



National Women's Council



Feminist Climate Justice: Does climate policy leave women, girls and marginalised communities behind in Ireland?

#FeministClimateJustice @ Cop On!

Saturday 19th October



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



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Feminist Climate Justice

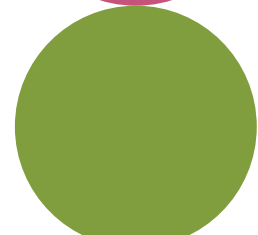
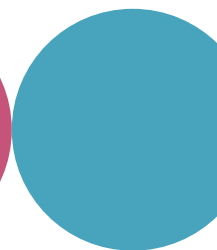
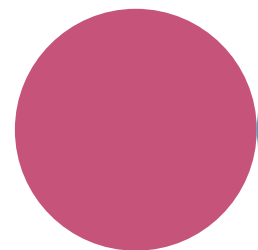
Feminist climate justice is about **paying attention to the gendered and intersectional characteristics** of all dimensions of climate justice

*Voices of Feminist Communities
for Climate Justice*

*What would climate
justice mean for you
and your life?*

*Leaving no one behind and
reaching the furthest behind
first. Listening, responding
to communities who will
have to adapt.*





Amplify the voices of women and marginalised communities most impacted by climate crisis

Advocate and influence policy with women and marginalised communities

Mobilise communities to support and learn from one another, with the establishment of the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice National Network

Strengthen capacity & raise consciousness of those working with or active within women's and marginalised communities through *Community Work in a Changing Ireland Certificate Programme* in partnership with the Department of Applied Social Studies at NUI Maynooth; and the development of toolkits for communities and community workers



why this project?

Responding to community workers – climate impacts coming, but a need for more information, guidance and tools

Responding to data and policy gaps – existing climate policy does not adequately pay attention to the domestic gendered impacts of the climate crisis

For a feminist analysis of climate justice

Response to National Women's Council members who wanted climate justice integrated in the Council's work



Impacts of the climate emergency worsen existing social and economic inequalities – including gender inequalities

Gender Pay Gap: **9.6%**

Gender Pension Gap: **35%**

Women do **twice** as much unpaid care work

care work is key to how women experience & are impacted by the climate crisis

caring roles are linked to food, energy, transport choices & security

most Irish women consider car ownership a necessity to carry out caring duties and to alleviate safety concerns with public transport



why women?

excluded from the economy and work in unpaid caring or domestic roles which impact transport, energy, food use and vulnerability to poverty and injustice

Women face huge barriers in access to employment, key resources and public services including housing and health

disproportionately represented in deaths related to air pollution

Care and support work - vital and inherently low-emissions work, must be a key part of the just transition

Marginalised women are particularly affected

Women's voices must be central – those most impacted by the climate crisis need to be at the centre of decision-making spaces.



why a feminist community work approach?

Addresses and tackles the root causes of inequality and climate injustice – **system change, not climate change**

Cares – it champions caring work, paid and unpaid, and calls for it to be appropriately valued and recognised as green work

Transforms consultation into meaningful, non-tokenistic participation in decision-making

Focuses on the issue of women's representation in decision-making as well as other marginalised groups – those most impacted by the climate crisis need to be at the centre of decision-making spaces

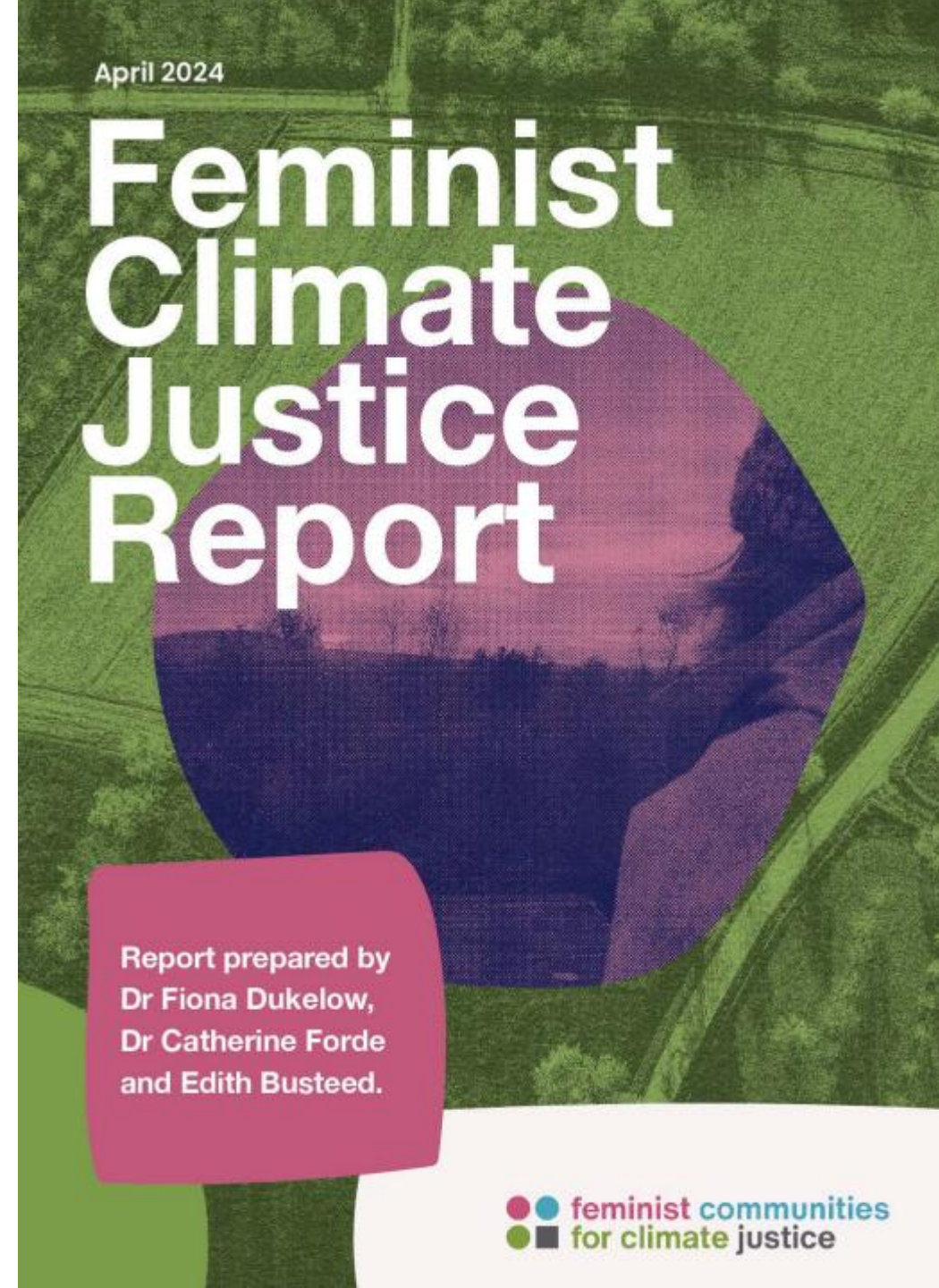
Champions a collective focus – we must fight for the many, not the few

Means better public services which benefit both people and planet!



Feminist Climate Justice: Gaps explored, what does the research tell us?

1. Just Transition
2. Care
3. Energy Poverty and Housing
4. Transport
5. Health
6. Food, Land-use, Agriculture & Biodiversity



just transition

Irish climate policy must **go beyond place-specific analysis** to incorporate **identity-based analysis too**, including a **gender** and **intersectional lens** to the current and future impacts

The approach to a just transition both in Ireland and internationally appears to be **‘framed narrowly around employment’**. (Middlemiss et al., 2023: 2)

Heavy focus on **mitigating the impacts on employment in the fossil-fuel industry** and other male dominated sectors of employment

In **the Climate Action Plan**, the people deemed most at risk of employment instability during the just transition to a greener economy **does not include women or marginalised groups** such as the Traveller Community and the migrant community in Ireland



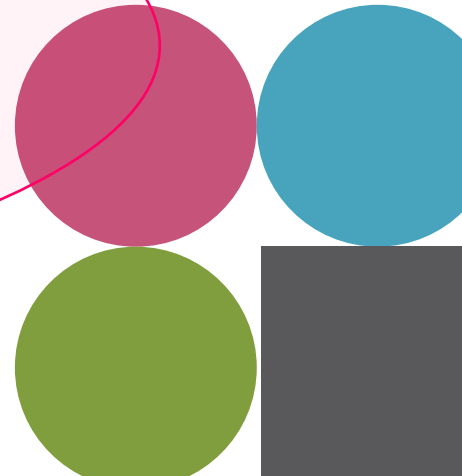
three dimensions for Ireland's just transition

Place/geography-based analysis: Midlands are particularly impacted by move from high-carbon to green jobs, poor public transport links in this area; areas particularly at-risk of sea level rise; places already impacted by flooding. Will communities need to be moved inland? What are the financial implications? Who is responsible?

Employment-based analysis: jobs in agriculture, peatlands, transport, mining and other extractive industries will be impacted – need to ensure workers are upskilled, fairly compensated, and that new jobs have good employment benefits, etc.

Identity-based analysis: Travellers who live in trailers/caravans are not eligible for retrofitting despite being vulnerable to energy poverty; many modes of public and active transport are inaccessible for disabled people; impacts of socioeconomic disadvantage on women's ability to participate in green transition

Irish discussion on just transition does NOT include this analysis sufficiently!



care

Formal and informal care work is essential, low-carbon work – but it is hidden in all Irish climate policy and continues to be dominated by women

Care services employment can fulfil **the triple roles** of improving employment and gender equality and meet climate change targets

Discourse and policy discussion on green jobs **ignores female-dominated caring work** in education, healthcare and social care

‘Trip chaining’, = a pattern of mobility that involves multiple small trips within a larger commute

‘Locked into using cars’ as a primary mode of transportation due to caring responsibilities, safety concerns, and lack of time availability

Voices of FCCJ

What would climate justice mean for you and your life?

*Childcare - affordable and reliable
Care work - green work (paid and unpaid)*



transport

Transport is not gender neutral, with women and men using transport very differently

Communities residing in certain areas are 'locked-in' to car ownership due to lack of public transportation infrastructure, particularly those in rural areas

Instances of **harassment on public transport are heightened toward women** who are from marginalised groups

Access to Bus Éireann buses is an ongoing issue for disabled people. A lack of accessibility and requirements to book in advance to access public transportation if you use a wheelchair can result in social exclusion and isolation for disabled people.

Mobility of care=
'acknowledges the need to quantify, assess and make visible the daily travel associated with care work'

(Sánchez de Madariaga, 2013: 33).



energy poverty & housing

A lack of disaggregated data

‘energy poverty is defined as an inability to heat or power a home adequately’

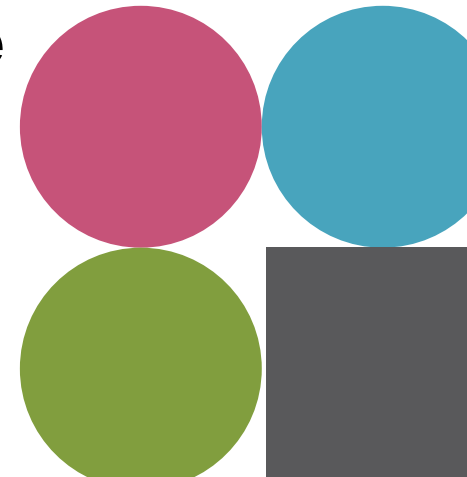
Expenditure-based methods do not capture the intersecting inequalities and barriers to accessing energy that marginalised communities are more exposed to

Household as measurement excludes experiences outside of the traditional household i.e. emergency accommodation, direct provision

Women are overrepresented in the numbers of lone parent households living in emergency accommodation

Data shows that **those most impacted by energy poverty are female lone parents renting private accommodation** in Ireland

Traveller community disproportionately impacted by energy poverty: Government schemes for retrofitting remain inaccessible to Travellers who live in trailers



food, land-use, agriculture & biodiversity

The system of land use and ownership in Ireland is **highly patriarchal, market-led and ineffective**

Only **13% of farm holders are women** in Ireland

Migrant women make up a large and often invisible portion of the agricultural and food production industries in Ireland

Biodiversity loss has implications for production of food and medicine, as well as consequences for human health.

Farmers are the custodians of our land with rich knowledge and understanding of it – they must be supported and encouraged to conserve and restore biodiversity.



Communicating the climate crisis as a health crisis is an **effective messaging method**

There are **substantial policy gaps in Ireland** between the climate crisis and its implications for physical, maternal, reproductive, and mental health that women face

The connectedness between **climate justice and women's health including reproductive justice is siloed** within Irish health and climate policy

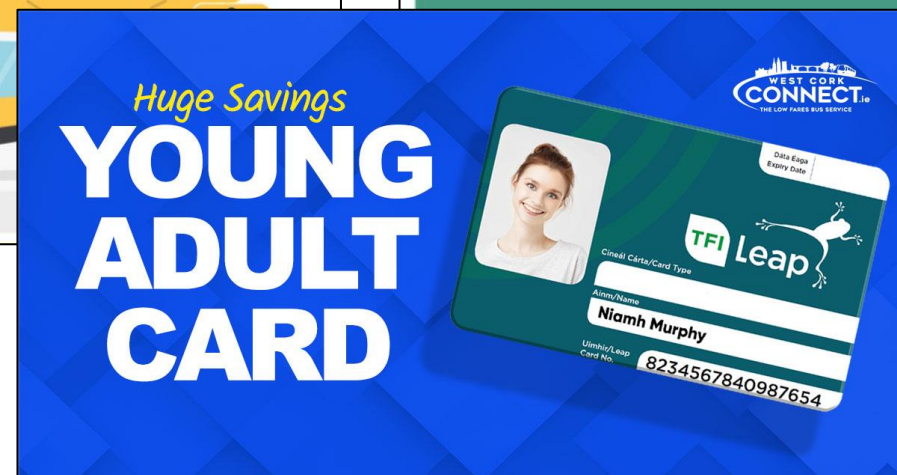
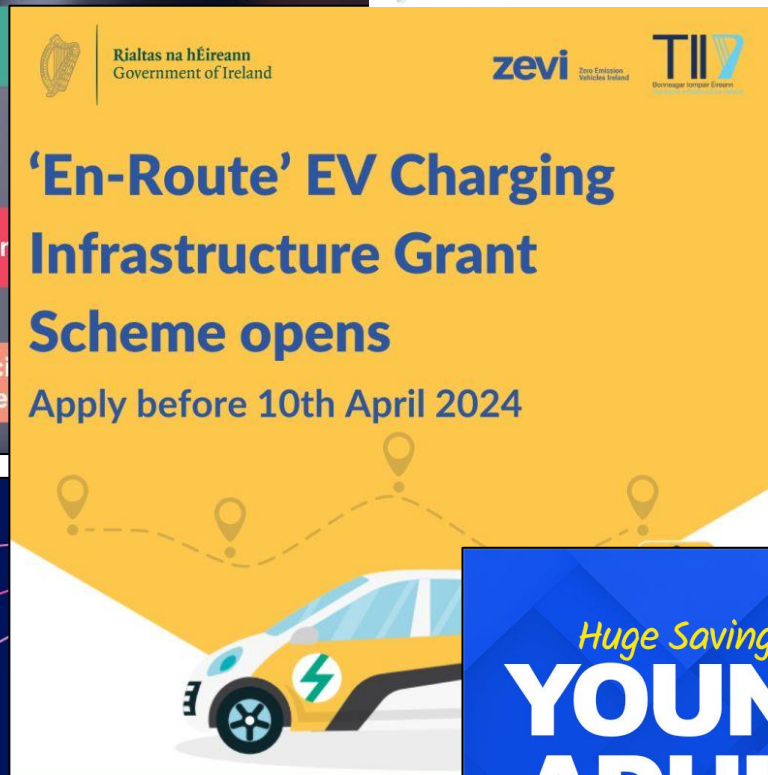
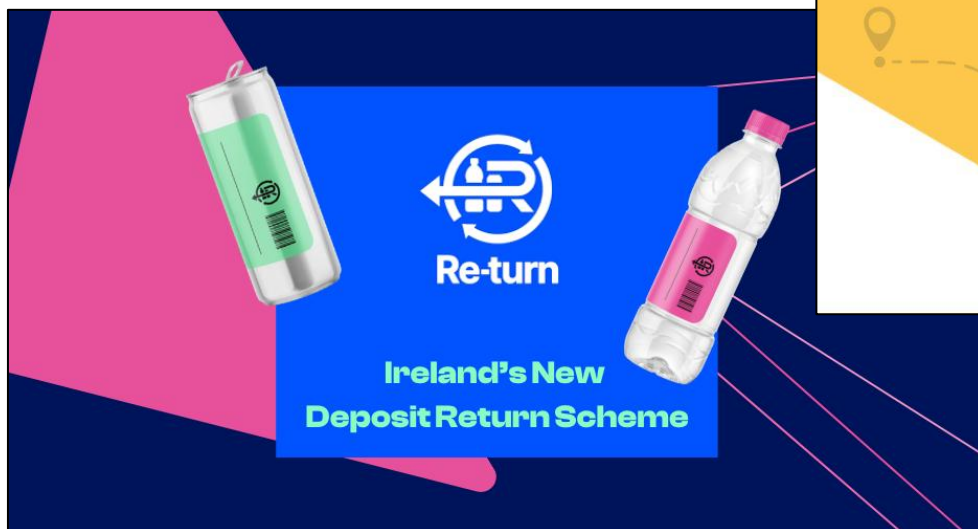
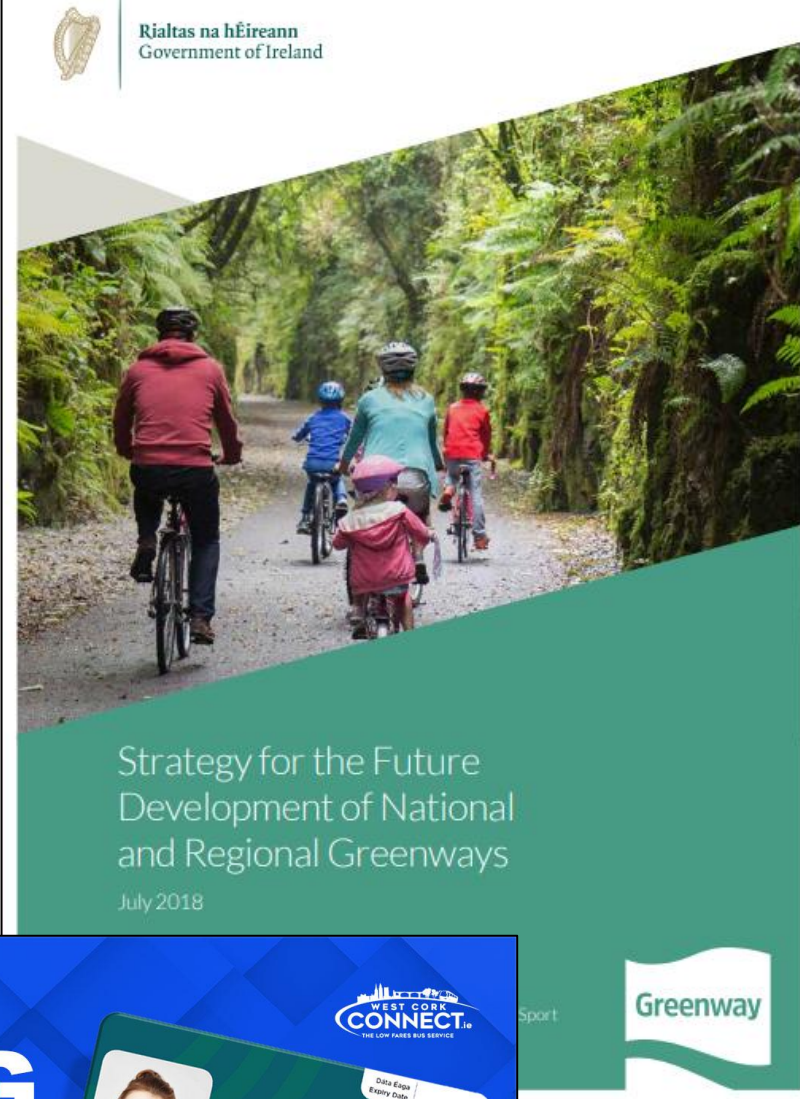
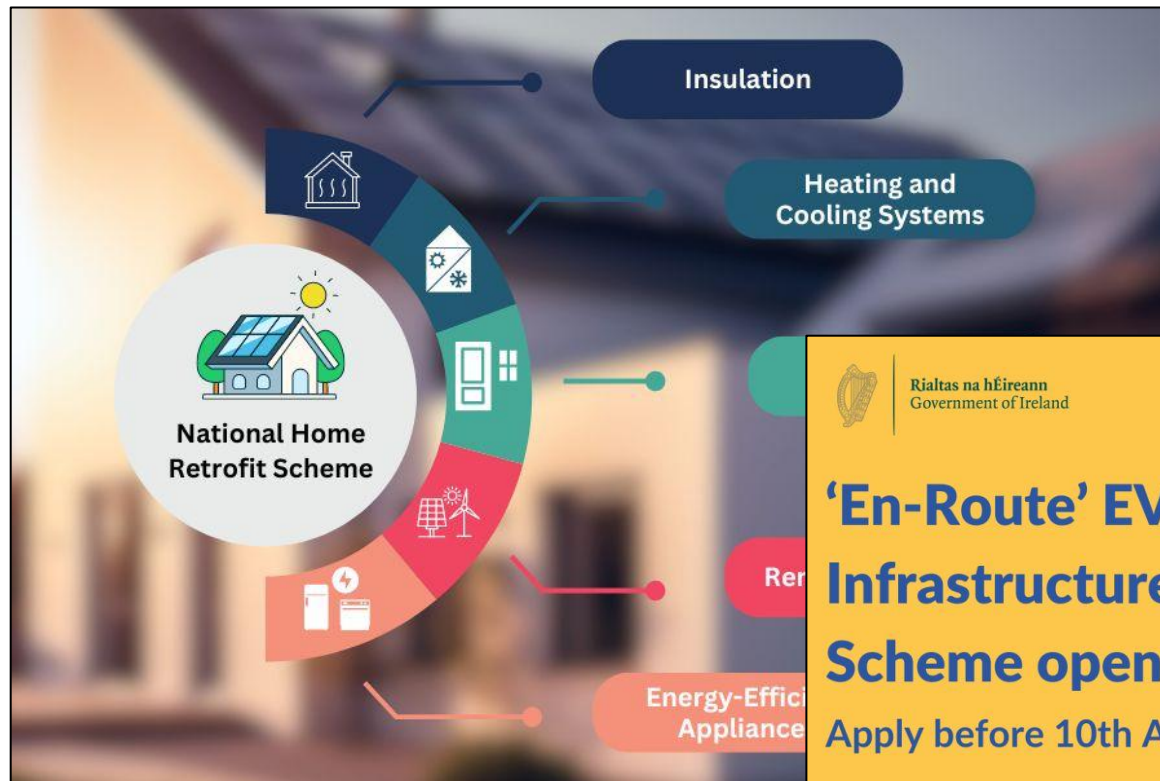
Climate-related events have been associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes from factors such as increasing temperatures, air pollution, and flooding.

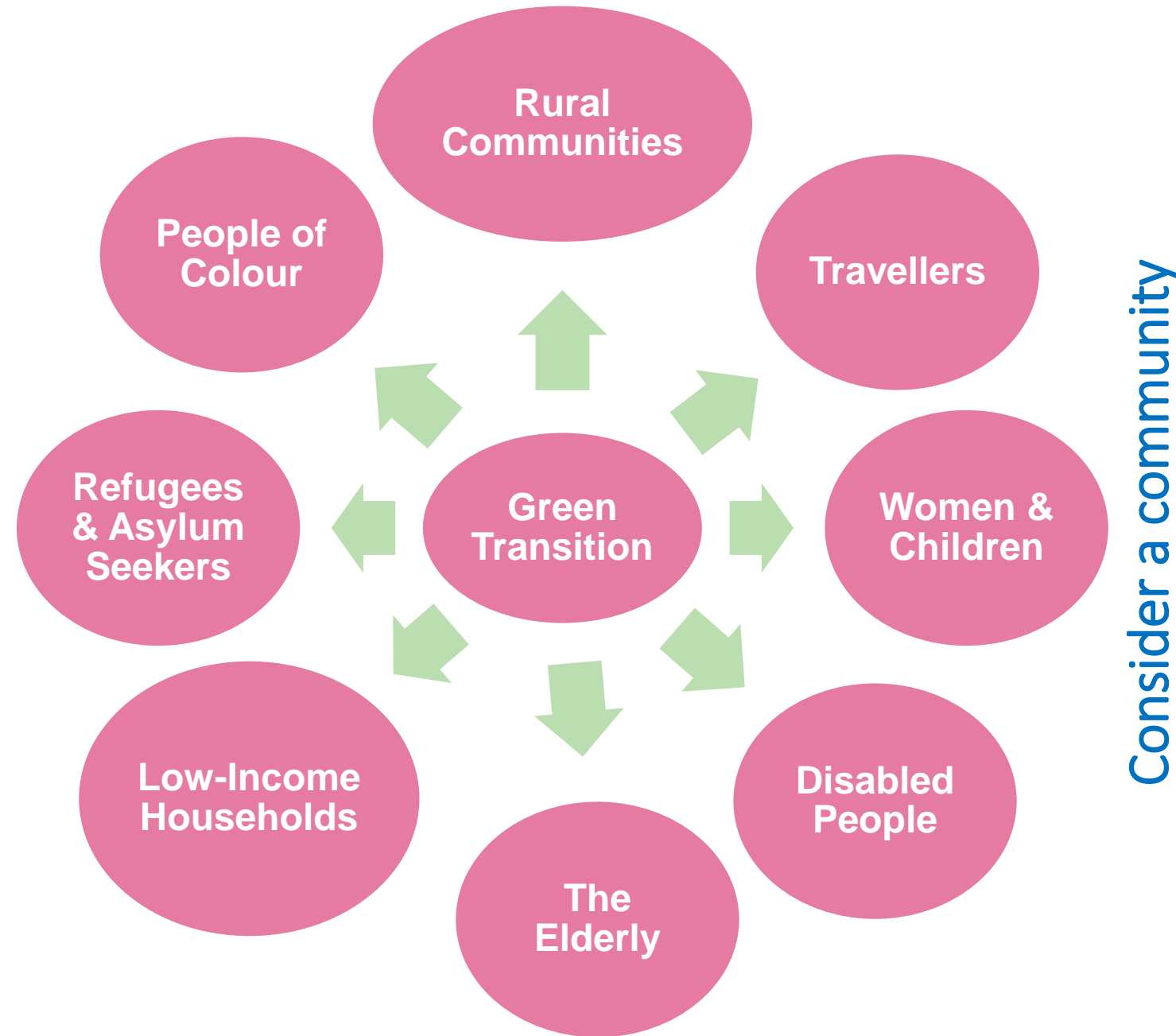
Ireland's mental health policy does **not acknowledge eco-anxiety**



Any questions /
thoughts / ideas
so far?







Will they be able to access retrofitting?

Will they be able to purchase and use an electric vehicle?

Can they access public transport?

Will the transition impact their means of employment?

Do they have disposable time and income to attend community initiatives?

Are they considered in green decision-making at local and national levels?

Anything else?

Breakout Discussion

Pick one of the climate actions introduced by Government on the previous slides (or one that hasn't been mentioned) and interrogate:

- Does it allow for community engagement, or participation on an individual basis?
- Does it tackle structural issues?
- Are there issues for equal participation in these actions/policies?
- What changes need to be made to improve participation, if any?



seven of our key project asks

1. Collect detailed data on gender, disability, and ethnicity to ensure that all climate policies and investments are properly gender, poverty and equality-proofed
2. Redefine energy poverty, developing a comprehensive measurement for energy poverty that goes beyond expenditure
3. Officially classify care work as low-carbon and green within climate policy and Just Transition strategies
4. Broaden existing schemes to increase access to transport
5. Invest in supporting farmers and local producers committed to chemical-free agriculture to stay in the sector
6. Include eco-anxiety as a recognised concern in Ireland's mental health policy, Sharing the Vision
7. Create a guiding definition of "just transition" that considers identity, employment and geography-based factors to guide all actions taken by Government





Thank you!

Follow up actions

- Share and discuss Feminist Climate Justice research report with others
- Join the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice National Network
- Join our mailing list - scan the QR code
- Invite the Project Team to speak with my local community / group / organisation
- Other ideas? Contact us!



Access the report with this QR Code

