

Climate Action Plan Consultation Response:

Summary points from Feasta using the broad framework categories listed in the introduction to the Consultation Call

May 18 2021

We welcome the recognition in the Call that cross-sectoral action is necessary. We urge the Government to work as far 'upstream' as possible, so as to change harmful economic dynamics at their source.

Our suggested measures therefore include several EU-level and international trade reforms which we urge the Irish Government to advocate.

Regulatory framework:

- Change the wording of the EU's core legal documents so as to prioritise well-being, fairness and economic stability rather than economic growth and price stability
- Withdraw Ireland and the EU from the Energy Charter Treaty and any other treaties that include Investor-State Dispute Settlement
- To support decarbonisation and climate justice, we propose that the EU form a 'carbon club' with a group of Global South countries, implementing a joint phase-out of all fossil fuel production and imports and sharing the revenue from production and import permits with residents of the partner countries ('CapGlobalCarbon'). Other countries would be subject to a CBAM until they meet the conditions required to join the 'carbon club'¹

¹ <https://www.feasta.org/2020/10/29/position-paper-on-the-eus-carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism/>
<https://www.feasta.org/2020/10/15/balancing-with-a-doughnut-feasta-position-paper-on-the-revision-of-the-european-commissions-energy-taxation-directive/>
<http://www.capglobalcarbon.org> <https://www.feasta.org/category/documents/projects/cap-and-share/>

Addressing market failure:

- Use regulation to ensure that the use of harmful materials such as fossil fuels will definitively be capped and phased out, with pricing used only as a secondary measure. The 'carbon club' described above would address this with regard to fossil fuels
- Introduce commons-based taxation, including a Financial Transactions Tax and a Site/Land Value Tax
- Introduce a Universal Basic Income and Social Wage (Universal Basic Services)
- Introduce a safe depository for Irish residents²

Driving change in business models:

- The regulatory measures listed above
- Support for community-owned renewable energy
- Agricultural and marine colleges emphasising agroecological practices
- Ensure local access to land for smaller growing and farming initiatives such as cooperatives and CSAs (member or farmer-led), to help young people wanting to enter farming

The public sector leading by example:

- Community wealth building practises, including green and localised procurement by state-owned anchor institutions

Harnessing the citizen and community effort:

- A highly participatory, long-term and rigorous climate consultation process
- Adoption of improved measurements of well-being

² <https://www.feasta.org/2021/04/30/towards-a-recession-hardy-irish-banking-system/>

Feasta (the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability) is an ecological economics think tank. Its aims are to identify the characteristics of a truly sustainable society, articulate how the necessary transition can be effected and promote the implementation of the measures required for this purpose. It is a member of the Irish Environmental Network, the Environmental Pillar, Stop Climate Chaos Ireland and the (global) Wellbeing Economy Alliance. More information at www.feasta.org.

