

Questions Students prepared and asked Elected Representatives, business leaders and council staff at Climate Action Forum, 24th April 2019

General

1. What are you doing to tackle Climate Change in your own life?
2. What is the County Council doing to tackle Climate Change?
3. Could you use your influence to positively affect people on Climate Change?
4. How high on your agenda are the recommendations made by the citizens assembly and what do you and your party plan to implement in relation to them (top 3 things)
5. What are your personal views on climate change and how do they reflect in your policy and campaign?
6. What are your plans to move Ireland to a carbon neutral economy by 2030?
7. What do you plan to do for Mayo on a local level to combat Climate Change and how would you can local support?
8. When will supports be put in place to support people reducing emissions eg. Grants for solar panels, electric cars, wind turbines
9. Do you believe Ireland should invest its money and suffer temporarily to combat Climate Change?

Litter, Waste and Plastics

1. The amount of rubbish in towns is unacceptable. Why don't you provide sufficient bins for the local schools to prevent littering?
2. Why is there a lack of recycling bins in towns?
3. Would you be on board to reduce plastic in your life/business?
4. How would you plan to reduce plastic usage in Mayo (paper cups/straws, glasses)?
5. Introduce by-laws to ban single use plastics from entire municipal districts and put water fountains in to refill bottles in town centres and beside sport facilities
6. Would you pose a question to Minister Bruton to ban all aerosol deodorants?

Business

1. Is there priority investment for Green Business?
2. Why are we applauding businesses like McDonalds who are changing to cardboard straws when they are not replacing anything else and the straws fall apart not letting use reuse then and meaning we have to throw them away?
3. How is your business affecting Climate Change, both positively and negatively?
4. What supports can the government/council provide to you to enable you to reduce emissions/become more climate conscious?
5. Packaging – when do you intend on using totally recyclable materials in your business?
6. When will big companies be faced with repercussions for producing dangerous amounts of emissions eg. Coca Cola?
7. Are there any supports for Mayo Businesses to reduce their emissions?

Energy

1. What are the Subsidies for Solar Panels?

2. How will you help increase demand for renewable energy so there is more supply and therefore cheaper and more availability?
3. Why do we encourage the use of electric cars when they get their electricity from burning fossil fuels when we could try to use renewable energy instead?
4. Why is there so much reliance on Fossil Fuels?
5. Should we install more wind turbines or use electrical energy?
6. Why can personally produced electricity not be sold back to the national grid?
7. When will Methane from slatted houses be converted to energy and added to national grid?

Food & Agriculture

1. It is proven that cattle farming is unsustainable and accounts for 1/3 of Irelands emissions yet the government hasn't acted to reduce it. Can we reduce government subsidies to large scale company farms? Smaller family farms are much less detrimental and do not deserve to have subsidies cut as much as large-scale farms
2. What are the impacts farmers have by burning waste and what is a realistic solution?
3. What are the barriers to having meatless Mondays in all government buildings?
4. What is your opinion regarding food waste and climate change?
5. How would you combat food waste in Mayo?
6. How would you solve the problem of food waste in hotels/restaurants?

Trees and Hemp

1. Hemp can be used in so many ways. It can be made into rope, paper, clothes, oil, plastic type products. It is an amazing substitute for forestry. Cutting hemp does not affect the environment as much and is much easier to grow. It regrows every year and a field of hemp can create more paper and produce than a field of trees can. We need trees but not to use as paper. Instead of planting for forestry we should be planting them as forests to be there for millions of years. Cutting down trees to profit is greedy. We need forests to create cleaner air and air quality. Bad air quality is directly linked to 1500 premature deaths in Ireland. This might fix it, why don't we try?
2. Planting native trees, eg. Oak, alder, ash, benefits our country in so many ways and its not difficult to plant them. Don't you think we should try start?

Housing and Transport

1. Rural one-off housing increases dependence on cars and unsustainable transport, requires individual septic tanks, new broadband, phone lines, water, amenities and services. Can the development of the newly built one off house in the countryside be much more strictly regulated?
2. Why is there more money invested in road improvement over public transport and sustainable transport (eg. Cycle lanes)?
3. What are your plans for the future of transport in Ireland like public transport and electric cars?
4. Can we ban diesel and petrol cars in cities, with an emphasis on diesel or introduce tariffs to discourage eg. Increased parking charges for fossil fuel cars?
5. Would you consider making cycling more viable to a larger demographic by perhaps securing funding to increase the size of the greenway? Perhaps in the long term having a large network of greenways allowing you to cycle with ease to any town in Ireland

6. When can we expect to have electric car charging point in every Mayo town?