

Fair Shares or Falling Short?

Letter Writing Workshop
18th September 2025

Why write a letter?

- **“Living democracy grows like a tree, from the bottom up.” - Vandana Shiva**
- We rely heavily on social media, emails and instant messaging to communicate - we risk becoming another email subject line someone’s inbox. The art of letter writing is often overlooked as a tool for leveraging change.
- Decision makers tell us again and again that a handwritten or typed physical letter goes much further in affecting their choices.
- When was the last time you received a handwritten letter or a postcard yourself?
- An effective tool for engaging your local or national decision makers around policy changes or even concerns or issues impacting you or your community. A well written letter can ensure your voice is heard on the issues that matter most to you.

Who are we writing to?

- Naoise Ó Muirí, TD - Chair of the Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy

**Deputy Naoise Ó Muirí
Committee on Climate, Environment, and Energy,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2**

CC: Mr. Barry Kavanagh, Clerk to the Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy

(If you don't have a photocopier - take a picture of the letter and email it to the Clerk at climateenvironment@oireachtas.ie to let them know that they've been cc'd)

Who are we writing to?

If you're in any of the following constituencies, there is a TD on the Climate Committee directly representing you:

- **Dublin Bay North - Naoise Ó Muirí, Barry Heneghan**
- **Dublin South-West - Ciarán Ahern**
- **Wicklow-Wexford - Malcolm Byrne**
- **Offaly - John Clendennen**
- **Kildare North - Réada Cronin**
- **Kerry - Pa Daly**
- **Wicklow - Jennifer Whitmore**
- **Kildare North - Naoise Ó Cearúil**

Contact details can be found on [page three of this document](#)

Steps to Writing a Successful Letter

1. Introduce yourself - who are you, name your constituency, share distinguishing information about yourself eg: "I'm a mam/dad of two from your constituency and I'm writing to you from my kitchen table to share my concern for X."
2. What is your concern? - Be clear and concise and get straight to the point about what exactly it is you are asking of the TD etc.
3. Why do you care about climate justice what does taking action on this mean to you? There's a strength in talking about local issues from your experience.
4. Why is this issue important? - Don't be afraid not to be an expert in the issue, share why this issue is important for your community, society, the planet etc.

Steps to Writing a Successful Letter

5. Why is this issue important? - Don't be afraid not to be an expert in the issue, share why this issue is important to you
6. Acknowledge what has been done/achieved - reflect back if some progress has been made on to show you see what has been done but then demand further action, more steps be taken etc.
7. If available provide an evidence base - if you have a relevant fact, stat or lived experience etc do make sure to provide that in your letter as it will further the strength of your call
8. Make sure to ask your decision maker to respond to your letter so they follow up with you
9. Brevity is key - better to write 4 x one page letters to multiples TDs vs 1 x 4 page letter.

What are our “asks”? - This is where we get specific

"In its providing your report to the Oireachtas on the proposed carbon budgets 3 and 4, I ask you and the other members of the Committee to put forward the following recommendations:

1. The proposed carbon budgets 3 and 4 should be sent back to the Climate Change Advisory Council and reassessed against Ireland's commitment to the Paris Agreement and the state's obligations under the 2021 Climate Act.
2. This process of reassessment should include open engagement by the CCAC with an independent expert peer review of the appropriate methodologies for assessment of carbon budgets and the credibility of their underlying emissions scenarios, especially in agriculture and afforestation.
3. Temperature neutrality should be rejected as a basis for Ireland's carbon budgets and budgets should be adopted that not only align with Ireland's international obligations, but are also clearly defined to be in line with Ireland's fair share of limiting global warming to 1.5°C on the basis of equity and the "CBDR-RC" principle of climate justice."

The “Cherries on Top”

Congratulations, you’ve put the pressure on TDs to do the right thing! If you want to go the extra mile, here’s some ideas:

- Amplify your impact - If you are part of a group, why not consider inviting your decision maker to meet your group to discuss climate action further.
- Share your letter on social media - tag FoE, tag the decision maker
- Take a picture of your letter and send it to you friends, your neighbours, your family or your coworkers etc - to gather different perspectives/approach and to encourage them to send their own letters
- If you’ve written to a TD in your own constituency - take a photo of the letter and send it to your other TDs in the area
- Follow up with TDs after sending your letter - give them a ring!