



Paper of

Mr. Pat Gilroy

Chair of the National Dialogue

delivered to

The Citizens' Assembly

on

30 September 2017



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Citizens Assembly 30 September 2017

National Dialogue on Climate Action

Pat Gilroy
Chair, NDCA Advisory Group

Programme for a Partnership Government, May 2016

“It is clear that there is a need for much better engagement with citizens and communities about the energy policy decisions that affect them. We must ensure, as part of our transition to a low carbon society, that citizens and communities are active participants in the energy transition, with robust public and stakeholder engagement in energy policy, and effective community consultation on energy infrastructure developments.”

We will establish a National Dialogue on Climate Change that will involve extensive public consultation. This will incorporate the key infrastructural, land use and economic issues to be considered in our long-term transition to a new low carbon future.”



Objectives of the Dialogue

- Create awareness, engagement and motivation to act (locally, regionally and nationally) in relation to the challenges presented by climate change
- Create structures and information flows to facilitate people gathering to discuss, deliberate and maximise consensus on appropriate responses to these challenges, and to enable and empower appropriate action
- Establish, on a long term basis, appropriate networks for people to meet periodically to consider evidence-based inputs on the economic, social, behavioural, environmental and public aspects of climate and energy policy
- Provide regular input, through the NDCA, into the prioritisation and implementation of climate and energy policy which can be reported and monitored at local/regional/national levels



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Role of the Advisory Group

- Established by Minister in July 2017
- To advise and make recommendations to the Minister in relation to the overall strategy, structure and operation of the NDCA
- 16 members representing diverse perspectives



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Programmes already in place

- Green Schools National Climate Change Action and Awareness Programme incorporating:
 - Green Schools Climate Action Week in October
 - Green Schools Climate Action Expo
 - Climate Ambassador programme
- Delivered by DCCAIE in partnership with An Taisce Environmental Education Unit



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Regional Gatherings

An initial series of four events with a focus on:

- general awareness raising on the impacts of climate change
- the scientific evidence-base for climate change
- global and national responses on mitigation and adaptation
- engaging local communities and individuals, including innovative consultation methods and potential topics for initial round of consultations



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Other events under the Dialogue

- Local community conversations and actions
- Continued implementation of National Climate Change Action and Awareness Programme in schools and communities
- Professionally moderated expert debates and lectures on key policy issues
- Engagement with the political system.



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Questions for Citizens' Assembly

- Why do you think some people switch off when they hear about climate change?
- What are the challenges facing communities and individuals in taking action against climate change?
- How can individuals and communities best communicate their concerns about climate change?
- 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)?
- 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?



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Thank You

