Friends of the Earth Ireland's demands for the 2024 European Parliament Elections 2024

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Celebrating 50 years

Introduction

The next five years will be crucial to humanity. Every single policy decision needs to put people, and our environment and climate, first if we are to bring our societies within sustainable limits. The political direction of the European Union will have a historical impact on all our future.
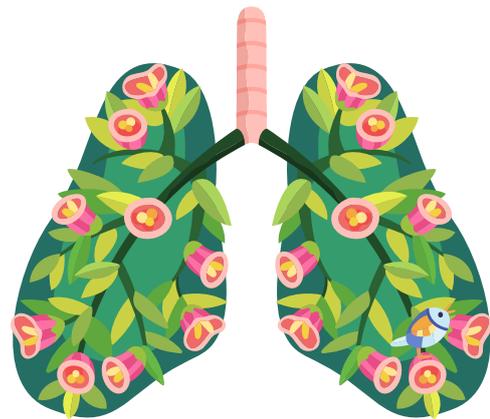
Now is not the time to slow down the EU legislative framework towards climate action.

We need bold and urgent climate action to be the primary priority of the next European Parliament and European Commission. This action needs to be taken in solidarity with those worst impacted and most vulnerable, and recognising Europe's historical responsibility and greater capacity to act.

It is time to step up the game. Significantly more effort is needed to bring our socio-economic system within planetary boundaries in time to avert climate and ecological breakdown. We need to move towards a socio-economic system that provides for the needs of all people, in Europe and globally, by narrowing inequality, prioritising well-being, and respecting the Earth's limits.

The upcoming European Parliament elections is your chance to tell your local candidates what you want them to prioritise for the next five years.

When **canvassers call to the door** or when conversations with friends, neighbours or colleagues turn to the election, we need to think about climate and talk about how faster and fairer climate action can mean better public services, more connected communities, and a healthier, cleaner, safer future for all.

We Need to…Think climate, talk climate, vote climate.

If you say one thing at the doorstep say you want **Faster and Fairer Climate Action**

If you get time tell candidates them that means they need to:

Climate Action

Prioritise faster and fairer climate action by delivering a Climate Emergency Package to ramp up climate action before 2030 including bringing forward the EU's climate neutrality target and commit to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 at the latest, with at least 92% gross emission cuts.

Ensure the EU **leads by example for climate justice internationally.**

Provide clean energy by building a 100% renewable energy system by 2040 with people and nature at its heart. This means ramping up renewables and the electricity grid while respecting environmental assessment and protection, including by adopting binding 5 yearly renewable targets, an action plan for energy demand reduction and enabling local authorities to manage the transition to 100% renewables.

Put in place the right infrastructure and flexibility for **100% renewables and enable local authorities to manage the transition to 100% renewables.**

Improve the financing available to local authorities through the **Energy Communities Facility.**

Support further regulation, technical and financial support for the development of **citizen-led energy community initiatives.**

Adopt EU and national targets to **cut energy consumption in half by 2040.** This should be progressed by ensuring at least 20% energy savings by 2030, a tripling of the renovation rates, a transport modal shift from inefficient aviation to rail, and putting in place clear trajectories to cut primary energy demand in industry which is particularly relevant in the Irish context given the increasing energy demands of data centres.

Warm Homes For All

Roll out European-wide large-scale programmes for subsidised deep renovations to ensure **decent, safe homes, prioritising those most at risk of energy poverty,** and support improved regulations to expand renewable energy projects owned by communities.

Fully tap into **Europe's energy savings potential and adopt EU-wide and national targets to cut energy consumption in half by 2040.**

Accelerate the uptake of energy efficiency and sufficiency measures in all sectors of the economy and mobilise investments at national, regional and local level to ensure at least 20% energy savings by 2030. Enable a tripling of the renovation rate and a large-scale roll-out of deep renovation, prioritising those most at risk of energy poverty.

Phase out fossil fuels and protect communities from Fossil Fuel Influence.

End our dependence on dirty fossil fuels by adopting phase-out dates for fossil fuels. It is crucial for the EU to **set legally binding targets for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030,** gas by 2035, and oil by 2040. The EU should adopt binding phase-out dates and trajectories for fossil fuels by ensuring the end of the use of coal (by 2030 at the latest), fossil gas (by 2035 at the latest) and fossil oil (by 2040 at the latest).

Deliver an EU wide fossil gas phase out by 2035 and prevent any further expansion of fossil gas infrastructure, especially Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals.

Ensure the **EU supports international progress to end our dependence on dirty fossil energy** by (i) the EU endorsing the need for a global agreement to phase out fossil fuels (Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty).

(ii) calling on the Irish Government to step up international efforts including through the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance and also by endorsing the concept of a future global agreement.

Introduce new obligations to prevent **lobbying by fossil fuel companies to MEPs and other EU decision-makers**, as well as stopping partnerships with fossil fuel companies and preventing other conflicts of interest.

Hold Member States to account on the obligation to propose a phaseout timeline for fossil subsidies and other environmentally harmful practices.

Agriculture and Land Use

Advocate for **financial support, for example through the CAP, for agroecological production methods**, the entrance of young farmers into agriculture, fair prices for producers, whilst cutting support for the industrial model of production.

Prevent any rollback on the CAP and EU Green Deal agri-environment and biodiversity strategy and ensure that the nature restoration law is adopted by the end of 2024.

Support **revising the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in line with the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal** and redirect support for farmers towards their transition to agro ecological practices.

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Redirect the **CAP's direct payments to financially support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system.** The European Parliament needs to empower farmers and help them build resilience while reducing the environmental impact of the EU's agriculture production.

Support clean air by protecting, restoring and enhancing Europe's forests, soils and wetlands.

Support **increasing EU and national investments in nature,** to at least €50 billion annually.

Transport

Reduce air pollution and transform mobility by supporting clean public transport by **upgrading access to public transport.**

Urgently set a date to end the sale of fossil fuel cars, including hybrids and phase-out of combustion engines in all EU cities 2030-40.

Adopt EU and national targets to **cut energy consumption in half by 2040.** This should be progressed by a transport modal shift from inefficient aviation to rail and boat.

Corporate Accountability, Human rights and the environment

Address the demand of Critical Raw Materials: ensure the implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Regulation addresses the demand side, and significantly reduces material and energy demand.

Stop EU-Mercosur: put a final stop to the negotiations on the toxic EU-Mercosur trade agreement.

Set global rules for business and human rights: Deliver an EU mandate to negotiate for a strong UN Treaty on business and human rights that ensures that companies can be held accountable for human rights violations and that provides affected people access to justice in the home country of a company.

Sources:

For further information on what's needed when it comes to climate action at EU level, please see:
https://friendsoftheearth.eu/what-we-do/climate-justice-and-energy/fossil-fuels/fossil-free-politics/
https://caneurope.org/civil-society-10-point-plan-for-a-fossil-gas-phase-out/
https://fossilfueltreaty.org/
https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf-2024-eu-elections-check.pdf#page=7.27
https://caneurope.org/can-europe-manifesto-for-a-fossil-free-socially-just-and-climate-neutral-union/
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https://www.e3g.org/news/2024-eu-election-manifestos-and-climate-action-an-analysis-of-european-parties-priorities/

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