

#SDGCHALLENGE PARTNER - GOAL 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH



**Friends of
the Earth**

Friends of the Earth Ireland is an environmental campaigning NGO working to shift the balance of Irish policy and practice in favour of environmental justice and sustainability at home and internationally. We are part of an international federation of 75 member groups, most of which are based in the Global South. We exist to campaign for solutions to environmental problems that make life better for people, and our main goal is to advance public education concerning environmental sustainability and sustainable development for the purpose of advancing the natural environment for its own sake and the sake of present and future generations, in particular people living in poverty in the Global South, who depend so directly on nature's resources for their lives and livelihoods. We promote public understanding and appreciation of environmental issues facing Ireland and

the world, research and analyse environmental issues with a view to informing public debate on the search for sustainable solutions, and provide information and opportunities for people to take action in their own lives to further environmental sustainability. Our vision is of a just world where both people and nature thrive.

One of our key strategic objectives is around climate justice, specifically to ensure Ireland does its fair share to prevent runaway climate change and its fair share to cope with the impacts of climate change globally. We consistently work towards a fossil free future, helping to promote a rapid and just transition to a community-centred, zero-carbon energy system for Ireland.

Our Climate Justice Programme is carried out primarily through the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, of which we are the Secretariat. [6 page report \(with pictures\) here.](#)

- We have now won the narrative in the media and the political sphere on Ireland's record on climate action. Even the Taoiseach used our language in describing Ireland a laggard in a speech to the EU parliament.
- We coordinated with Stop Climate Chaos members to critique the Draft and Final National Mitigation Plan.
- We collaborated well with the Citizens Assembly, contributed to their choosing of key speakers and supported a co-ordinated outreach with our allies calling on public submissions to the Citizens Assembly. The Citizens Assembly recommendations are very strong and media coverage of these recommendations was good with many sources quoting comments from Friends of the Earth director and staff in their analysis e.g. [the Examiner](#), [Irish Times](#), and [Irish Independent](#).

Our Fossil Free Future Programme, together with collaboration with groups all over Ireland led to a [law which bans fracking in Ireland](#) being passed in July 2017. We spearheaded this campaign by helping to draft the initial Bill, and ensured the text was robust with legal and geologic reviews. As the Bill progressed through the Oireachtas we met with TD's and Senators, made representations to consultations, and worked with local campaigners to raise awareness of this issue, including participating in the Sligo and Leitrim St Patricks Day parades. We also mobilised our supporters online (over 12,000 people signed a petition supporting the Bill), and on the ground to attend photo stunts, and hearings in the Dáil and Seanad.

Moreover, our Run on Sun campaign has been working towards a people-centred energy revolution in Ireland. The proposed Renewable Electricity support scheme includes positive proposals to support community power and solar power and although microgeneration is not directly supported there was much media coverage of its omission led to DCCAIE insisting that microgeneration would be supported in the future. In advance of its publication, we met with TD's, SEAI, DCCAIE and ESB advocating the need for a support scheme for community energy and microgeneration and [commissioned research on the case for solar PV in Ireland](#). We also submitted a [petition with over 20,000 signatures](#) collected from festivals and online over 2016 and 2017 supporting solar power.

[*Click here to see a separate 2-page report*](#)