

**Closing Speech by Chairperson, The Honourable Mary Laffoy,  
at the Eighth Meeting of the Citizens' Assembly**

**How the State can make Ireland a Leader in Tackling Climate  
Change**

**The Grand Hotel, Malahide, 1st October 2017**

Good afternoon everyone. I would just like to say a few words before we wrap up the proceedings for this weekend.

We have had a very successful first of two meetings on our third topic; how the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change.

Over the course of the weekend we heard presentations on the science of climate change, current efforts being made nationally and internationally to tackle climate change, the impact of climate change and the status of climate in Ireland. The members also heard about the National Mitigation Plan and the National Dialogue on Climate Change.

This morning the members delved in to the energy sector as it relates to most of our lives – heat and power. We were provided with an opportunity to see what Ireland as a leader in climate change would look like and see first hand examples of leadership in communities and workplaces in Ireland.

In anticipation of our second weekend on 4-5 November, we asked you what other aspects of this wide-ranging topic you would like to consider.

Many issues were identified in the feedback from members in our roundtable brainstorming session. While I have already given this, some thought I intend to reflect further on this in the coming days.

The Citizens' Assembly is a first and foremost an exercise in deliberative democracy and we must endeavour to base our work programme on the suggestions of the members. However, given the timetable set for our work by the Oireachtas, it will not be possible to cover every area which was raised unfortunately.

As always, I have been hugely impressed by my fellow citizens this weekend. You have showed the same levels of commitment to the process and dedication as you did for the work which has gone before.

I look forward to seeing you all again in November.