

UPDATE LOCALISING SDGs

IRISH PROVINCE | CLIMATE ISSUES |

One week to go to the polls

No doubt climate change is coming up on the doorsteps like never before. We know that politicians are now paying attention to this issue like never before. We need to turn this attention into lasting action. This is where you come in! For the next 7 days the power rests with you. As you know election time is when politicians really listen to voters. We need to use that leverage to get our candidates to make specific commitments.

Here are 2 things you can do:

- 1) Talk to the candidates or canvassers about climate change. The following may help you:
 - It can be as simple as "I am concerned about climate change. I want Ireland to do more"
 - Or as specific as "Will you work to make it much easier for homes, schools & community buildings to put solar panels on their roofs and get paid for the electricity they supply the grid?" (presently, schools need planning permission to put even a small solar panel on their roof and everyone has to give away to the ESB any electricity they do not use, for free!).
 - You could go a step further and ask "will you support the call by the Oireachtas Climate Committee for the Government to put a near-zero emissions target for 2050 into law, in line with UN science report and the Paris Agreement?"
 - Or as local as "Will you support better public transport and cycling lanes for this area?"

Above all make sure they leave you, knowing that you want them to do more to cut climate pollution, that it is an issue you care about and affects how you vote.

2) Contact your local candidates by clicking on this link [Email your local candidates](#). You can also [Ask them](#) to take the Fossil Free Pledge, located on the website. The pledge urges politicians to:

- 1) To work for a just transition for employees
- 2) To end offshore drilling; burning peat and coal for electricity
- 3) No fossil fuel infrastructure
- 4) No importing of fracked gas

AWARENESS

Let's use these next 7 days to show politicians just how much we want serious action on climate change

ADVOCACY

17 Countries and counting

See page 2

Global Day of Action

Momentum is growing quickly for a world-wide event that will happen on Friday, May 24th. Leaders in 17 countries have registered their support. This strike has special significance as it marks the 4th anniversary of Laudato Si. From east to west, from north to south, a mighty voice for climate justice is taking root.

In Laudato Si, Pope Francis reminds us that the climate crisis has far-reaching consequences for the human family, and that the most vulnerable among us suffer disproportionately. Young people are demanding that the climate catastrophe be averted. Older people are standing up to show that the demand for action is strong. Given this timing will you consider supporting this urgent call to implement solutions to the climate crisis?

The spirit of solidarity between generations was captured between Pope Francis and Greta Thunberg, 16-year-old Swedish girl who has inspired the global movement.

Watch the video made after the meeting by [clicking on this link](#)

Be part of the wave of support on May 24th. There are many ways to get involved. [Click on this link if you want to find out more about this movement.](#)

Food and Farming

The number of small farms in Ireland is in steady decline. Small farmers are threatened with extinction.

Food and farming here in Ireland faces a stark choice. Do we continue to put profit first? Or adopt practices that safeguard the future of what we eat – and those who provide it?



Irish Agriculture claims to be among the greenest in the world

Food Harvest 2020 is a controversial Government plan for the dramatic increase in production from the Irish Agricultural Industry. This strategy that was developed by the Agri-Industry has been whole-heartedly embraced by our Government without question. There are very serious concerns about what kind of impact such increases in production would have on our environment.

Read more about this in the next issue

AWARENESS

Ireland's electricity is made up with about ¾ from fossil fuel sources (gas, coal, peat and oil), and ¼ from renewable sources, the majority of which comes from wind. More on this in the next issue!