

Feminist Communities for Climate Justice

Final Impact report
18th December 2025



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Executive Summary

The Feminist Communities for Climate Justice (FCCJ) project is an ongoing collaboration between the National Women's Council (NWC) and Community Work Ireland (CWI). The project was born out of demand for support and action in addressing the disproportionately negative effect of climate change and some climate action policies on women and marginalised groups on the island of Ireland. For the past three years, we have addressed the lack of analysis of climate change impacts on women and marginalised communities in Ireland and, through community work processes and approaches, worked to empower and mobilise these voices in climate policy debates. The project was funded under the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP Strand 2 - education, capacity building and learning by doing) led by the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment from October 2022 to December 2025.

Key Accomplishments:

- **Research and Policy:** Produced the foundational Feminist Climate Justice Report, the first report in Ireland to comprehensively examine how current climate policy is impacting women and marginalised groups in Irish society.
- **Capacity Building:** Delivered the 20-week, NUI Level 7 Community Work in a Changing Ireland: Feminist Climate Justice certificate programme in partnership with Maynooth University.
- **Resources:** Created two practical toolkits, *Creating Climate Justice Communities* and *Community Action for Feminist Climate Justice*, to be a lasting legacy for community organisations and a range of other resources that can be found on the project website.
- **Network Building:** Established the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice Network (FCCJN) and 4 working groups, comprising over 160 individuals and organisations, to mobilise and amplify the voice of communities in the climate debate.
- **Campaign:** Launched a digital campaign highlighting the key areas of government climate policy that require reform through a gendered, climate justice and community development lens and set up a bespoke website www.feministclimatejustice.ie to house all the resources and webinars from the project.

The project established FCCJ as an expert voice on the gendered impacts of the climate crisis, the domestic impacts of climate policy for marginalised communities, and the importance of care work as green work.



The Mission and Vision

The FCCJ project is a joint initiative between the National Women's Council (NWC) and Community Work Ireland (CWI). The shared motivation was to apply a feminist and community development lens to climate action and justice. In 2021, the amended Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act was adopted, which established a national climate objective, and set legally binding emissions reduction targets for 2030 along with 5 year carbon budgets. Under this legislation, the government is required to produce an annual climate action plan setting out in detail how sectoral emission reductions are to be achieved consistent with a programme of 5-year carbon budgets. Funding is provided for the national retrofit programme and other climate measures in the annual Budget from exchequer resources and the carbon tax. In addition to resourcing climate policies the government also committed funding under a Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) to help build capacity at a local level through local authorities and community organisations. CWI and the NWCI made a joint application under CCAP Strand 2 (Education, capacity building and learning by doing) and were successful in securing a three-year grant approval.

National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI)

The NWC, founded in 1973, is the leading representative organisation working for women's rights and equality across the island of Ireland. It is rooted in its almost 200 member groups and individual supporters, working to achieve women's rights and equality. The NWC's strategic plan and membership strategies highlight the importance of focusing on climate action and climate justice from a feminist perspective.

Community Work Ireland (CWI)

CWI is the national organisation that promotes and supports community development to address poverty, social exclusion, and inequality. Its mission includes advancing human rights and achieving social change for a just, sustainable, and equal society. CWI's membership is over 1,000 individuals and groups who work with the most marginalised communities in Ireland. CWI has a long track record in working on the issue of climate justice.

Project Team

The project was led by a Project Coordinator and a Project Officer, with oversight and support from senior staff in the National Women's Council and Community Work Ireland.





Pictured at the launch of the project toolkits in October 2025 from L to R: Olitha Mpofu, Rachel Doyle, Vanessa Conroy, Jennie Stephens, Orla O'Connor and Sadhbh O'Neill.

Project Foundation: A Feminist, Community Development, Climate Justice Perspective

The project team undertook a two-phase process to build a clear workplan and policy approach. At the outset, the project team met with experts and stakeholders in the climate/environmental NGO and academic sectors to build relationships and gather information on existing work with a gender and community work lens. The next step was to collate relevant information into a two-section literature review, including major publications by NWC and CWI on climate issues and a description of the policy context for major themes. This exercise helped to narrow the project's policy scope into manageable themes, or 'Pillars'.

The Feminist Climate Justice Report

A [baseline research report](#) compiled by Dr. Fiona Dukelow, Dr. Catherine Forde, and Edith Busteed of UCC. It built on the project's literature review, which had revealed a lack of analysis on climate change impacts on women in an Irish policy context. The report examined Irish climate and environment policy from the perspective of women and marginalised communities and identified key areas and strategies for policy improvement. The report grounded its analysis in six key pillars: just transition; energy poverty and housing; transport; care; food, land use, agriculture and biodiversity; and health. Once the report was completed and launched, the baseline report informed the project's work thereafter, including the certificate programme, toolkits, and webinars.



The Certificate Programme: Community Work in a Changing Ireland: Feminist Climate Justice

One of the key achievements of the FCCJ project was the delivery, in partnership with Maynooth University Department of Applied Social Studies of their NUI Level 7 Certificate (Special Purpose) 'Community Work in a Changing Ireland' (CWCI). This certificate was delivered over 20 weeks from January to July 2024. The course delivered content with a focus on community work approaches and integrated a feminist analysis to foster learning around the theme of climate justice. The CWCI cert is delivered using a blended approach, with 100 hours of contact time that included online and in person workshops and seminars, as well as two residentials and study visits, supported by individual student study time. 21 participants with diverse backgrounds from across Ireland were selected from over a hundred applicants. All participants were conferred in November 2024.

Toolkits

Two toolkits were produced as practical educational [resources](#) incorporating three years of project activities and group learning:

- *Creating Climate Justice Communities* (The 'educate/agitate' theme): This toolkit helps introduce participants to the impacts of the climate crisis on communities' day-to-day lives and highlights existing/future injustices.
- *Community Action for Feminist Climate Justice* (The 'organise' theme): This toolkit offers practical activities and exercises for communities to unpack the climate crisis as a feminist issue and apply a feminist approach to their organising.

Website

The toolkits, and all the other project publications and resources can be found on the project website at <https://www.feministclimatejustice.ie/>.



Key Activities: Mobilisation, Campaign and Advocacy

Webinars

A series of webinars were organised to act as educational and capacity-building resources, amplifying voices often left out of climate discourse on topics that were central themes of the Baseline Report. The webinars were accompanied by Irish Sign Language interpretation and recorded.

- Project Launch Webinar: September 26th, 2023. The introductory webinar of the ‘Feminist Communities for Climate Justice’ project, discussing its goals and how to get involved in the project’s work.
- Care, Climate Justice and the Upcoming Referendum: February 6th, 2024. The Feminist Communities for Climate Justice project’s launch of groundbreaking research highlighting the connections between care work & climate change by Dr Catherine Forde, Dr Fiona Dukelow and Edith Busteed of the School of Applied Social Studies at University College Cork. This webinar coincided with the run-up to the referenda on family and care in March 2024.
- Feminist Communities for Local Food: September 12th, 2024. Our webinar in collaboration with Talamh Beo Women explored the need for a new approach to food production in Ireland, described Talamh Beo’s proposed local food policy and the importance of local food in terms of health, environment and climate.
- Safe, Warm, Green: Towards Energy Justice: December 5th, 2024. We presented the findings in the Energy and Housing chapter of our Feminist Climate Justice report.
- All Aboard! Public and Active Transport for All: February 19th, 2025. We presented the findings in the Transport chapter of our Feminist Climate Justice Report.
- From Challenge to Change: The Climate Crisis & Women’s Mental Health: May 13th, 2025. We co-hosted an event with the Women’s Mental Health Network, where we presented the mental health findings of the Health chapter of our Feminist Climate Justice Report.
- Feeding Change: Healthy, Affordable and Sustainable Food for all: October 20th, 2025. This webinar discussed the different ways that food poverty manifests in Ireland, alongside community initiatives and research tackling this issue.
- Building Climate Justice Communities: November 24th, 2025. The project’s final webinar focused on empowering communities to take climate justice action to create their own climate justice communities. This webinar discussed the project’s two toolkits, designed to equip all kinds of facilitators and conversation starters to change the way climate change is talked about in our communities and help them respond to the impacts of the climate crisis in their communities.



External Engagement

The FCCJ project team contributed to numerous external events, workshops, and conferences including the Mary Robinson Climate and Nature Conference 2024 where we presented a panel session on the Feminist Climate Justice Report. FCCJ also participated in the IHREC Thought Forum on Climate and Environmental Justice and Just Transition on July 18th, 2024 and at an event hosted by the Left group in the European Parliament on Centring the Just Transition in EU Policy where we discussed the role of care work as green work in the EU's Just Transition.

The project team also conducted engagements with policymakers and especially the members of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy in relation to Ireland's Social Climate Plan, the Energy Affordability Taskforce Report and the publication of our toolkits and website resources. We met with over 30 TDs and senators as part of the Stop Climate Chaos Mass Lobby on the 4th of December.

Media engagement and website

Throughout the project, efforts were made to publicise the activities by issuing press releases, social media posts that highlighted the key recommendations from the Baseline report and related policy submissions. At an early stage in the project, the management team decided to invest in a project branding identity which has been carried through into the new project website www.feministclimatejustice.ie. FCCJ was very active on social media, and had at least 600 posts over the life of the project, in addition to the digital campaign conducted at the end of the project focusing on our approach to care, energy, transport poverty and promoting the toolkits. The project issued regular press releases which were regularly picked up by national and local radio. We had an [opinion piece](#) published in the *Irish Examiner* on the 28th May 2025. Network and team members participated in the climate march to coincide with COP30 on the 15th of November.





Vanessa Conroy FCCJ Project Officer at the national climate march on 17th November 2025.

Towards the end of the project, it was decided to invest in a [standalone website](#) to act as a hub for the project resources and publications. This decision reflects the important role of the project in acting as a go-to resource for community workers and NWCI/CWI members and to build on the branding identity of the FCCJ. The website will support communities to take action on climate change with resources, tools, know-how and different approaches.

Outputs and impact

Output Type	Metric	Detail
Training and Capacity Building	21 Participants	Graduated from the NUI Level 7 Certificate Programme.
Training and Capacity Building	c.500 participants at in-person and online events with 39 network meetings in total.	Network members from the community development sector
Network Reach	Over 170 Members; 354 subscribers to the FCCJ mailing list. 40 media engagements.	Individuals and organisations in the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice Network (FCCJN). Over 3k views of FCCJ pages/ materials before new website launched.
Education/Engagement	2 Toolkits; 9 webinars; 1 baseline report and executive summary.	Produced as practical educational resources.

Advocacy/Influence	4 Working Groups with one in-person field trip (Arts and Creative approaches visit to IMMA).	Emerged organically within the FCCJN (Policy & Advocacy; Local Food; Arts & Creative; Women in Nature Restoration).
Advocacy/Influence	17 submissions made to public consultations; c.23 direct engagements with policymakers. 5039 views of policy positions.	Led by the project staff, these submissions were outputs of the policy and advocacy WG. Data from google analytics.
Reach	Most Popular Webinar had 209 participants. Average webinar attendance was 70 participants. 13,267 website hits for Baseline Report.	Webinar participation, total views of FCCJ pages. Data from google analytics.

Elevating a Feminist, Community Work Lens in Climate Policies

The project established FCCJ as an expert voice on the gendered impacts of the climate crisis and the importance of care work as green work. The policy contributions were selected for key European discussions, such as the event Centring the Just Transition in EU Policy. Furthermore, through the project, NWC and CWI joined numerous Irish climate coalitions, including Stop Climate Chaos (where NWC sits on the Steering Committee), the Irish Climate and Health Alliance, an energy poverty network led by Friends of the Earth Ireland, and Coalition 2030, enabling the feminist community work lens to be brought to established civil society climate forums. One of the areas where the FCCJ project has had impact is in relation to the Budget 2026 which extended the fuel allowance to recipients of the working family payment, and a recognition of the particular vulnerability of lone parents to energy poverty.

“I came with a concern for the environment and left with knowledge and skills to take action”.

(Cert Course Graduate Testimonial)



Meeting a Clear Sector Demand

The oversubscription of applicants for the certificate course is evidence for a sizable demand for climate justice education aimed at the community development sector, validating the program's unique focus. The delivery of the Maynooth University (MU) Special Purpose Certificate provided a credible, accredited pathway for community workers to better understand and engage in climate justice issues. This course was oversubscribed and it is envisaged that FCCJ will seek to run the programme again with MU, ideally on an annual or biannual basis to ensure that all community workers have access to this critical training.

Grassroots Mobilisation and Co-Creation

The FCCJ Network provides a space for collective analysis between those in 'climate spaces' and those operating outside of them, bringing together community workers, women's rights advocates, artists, and anti-poverty organisations. This network provides an important diverse and grassroots steer to project outputs, including the co-creation of policy submissions. The creation of the Caring Climate Action manifesto during the 2024 general election by the Policy & Advocacy WG demonstrated the Network's ability to mobilise for direct advocacy.





The project's impact extends beyond the CCAP funding, with a clear strategy for embedding feminist climate justice into the core work of NWC, CWI, and the wider community development sector. The new strategic plan for the NWC for example states that:

“NWC will champion policies that integrate gender perspectives into climate action, pushing for recognition that care work is green work, gender sensitive natural disaster response planning, and sustainable development practices that promote equality.”

CWI has developed several continuous professional development resources throughout the lifetime of the FCCJ project to provide supports to community workers, to help them make sense of climate issues as they relate to community development work, and to inspire them to feel confident to engage in climate action measures at community level. An example is a CPD [training video](#) from 2023.

Goals for the Next Period

Building on the recommendations from the external evaluation conducted by The Change We Need, the focus of the next phase of the project, subject to funding, will be on creating more resources to meet the sizable demand for climate justice education in the community development sector. Future policy work streams of the FCCJ will focus on energy, transport and food poverty as experienced by women and marginalised communities in Ireland. This focus will inform future funding applications.

“[Feminist Communities for Climate Justice] reframed community work as climate action”

18th December 2025

