

Caring Climate Action - A Feminist Climate Justice Election Manifesto

Climate instability is increasing vulnerabilities throughout Ireland, particularly among women and marginalised communities. Reducing these vulnerabilities is an essential part of meeting our emissions targets because the scale of change required will only be possible if everyone is included. We must move away from supporting the extractive activities and polluting industries that have created the climate crisis but that so much of our economic development has depended on. Moving toward regenerative practices that prioritise community needs and care work is essential for a climate just future. The climate crisis does not impact everyone equally, and to date many climate policies in Ireland have exacerbated social and class inequality, leaving many people and communities behind.

But it's not too late. We have an opportunity to get this right: in the upcoming General Election, the National Network within the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice project between the National Women's Council and Community Work Ireland want to see clear commitments from political parties to develop climate policy that puts the health of people and planet first. We must reduce social inequalities while reducing carbon emissions.

We want to see caring climate actions which have the potential to be transformative in creating a fairer, cleaner, more prosperous and more equal future in which all women, communities, workers, and counties are lifted up.

Eliminate Energy Poverty

- Ensure warm homes for all by prioritising energy poverty measures for the most marginalised including older people living in badly insulated homes, rural communities, Travellers living in trailers, lone parents living in inadequate housing and tenants renting from private landlords
- Target and increase investment and eligibility in accessible and affordable retrofitting schemes, prioritising marginalised communities and those most affected by energy poverty; including women, older people dependent on the state pension, people with disabilities, Travellers and Roma, people seeking international protection, lone parents and renters in private accommodation
- Develop a comprehensive measurement of energy poverty that goes beyond expenditure, and that takes account of factors such as reduced use because of current high prices

Public & Active Transport for All

- Continue the expansion of Ireland's public transport system, particularly for those in rural areas; ensure that timetabling makes all journeys viable; and broaden existing financial schemes to make it more affordable for all
- Ensure transport policy takes account of women's transport needs, including the need to make care journeys as well as the need to be safe whilst using public transport
- Continue development of active transport infrastructure in all parts of the country including cycle and pedestrian infrastructure

Education & Climate Literacy

- Ensure that the many spaces already within the curriculum of primary, secondary and third-level education are fully utilised to provide students with the skills and knowledge to develop climate literacy; provide supports and resources to teachers both at preservice and in-service training to ensure this happens
- Co-develop a Public Education Campaign on climate justice targeted at those outside the formal education system; co-produce and implement this in partnership with groups based in the community, including older people, younger people, women's groups and community groups
- Highlight how climate action and policy benefit society and actively challenge disinformation with a facts-based approach

Health

- Adopt World Health Organisation air quality guidelines as legally binding targets by 2035
- Ensure climate related health concerns are included in the Women's Health Action Plan
- Emphasise in the proposed Public Education Campaign that the climate crisis is a critical public health issue

No Woman or Community Left Behind

- Ensure all climate policies and actions promote equality and address pre-existing inequalities including those based on gender, social class, race/ethnicity, religion and disability amongst others
- Recognise care work as essential green work and key to our Just Transition, ensuring it is well-paid work and included meaningfully in Irish climate policy
- Strengthen and resource an autonomous community sector, particularly in marginalised areas and amongst marginalised groups, to ensure their input into climate policies and actions

Protecting Nature

- Endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty - no to LNG, no new fossil fuel infrastructure
- Ensure all local development plans include provisions for public access to green spaces and supports for renewed biodiversity
- Support women to fully participate in Agriculture, through increased funding and equal access to resources and schemes

**For more information, contact the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice
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