state agencies, such as Coillte and Teagasc, to require that they perform their functions in line with Ireland's climate and biodiversity obligations.

### **Deliver MUCH FAIRER climate action to ensure no one gets left behind**

We need substantial government investment in public transport, warmer homes and community energy to make zero carbon options available for everyone.

#### **Ensure affordable and accessible transport for all**

- Invest 2/3 of the transport budget in public transport, cycling and walking, as recommended by the Citizens' Assembly, with 20% going to cycling and walking as recommended by the UN.
- Invest an additional €50 million annually into the Rural Transport Programme.
- Free public transport for life for everybody born since 2008, the year of the bank guarantee, starting with the under 12's age cohort in Budget 2021.

#### **Deliver a 'warmer homes for all' programme to reduce energy use and save money**

- Commence and finance a deep retrofit programme for all local authority housing with an annual investment of €200 million.
- Introduce state-backed low-cost loans or other schemes to enable homeowners to finance large scale deep retrofitting of the housing stock.
- Create a "Tipperary Energy Agency for every county" to give people the project management support they need to retrofit their homes.

### **Support communities to own renewable energy projects**

- Deliver a nationwide programme that ensures every school is a solar school by 2025.
- Deliver microgeneration supports to unleash a community energy revolution across the country, where energy coops, clubs, parishes and schools are raring to go and frustrated by how hard it is to do community energy in Ireland.

### **Speed up the move away from peat and coal while ensuring fair treatment of workers**

- Sit down with the trade unions and other stakeholders to negotiate, in 2020, a Just Transition Agreement for peat and coal workers and their communities.
- End the burning of peat and coal for electricity by 2021.

### **End support for any new fossil fuel exploration or infrastructure**

- Ban the issuing of new exploration licences for fossil fuel exploration in Irish waters.
- Ban the import of fracked gas and do not permit the building of fossil gas infrastructure at Shannon or Cork.

### **Help poorer countries to cope with climate change**

- Contribute Ireland's fair share to international climate finance, prioritising public finance for adaptation in the poorest countries.

### **Align agriculture and land-use with our climate and biodiversity objectives**

#### **Support rural livelihoods and reduce agricultural pollution and emissions**

- Develop an agriculture policy that is in line with our climate, biodiversity and water quality obligations; improves national food security and supports farmers in a just transition away from intensive livestock production.
- Support reform of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy so that public money supports a just transition for farmers and non-polluting public goods, such as High Nature Value farming.
- Place limits on nitrogen fertiliser and pesticides import and usage.

#### **Reconnect, restore and protect nature**

- Establish, in mid 2020, the Citizens' Assembly on biodiversity loss mandated by the Dáil's declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency on 9 May 2019.
- Reverse the budget cuts suffered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, allocating at least €100 million in Budget 2021 to protect habitats for people and wildlife.
- Develop a continuous cover forestry policy with the right trees in the right place under the right management, focusing on native tree species underpinned by ecological assessment of land to be planted.
- Ensure that 30% of land and sea is managed for biodiversity and achieve favourable conservation status for 50% of habitats and species by 2030.