

# The climate crisis is an everything crisis



**Feminist Communities for Climate Justice** is a joint project between the National Women's Council and Community Work Ireland. We:

- **Amplify** the voices of women and marginalised communities most affected by the climate crisis
- **Advocate** and influence policy with women and marginalised communities
- **Mobilise** communities to support and learn from one another, with the establishment of a Communities for Climate Justice National Network
- **Train** those working with or active within women's and marginalised groups and communities, via the delivery of the *Community Work in a Changing Ireland* Certificate Programme in partnership with the Department of Applied Social Studies at NUI Maynooth, developing toolkits for communities and community workers

***We may all be in the same ocean, but we're not in the same boat. Some people don't have a boat at all.***

Feminist Community Climate Justice aims to reduce social inequalities while reducing carbon emissions, creating a fairer world. Climate justice recognises that climate breakdown impacts disadvantaged groups more, despite their lesser contribution to emissions causing climate change.

## Climate Crisis - A Feminist Issue

Women globally are more vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis, particularly those socioeconomically disadvantaged. Care work is crucial to how women experience and are affected by this issue, affecting their transport, energy use, socioeconomic position, and political and social participation. Women's voices must be central to ensure future climate action does not worsen gender inequality. These issues should be considered in all policy, plans, and investments, as the climate crisis will impact all government decision-making.

- Women are more vulnerable to energy poverty than men, particularly older women and lone parents
- Women's transport needs are different to men's due to care work, and many women report feeling unsafe on public transport
- Extreme heat and air pollution have negative health impacts for pregnant and older women
- Women's socioeconomic disadvantage compared to men – including the gender pay and gender pension gap – puts women at a disadvantage in the face of the climate crisis and Government policy responses

**Ireland's legally binding emissions targets: 50% reduction by 2030 and Net-zero emissions by 2050**

All future policy decisions will be impacted by these targets. Our housing, energy, transport, agriculture and more will all be affected by the climate crisis.

There is no policy area or crisis that we are currently experiencing that does not have a link to climate breakdown. All policy is climate policy. And all policy needs to be gender, poverty and equality proofed.

## A Feminist Approach to Climate Justice

- Tackles the root causes of inequality and climate injustice – the same systems that oppress marginalised groups also destroy the environment. System change, not climate change.
- Cares – we champion care work, paid and unpaid, and call for care to be valued and recognised as inherently green low-carbon work while advocating for better pay and working conditions for women in care work.
- Focuses on the issue of women’s representation. We need women’s voices, experiences, and leadership in all sectors of society so that those most impacted by the climate crisis are at the centre of decision making.
- Means better public services for all – frequent, clean and accessible public transport; more affordable, warmer homes, to name a few. These improve not only women’s equality, but benefit all in society, including other marginalised groups. These are all also better for the planet!

## A Community Work Approach to Climate Justice

- Transforms consultation into participation in decision-making; and capacity building into consciousness raising and empowerment.
- Champions a collective focus rather than individual, fostering solidarity too. Solving a single person’s crisis does not create equality for all – we must fight for the many, not the few.
- Is informed by social justice and sustainable development – core values enshrined in the All-Ireland Standards for Community Work
- Recognises that nobody knows a community better than the people who call it home

## Just Transition

A just transition ensures that nobody is left behind in the journey to a zero-emissions society. It aims for justice and equity, making sure that disadvantaged communities are not further left behind. This includes offering good quality jobs to people leaving carbon-intensive industries, consulting with disabled people when pedestrianising city streets, and ensuring that participating in the green future does not depend on disposable income. The just transition ensures that the green transition is enjoyed and participated in by all, not just a few at the expense of the majority.

We don’t want ‘green’ sexism. We don’t want poverty or homelessness with ‘zero emissions’. We want everyone to enjoy our green future on equal footing – a future that should not benefit some at the expense of others.

Clean air, secure homes, reliable public transport, and access to healthy food should be accessible to everyone. We have an opportunity to create a fairer world for both the environment and marginalized groups in society, and we need to take it!

Contact the Team!

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●● feminist communities  
●■ for climate justice

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