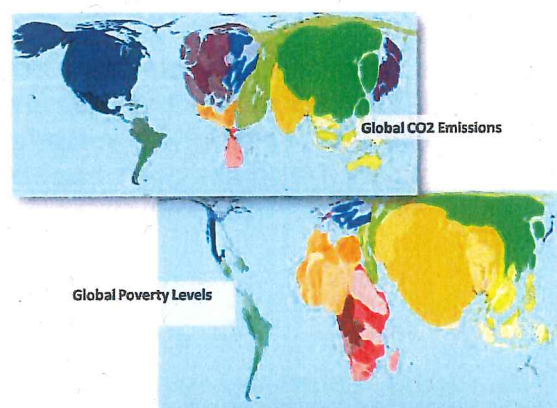


DID YOU KNOW?

The richest 10% of people produce 50% of Earth's climate-harming fossil-fuel emissions, while the poorest half (3.5 billion) contribute a mere 10%¹.

Ireland is one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions in Europe. Recent calculations put our CO₂ emissions at 8 metric tonnes per capita. This compares sharply, for example, to Malawi, which has a per capita level of 0.1 metric tonnes².

Countries, like Malawi, are at the forefront of climate change. We all have a responsibility to act now for climate justice!



In Ireland:

What you can do?

The **residential sector** accounts for 10% of our total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)

1. Turn your thermostat down by two degrees.
2. Ensure your walls, roof & water tank are well insulated.
3. Run dishwasher and washing machine on full load only.
4. Dry clothes outdoors (weather permitting)!
5. Turn off the TV, computer, lights etc., when not in use.
6. Choose energy-efficient appliances & use energy-efficient light bulbs. Switch to green electricity. See www.airtricity.com.
7. Calculate your carbon footprint³.

Emissions from **agriculture** account for 33%, and are expected to rise to a staggering 47% by 2020!

1. Eat less meat! It takes far more land & water & 10 times the amount of energy to produce animal than vegetable protein.

Emissions from **transport** account for 20% of total GHG, and are expected to rise to 29% by 2020!

1. Walk/cycle/use public transport/carpool, where possible.
2. Use a fuel-efficient car, check tyre pressure regularly and get your car regularly serviced.
3. Fly less often. When you do fly, offset your air travel by investing in renewable energy and/or biodiversity projects.

The **waste sector** accounts for nearly 3% of emissions.

1. Compost biodegradable kitchen & garden waste.
2. Buy recycled paper products and use both sides of paper.
3. Buy/call for minimally-packaged products. Bring your own cloth shopping bag and refuse unnecessary bags.
4. Get informed on recycling. Put in place opportunities for recycling in your home, work place, and community.
5. Reduce and Repair! Only consume what is necessary.
6. Pick up a piece of litter every day, and dispose of properly.

¹ See: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2015-12-02/worlds-richest-10-produce-half-carbon-emissions-while-poorest-35>

² See: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>

³ See: www.foe.ie/justoneearth/carboncalculator

Climate change is not the only socio-ecological challenge we face. It is a symptom of the wider disconnect between us and our natural environment. Wider environmental degradation – loss of species and habitat, decline in the quality of water and soil, decline in air quality – also threatens our quality of Life on Earth.

Across the world, species are currently being lost up to 1,000 times faster than the natural rate and this is primarily as a result of human activities. The majority of Ireland's habitats are reported to be of poor or bad conservation status⁴.



In Ireland:	What you can do?
We depend on other species, clean water and air, healthy soil and healthy habitats, for food production, for health and wellbeing, and for our economy.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Help make healthy habitats in your community. Plant for Pollinators. Check out the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to find out how you can help⁵. 2. Trees help clean our air, stabilise our soil, and cool our cities. Plant a tree, preferably native! Or two! Or three! 3. Buy organic food and produce.
As consumers, we must examine the daily choices we make with respect to their environmental and social impact, and have the courage to change them if necessary.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Buy locally grown food. Even better, grow your own. Buy organic and Fair-trade. 2. Choose green and ethical investments. Move away from investments which cause climate change. 3. Ask for ethical/charity gifts for Christmas/birthdays. Support charity and eco shops e.g. Oxfam 4. Buy eco-friendly cleaning materials, or make your own!.
Appropriate policy can help make our decisions easier in preventing climate change and halting environmental degradation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be informed on climate change issues, climate justice, and environmental degradation. Get lobbying! Write to your local TD and join in Stop Climate Chaos actions⁶. 2. Support NGOs and other groups that lobby for climate justice and environmental conservation.

Useful Sources of Information

EcoCongregation Ireland: www.ecocongregationireland.org

Live Green: www.epa.ie/livegreen

Trócaire on climate justice: www.trocaire.org

Friends of the Earth Ireland: www.foe.ie

Irish Wildlife Trust: www.iwt.ie

BirdWatch Ireland: www.birdwatchireland.ie



⁴ See: https://www.epa.ie/media/epa_factsheet_biodiversity_v2.pdf

⁵ See: <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/All-Ireland%20Pollinator%20Plan%202015-2020.pdf>

⁶ See www.stopclimatechaos.ie