

Citizens' Assembly

**Work Programme Item 3: How the State can Make Ireland a Leader in Tackling
Climate Change**

Weekend 8

Detailed Conversation Starters: Facilitators and Note Takers

General Instructions for Roundtable Discussions following presentations:

- Hear from everyone and as you do, enforce the ground-rules, firmly and with good humour. In particular, encourage people to be respectful of others and to share the airtime.
- Remember that the speakers are available for any questions or clarifications if required during the discussion. The Secretariat is also available for any clarification.
- Spend the last 5-10 minutes recapping the conversation to ensure that the key points are captured for inclusion in the table summary.
- As members may still be nervous/ uncomfortable with speaking in the public Q&A session on this topic later, you should also capture the top 3 questions which emerge in the discussion, and should be prepared to ask them on behalf of the table if called upon to do so by the Judge.
- Complete the standard feedback template sheet based on the last 5-10 minutes of conversation. Retain the feedback sheet for collection at the end of the discussion.

Saturday Morning

11.20am Sessions 1, 2 and 3: The Science of Climate Change, Climate Change in a broader Environmental Context, Tackling climate change- current efforts in Ireland and Internationally

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- help members understand the information they have heard
- embed that knowledge and to document key themes arising from the conversation.
- capture the key questions which emerge during the discussion.
- Remember to use the last five minutes of the session to recap the discussion and agree with the Members what keys you might ask on their behalf (if required)

You'll have **30 minutes** for this part of the meeting.

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. What role do you believe that humans play in relation to Climate Change?
2. What's your understanding of how Climate Change happens?
3. What are emissions? Do you understand what is responsible for Ireland's emissions?
4. What are the co-benefits for the wider environment of responding to Climate Change?
5. What efforts are underway internationally and in Ireland to tackle climate change?

Saturday Afternoon

2.10pm **Session 4 and 5: The Impact of Climate Change-
International Evidence and Experience *and* Current Status of Climate in Ireland**

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- help members understand the information they have heard
- embed that knowledge and to document key themes arising from the conversation.
- capture the key questions which emerge during the discussion.
- Remember to use the last five minutes of the session to recap the discussion and agree with the Members what keys you might ask on their behalf (if required)

You'll have **35 minutes** for this part of the meeting.

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. What evidence is there that extreme events are caused by Climate Change?
2. What impact is climate change having on Ireland's climate now?
3. What impact will climate change have on Ireland's climate in the future?

Saturday Afternoon

2.10pm **Session 6 and 7: National Mitigation Plan and Draft
Adaptation Framework and National Dialogue on Climate Change**

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- Brainstorm on how the national dialogue on climate action might be assisted by the Assembly.
- Pat Gilroy is keen to hear from the citizens about what can be done to engage citizens on the topic of climate change.
- Below are some specific questions to guide the discussion.

You'll have **40 minutes** for this part of the meeting.

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. Why do you think some people switch off when they hear about climate change?
2. What are the challenges facing communities and individuals in taking action against climate change?
3. How can individuals and communities best communicate their concerns about climate change?
4. How should Government engage with people on this issue? Town hall meetings, social media, TV and radio (both advertising and programming), education (schools and universities)?
5. Addressing climate change will need action by everyone, what roles do you see for public authorities, private sector, civil society and individuals in taking action?

Sunday Morning

10.15am Sectoral Session- Energy

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- help members understand the information they have heard
- embed that knowledge and to document key themes arising from the conversation.
- capture the key questions which emerge during the discussion.
- Remember to use the last five minutes of the session to recap the discussion and agree with the Members what keys you might ask on their behalf (if required)

You'll have **35 minutes** for this part of the meeting.

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. What is renewable energy and to what extent is it currently meeting Ireland's energy needs?
2. What role can energy efficiency play in reducing emissions from energy?
3. What actions need to be taken to meet Ireland's future energy needs? Are these actions for Government or the individual?
4. What role does cost, security of supply and comfort play when discussing energy policy?

