

SDG Information Pack

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**Imagine if trees gave off wifi signals
we'd be planting a lot of them!
And we'd probably save
the planet too.**

**Too bad they only produce
oxygen we breathe.**



13 CLIMATE ACTION



Goal 13: Climate Action

SDG 13 revolves around taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the Opening Ceremony of the [World Climate Action Summit](#)

Workshop Outlines to embed into your practice:

- Page 41 [Stepping Stones](#) for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Page 100 [Understanding the SDG's.](#)

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Goal 13: Climate Action

According to [UNEP](#) *"The world is in a climate emergency. Unless greenhouse gas emissions fall dramatically, warming could pass 2.9°C this century".*

By 2030 the UN wants to:

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.
- Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Goal 13: Climate Action

How the UN are going to make this happen:

- A. Implementing the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.
- B. Promote mechanisms of raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

*Acknowledging that the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

TARGET 13-1



STRENGTHEN
RESILIENCE AND
ADAPTIVE CAPACITY
TO CLIMATE RELATED
DISASTERS

TARGET 13-2



INTEGRATE CLIMATE
CHANGE MEASURES
INTO POLICIES AND
PLANNING

TARGET 13-3



BUILD KNOWLEDGE
AND CAPACITY TO MEET
CLIMATE CHANGE

TARGET 13-A



IMPLEMENT THE UN
FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

TARGET 13-B



PROMOTE
MECHANISMS TO
RAISE CAPACITY FOR
CLIMATE PLANNING
AND MANAGEMENT

Facts and Figures

Climate change is the defining issue of our time and we are at the defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of flooding- the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly.

Here are only some (of many) interesting and/or shocking facts related to SDG 13, Climate Action:

- According to the UN, global temperatures have risen by around 1.1C compared to pre-industrial levels. (Source: [UN](#)) 2023 saw the global average temperature rise to 1.46 degrees.
- Global energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) hit a record high last year, driven partly by increased fossil fuel use in countries where droughts hampered hydropower production, International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Friday. (source [Reuters](#))
- By 2030, it is expected that droughts in different regions of the world will have displaced an estimate of 700 million people. (Source: [UN](#))
- Want to know more? Check out the [UN website](#), or [news story](#) published by Concern Worldwide

UNDERSTAND



Understand

Climate change and the need for Climate Action

What's the goal here?

Taking urgent action to tackle climate change and its impacts

Why?

In the third quarter of 2023, EU economy greenhouse gas emissions are estimated at 787 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalents (CO₂-eq), a -7.1% decrease compared with the same quarter of 2022 (847 million tonnes of CO₂-eq)

Source: [Eurostat](#)

Are people's lives really being affected by climate change?

Yes. Severe weather and rising sea levels affect people and their property in developed and developing countries. From a small farmer in the Philippines to a business man in London. Climate change is affecting everybody, especially the poor and vulnerable, as well as marginalized.

What happens if we don't take action?

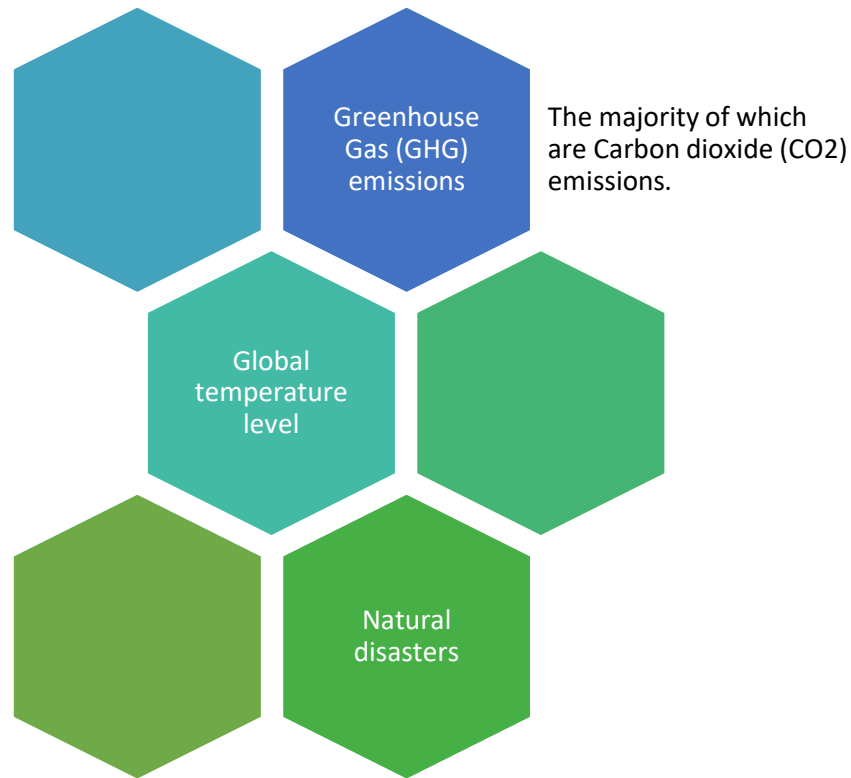
Climate change will cause global temperature to increase beyond 3C, and will adversely affect every ecosystem.

UNDERSTAND



Situation Globally

When looking at the progress being made in relation to SDG 13, Climate Action, there are few interconnected areas of interest that need to be explored, including:



Here are some insights into progress made around the world:

- Browse through the UNEP [website](#)- there's a wealth of reports and news stories!
- For an overview and key trends around climate action in the EU, check out this 2022 [report](#), published by the European Commission.
- Despite the global health crisis around the Covid-19 Pandemic, communities and individuals around the world are increasingly exploring off-grid solutions, according to this [report](#) published by IRENA.
- For other similar stories and inspiration, check out [Climateaction.org](#) and their latest news on climate change and climate action.

To see what else is happening around the world in relation to Climate Action, why not check out this [Climate Action Tracker](#) – how is your country doing?

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Climate change and Ireland

Despite some progress, Ireland was still ranked quite low on environmental element of the **2023 Sustainable Progress** Index, scoring 9th out of the 14 EU countries represented. Find out more [here](#).

- Ireland's production of waste is one of the highest while the recycling rate is one of the lowest, furthermore, Ireland's production of greenhouse gas emissions is well above the EU average and Ireland will have great difficulty meeting the EU's commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 50% by 2030 (read more [here](#)).
- Ironically, Ireland may have been the first country to divest from fossil fuels (read more [here](#)). But more than 70% of the energy in Ireland still comes from burning fossil fuels – in the SEAI report this figure is more than 85%! To see what types of energy are consumed in Ireland, and to have a look at trends, visit the SEAI website [here](#).
- Check out Ireland's [Climate Action Plan 2023 \(CAP23\)](#) that outlines steps Ireland will take towards halving emissions by 2030, and approaching net zero by 2025.
- Read more about the different (and at times surprising) ways climate change could and will affect Ireland in this [Irish Times Article](#)!
- More information and resources on Ireland and climate change can be found on the [website](#) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Especially EPA's 2022 report [on Climate change in the Irish Mind](#). The Irish population is herein categorized as either alarmed, concerned, cautious and doubtful regarding climate change.

UNDERSTAND



Understand

Further resources

In addition to the above, here are some useful links for deeper and more focused insights into Climate Change and Climate Action:

- Website: check out NASA's interactive '[Climate Time Machine](#)' to see how some of the earth's key climate indicators are changing over time!
- Article: [11 Things you need to know](#) about Climate Change- any new insights?
- Video: what causes climate change? Watch this short video, '[We are the Problem and the Solution](#)'!
- Tool: Digital Storytelling in the Age of Climate Change – Training Cards can be found [here](#).
- If you want to delve deeper into the topic, [Climate Change Committee](#) has put together a great list of websites and resources.
- Some resources for actively taking climate action can be found [here](#), on Friends of the Earth's campaign website!
- For an Irish perspective, watch Trócaire's short documentary: 'A Drop in the Ocean, Ireland and Climate Change' for a good first impression of Ireland and SDG13 (available [here](#)).

UNDERSTAND



Understand

Focus 1: Fuel Divestment

What is it? The global movement or fossil fuel divestment is asking institutions to move their money out of oil and gas companies for both moral and financial reasons. The UN are calling for a fair and urgent transformation to a fossil-free energy system by 2030.

Why? Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

Greenhouse Gases occur naturally. But after more than a century and a half of industrialization, deforestation and large scale agriculture, quantities of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have risen to record levels not seen in three million years.

There are some basic well-established scientific links:

The concentration of GHG in the earth's atmosphere is directly linked to the average global temperature on Earth;

The concentration has been rising steadily, and mean global temperatures along with it, since the time of the Industrial Revolution.

The most abundant GHG, accounting for about two-thirds of GHGs, carbon dioxide (CO₂), largely the product of burning fossil fuels.

UNDERSTAND



Understand

Fuel Divestment- resources

What is the hope?

The hope is that the movement can help break the hold that the fossil fuel industry has on our economy and government.

Some interesting resources on Fuel Divestment:

- **Video:** Greta Thunberg, youth climate activist on fossil fuels- watch it [here](#)!
- **Website:** see what is going around the world and where you live at <https://gofossilfree.org/>
- **Report:** read this [report](#) to understand the financial case for divestment.
- **Debate:** have a look [here](#) or [here](#) to check out the recent discussions around the phasing out of nuclear energy, especially in the context of the war in Ukraine- and how this brings back debates around coal and other forms of fossil fuels.
- **Documentary:** Watch Michael Moore's controversial documentary 'Planet of the Humans?' - What do you think?
- **Stories:** Check out some of the inspirational videos [here](#)!



UNDERSTAND



Focus 2: Food and Agriculture

What is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions?

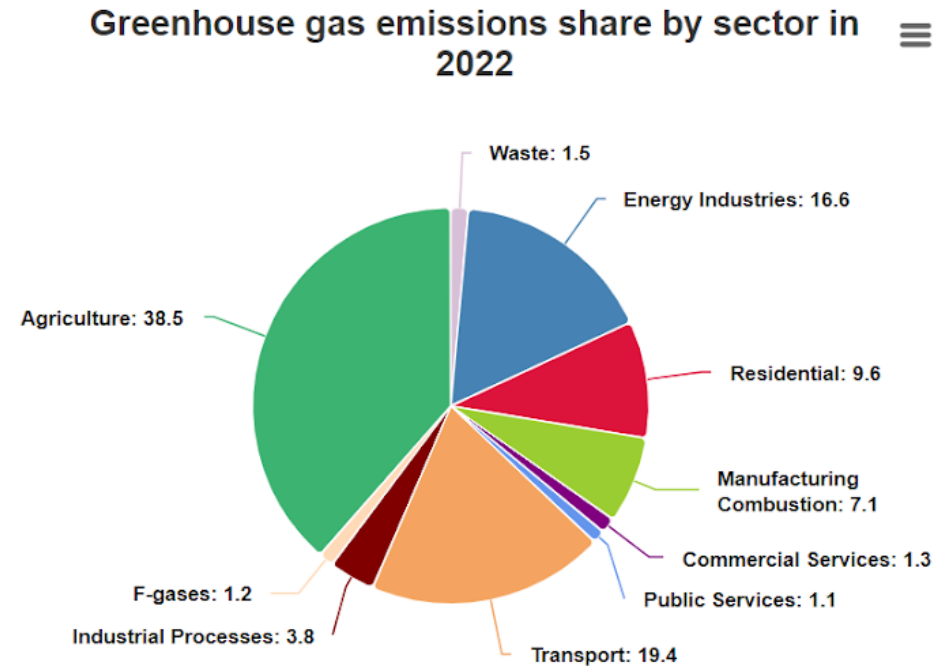
Emissions from animal agriculture make up an estimated 16.5% of all anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG's) emissions – more than all the GHGs produced by transportation globally (Source: [MDP](#)).

The estimates of how much of the global greenhouse gas emissions come from food range from around one-quarter to one-third (read more [here](#)).

Read about how our food choices affect our environment in this summary of 2019 [UN Special Report](#) on plant-based diets!

Or have a look at the graphic on the right to see where Ireland's emissions are mostly coming from (Source: [EPA](#))

For a great overview of how our dietary choices can have an impact on the state of our planet, have a look at the [UN article](#)- it also provides ideas on what we can do as individuals.



UNDERSTAND



Food and Agriculture - resources

If you want to learn more about the impact of food and agriculture on our climate, here's a selection of resources:

- **Article:** Reducing meat and dairy consumption is the single biggest thing you can do to reduce your impact on the earth – check it out [here](#) (or [here](#) in this slightly older article).
- **Article:** Five ways factory farming is killing the environment- read it [here](#)!
- **Video:** Beef is bad for the climate... But how bad? Access it via this [link](#)!
- **Research:** The relationship between climate change and agriculture is a two way street. Read how climate change created food insecurity in this [publication](#)!
- **Article:** For some scenarios on how the food system could change to have less destructive impact on the environment (e.g. on our forests) read it [here](#)!
- **Blog:** To see how we as individuals can make a change, check out this [exploration](#) on how small actions and changes in our diet can have big impact on our planet!
- **Food for thought:** What are your thoughts on taxation of red meat? For some insight and inspiration for the debate, check out this [article](#)!

Do you know more resources that might be useful? Share them with us!

UNDERSTAND



Action through Policies

In order to understand climate change and climate action as global phenomenon, it's helpful to look at policies and initiatives at a global and government level- here are some examples:

- **The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):** Set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment, to provide an objective source of scientific information. It is categorical in its conclusion; climate change is real and human activities are the main cause.
- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** has near-universal membership. The ultimate aim of the Convention is to prevent "dangerous" human interference with the climate system. Find out more [here](#).
- **Kyoto Protocol:** It legally binds developed country Parties emission reduction targets. Learn more [here](#)!
- **Paris Agreement:** Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low-carbon future. There are now 186 countries that have ratified the [Paris Agreement](#).
- To find out what the EU are doing to address climate change visit the European Commission [website](#)!
- Find out how EU citizens feel about climate change on this [report](#).

UNDERSTAND



Conference of Parties (COP) 28

- [COP 28](#) was particularly momentous as it marked the conclusion of the first '[global stocktake](#)' of the world's efforts to address climate change under the [Paris Agreement](#).
- Having shown that progress was too slow across all areas of climate action – from reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to strengthening resilience to a changing climate, to getting the financial and technological support to vulnerable nations – countries responded with a [decision](#) on how to accelerate action across all areas by 2030.
- This includes a call on governments to speed up the [transition away from fossil fuels](#) to renewables such as wind and solar power in their next round of climate commitments.



UNDERSTAND



COP28

- Reacting to [analysis](#) showing that thousands of fossil fuel lobbyists as well as the heads of several multinational oil companies have been given access to the COP28 United Nations climate summit in the United Arab Emirates, Amnesty International's Programme Director of Climate, Economic and Social Justice and Corporate Accountability Marta Schaaf said:
- "For COP to allow in thousands of representatives of the fossil fuel industry, which is making vast profits for a wealthy few while trashing the climate for everyone, perverts the very rationale of a meeting whose purpose is to protect the climate and people from further harm"

- Reflection

Do you think COP is fit for purpose?

In an ideal world, how would we reimagine it?

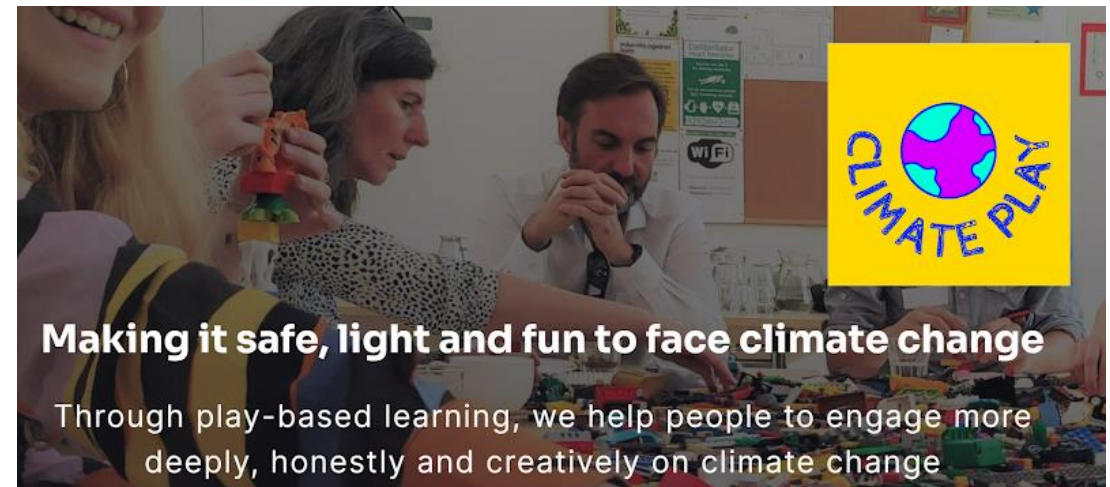


UNDERSTAND



New Approaches to Climate Education

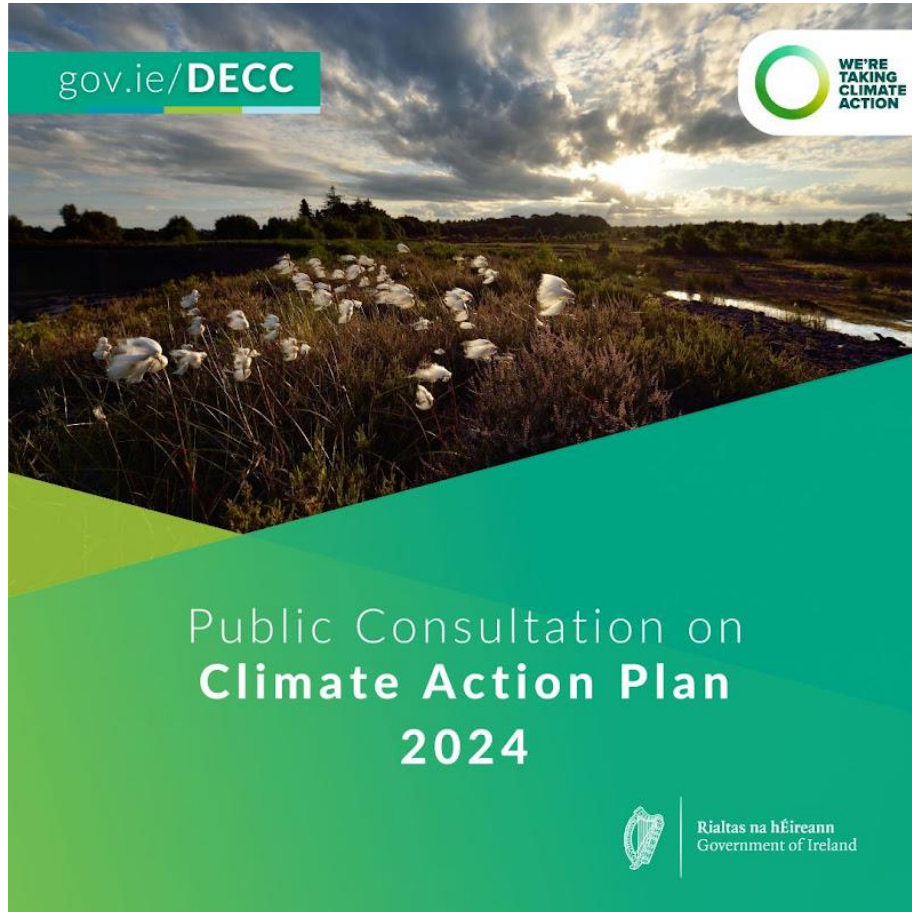
- Climate change is extremely serious, but being serious isn't necessarily the way to get us to act.
- In fact, and in the context of the importance and urgency perhaps counterintuitively, a lighter, more playful approach can get people to want to engage (rather than only feeling they should).
- Watch this [recording](#) and access the [presentation](#) Playfulness in Environmentalism: Mindset and Methods with Lucy Hawthorne from [Climate Play](#)



UNDERSTAND



The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24)



- The [Climate Action Plan 2024](#) (CAP24) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. It lays out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead us to meet our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy.

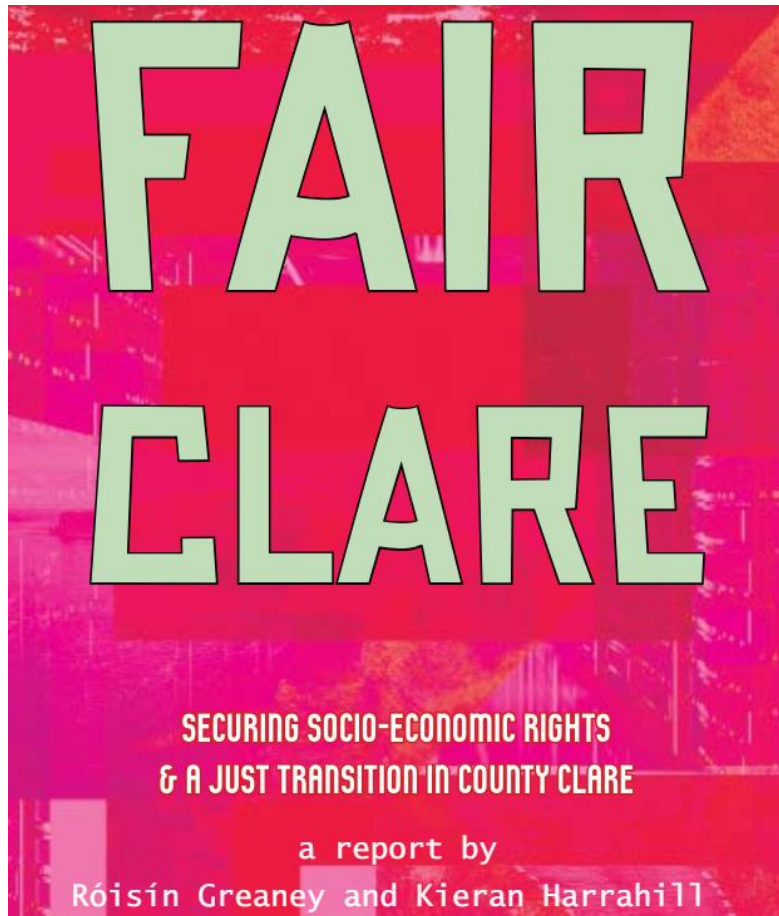
UNDERSTAND



How is Ireland transitioning towards net zero emissions?

- Upgrading the energy efficiency levels of homes and offices (also known as retrofitting). This makes sure our buildings are less reliant on oil and gas and combats [energy poverty](#)
- Promoting sustainable modes of travel by improving public and active transport and redesigning streets to be more pedestrian or cyclist-friendly
- Adapting farming practices to reduce emissions and enhance biodiversity
- Bringing an end to peat extraction for power generation in the Midlands





Just Transition

- Underpinned by a human rights-based approach, focusing specifically on realising the socio-economic rights of Clare residents, this [report](#) from Clare PPN makes recommendations and contributes to the discussion of how Just Transition planning and policy in Clare can begin to address underlying inequalities and ensure that those who experience poverty, as well as the most marginalised in society, are protected and benefit from the transition.

UNDERSTAND



Grassroots Action

To effectively and historically tackle climate change, climate action needs to involve the brain, the heart and the hands. Here are some resources for each (taken [from Exchange the World's](#) Climate Hope Programme):

1. **Brain:** [TEDx](#) talk by Veerabhadran Ramanathan about Bending the Climate Change Curve.
2. **Heart:** Charles Eisenstein's [video](#) about A New Story of Climate Change
3. **Hands:** [TEDx](#) talk by Greta Thunberg

some groups/initiatives working toward SDG13 on a grassroots level:

- [Fridays for Future](#), the youth-led global climate strike movement- find out more about what's happening in Ireland on their Social Media pages!
- Extinction Rebellion, a global environmental movement (that has been discussed in the media a lot in recent years) - here is their [Irish website](#)!
- Find out about campaigns in your community at [Stop Climate Chaos Ireland](#)!
- Have a look at [ActNow](#), the current UN campaign for individual action on climate change
- Some [actions](#) the Irish Government suggest we can take as individuals!
- Read the story of [ECO MAXIMUS](#), a Sri Lankan enterprise that produces paper from elephant dung!

UNDERSTAND



Act

Action is a key component of Goal #13 – Climate Action. Take one or more of this months' SDG Challenges to make your contribution.

Informed – Engage with articles, blogs, videos and campaigns in this information pack.

Political – Put pressure on the new Government to take action against climate change.

Educate – Host a workshop, talk or discussion about Goal #13 – Climate Action

#ClimateTraction - Will you take the challenge **#ClimateTraction** to encourage discussion about Ireland's carbon footprint and raise awareness of the need for action?



ACT

Act

Challenge #1 – Get Informed

We are asking you to read up about Goal #13 and to learn about the efforts being made around the world to promote Climate Action. You can begin this journey of learning by reading the articles or watching the videos in the 'understand' section of this info pack.

Challenge #2 – Be Political

Get in touch with your locally elected TDs and highlight the importance of taking action in climate change.

Challenge #3 Educate

This challenge invites you to discuss how you can achieve Goal 13 Climate Action with your friends, family or colleagues. It can be an informal chat with a cup of tea or an organised workshop where you can tackle the issues head on with a group. Be sure to share any educational activities with us using #SDGchallenge.



ACT

Act

Challenge #4 - #ClimateTraction

For this month's challenge, we invite you to explore one or more of the resources from this information pack - or any other interesting resources, news stories etc. that somewhat relate to Climate Change and Climate Action.

For this, we encourage you to share the resource of your choice with your colleagues and/or learners and initiate a discussion about it. What are the key points? What are the perspectives and opinions represented in the resource - and what other perspectives and opinions might there be in addition to it?

Based on this, why not organise a debate (as little or big as your setting and context allows)? What other sources might different actors of the debate need and where/how can they find them? What challenges arise? And most importantly: what can we take away from this active engagement with the topic?

There's also a variety of methods you can look up in our Saolta resource section, including a walking debate.

Share your experiences with us, and also any tips and tricks for others who might attempt the same!

When sharing, don't forget to use #ClimateAction #DebatingClimate #SDG13



ACT

Share

Sharing our actions on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram allows us to raise awareness about Climate Action in Ireland and around the world and about the Sustainable Development Goals. Please click on the icons below to link to our pages:



No matter which challenge you take, be sure to share it! Check out our Facebook page. You can share your actions here and inspire other SDG advocates!



Or you can Tweet us @devperspectives. Follow us for daily updates and interesting reads on Climate Action for this month!



Follow us on Instagram @devperspectives and make sure to tag #SDGs and #globalgoals in your posts