

Press Release
For Immediate Release
Galway City Community Network
15th November 2021

THE CLIMATE BILL, CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, JUST TRANSITION AND COP26

Galway City Community Network and Galway Environmental Network to host event set to address the main Irish Government de-carbonisation commitments in light of the recent COP26 outcomes.

On November 23rd 2021, Galway City Community Network (GCCN)[1] and Galway Environmental Network (GEN)[2] will host a workshop exploring the *Climate Bill, Climate Action Plan, Just Transition and COP26* with Dr. Sadhbh O’Neill, Climate Policy and Politics lecturer at Dublin City University, School of Law and Government.

The event aims to explore how climate change and the policies around de-carbonising the Irish economy impact on us all in the aftermath of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26)[3] held at the beginning of November in Glasgow, UK.

In line with EU ambition, the Programme for Government, Our Shared Future commits to achieving a 51% reduction in Ireland’s overall Green House Gases (GHG) emissions from 2021 to 2030, and to achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

The Government’s Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021[4], launched earlier this year, sets to support Ireland in achieving a climate neutral economy by no later than 2050.

The Climate Action Plan 2021: Securing Our Future [5] was published on Thursday November 4th, 2021. The Plan outlines the likely impacts of climate change here and across the globe, stating that the impact of climate change will be felt by every individual, household, and community in Ireland. It set out the actions to be taken in relation to achieving what are not legally binding targets.

The challenges, opportunities and significant level of change required by these two major de-carbonisation commitments demand for a Just Transition[6], as recognised by the previous Climate Action Plan 2019[7].

Ann Irwin, GCCN Co-ordinator stated:

“It is a great opportunity for us to hear from Dr. Sadhbh O’Neill who, in addressing the key points of this seminar, will draw on her knowledge and experience as a previous Policy Coordinator for the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition and as the Campaign Coordinator with Climate Case Ireland, a legal campaign by Friends of the Irish Environment. We will be exploring further her suggestion that we ‘lean-in’ to the outcomes of COP26.”

Further information is available on the GCCN website – www.galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie.

ENDS

For more information and interviews, contact:

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Notes to editors:

- [1] Galway City Community Network (GCCN) is a network of 150 community, voluntary and environmental organisations active in Galway City. GCCN is the main link through which the Galway City Council connects with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors. GCCN member organisations represent the network on a variety of bodies including the Council's Strategic Policy Committees. For more see www.galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie.
- [2] Galway Environmental Network, a member of GCCN, is a coalition of 200 groups and individuals working towards the protection and promotion of our precious environment. For more see <https://www.galwayenv.net>
- [3] The UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) was held in Glasgow, UK from the 31st of October to the 12th of November 2021. For more see <https://ukcop26.org/>
- [4] The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 was launched in March 2021. For more see <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/984d2-climate-action-and-low-carbon-development-amendment-bill-2020/>
- [5] The Climate Action Plan 2021 was launched in November 2021. For more see <https://assets.gov.ie/203558/f06a924b-4773-4829-ba59-b0fec978e40.pdf>
- [6] The Climate Action Plan commits to delivering a just transition. For more see <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e0e7e-climate-action-plan-to-tackle-climate-breakdown-just-transition/>
- [7] The Climate Action Plan 2019 was launched in June 2019. For more see <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ccb2e0-the-climate-action-plan-2019/>