



Climate Conversations 2015

Harvest

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Harvest

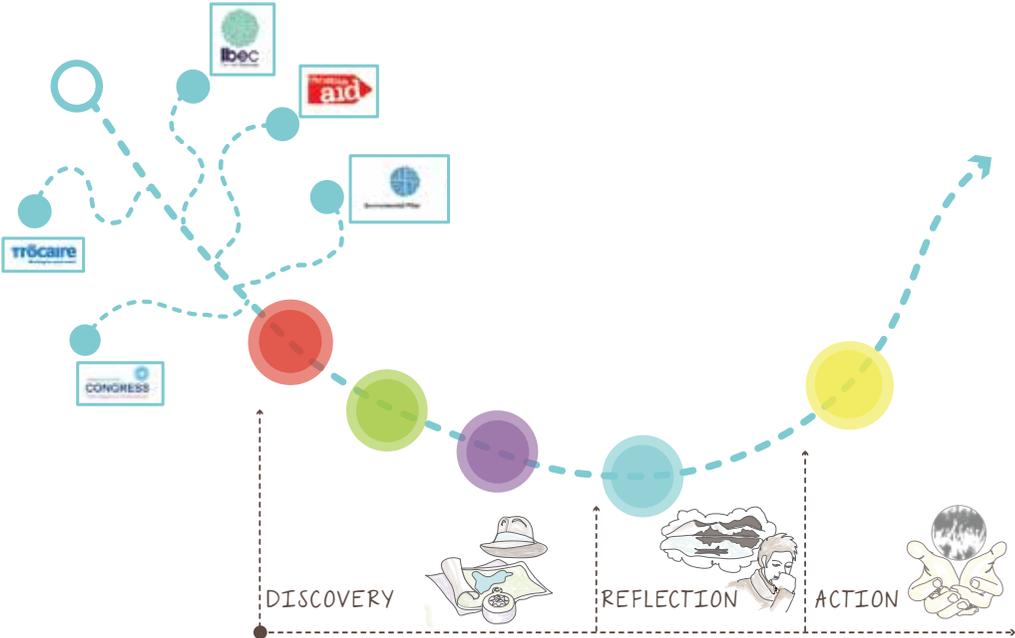
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Acknowledgements

The Climate Conversations would not have been possible without the active collaboration of many organisations and the voluntary effort of many members within those organisations. In addition we wish to acknowledge the support of five iconic locations where the conversations were hosted.

Partner Organisations

Christian Aid: Sorely McCaughey

Environmental Pillar: Michael Ewing and Theresa O'Donohoe.

Feasta: Willi Kiefel

Ibec: Neil Walker

ICTU: David Begg, Liam Berney and David Joyce.

Trócaire: Lorna Gold and Cliona Sharkey.

Climate Gathering

Chris Chapman, Anna Conlan, Paul Harris (Bol), Martin Hawkes, Rebecca Jenkins, Professor Peadar Kirby, Ryan Meade, Eamon Ryan and Maria Salahovs.

Venues

Liberty Hall, TCD, Guinness Storehouse, Christchurch Cathedral and the Abbey Theatre



“We learned of the potential power of a simple conversational process, when conducted with respect and creativity, as a tool with which to engage the best collective intelligence of society.”

Foreword

Context

The Climate Conversations were a series of five public conversations hosted in iconic Dublin locations between March and May 2015 by the Climate Gathering* in partnership with ICTU, Ibec, Christian Aid, Trócaire and the Environmental Pillar with the overarching design of 'Bringing Ireland together for a new Understanding on Climate Change'.

The conversations form part of a larger project of the Climate Gathering which brings diverse groups together to work creatively on the challenge of stabilising the climate and sustaining prosperity in the face of environmental limits. It started with a high-level trans-Atlantic Burren Climate Gathering in February 2013, devoted to the challenge of how to communicate the climate challenge more effectively to a wider audience. This was followed in June 2013 by the Dublin Climate Gathering devoted to a 'Plan C for a New Economy'. One of the many ideas and projects emerging from the Dublin Climate Gathering was the urgent need for 'A Social Contract for a sustainable Future'.

*See the Climate Gathering website at <http://www.climategathering.org/> for full information and for contact details.

Design

As a first step on the ambitious path to a new social contract it was decided that inviting various institutions in society to work together on a series of public climate conversations could create the foundations of trust upon which to build future work. There was a ready response from unions, business, church bodies and the environmental sector all of whom sensed the need for a wider conversation provided this could be conducted on a basis that was respectful and that would not expose organisations to finger-pointing and blame.

In keeping with a design that has characterised the work of the Climate Gathering creative input was integral to all the conversations and in the design of the series as a whole. Audience engagement, intergenerational and gender balance, listening with attention and speaking with respect were the other design principles. All the conversations were livestreamed so as to open the conversation to the widest audience and the video record is available online at Climate Gathering.

The first three conversations in Liberty Hall, TCD and the Guinness Storehouse addressed climate from the perspectives of the communications challenge, the new economy and the sustainable use of our land and were designed to open up the subject through a variety of lenses. The fourth conversation in Christchurch Cathedral allowed for reflection on the deeper issues of justice and personal engagement while the final conversation in the Abbey Theatre provided an opportunity to get an overview on the series as a whole, explore emergent understandings and look to fresh initiatives to carry the work forward.

Engagement

Partner organisation took responsibility as lead curators for each event with others supporting the design and publicising of the events. Over the course of the conversations audience numbers ranged from 250 to 400, while online numbers viewing the series live, or on video recording, ran into thousands. The attached pages demonstrate the rich harvest of the series – both on-stage and on the part of the audience. No one questioned the reality of, or the urgency for addressing, the climate challenge – a significant ‘plus’ compared with other countries as we embark on the ‘just transition’. While initial audience sentiment was dominated by a sense of frustration and anxiety, there were also signs of hope and excitement.

Recurring themes during the series were:

- the need for action **now**;
- the importance of **new vision** and **values** based on the common good;
- the role of **education** in making the necessary shift;
- the necessity for individual and governmental **responsibility** and **leadership**;
- the potential for **Ireland** to take a **leadership** role;
- recognition of the **systemic complexity** of the challenge;
- acknowledgment that **all voices** need to be part of the conversation and
- awareness that **we have the necessary tools** for addressing the challenge
- **collaborative** engagement and mobilisation of **all citizens** as part of the conversation.

“The process demonstrated the need for opening up the space of the climate conversations and the collective capacity to convene such a conversation in a safe, creative and collaborative way.”

Looking to the Future

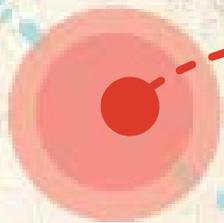
From the perspective of the Climate Gathering and the supporting partners the process demonstrated the need for opening up the space of the climate conversations and the collective capacity to convene such a conversation in a safe, creative and collaborative way. Indeed a central learning was the potential power of a simple conversational process, when conducted with respect and creativity, as a tool with which to engage the best collective intelligence of society.

The conclusion of this series of Climate Conversations is not an end but a staging post in a process that will build over the coming months, years and decades to embrace every corner of society.

May 2015



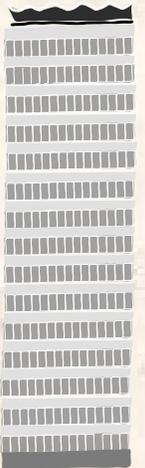
COMMUNICATING THE CHALLENGE



DISCOVERY



Wednesday 18th March 2015,
Liberty Hall, Dublin.



INTRODUCTION



David Begg, former general secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions

It is important to say: We don't have a choice. **We MUST act and act decisively.**



We need **institutions** that can handle disruptive, creative change.

A **just transition** is an economic, moral and political imperative.

I want to speak to you from my experience of the **labour movement**, my experience of **international development** but also my experience as a **parent: what kind of world are we bequeathing** to our children and grandchildren?

Frankly I am worried about the state of democratic capitalism. Since 2008 **Markets are dictating policy to government.** This is leading to unsustainable inequality.

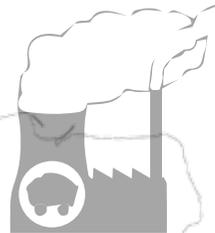
"There are no jobs on a dead planet."

We need **DANGEROUS IDEAS!**

Boils down to a conflict between maximising shareholder value at all costs and protecting public goods. The **public interest MUST prevail.**

Markets must be embedded in society and not the other way around, as they currently seem to be.

We see the **effects NOW**, damage from increasing coastal storms in **Ireland**. In **Malawi**, a country I have visited frequently, they are experiencing more intense rainfall, less predictable rainfall. Recently, 100,000 people were displaced.



The solutions are known. It sounds simple- but of course it isn't. There are **difficult trade-offs** and choices. Poland has 100,000 people employed in the coal industry, for example.

Bobby Kennedy, Kansas: "How do we judge wellbeing?" It is not just economics. "The GNP ... measures everything except that which makes life worthwhile."

There is a better, fairer, way to organise economy and society. The key is to minimise the losses and maximise the possibilities. Ideas DO catch on in time. 2014 was the **FIRST time in 40 years** there was a halt or reduction in greenhouse gases that was NOT linked to an economic downturn.



Emily Robyn Archer, Artist

When did environmental issues become real to you? I'm trying to make people FEEL something with my art.



Fr. Kennedy O'Brien, Jesuit Priest.



There is NO natural silent place... we can choose how we listen. Sound helps us to locate ourselves. Let the sounds in... We can learn to appreciate... the more we appreciate the less likely we are to destroy.



Karen Power, Composer

Religion is not about what **divides people** but what **unites them**. The Triune model: A Creator, Redeemer and Spirit.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Christianity, correctly understood and lived, demands that we see the importance of what we do in **looking after this world**. If we don't the injustice that already exists will become multiplied generation after generation.



How can we reach new people, encourage collaboration, and create a new sense of possibility around climate change?

CHAIR: Ryan Meade, Climate Gathering

This is no longer an environmental issue- this needs to be **owned by EVERYONE**. Farmers, builders, students. And we do that by **listening** first.

We should **admit the uncertainty**- nobody knows. For this reason, we need to bring in the artistic community- creative people are used to dealing with uncertainty.

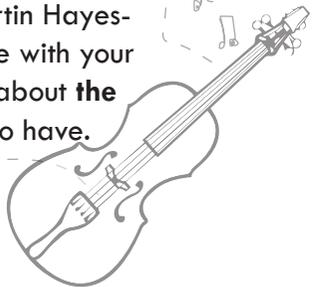


These events are an example of the kind of **cross-sectoral collaboration** we will need.

There is wisdom in **“hastening slowly”**... we should take the time to reflect. Shannon Air/Sea Rescue: “Turn on the kettle” then go out like a helicopter team that knows what it is doing.



The cue as to where we go next will come from the **cultural world**. Martin Hayes- the conversation you can have with your fiddle... music can teach us about **the conversations we need** to have.



Let's move away from personal guilt and towards **collective pride**.



Try bringing up the issue of climate change in the pub tonight...

Eamon Ryan, leader of the Green party, former Minister for Energy.



We should stop talking about the **“planet”** and start talking about **“home”**. People have a central instinct to care for the home.

We need to talk about Plan C.



Some ideas from the Burren Climate Gathering 2013 and from George Marshall's book: Don't Even Think About it: Why we are Wired to Ignore Climate Change



We need creative communications but we also need to **organise, mobilise and campaign** as well.

There are limits to communication... Carbon Tax, 2004 Consultation. Government asked "Do you want a new tax?" Of course the answer was no. The real question should have been "We face 600m in fines. How would you prefer to pay it?" **This is why we need political leadership.**

2002- 2007 other issues began to dominate our political discourse, possibly including Planet Care, we began to ask, "Growth for what purpose?"

But at that moment: **CRASH!** And discussing these issues has become even more difficult since.

We've tried focusing on **responsibility...** we caused climate change then **reward...** win-wins But none of these actions have brought us to real action.

There is a **disconnect** between the **SIZE** of the problem and the **actions people** are asked to take.



What makes it **difficult to ACT** on Climate Change?

- It is **abstract**, intangible, invisible
- it is **interwoven** in our lives
- We are **ALL implicated**
- the benefits of acting **won't be felt** immediately
- politicians cannot work in **long time frames.**

I've been campaigning about Climate Change for 10 years... I hope people realise it IS **MORE than an environmental issue.**



Oisín Coghlan, Director, Friends of the Earth Ireland.



In the Overseas Aid sector we were proud of being the 6th most generous country in the world... but **we are also the 6th most climate-polluting** country in the world.

Frames & Values

There is actually general consensus on policy- the public ARE in favour of moving to renewable energy. Underpinning this are **cultural values**. Values reflect our **worldview**.

We need to focus on self transcendant values rather than self-enhancement values.

- Communicate to 3 Groups:**
1. The Already Converted (Guardian readers?)
 2. The Unconvertable. All you can do is coerce them in time.
 3. **The Middle Undecided**. They are ready to be converted. People WANT to BELIEVE. People want to feel good about taking action FOR other people- that is what has to be tapped into.

How do we combat naysayers? Simple: Be more **INTERESTING** than them.

Frank Luntz in 2002 sent a memo to the Republicans: **Call it Climate Change** rather than **Global Warming**.

At the Alliance we tried to frame it in so many different ways- from military to hip-hop.

Friends and Foes: We got both Newt Gingrich and Nancy Pelosi to say we BOTH believe in this! It is like Pepsi and Coca Cola agreeing!

One thing I took away from my work at the Alliance was the **importance of collaboration**. In the US, issues became so polarised.

Where does climate change become REAL for us? How do we communicate this with our families?



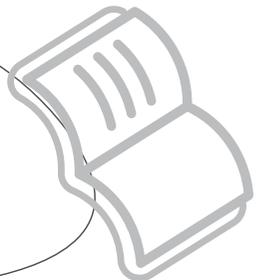
Don't think it... feel it.

Why are we here tonight? What has brought us here? What do we VALUE?



Claire O'Connor, former international director of Al Gore's Alliance for Climate Protection, Policy and research, UK Labour Party.

HOW we communicate can change things. DDT was banned as a result of the publication of Silent Spring in 1962 and the communication about its ideas. It converted me when I was a teenager!



Terry Prone, communications guru.

It stopped my heart- the thought of the eggshells of songbirds getting thinner and thinner... until there were no songbirds.

Take it home. When you are brushing your teeth tonight... "I think of my grandkids and I turn the tap off."



A NEW ECONOMY

Thursday 26th March 2015,
Trinity College, Dublin.

DISCOVERY



INTRODUCTIONS

It is about more than complying with the law, we must get companies to say: "We are doing this because **we want to.**"



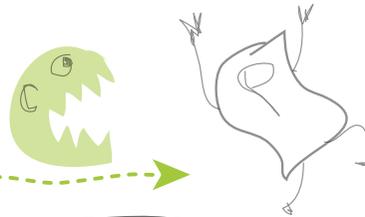
We need to address the **three legs** of the stool- profit, society and environmental sustainability. Only then can **real change** happen.

I am positively disposed to the opportunities that will arise from Climate Change.

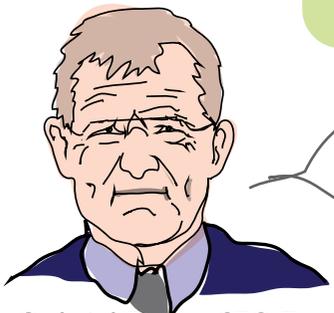
Ireland is going to have an increasing amount of the world's most scarce resource: **WATER.** We need to make this the central plank of our economic development

11% increase in rainfall in Ireland.

Culture eats strategy for breakfast. It is human behaviour we are trying to influence.



It is hard to discuss the need for decarbonisation when families are struggling to put food on the table.



Gabriel Darcy, CEO Town of Monaghan Co-Op



CHAIR: Emma McNamara, RTE

We need diversity of opinion to solve crises like these.

It is from the margins that the fertile ideas will come.

Social Entrepreneurs...

- Take risks
- work with the unknown
- seek patterns and connections
- iterate
- are values driven
- people and environment are interconnected

"A people are as healthy and confident as the stories they tell of themselves." Ben Okri

How we **frame** it is crucial- what are the stories we tell ourselves?



Clare Mulvany, Social Entrepreneur

I am a reluctant optimist.

YOUNG VOICES



Alex

We have the money- what we spend on non-renewables is **destroying the possibilities** for the renewable energy sector to grow.

What we **lack is unity** and a desire to move away from easy money.

We choose to do these things not because they are easy but **BECAUSE they are hard.**

Manito

We need a sound energy policy, focused on security, environmental sustainability and economic efficiency.

What holds us back is complacency and imprudence. What leads us forward is commitment to responsible policies.

The path of wisdom is a green and sustainable economy

Ella

We are all **tired** of the words climate change and global warming. **It is NOT a new issue.**

What are we waiting for? We all know the solutions are renewable energy and a change in lifestyle.

We need **role models** and we need to take this issue more seriously.

It will be too late for my children's children. **What makes me angry is that we could have changed this.** What gives me hope is that **we possibly still can.**

I hope all of this talking changes something. If not, these are just unnecessary words. I hope something inside of you changes tonight.

Felicia

People think, if no-one is talking about it, then it is not important.

The world is more disaster prone since the 1970s. Every year there will be **250,000 unnecessary deaths** from climate change.

Imagine the pain and loss YOU would feel, losing your home as a result of flood or hurricane.

We are the ones we have been waiting for- we are the change we seek.

This is OUR world.

We should ALL contribute to the well-being of our only home.

Students:
Ella Burke and Felicia Omudani
Jesus and Mary School, Goatstown.

Students:
Alex Fay and Manito Avilez St
Joseph's CBS, Fairview.

SPEAKERS

Once upon a time...



want to take you a shared future where we have the collective will to take action.

The year is 2100. Climate has stabilised to less than 2 degrees warming.

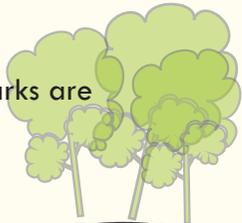
This has resulted in many challenges, (changing seasons and loss of low-lying land) and opportunities.

Most of the world's population live in megacities.

Our houses are smaller connected to the grid through the Internet of Things



Our commons and parks are reforested.



Our workplaces are also green waste centres reusing what can be reused.



Technology is shared as a common good. In 2015 the world's government took action to stop climate change. **By 2050 the world had achieved MASSIVE decarbonisation.**

Coal is no longer burned and fossil fuel reserves are staying in the ground. The workers were honoured and looked after.



Our grandchildren can look forward to sustainable jobs on a sustainable planet.



The Unions globally have taken the view that **there are no jobs on a dead planet.** This is more than a slogan. It requires action. Climate Change IS a trade union issue.

It WILL take investment to change. But the money IS there. Globally, trade Unions have €30bn invested in pension funds. We want it used wisely.



Sharan Burrow, general secretary of International Trade Union Confederation

Surprising story: the **Food and Agriculture**, this sector is now the **MOST** animated about a **sustainable future** for itself.
A fascinating reversal in 4 years!

CCP- the bill is now before the Oireachtas. CCP needs to engage a very wide range of actors in a process that pushes hard for ever greater decarbonisation.

Carbon Policy is a loop not a line- balance a traditional emphasis on How MUCH with how TO.

The Energy Agenda
New white paper. The process has proven to be more inclusive than we expected. Resistance to wind energy has made us think about how we engage communities better.



Sean O'Driscoll, CEO Glen Dimplex

For those who say the Green Economy is expensive- look to Denmark: **decreasing energy use at the same time as increasing economic growth.**


We **MUST** have a long term vision.

The technology is there- but the policy is NOT.

Our politicians are not reformers. They only reform if a) there is no other option or B) there are votes in it. There are not a lot of votes in carbon

30% of homes in Ireland are in fuel poverty, in NI it is 42%. THAT is a way to get through to politicians.



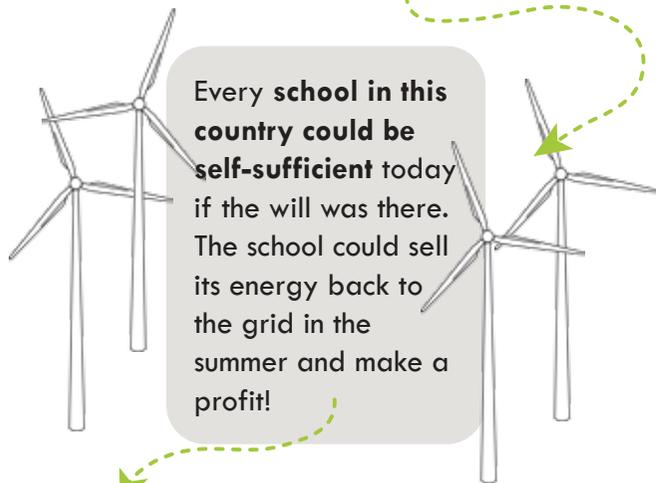
Dr Rory O'Donnell, Director of the National Economic and Social Council (NESCC)

Housing is a crucial issue in Ireland's recovering economy- **affordable and sustainable houses.**

The circular economy is a powerful idea that poses good questions. We need to move away from doing the same things more efficiently towards NOT doing some things at all.

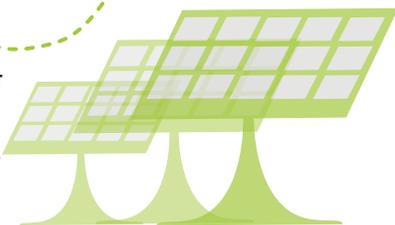
I am one of 6 industry partners who are working with government on the **Action Plan for Jobs 2015**. For the first time Energy is there as an economic generator.

Ireland = Europe's Energy Innovation Hub. 13 action points to be delivered. This is the start of a longer term journey in Ireland.

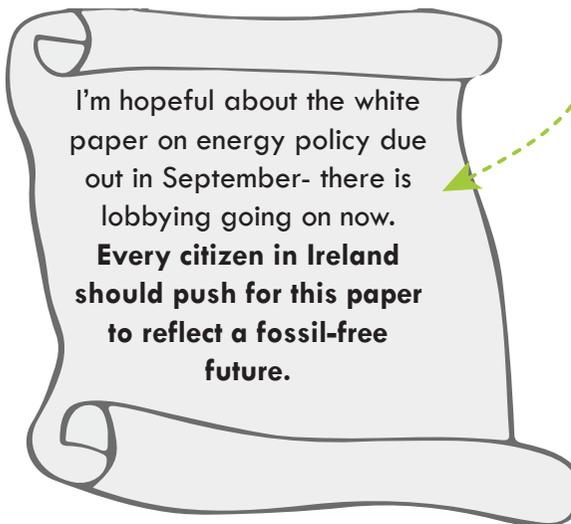


Every school in this country could be **self-sufficient** today if the will was there. The school could sell its energy back to the grid in the summer and make a profit!

Germany went from just 400 to 3 MILLION electricity producers and 1000 energy co-operatives. On 9th June 2015 50% of all their energy came from solar voltaic. That is what is possible:
It can be done and it must be done



Ireland's emissions **DO matter!** we are the second-highest per capita in terms of emissions in Europe.



I'm hopeful about the white paper on energy policy due out in September- there is lobbying going on now. **Every citizen in Ireland should push for this paper to reflect a fossil-free future.**



"Think Green to Earn Green" The "Green Surge" in MBA programmes. There is a trend in Business and Environment courses in other places- but not Ireland.



Young people DO care but they feel they do not have a voice. The next time a politician comes to your door ask them what they are doing NOW?

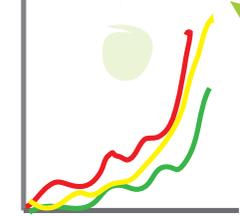
Use your voice!

Dr. Cara Augustenborg,
lecturer UCD, Green Party Spokesperson on Climate Change



National Policy and legislation- Minister Kelly announced last night that no action would be taken... we lost that battle.

Do our emissions matter? (We account for 1.3% of emissions in Europe.)



What is ONE thing we can do?
We can have a proper debate about the PRICE of carbon. If policy-makers can provide **security around price-** investors **can invest in the new economy.**

Tough Questions..

What is the role of social economy?

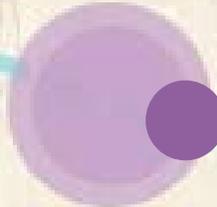
We ALL AGREE on the need for action... so why haven't we seen the action? What is it about the political economy of our world that prevents action?

I disagree that politicians can't reform. I disagree that we can't engage in long-term planning we have done this. **To dismiss the political system is too glib. Roll up your sleeves and engage!**



Robert Watt, secretary general, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform

SUSTAINABLE USE OF OUR LAND



DISCOVERY



Wednesday 8th April 2015,
Guinness Storehouse.



INTRODUCTIONS



David Croft, Diageo Sustainability Director

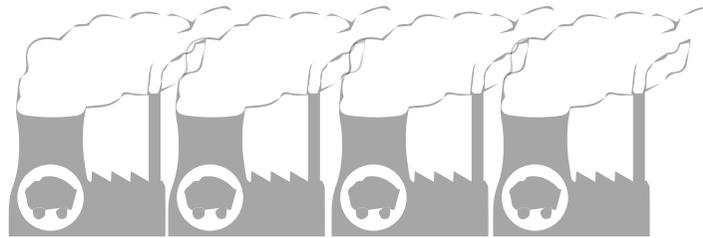


Welcome to the Storehouse!
Our new Brewhouse opened last year. Now every pint of Guinness uses 10% less CO₂/ GhG and 14% less water

We use 300 tonnes of barley a day and we are the largest single customer for milk in Ireland (except the dairy co-ops).

Business is taking sustainability more seriously. **Thinking about the long term future makes for better business.**

Collaboration will be essential if we want to build robust and balanced solutions.



Agriculture consumes little energy but produces **32% of Ireland's GHG emissions**. That is 18m tonnes OR 4.5 times Moneypoint power station every year.



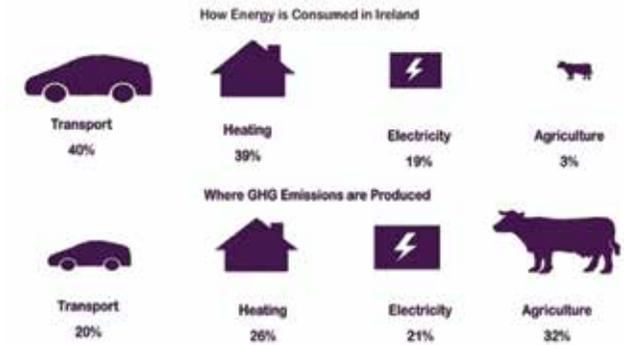
A cow = an average family car in terms of emissions per year.



We just have A LOT OF COWS- 6.2m.
The most effective way to reduce emissions is to get rid of the cows.... But if we do that production will just increase elsewhere. It may NOT reduce carbon emissions globally.



Agriculture and Energy



Agriculture in Ireland is vitally important!

- accounts for €24bn and 10% of employment.
- lowest level of organic land and forestry cover in Europe
- our dairy industry has one of the lowest carbon footprint in the world
- farming is done mainly by older males



Dr. Paul Deane, UCC.

We need to reduce emissions overall by 80% by 2050. But what if **agriculture cannot reduce its emissions?**

What happens in Irish Agricultural emissions matters more than any other EU member state.

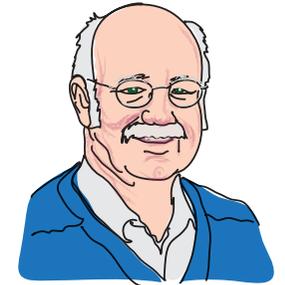


There are **two narratives** about what we should do:

1: We need to acknowledge the contribution of Irish Ag and its low-carbon nature. Irish Ag should get a "pass".

2: Every sector must pull its weight- what about Coal in Poland?

Nature never did betray the heart that loved her. William Wordsworth



Peter Fallon, Poet, Farmer and Gallery Press Founder.

"As if there were no end to plenty / we plundered earth" from *Sentinels* by Peter Fallon

I wanted to shape a life around the poems I was writing.

FoodCloud was born from the realisation that businesses were throwing out food while literally around the corner, charities were fundraising to buy food for those who used their services.



Iseult Ward, Social Entrepreneur, Food Cloud

Since 2013- 350 tonnes redistributed!

Restaurants are hugely wasteful. Luckily I worked for Kevin Thornton who taught me not to waste food.



Jess Murphy, Chef, Kai, Galway.



Katie Sanderson, Chef, Living Dinners

We gots lots of bread and lots of carrots! Hope you enjoy it later!



Jack Roche, Greengrocer

"Earth hath no sorrows that Earth cannot heal." John Muir.

We are all hypocrites about waste! I think there is a change coming. I try to minimise waste in my shop by selling things off cheaper.

SPEAKERS



CHAIR: Catherine Cleary,
Irish Times journalist

What is YOUR VISION for Irish food and farming in the year 2050?

Is Ireland going to be the Milk
Bowl of the world? Will
Ireland be one large pasture
to feed the world?

We can learn a lot from the
Netherlands about how to
communicate Climate
Change to farmers.

We can be proud
of the fact that
we have the
highest level of
grass in the world
together with NZ.

In 2050...

Our farm will still be in the family as it has
been for hundreds of years. Farmers will use
technology to lower GHG emissions.
Farmers will be knowledgeable, technical and
well-educated.



Mary Delaney, Dairy Farmer
and Nuffield Scholar.

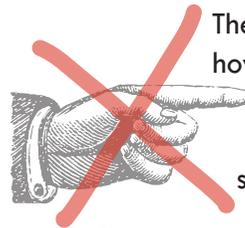
Our next quota is land: the
**availability of
suitable land is
the big
challenge.**



Rogier Schulte, Professor of
Sustainable Food, Teagasc

A lot can be done in 35
years- think about what life
was like in 1980.

Teagasc has just published our vision for
agriculture up to 2050!



The most important question is
how do we manage land use?
Nobody wants a
“command-and-control”
system where farmers are
told what to grow.

In 2050...

I see a **landscape** where all the
parts of the landscape do what they are
good at, the forests, fields and rivers.

Do we have enough land in Ireland to
meet our food and environmental
aspirations? Yes, but only if we use the
landscape so that different parts are used

**for what they are good
at.**

Not just agriculture but also forestry,
water, fuel and ecosystem services.

Even if everyone in Ireland
became vegetarian tomorrow it
wouldn't make a difference- we
export 90% of our meat.



The question of whether we want the market to dictate what we produce is a good one. There is ONE global food system. **If we do not supply China with milk, according to its growing demand, then someone else will do it.**

If you ONLY produce milk in Ireland you will undermine resilience. We need to find a balance between doing what we are good at, and fostering diversity.



Dairy IS recognised as a nutritious food product.

In 2050...

I've no doubt we'll see wheat germ grown in tanks as animal feed. There are **other and maybe better ways of feeding besides grass.**



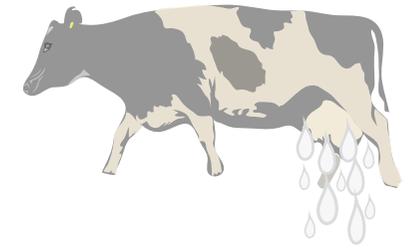
We have 2 million hectares of grassland- 1/2m is used for dairy. The other 1.5m is probably quite inefficient and may be better used for forestry or bio-energy crops. **I think we'll see a shift in the CAP towards public goods rather than price support.**



Andrew Doyle, TD, Oireachtas Chairman of Dail Committee on Agriculture

"White urine" is milk from grass-fed cows in the months of May and June!

Whether it is a kilo of meat, a litre of milk can it be produced while lowering emissions?



The biggest single producer of milk in the world is India and they may have to soon import milk. Only 8% of milk is traded internationally.

We could reduce our percentage emissions by cutting production, but that does that achieve anything on a global level? **We can't stop production elsewhere if we decide to stop it here.**
Lies, damned lies and statistics.

We work on the basis that we won't have MORE land and that the population will increase- **anywhere that can produce food efficiently and sustainably should be used.**

We need a total land use policy.

If we want to produce protein for the world aquaculture is the way to go

In 2050...

The sun is setting over Galway...



One off housing will stop. Farmers will move back into towns and support local businesses.



I see fermented algae and fish. Using our fresh, clean, salt water and leaving only inshore fishing and a protected marine environment, popular with tourists.



I'd like to see tens of miles of Greenhouses outside the city, utilising waste and wind to generate energy. Growing so many vegetables and embracing biodiversity.

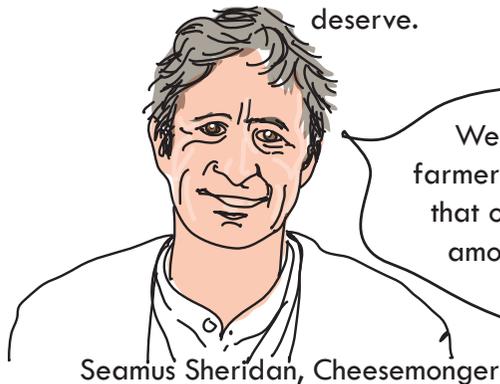


We'll still have Germans with small organic farms 'cos we love them too!

Agri Co-Ops will work together. We'll see our farmers producing meat and cheese—turning their milk into something worthwhile!



Our small farms will work together to get the premiums they deserve.



We'll be champions for farmers everywhere, realising that our farmers today are among the richest on the planet.

If all farmers are drawn into the dairy industry, eventually that too will collapse.



Breda Larkin, Comedian and Anthropologist



Don't go to the doctor to make you better- pay the farmer to keep you healthy

In 2050...

Nut trees! and Hemp!

Plant scientists, genetic engineers and farmers will be working together in research.

I see a modern Irish Agriculture that embraces science and seeks to reduce imports.





PROPHETIC VOICES

20th April, 2015 Christchurch Cathedral



REFLECTION

INTRODUCTIONS



Lorna Gold, Trócaire

We need more social glue on this issue.

Where can we go to find the **spiritual** and **ethical motivation** we need to face the **challenge of climate change**?

Tonight we reflect... it's a conversation that goes **beyond the polemics** and comes **before the activism**. It is about connecting to the inner motivation that motivates you to take action in this world.

We are ONE human family and the planet is our home



Tonight the invitation is to drop into a deeper space and to be willing to be inspired... Martin Hawkes, Climate Gathering.

CONTEXT



Fr. Seán McDonagh, Columban Priest

How many of us have even heard one sermon on Climate Change?

I would like the churches to take this as one of the most serious issues of our time.

In many ways we still don't have the GLUE of a social agreement with a moral focus behind it to bring about the kind of change we need.

Unless the forthcoming encyclical makes it into parishes it won't result in the changes we want to see happening.

3 Key Implications for our Moral Framework:

- 1. **The Common Good**
- 2. **Intergenerational Justice**
- 3. **Solidarity**- not just for fellow human beings but for all life systems

At the local level we need to connect our **discourse with action**. I hope the Catholic Church will take this on board.

TESTIMONIES

We say **NO** to all oil and gas industries, no to oil sands and shale gas.



Gunnela Hahn, Head of Responsible Investment at the Church of Sweden.

We know that two thirds of the world's carbon assets need to stay in the ground if we are to limit warming to below 2 degrees.

We have 2 reasons: ethical and financial. On the financial side we researched and saw that there would be no affect on the return on investment.



For a values-driven organisation it makes sense to **divest**

from the **fossil fuel industry.**

I come from the conviction that the most efficient unit for sustainability is your own **local community** so that is where I act.

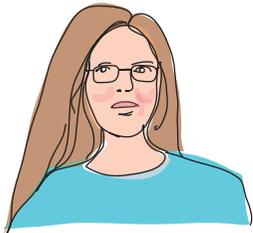


Natasha Harty, Cork Quaker Meeting for Eco-Congregation Ireland.

If local currencies were introduced there would be huge potential for people to create their own employment.

For me Loving God, means loving his Creation. Loving my neighbour means trying to prevent the deltas in Bangladesh from flooding.

We have this motto in our house: **Something is better than nothing**



Amy Colgan, Student, Trócaire Climate Challenge Participant

There are so many intricacies. If you only deal with one topic in isolation, you will never get to the bottom of it.

One of the biggest things I have learned is about the **human impact of climate change.** It is not a game. When you read about something and you see the statistics, it is not the same as **BEING** one of those statistics.

It's NOT fair!

I'm not a climate change expert but I know that unless we do something my daughter could turn to me in 20 years time and say: **"How did you think you could carry on living like you did? It's NOT FAIR!"**

It's not fair that when we can **do something** to stop catastrophic climate change- we don't . It is up to us. To speak up for our brothers and sisters, think about our complicity, and to raise our children to care for God's creation.

It is our family that is being affected, our brothers and sisters. We are all made in the image of God.



Melanie Clarke Pullen, Actor, Writer, Speaker, Mum

Contributions from faith group representatives

Frances Morrison, Presbyterian Church

Our Indian friend wanted to tell us that it was 41 degrees in Gujarat- and hailstoning. The streets were white. This had never happened before. I would like to encourage you to tell and share the stories of your international friends.

Liz Evers, Buddhist Community in Dublin

Whatever you frequently think and ponder upon, that will become the inclination of your mind. Mental space is required to face something as big as Climate Change. We must stop, think and urge others to do the same.

Stella Xenopoulou, Greek Orthodox Community

Look to our own neighbourhood first because we live HERE: Plant Native trees.

Elizabeth Kelly, Methodist Church

God in his love for us lent us this planet, gave it a purpose in time and in space Small as a spark from the fire of creation. Cradle of life and the home of our race.

Anne Marie Reilly, St Finian's Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church in Ireland embraces creation theology and hopes to spread the message of Christ with raised awareness of climate change and increased consideration of our role as stewards of God's many treasured gifts.

Fiona Murdoch, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritises the wellbeing of people over profit and lives in right relationship with our Earth. A peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, healthy thriving communities and ecosystems. As members of this beautiful human family we seek meaningful commitment from our leaders and ourselves to address climate change for our shared future. We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home let us care for it together.

Ch 6
Koran

Indeed your Lord is Allah who created the heavens and the Earth in 6 days.... He created the sun, the moon, the stars, subjected to his command. Surely Allah's mercy is very near unto the good doers.
Islam

Andrew Moore, Church of Ireland. Words by David Adam

Before any books were written God spoke through his creation.. the signs were there for those who learned to read them. These signs are there still but so many of us today are illiterate. ...We teach children to read books but we leave them unable to read the world around them.

The tragedy that is the poor suffer for the fact that we have used carbon in the way we have. My prayer is that we become more sensitive to the impact of what we are doing. We begin to advocate for the structural changes that are needed.

Fr Sean McDonagh, Catholic Priest



THE CALL TO NEW HORIZONS

10th May, 2015 The Abbey Theatre

ACTION



INTRODUCTIONS

... There will be time, there will be time
To prepare a face to meet the faces that you
meet;
There will be time to murder and create,
And time for all the works and days of hands
That lift and drop a question on your plate;
Time for you and time for me,
And time yet for a hundred indecisions,
And for a hundred visions and revisions...

The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock, T.S. Eliot.



**There is no alternative:
Collaboration is the only thing that will work. These events are a testament to that.**

These Climate Gatherings have been a journey, we were not sure where we would arrive. It began as things begin around a table...



CHAIR: Ryan Meade, Climate Gathering

These events provided a safe space to collaborate across different perspectives. A safe space does not mean a place without uncomfortable views—that is an echo chamber.

Climate change is an issue we cannot keep to ourselves as environmentalists.



We need to create and maintain over the next 50 years, the next 20 elections the desire for action on climate change.

Can we learn to live with uncertainty, contradiction and inconsistency, with the blurry, emergent nature of complexity and... accept that there are no easy answers? **Maybe there are no answers at all.**

It's not a conundrum, it's a system... We are embedded in a living system... and **climate change is a whole system problem...**

[But] what if climate change is more a learning challenge than a political one? What if the process — **the way we work together** — is the product?

Reflections and questions by Paula Downey on behalf of the Climate Gathering team

SPEAKERS

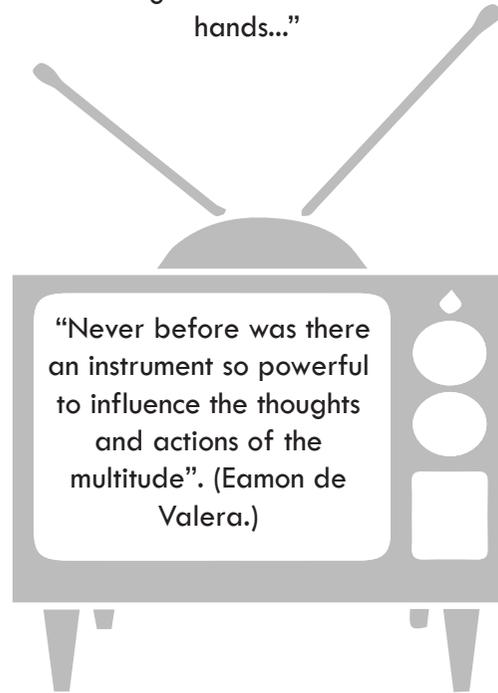


July 20th 1969,
watching the **moon landing** on a television...

Mark Patrick Hederman, Abbot Glenstal Abbey.

My generation experienced the most rapidly changing environment in the history of the world. The Irish people skipped a century and moved directly from the 19th to the 21st without even pausing for a half time team talk. The world had become a global village, that is now a **cliche** but then it was a **cataclysm**.

...destroying a many century old mythology about the moon and ourselves. The moon had become a piece of floating rock. The picture we got of our own planet changed our mythology about ourselves. "We got the whole wideworld in our hands..."



"Never before was there an instrument so powerful to influence the thoughts and actions of the multitude". (Eamon de Valera.)

We have to **change the mythology** yet again. We have the whole world in the screen in our hands. Maybe DeValera was right- maybe we do now have an instrument so powerful to influence the thoughts and actions of the multitude- all 7bn of us.



As we sit here bellowing into the world wide web.. what do we say? Dear people, the whole wide world now placed in your hands is **a hand grenade with the pin out**. The time bomb of the 21st century is ticking away... tick... tick... tick....



SPEAKERS

I've spent 30 years looking at the Irish landscape in the field, from the air, underwater.



Michael Gibbons, Archaeologist

Citizen science, in the absence of a well-funded heritage service, is beginning to push our knowledge forward.

Global warming began about 12,000 years ago from an archaeological point of view with the melting of the ice and the movement of peoples from Iberia..

Once this valley was populated with thousands of people



10,000 years ago the first people in Ireland were heavily dependent on fishing, there were no mammals.

The story of the landscape is dynamic, with episodic pulses of people sweeping in and being swept out again by environmental change.

People grappled with miraculous features, to give them a meaning—that is the struggle we are dealing with today, **how do we grapple with the massive change we are facing?**

Archaeology teaches us of the **adaptability of the human species**, in a world we often did not understand, that is ever changing.

How do you speak about something so monstrous as climate change? It is like the elusive nature of death... it is always in front of you but you cannot grasp it, understand it, predict it.



Shark Callers sing beautiful songs, use rattles to call the sharks from the depths. The ritual is tied into their ancestors guiding the sharks to them. I was going to a place of simplicity. We are going in the other direction, in this Ireland.

Do we lose when we move toward the future? Or do we gain?



Dorothy Cross, Artist

A lot of my work is about trying to find the residue of life, take that and relate the bones or skin of something to make us look at our own perilous natures.

The fish are disappearing from New Ireland. For years they lived between the sea and the jungle, still using shell money.



I reserve the right to get it wrong... I never know what impulses are decent and what are unholy until a good length of time has passed.

Tommy Tiernan, Comedian and Storyteller

I have some great news and some f-in' awful news:
The good news is:
IT IS TOO LATE!



There are lots of things happening around the country that we can all get involved with.

Teresa O'Donoghue, The Environmental Pillar

I don't believe there is any such a thing as the environment.
To classify the environment as something separate from yourself, just makes it something else laborious you have to do.

Once you realise you are falling off the cliff you have 2 options:



1: In a futile, undignified way, try to climb back up.

2: Embrace the experience



If the governments of the world obey these suggestions... do you think you'd be any happier? NO! You'd still be miserable! **It is not about climate change it is about your relationship with the world around you.**



We ARE nature. The thing we are trying to fix is ourselves..

Call a gathering within your own community. No-one knows better how to solve problems than the community itself.

We are missing INTENT from the government. I really believe we have to be the change. **There is nothing stopping YOU from being the person who starts change in your community.**

We need to put our hands up take responsibility for our futures, for our children's future and all those generations that we are not considering with intent.

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climate conversations

www.climategathering.org

The
Climate

Conversations were
supported by Christian Aid,
Trócaire, the Environmental Pillar,
IBEC, ICTU and the Climate Gathering.
For more information see:
www.climategathering.org

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Just Multimedia.

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