Annual Report 2023
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Introduction
by Mike Sandler (Chair of Board of Trustees)

On behalf of the Board of Feasta, I am pleased to present FEASTA’s 2023 Annual Report.

This past year, Feasta continued to push forward its systems level approach towards solving the world’s most pressing environmental-economic problems. We co-founded the global Cap & Share Climate Alliance, which is working on a just fossil fuel phase-out, and is reaching out to new members in the Majority World/Global South. As part of the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance, we facilitate the Irish Hub alongside fellow Irish, European and globally focussed NGOs. We engaged with the development of the Irish Wellbeing Framework, on getting ‘Beyond Extractivism’ and on reforming the financial system, and we contributed to an EU project to boost public participation in policy decision-making. We are now taking the lead on organising a 2024 Irish follow-on conference to the seminal ‘Beyond Growth’ conference that took place at the European Parliament in 2023.

In 2023 Irish President Michael D. Higgins expressed warm support for our work, carried out with our WEAll Ireland Hub partners, on cultural narrative shifts concerning economic goals and society’s collective vision for the future.

Feasta’s ideas are being brought to a broader audience than ever before, with the support of increased and diversified funding in 2023.

Meanwhile, for the first time in over 20 years, the Board updated Feasta’s mission statement, which is now more closely aligned to its Theory of Change.

In the process, we reviewed some of the questions posed at Feasta’s founding in 1998, which are remarkably applicable 25 years later:

*With turmoil in the Far East, Russia and elsewhere, we all may be growing a little less confident in the global economy than perhaps we had been. Questions arise about the stability of a system that underpins so much of our lives and lifestyles…*

*How can the finite world cope with a system that depends on ever increasing growth and expansion for its survival?*

*How can people with few resources be part of a system that depends on competition for its survival?*

*How can human dignity be upheld in a system where the only role for human beings is to consume?*

These are the right questions to ask, and we invite you to join us in helping spread the word and advancing systemic solutions.
Staff & Management

Feasta’s two part-time staff are Morag Friel and Caroline Whyte. Morag is Feasta’s office and finance administrator, while Caroline works on research and advocacy for ecological economics.

In 2023, Feasta’s trustees continued to provide steady guidance and support for its staff and volunteers. At the 2023 Feasta AGM, two long-standing Feasta trustees, Willi Kiefel and John Sharry, stepped down. Feasta greatly appreciates Willi and John’s contribution and support as trustees, and in John’s case, also as chair of the Board of trustees. Both Willi and John are continuing with their voluntary activities with Feasta in other areas.

We were delighted to appoint a new trustee, Anne-Marie Fuller, to the Feasta Board at the AGM in September 2023.

Anne-Marie is a carer and community volunteer striving for balance and trying to walk the talk. She is deeply interested in how we bring forth a regenerative future where people live in harmony as part of a thriving ecosystem. She is interested in local, national and European policy and practical on-the-ground work in her locality. Through her interest in policy she joined Feasta (and the Wellbeing Economy Alliance Hub Ireland). She is a member of IDEN (Irish Doughnut Economics Network) and the Green Party. She sits on the secretariat of Kerry Public Participation Network (PPN) and is their Environmental Pillar representative and representative on Kerry County Council’s Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). She also represents the PPN on Kerry County Council’s Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). She is active in her local Tidy Towns group. Her previous board memberships include Transition Kerry and Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-op (KSEC), AES Solar (Scotland’s longest existing solar company), the Scottish Solar Energy Group (SSEG) and Solar Cities Scotland. She has a doctorate in chemistry and her professional experience includes working in technology development, operations and business development in the energy industry.

Mike Sandler currently chairs the Feasta Board, while Board member Michele Brady provides governance expertise as secretary and treasurer to Feasta, with the support of fellow board members Graham Barnes, Mark Garavan and Brent Ranalli. With the exception of Mike and Brent, both of whom live on the East Coast of the U.S.A, the Feasta board members are all based in Ireland. We are continuing with a process, begun in 2022, of introducing more diversity into the Feasta board.
A **Theory of Change** is a ‘backcasting’ exercise in which an organisation first defines its ultimate goal, and then works backwards from there, identifying the steps that seem necessary to achieve it. (The idea is not that the organisation would try to achieve all these steps by itself. Rather, it is to figure out how it can help contribute to achieving them.)

The 2023 edition of Feasta’s Theory of Change is the fifth iteration and, like those of the previous two years, it incorporates economist Kate Raworth’s **Economic Doughnut**. The outer edge of the Doughnut represents planetary boundaries which cannot be breached without triggering grave environmental risks, while the inner edge represents social and physical needs which must be met in order to ensure that everyone in society can lead a fulfilling life. Raworth argues that the economy needs to achieve a dynamic balance between these two ‘doughnut edges’.

In our Theory of Change, the Economic Doughnut is held up by three vines, and the nine leaves on the vines represent initiatives that Feasta and its partners are working on and that we believe to be necessary to achieve a Doughnut Economy. In the ‘ground’ under the vines there is also a ‘programme development’ section with a number of other initiatives which focus on effective communication and on tracking progress.

In 2023 the Theory of Change was updated to include two newer Feasta work areas: ‘Beyond Extractivism’ (see page 8) and ‘Healthy Habitats’.

The Feasta website includes both outline and detailed **dynamic versions** of the Theory of Change. (You can toggle between the two versions on the upper right of the diagram.) If you hover your mouse over its icons, you can access more information and links about the initiatives.
Feasta’s vision of a safe and just space for humanity

A vibrant, commons-focused, locally-oriented and stable global economy that enables human flourishing and well-being within a resilient and healthy global ecosystem.

Values and Context

This graphic illustrates prerequisites for healthy structures which can help to provide a secure foundation for people within our society to be healthy in mind, body and spirit.

- Ecological regeneration
- Not dependent on GDP growth
- Racial, gender, LGBTQ+, social class equality and disability rights
- Democracy
- Equality of opportunity
- Emotional well-being

Global-level preconditions

International level, NGOs, citizens: Citizen's Climate Trust, Financial System Reform, changes to international law, Alternative Economic Accounts (Beyond GDP), World Basic Income, Social Wage, Intelligent agriculture

Future pilot projects

State and national level, NGOs, citizens

Broader preconditions

Changes in national law and taxation, improved performance budgeting

Current pilot projects

Local or state efforts, NGOs, citizens

Consciousness raising (short-term)

Outreach to academics, media, like-minded NGOs and citizens; submissions to government; podcasts; reports and other publications

Grassroots actions

Top-down actions

Feasta programme development

Research, advocacy, ideas sharing and discussion, including Beyond GDP group and Feasta website resources

Note: the green circles on the left are adapted fromKate Raworth’s Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries.

The pale green inside of the doughnut represents the safe and just space for humanity. The dark green outer edge represents ecological limits (ecological ceiling), while the dark green inner edge represents the social foundation necessary for human survival (adequate food, housing, healthcare etc.).

You can find out more about the Doughnut at https://www.oatesworth.com/doughnut/.

We have placed the Doughnut in three supports, surrounded by climbing beans. The leaves on the beanstalk represent seven initiatives that Feasta members consider important. If one support is removed, the structure will fall over. This is because we think that all seven initiatives, or something like them, are needed.

While we were inspired by the Doughnut model, any errors in this Theory of Change are our own.
2023 Feasta Working Group Activities

Feasta currently has a total of nine working groups which focus on the initiatives that are described in our Theory of Change. In this Annual Report we are focussing on the groups which were most active in 2023.

In 2023 we updated the Activities page on the Feasta website, making it more succinct and focussed, and we updated each working group’s webpage and added more links to their work. This helped to clarify the relationship between each group, and also between Feasta and other organisations who collaborate with our groups, such as Talamh Beo and Basic Income Ireland.

Climate/COP 28

Feasta’s Climate Group had two main strands of work in 2023.

• **Research and advocacy on Cap and Share:**

  Cap and Share is a framework for a just phase-out of the extraction and import of fossil fuels. Feasta has been developing and advocating for Cap and Share since 2006. In recent years, our work in this area has gained momentum because of a marked increase in international advocacy for fossil fuel phase-out, bolstered by the launch of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT) campaign and the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA). While Feasta was not directly involved in the development of either of these two initiatives, our Climate Group members believe that Cap and Share could provide a practical pathway for achieving the goals of both the FFNPT and BOGA.

  In mid-2023 we joined forces with several other NGOs located in Asia, India and Europe to form the core group of a new [Cap and Share Climate Alliance](#). The Alliance, whose membership has since expanded, is a broad-based global movement of organisations and individuals that is working for climate justice. It defines Carbon Cap and Share as a system that contains:

  1. A carbon cap on the extraction and/or importation of fossil fuels that reduces briskly towards real zero (not ‘net zero’)
  2. No offsets (allied activities like tree-planting should be undertaken *in addition to*, not *instead of*, keeping fossil fuels in the ground)
  3. A carbon charge applied to companies that extract or import fossil fuels
  4. Carbon dividends that are paid out directly to people
  5. Features and mechanisms that address climate justice, global justice and
intergenerational justice

6. Citizen oversight (a meaningful management role for the people of the world, not just national governments)

The Alliance’s launch, which was spearheaded by the NGO Equal Right, took place online on August 10 (see page 25). In the remainder of 2023, Feasta climate group members met regularly with fellow Alliance members and provided mutual advice and support in our campaigning work. Feasta is also a member of the BOGA Civil Society NGO discussion group, and we forged links with FFNPT representatives in 2023 and plan to build on this relationship in 2024.

• Bonn Intersessional Climate Summit and COP

Feasta has been facilitating access to the UN’s COP Climate Summits for youth climate activists based worldwide for the past three years so as to provide them with a platform for their advocacy. In 2023, for the first time, we also provided access badges for two of our delegates, Jessica Dunne (Ireland) and Marina Guião (Brazil) to attend the pre-COP intersessional meetings in Bonn, Germany, in June 2023. They wrote about their impressions on the Feasta website here.

With much-appreciated support from the IEN, Feasta also enabled a group of climate delegates to attend the COP28 summit which was held in Dubai, UAE in November 2023. Our new and returning delegates were from Ireland, Pakistan, Brazil and the US and included youth delegates Luna Silvana Abadía, Jessica Dunne, Amália Garcez, Marina Guião, Hania Imran, Theresa Rose Sebastien, Fulbright researcher Angel Smith, ‘veteran’ Feasta delegate Theresa O’Donohoe, and journalist and Feasta member Barbara Mc Carthy. You can read about the delegates themselves here, and about their impressions of the COP here and here.

Brazilian Feasta delegate Marina Guião (centre, holding sign) and other youth climate activists in Bonn.

Beyond Extractivism Working Group

This working group was formed in 2022 with the aim of identifying ways to ease the extractivist pressures that are leading to a rush to mineral mining in Ireland and elsewhere. It is convened by Emma Karran, who is an Environmental Pillar representative on the Mineral Prospecting and Mining Advisory Group.

Minerals mining is frequently promoted as vital to decarbonisation because minerals are components of many renewable-energy technologies. In the case of Ireland, an official mining policy statement
asserts that “it will be important that Ireland continue to play its part in producing the raw materials required for the [green] transition”, and in line with this, Irish land is currently highly accessible to mineral mining prospectors (considerably more so than that of neighbouring countries).

This policy is generating considerable concern among communities who could potentially be impacted by mining in their areas. While such concerns are sometimes dismissed as simple NIMBYism, they arise from widespread evidence of serious impacts on water quality and biodiversity from mining. Beyond Extractivism Working Group members believe it is important to avoid falling into the trap of replacing one kind of dangerous environmental damage (climate change) with another (undermining of ecosystems).

In 2022, Feasta co-hosted a well-attended online event called ‘Mining, minerals and limits: grounding the green transition’ which explored this issue in detail (see page 24). Emma Karran and Caroline Whyte were subsequently interviewed by journalist Gerry McGovern for a two-part series of articles on extractivism in Hot Press, and for his “After the Goldrush” podcast series which was released in mid-2023.

In May 2023, Emma and Caroline participated in an online meeting (coordinated by Karen Ciesielski of the Environmental Pillar) with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications officials who are responsible for developing Irish mining policy. Caroline and Emma expressed concerns about the expansionist economic goals which appear to be embedded in the policy, and about the need to ensure adequate community participation in the decision-making process on prospecting and mining.

Feasta member Feidhlim Harty, who represents the Environmental Pillar on the Irish State’s Waste Advisory group, participated in group meetings in the course of 2023 and provided an update on their work which is published on the Feasta website. He emphasised the need to minimise the extraction of critical raw materials, to ensure that the materials are used as responsibly as possible, and to ensure that miners’ rights are respected.

Commons-based taxation, and fair green money

These working groups focus on researching and advocating changes to the financial and monetary systems in order to make them ‘GDP-growth-independent’, and enable them to contribute to a balanced and fair economy in which everyone’s needs can be met within planetary boundaries.

Caroline Whyte was among the presenters and facilitators of a discussion on the global financial system at a CSO gathering in Brussels that was held in advance of the ‘Beyond Growth’ conference at the European Parliament in May.

Feasta was invited, on behalf of the Environmental Pillar, to attend a
Central Bank of Ireland Civil Society Roundtable on Wednesday 21 June. Feasta’s Graham Barnes participated in the session. It was hosted by Governor Gabriel Makhlouf, with Deputy Governor, Monetary and Financial Stability, Vasileios Madouros also in attendance. Central Bank officials presented the Central Bank’s work and policy objectives and listened to the views of national representative groups. Graham commented during the discussion on Universal Basic Income, Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC) and non-GDP measures of progress, and on the potential for CBDC being used to direct finance to where it is most needed - but also that there were concerns about its potential use by authoritarians. He agreed with other participants on the need for the financial system to improve conditions in Ireland on housing and inequality.

Caroline gave a presentation and facilitated a 1.5 hour discussion on the financial and monetary system during the International Degrowth Conference in Zagreb, Croatia, on September 1 2023. The well-attended session covered topics ranging from the effects of GDP growth on credit demand, problems with the commercialisation of the money system, the need to close off tax havens and for countries to adopt ‘commons-based’ taxation measures such as Land Value Tax, and the need for democratic reforms to the global financial and trade architecture.

Caroline attended a number of EU-focussed discussions on financial system reform in the course of 2023 (the rationale behind this is explained on page 14). She is a member of the Fiscal Matters Coalition and participated in their meetings. She also attended a workshop in May 2023 that was organised by Positive Money Europe, on Central Bank Digital Currency in the Eurozone.

### National Well-being Index (NWI)

The National Well-being Index is an alternative index to GDP which incorporates different kinds of economic activity alongside environmental damage and other aspects of the economy that are generally excluded from GDP, such as unpaid care work. Feasta’s NWI working group have a long-time collaboration with the German academic institute FEST which has developed NWIs for German states.

Although various attempts have been made to stimulate interest in the NWI among policy makers and others in Ireland, little interest has been shown for its development. Nevertheless, regular monthly online meetings took place in 2023 between the German (FEST) and the Irish (Feasta) teams. During the exchanges, updates on the NWI developments in Germany were shared, as well as more general discussions on the evolution of the broader well-being agenda in both countries.
Feasta Networking and Partnerships within Ireland in 2023

The Environmental Pillar is an Irish advocacy network of 32 national independent environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who work together to represent the views of the Irish environmental sector. Feasta is represented in the Pillar by Anne Ryan and Caroline Whyte, both of whom attended Pillar plenary meetings (online or in-person) in the course of 2023. Caroline is also a member of the Pillar’s Steering Committee and participated in the Committee’s meetings and internal discussions in 2023.

Environmental Pillar work on the Irish Wellbeing Framework

Many people would agree that we need to change the way in which we measure progress and move past the current narrow focus on GDP growth. Indeed, an enormous body of research on improving measures of wellbeing has been carried out internationally in recent years. Feasta members have been interested in this subject since Feasta was founded, and in recent years we have benefited from the advice of fellow members of the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance’s ‘Beyond GDP’ group, which has members who are working in this area on the UN level.

Ireland, along with many other countries, has been developing a Wellbeing Framework that contains a dashboard of indicators which are intended to give a snapshot of how Ireland is doing in many different areas, including health, education, employment and the environment. (This ‘dashboard’ approach is complementary to the efforts to develop an alternative index to the GDP measure itself that are described in the ‘National Wellbeing Index’ section on page 10).

Environmental Pillar members have placed the Wellbeing Framework - and work on the wellbeing economy in general - high among their advocacy priorities. Feasta has been closely following and seeking to influence the Wellbeing Framework’s development since its inception in 2021, and in 2023, Feasta contributed wording on the Framework to the Environmental Pillar’s submission to the Budget 2024 and the Pillar’s input to the National Economic Dialogue. Our recommendations on the Framework include improving its indicators of environmental progress (particularly on biodiversity) and changing its indicators of economic progress so as to relieve unnecessary tensions between these and the environmental indicators. We also advocate for an ‘alarm button’ system in the Framework that more effectively communicates the urgency of the environmental crisis.

Seán Ó Conláin and Caroline Whyte were both invited to a ‘reflections’ workshop on the National Wellbeing Framework on November 27th, at the Department of the Taoiseach. The workshop was opened by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and included input from Gabriel Makhlouf (the governor of the Irish Central Bank), Minister Eamon Ryan, and Lena Jacobs, who leads
the Wellbeing Framework’s development unit at the DOT. There were approximately 60 attendees and time was provided for group discussion. Seán spoke about the need for a stronger emphasis on transformative change, while Caroline reiterated the points made above about needing to improve measurements of economic progress. She argued that while a certain level of economic activity is necessary, it does not follow from this that the economy of a country such as Ireland needs to keep expanding as an end in itself.

National Economic and Social Council

Caroline Whyte is one of three Environmental Pillar representatives on the National Economic and Social Council (NESC), an advisory body to the Irish government. NESC contains representatives from a wide variety of economic sectors within Ireland, including agriculture, trade unions and the construction industry, along with academics and independent advisors. It has quarterly in-person Council meetings, and its research team regularly produces reports and asks for Council input on them.

In the course of 2023, Caroline provided written and verbal comments and recommendations on NESC reports on topics including Community Wealth Building, social enterprise, ‘good jobs’, the social damage caused by excessive inequality, the need to improve ways in which Ireland’s environmental and economic status are measured in the Wellbeing Framework (see page 11), and the dangers of ‘carbon farming’ markets. Caroline and Seán Ó Conláín attended the NESC@50 conference that was held in November 2023.

Environmental Pillar Brussels trip

In October 2023, Caroline Whyte was part of a group of Environmental Pillar representatives who participated in a two-day information session at the European Commission and European Parliament in Brussels.

On the first day, the group met officials from the European Commission, and also with the EU Commissioner for Financial Stability, Mairead McGuinness. During a question-and-answer session, Caroline asked the Commissioner for her thoughts on how the European financial system could be recession-proofed and made ‘growth-independent’. On the second day, the Pillar group talked to some of the Irish MEPs and staff at the European Parliament. The visit was very useful for getting a better grasp of the functioning of the EU’s governance system.

Irish Environmental Network

Feasta benefits from membership of the Irish Environmental Network, which represents the capacity building and funding needs of its member organisations to the Irish government. Caroline Whyte is a member of the IEN’s governance sub-committee. She attended sub-committee meetings in 2023 and provided suggestions on draft governance document updates.

Caroline and Theresa O’Donohoe also attended the IEN Member Gathering in Cloughjordan in November 2023. Theresa and Elaine McGoff from An Taisce led a group discussion during the gathering on the rise of the far-right and their influence in social media channels, and Caroline gave a follow-on presentation on the need for economic system change and Feasta’s work in this area.
In 2023 Feasta continued its work in the “Wellbeing Economy Ireland Hub” in close collaboration with Cultivate, the European Health Futures Forum, the Playhouse Theatre in Derry, Queen’s University School of Law and Social Justice Ireland on developing. The Hub works in partnership with the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance to:

- Shift popular narratives around the purpose of our economy
- Synthesise, disseminate and empower knowledge and evidence about what a ‘wellbeing economy’ looks like and how we can embed its principles and practices at all levels of governance and societal systems
- Galvanise an island-wide and inclusive platform through a creative intergenerational/intercultural dialogue while engaging with a global network of peers
- Draw on the island’s unique cultural, linguistic, intellectual and ecological resources to inspire ‘wellbeing economy’ narratives in support of local and global responsibility for re-embedding our lives, livelihoods and systems within the social and ecological space defined by the ‘planetary boundaries’.

Feasta plays the secretariat role in the Hub, coordinating its meetings, helping to facilitate its external communications, and managing the Hub’s financial transactions. Seán Ó Conláin and Caroline Whyte are members of the Hub’s coordinating circle and contribute to the Hub’s strategic planning and activities.

In 2023 a major focus of the Hub was the ‘Cultural Creatives’ project, which benefited from seed funding from Carnegie UK and the IEN. The aim of the project (which is continuing into 2024 and beyond) is to expose ways in which a dominant economic narrative captures our popular imagination, and to mobilise creative, affirming cultural practices that present alternative world views.

We work with practising artists, activists and academics to animate and curate an island-wide conversation on the wellbeing economy, drawing from our island histories, narratives, language, mythologies, traditions and epistemologies that are often communicated in song, writing, theatre and other artistic/cultural interventions. While the Irish language is an important ingredient in the backdrop of culture, it is faced, like many minority/indigenous languages, with a complex set of challenges. Feasta has been working with others on a model of bilingual expression, which attempts to address some of these challenges - to protect the richness and unique nature of Irish, but also to recognise the advantages and pervasiveness of the English language.

The Cultural Creatives project brings together researchers, creative practitioners and activists to build a ‘community of practice’ (CoP) from around the island of Ireland. The CoP is intended to support storytellers, singers, film-makers, visual artists and writers in contributing to this process of imagining the island’s diverse landscape of language, communities and alternative socio-ecological narratives. In December 2023, a ‘Call to Action’ paper was published, which
is an invitation to participate in the Community of Practice. It is available for download from the WEAll Ireland website.

You can read about the many Cultural Creatives events that Feasta co-hosted with its fellow core Hub members in the course of 2023 on page 18.

Feasta European-level Networking and Partnerships in 2023

In addition to Feasta’s work in Ireland, we maintain a strong focus on research and advocacy at the European and global levels. This is because a number of the systemic-level changes to the economic system which Feasta members advocate would be most effective if they were implemented beyond the national level; indeed, an individual country would have great difficulty in ‘going it alone’ on them.

One example of this is Cap and Share, which would place a hard limit on the import of fossil fuels. If Ireland (or another EU member state) were to unilaterally impose such a limit, it could potentially run into problems with the EU’s Single Market regulations.

An EU-wide Cap and Share programme would not only bypass this problem; it would also be far more effective in bringing about significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions and in influencing the climate policies of countries elsewhere in the world. Caps on the supply of other raw materials (as advocated by our Beyond Extractivism group) would follow the same logic.

A second example of action that requires an EU focus is the reforms in the monetary system that are outlined on page 19. Since Ireland is a member of the Eurozone, it cannot unilaterally change the way in which its currency (the Euro) is introduced into the Irish economy. It also has to abide by EU-wide banking regulations.

More generally, the EU’s overarching governing documents and many of its policies currently include a focus on economic growth as a goal in itself, and this affects all of its Member States’ policymaking in myriad ways. This presents a challenge which, again, is probably best addressed on the European level.

On the positive side in Europe, the European Commission and several EU-funded research consortia are now exploring new economic models that are not dependent on GDP growth.
Feasta is working with partner Civil Society Organisations across the EU to encourage politicians and the Commission to increase this momentum in shifting Europe’s economic priorities towards a ‘post-growth’ Europe, by identifying concrete measures to help the process along. The types of measures that we and our partners are advocating are summed up in a [joint letter](#) which Feasta was a signatory to in May 2023.

Caroline was invited by the European Commission to two online workshops in March and April 2023, on ‘Alternative Visions to Measure Prosperity’ and “Regrounding Humanity in the Anthropocene”. The latter workshop was co-organised by the European Environment Agency.

The European Commission also invited Caroline to an in-person workshop on New Economic Models on November 17th. The latter workshop was jointly organised by the Club of Rome, DG Research and Innovation, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, and the Joint Research Center. (‘DG’s are branches of the European Commission which develop recommendations on EU-level laws.)

The day-long workshop consisted of a series of sessions that began with ‘provocative’ statements made by guest speakers, followed by a group discussion. There were around 60 participants, including global experts on ecological economics and on improving measurements of wellbeing, and the exchange was lively. Caroline spoke about the need for a more balanced world trade system and financial system, and the importance of rethinking debt on a global level.

This interest in European (and global) post-growth development pathways is shared by representatives of a wide range of political parties in the European Parliament, who joined forces in May 2023 to organise a major “Beyond Growth” conference. Two Feasta members, Seán Ó Conláin and Caroline Whyte, attended this conference in person, and we were inspired to begin planning a follow-on conference in Ireland in 2024, in collaboration with our fellow WEAll Ireland Hub members. Caroline was subsequently invited, courtesy of WEAll, to a smaller follow-on conference in Brussels in December 2023, which continued to explore the same issues and provided good opportunities for networking.

Caroline also attended two invitation-only in-person European CSO workshops in 2023. The first workshop took place over one day in Brussels immediately before the EU Parliament’s ‘Beyond Growth’ conference in May 2023 and helped to prepare participants for the conference, while the second took place in northern France over a period of three days in October 2023. Caroline was among the speakers in a session about the financial system at the first event. Again, these workshops were an excellent opportunity to develop ideas together and to network.
The EEB is a pan-European network of environmental NGOs which advocates for sustainable development, environmental justice and participatory democracy. Feasta has been a member of the EEB since 2022. We are active in the EEB’s Economic Transition and Climate and Energy groups. Both groups hold regular online meetings and occasional in-person meetings in Brussels. Feasta also participated online at the EEB’s 2023 annual conference and AGM.

Caroline Whyte gave a short talk on Cap and Share to the EEB’s Climate and Energy Group in Brussels in February 2023. She was invited to contribute an article on Cap and Share to the EEB’s META blog in March 2023, and this article was subsequently also published in a print magazine called ‘Imagining Europe Beyond Growth’ that was produced by the Green Foundation Europe, Oikos and the EEB. Over a thousand copies of the magazine were distributed freely at the ‘Beyond Growth’ conference in the European Parliament in May 2023, and it is available for free download.

Feasta’s work on the Real Deal project

Through the EEB, Feasta members Barbara McCarthy and Theresa O’Donohoe were employed by Feasta for two months of work in Ireland in May and June 2023 on the EU-funded REAL DEAL project. This Horizon 2020 project is jointly coordinated by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies and the EEB, and it aims at innovating public participation through deliberative processes around the European Green Deal and the transition to carbon neutrality, zero pollution and an economy that works for all with a strong focus on gender equality and sustainability. Theresa and Barbara organised four focus groups in Ireland, both online and in-person, in order to carry out empirical tests of deliberative formats and tools, and submitted their findings. Barbara wrote a report on findings from the Irish focus groups and from a similar set of focus groups in Austria, for the Global Climate Forum in Berlin. This is a three-year project, and a full report will be published by the project consortium on its completion.
European Union Wellbeing Economy Coalition

Feasta represents the WEAll Ireland Hub in this group of Civil Society Organisations which are advocating for a wellbeing economy at the European level. Members include social justice, trade union, environmental and health-oriented NGOs and research organisations. Caroline Whyte participated in regular online EU WEC meetings in the course of 2023. Along with fellow ecological economist Susana Martin Belmonte (who works for the Spanish think tank REVO), Caroline contributed a chapter on trade, taxation and the financial system to a discussion paper that the EU WEC produced in June 2023.

Globally focussed work by Feasta in 2023

A group of Feasta members who are based in North America met on a monthly basis throughout 2023 to promote Feasta ideas on the other side of the Atlantic. Feasta subject matter experts consulted with U.S. lawmakers on the wording of proposed cap-and-dividend
Caroline Whyte attended regular online Wellbeing Economy Alliance meetings on behalf of Feasta and the WEAll Ireland Hub, which include participants from East Asia, East Africa, South Africa, South America, Oceania and North America, and which provide an opportunity to forge links with like-minded organisations.

As mentioned on page 21, WEAll’s global team - who are based in 10 countries around the world - spent a week in Dublin in December 2023, and on the final day they met with WEAll Ireland Hub members and attended the WEAll Ireland Hub’s ‘Art of the Wellbeing Economy’ event. Two of them, Marina Gattás (Culture and Public Policy Lead) and Michael Weatherhead (Development Lead), spoke at the event.

Our 2023 work on Cap and Share, described on page 7, had a global focus. The newly-founded Cap and Share Climate Alliance has members in Africa, South America and Asia as well as Europe. Caroline Whyte was invited by the Club of Rome to participate in an online internal workshop in April 2023 which explored the potential of ‘social dividends’, as described in the Club of Rome’s recent publication Earth for All. This idea ties in closely with Universal Basic Income and Cap and Share. Caroline also participated in two public online Club of Rome workshops on global economic system change in the course of the year.

Events that Feasta hosted or co-hosted

2023 WEAll Ireland Hub events

‘The Art of the Wellbeing Economy’

In this webinar on March 29th, ecological economist Tim Jackson explored the three questions being examined in the WEAll Ireland’s Cultural Creatives project.

• How do narratives sustain the myth of economic growth?
• What is the role of the artist in guiding society to a liberating ‘social imaginary’?
• Can limits be strangely liberating?

The session, which had 60 participants, was introduced by Caroline Whyte and chaired by Peter Doran (QUB/ WEAll Ireland) who gave an overview of the Cultural Creatives project. Following a presentation from Tim Jackson we heard from two respondents – Jo Mangan, the Artistic Director/CEO of The Performance Corporation, and David Bollier, the author and commons activist. Marina Gattás, the Communications and Narratives Co-Lead at the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) gave a final reflection.
’The Art of the Wellbeing Economy’

WEAll Cultural Creatives Deep Dive, Playhouse Theatre, Derry/Londonderry,

The WEAll Ireland Hub invited a group of 20 people to Derry to help launch a Community of Practice (CoP) for artists, creatives and activists dedicated to shifting the public narrative on our economy (see page 13). The project aims to build the capacity of CoP members to better understand and create new place-based ‘local imaginaries’. These will help inspire people to imagine and work towards a regenerative and equitable future.

During this initial Deep Dive, the group had a series of workshops and discussions to explore the island’s diverse landscape of language, communities and alternative socio-ecological narratives. We also had hybrid presentations and discussions with two experts on the role of narrative in system change, Sandra Waddock and David Bollier.
Idir dhá Chultúr: Negotiating paradigm change

In this bilingual webinar (Irish and English) on June 12th, Professor Peadar Kirby explored the paradigm change necessary for the transition to an economy that prioritises human and ecological wellbeing, in contrast to the current pursuit of economic growth as a goal. There were responses from Professor Mary Murphy and Eóin Ó Cuinneagáin.

WEAll Local to Global: the Art of the Wellbeing Economy

In this online event on June 22, Caroline Whyte, David Somekh, Peter Doran and Kevin Murphy were invited to give an outline to members of the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance of the WEAll Ireland hub’s ‘Cultural Creative’ project (see page 13).

WEAll Cultural Creatives Deep Dive, Cloughjordan

This two-day Deep Dive in July 2023 was led by Cultivate and Feasta as part of their IEN-funded ‘Creatively Building Back Better’ project. It fostered dialogue and collaboration among Cultural Creatives, activists, and community leaders to explore pathways towards a Wellbeing Economy. The two days were filled with workshops, walks and musical and spoken word performances. The findings from our discussions during this Deep Dive proved useful for the Hub’s ‘Call to Action’ paper (see page 14).
The Wellbeing Economy – Let’s Change the Story

This WEAll Ireland Hub webinar on Saturday July 1 was part of the Cloughjordan Deep Dive described above. Kate Petriw, who is WEAll’s Communications and Narratives Co-Lead, gave an overview of the research that the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance has been doing on messaging and narratives on the wellbeing economy.

‘Art of the Wellbeing Economy’ event

On December 15th, 2023, the Wellbeing Economy Ireland Hub hosted ‘The Art of the Wellbeing Economy’ at the Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin. This gathering had a multifaceted agenda. Participants included the members of the WEAll Global Amp Team and representatives of the Carnegie UK Trust. The event served as a platform to introduce WEAll Ireland to a wider audience, extending an invitation to like-minded individuals and organisations to join the alliance. It launched the Culture Creatives ‘Call to Action’, a pioneering project aimed at shifting the narrative around the economy on the island of Ireland, highlighting the transformative power of art and culture.

The event was also a celebration of the progress made so far in the project, offering a sample of the artistic contributions from the ‘Cultural Creatives’ Community of Practice, including artistic performances by Israh Castro, Cait Ni Riain and Mel White, and the first screening of the short film ‘Seeding the Future’ by Donal O’Céailleachar.

Above all, it extended a warm and inclusive invitation for all participants to join the Community of Practice, emphasising its collaborative spirit, celebration of diversity and shared commitment to catalysing positive change.
Feasta and the WEAll Ireland Hub received a letter of support from Luke Sweeney at the office of President Michael D Higgins in advance of our December 15 event, which stated:

“On behalf of President Michael D Higgins, may I extend his warm greetings to all in Feasta and also to your colleagues in the WEAll Ireland Hub, ahead of your upcoming event on the wellbeing economy.

This event is a significant step in fostering dialogue on the wellbeing economy, in the aim of creating a more holistic and sustainable economic model that goes beyond purely financial metrics. In considering factors such as health, education, and social connections as essential components of a thriving economy, prioritising human wellbeing and environmental sustainability, and focusing on social goals, equity, and overall quality of life, the wellbeing economy can align with our shared vision for a more compassionate, just, sustainable, fair and equitable future.

The President commends your efforts in exploring how artists can challenge the dominant social landscape to contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable society. Art has the power to shape perceptions and provoke meaningful conversations, making it a crucial ally in reimagining our economic narrative. The President was also delighted to learn that a short film by filmmaker Dónal Ó Céilleachar will be screened at this event.

In sending on his best wishes to all at Feasta and the WEAll Ireland Hub, the President expresses his sincere appreciation for your dedication to promoting the wellbeing economy.

He wishes you all a most successful event, and he looks forward to the positive impact your endeavours will undoubtedly have on advancing the principles of the wellbeing economy in Ireland and beyond.”
Seán Ó Conláin introducing the December 15 event in Smock Alley

Mel White performing on December 15

Visual harvest from the December 15 event by Claire Coughlan and Helen O’Keefe

WEAll’s Marina Gattás speaking at the December 15 event
Other 2023 events that were hosted or co-hosted by Feasta

‘Mining, minerals and limits: Grounding the Green Transition’

This online event on February 1st was co-hosted by Feasta, CAIM and Futureproof Clare, and was facilitated by Emma Karran, the convenor of Feasta’s Beyond Extractivism group. We heard first from Fidelma O’Kane, who talked about her experience in Save Our Sperrins, an environmental interest group based in the heart of the Sperrins in County Tyrone who want to see good planning in the public interest. Next, Gerry McGovern, the author of “World Wide Waste”, spoke about the history of mining and the issues and challenges arising from the adoption of ‘post-fossil-fuel’ technology.

Finally, Caroline Whyte of Feasta discussed the economic dynamics behind current mining policy, the potential for these to change, and a possible future strategy for those who support the green transition to renewable energy but who also wish to ensure that we do not just careen from the fossil-fuel ‘frying pan’ straight into the mineral ‘fire’.

Time in the Woods: Observing through the senses in Edergole Woods

Event: an afternoon’s experience in a small mixed woodland in Edergole (Eadargóil – from ‘Eadra ghabhail’ … the land between a fork in two small rivers) in Co. Leitrim
Date: Sunday May 21st 2023

This event was hosted by academic and artist Vanya Lambrecht Ward, Seán Ó Conláin and his partner Bríd. They took an experiential approach to the time the participants were spending in the woodland. Through a series of prompts, using all their senses, the participants were encouraged to observe and collect any aspect
of the biodiversity around them during their walk. There was a choice of walks and pace and each participant was furnished with a booklet in which they could respond with their own thoughts, drawings, sounds etc. These were collected at the end of the walks and will be collated and made into a small zine publication which will be distributed to participants.

The afternoon continued with a tasting session of 9 different flavours of pesto made from local ingredients from the woodland as part of the extended sensory experience.

Conversations and responsive conversation was had with a cup of tea and a brief explanatory talk was held on Chromatography of the soils around Edergole Woods. This and many other conversations around heritage, soil, biodiversity, land use and other fascinating topics flowed between participants and hosts completing a rich and generous afternoon.

*Bhain an 22 duine a tháinig (as 30 cláraithe) an-taitneamh as tairbhe as an ócáid de réir an aiseolais.*

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**Launch of the Cap and Share Climate Alliance**

The [Cap and Share Climate Alliance](https://www.feasta.org/2023/09/15/how-to-fund-climate-justice-launch-of-the-new-cap-and-share-climate-alliance-aug-10/) (see page 7) had a very successful online launch on August 10th, with speakers from Zambia, Zimbabwe, India, Mexico, France, the UK and the US. Mike Sandler introduced and helped to facilitate the launch, and Caroline Whyte spoke about Feasta’s role in the Alliance. The event was chaired by Harjeet Singh of the Climate Action Network International and included the presentation of a paper by Laura Bannister of the UK-based NGO Equal Right.

Events with the participation of Feasta members

International Degrowth Conference, Zagreb, Croatia

Caroline Whyte attended this 4-day conference in late August and early September and gave two presentations during it: one on Cap and Share; and one on the financial system. The latter presentation in particular generated a vigorous debate. Feasta member Barry McMullin also attended the conference and gave a presentation on the legal situation regarding climate change mitigation in Ireland.

Barry McMullin and Caroline Whyte at the International Degrowth Conference in Zagreb, Sept 2023

Electric Picnic Festival

Roisin Markham, the founder of the Irish Doughnut Economic Network (IDEN) attended the Electric Picnic festival on behalf of Feasta, and facilitated a participative workshop in the Green Space on ‘Stepping Into the Doughnut’. She also contributed to panel discussions on regenerative economics, resilient communities and appropriate digitisation.

Stepping Into the Doughnut workshop led by Irish Doughnut Economics Network founder and Feasta member Roisin Markham, Electric Picnic Festival, Sept 2023
Anne Ryan - Dublin Economics Workshop

Feasta was invited to participate in the Dublin Economics Workshop in Wexford, on Sept 23 2023. Anne Ryan spoke on behalf of Feasta. The theme addressed by her panel was ‘The state of economics, the planet and wellbeing’.

Frank Barry from Trinity College Dublin’s School of Economics and Fiachra Kennedy from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform also spoke on this panel. Anne’s contribution suggested the necessity of a smaller, fairer, world economy, which could deliver decent living standards for all, globally, while staying within planetary boundaries. She focussed on the need for system-interventions and focussed on two such interventions: Cap and Share and a Social Wage (including universal public services and a universal basic income).

Caritas International symposium on climate change and migration

Caroline spoke on a panel at a symposium on climate change and migration that was organised by Caritas International in Berne, Switzerland on October 16th. The panel was on “Rapid mitigation and thinking beyond growth: Avoiding the worst impacts of climate change – including on migration”. The other panellists included Till Kellerhof from the Club of Rome, Andrea Rota, the sustainability officer from the Swiss supermarket chain Migros, and Sebastian König from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.

ESRI Geary Lecture by President Michael D Higgins

On November 24, Seán Ó Conlán, Anne Ryan and Caroline Whyte were invited to the ESRI Geary Lecture, which was given by President Michael D Higgins at the Áras an Uachtarán. The President’s lecture was entitled “Studying and Responding to “Globalisation from Below: A Project that Offers New Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Work”. It was followed by a reception with tea and coffee, and all three Feasta members had a chance to exchange a few words with the President and other participants.
Communications

Submission on the Irish National Risk Assessment’s Draft List of Strategic Risks

2023

This submission, made in February 2023, was a response to a consultation call by the Department of the Taoiseach. It recommends that three categories of risk be added to the Draft List of Strategic Risks:

• environmental and economic risks arising from economic growth dependency
• stress-related health risks, including addiction
• reputational and environmental risks, and risks to multilateralism, arising from corporate taxation policy

We argued that the Irish Government will find itself unable to successfully alleviate many of the complex and deeply challenging risks that it is facing unless it questions a number of widely-held assumptions concerning the nature of economic success or failure, and that a change in mindset will be a prerequisite for finding a way forward.
Website

The Feasta website continued to act as a platform for sharing ‘Feasta ideas’ and publicising our events. Links to 2023 Feasta website articles are interspersed through this Annual Report, and we’ve included a few ‘extras’ below.

2023 blog articles

COP-27 Reflections: Loss and Damage, and Cap and Share by Mike Sandler January 23 2023
Mike Sandler commented that while the creation of a Loss and Damage Fund “may provide some needed relief to impacted countries… it does not address the cause, an economic system dependent on fossil fuel combustion and driven by an infinite-economic-growth mindset and institutions”.

Another Teachable Moment from the Return of the Trillion Dollar Coin by Mike Sandler
January 26 2023
The discussion in the US about its debt ceiling prompted Mike Sandler to comment that “As the Vatican learned with Galileo, the truth has a way of resurfacing. Be on the lookout for debt-free, interest-free money, coming soon to a country-needlessly-plunged-into-recession-by-austerity near you.”

“What does it mean to say we need a complete overhaul, or the end of capitalism? Is it an impossible utopia?” asked Mike in this review of two ‘vintage’ environmentalist novels.

Environmental Justice and Carbon Pricing in California
Feasta intern Elsa Cuenca-Rubio wrote that “although California climate policies have good intentions, to be truly sustainable, they need to support minority and disproportionately impacted communities, while also combating climate change.”
Podcasts

In 2023 we had another successful run of ‘Bridging the Gaps’ podcasts in collaboration with the European Health Futures Forum. David Somekh, Seán Ó Conláin and Caroline Whyte interviewed eleven guests, based in six countries, on a wide range of themes connected to Feasta’s and the EHFF’s work. Details on the interviews are below.

**Podcast 1: Wellbeing Frameworks – challenges and progress**
*January 2023*
Seán Ó Conláin and Caroline Whyte spoke with Margreet Frieling, the knowledge co-lead at the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll), about her experience with the New Zealand wellbeing framework and in WEAll, coordinating a global policymakers network on wellbeing frameworks along with the Zoe Institute, and sharing information on case studies of ‘wellbeing economics’ in action.

**Podcast 2: Community Wealth Building and the next economic system**
*February 2023*
FEASTA and EHFF - Community Wealth Building and the next economic system
Caroline Whyte spoke with Sarah McKinley, who is the director of community wealth building programs for The Democracy Collaborative. Sarah explained what Community Wealth Building is, its relationship to social enterprise, how she came to be working in the field, and how Community Wealth Building can help us to visualise and plan towards a more regenerative economic system.

**Podcast 3: Politicians and the Wellbeing Economy**
*March 2023*
David Somekh of the EHFF and Caroline Whyte interviewed Laura Rayner, who is a policy analyst at the European Policy Centre in Brussels. Laura is currently working on the Wellbeing Economy Policy Lab, which is a crosscutting work programme to analyse how the EU can develop and implement policies leading to a more equitable, socially inclusive and regenerative economy. The Lab’s objectives
are to help build a political consensus for a wellbeing economy, and to formulate wellbeing-oriented policy recommendations through multi-disciplinary dialogues and analyses.

Podcast 4: Beyond Growth, Beyond Europe…and Beyond Politics
June 2023
In this podcast, Seán Ó Conláin and Caroline Whyte exchanged some thoughts on the European Parliament’s recent conference, “Beyond Growth: Pathways Towards Sustainable Prosperity in the EU,” which they both attended from May 15-17.

They placed the conference in the context of a highly unbalanced world trade system that strongly favours the Global North, and of a very worrying potential swing to the far right in next year’s European elections. Nonetheless, the Parliament provided a platform and forum for an impressive group of high-profile degrowth and post-growth speakers, and the building was jammed with enthusiastic young people. (Parliament staff said they had never seen anything like it.)

For this discussion, Seán and Caroline picked out a few talks – on economic models, the EU fiscal framework and the global financial system – given during Plenaries 5 and 6 by Gael Giraud, Phillipa Sigl-Glöckner and Ann Pettifor.

Podcast 5: Three horizons, hope and the future
July 2023
David Somekh and Caroline Whyte interview futurist Bill Sharpe, author of the book ‘Three Horizons: the Patterning of Hope’. Bill explains how he came to be working in this area, the potential offered by the Three Horizons method, and describes some recent projects in healthcare and regenerative agriculture.

Podcast 6: Transforming the treadmill – work in a post-growth economy
July 2023
Caroline Whyte spoke with Katy Wiese, the Policy Manager for Economic Transition and Gender Equality at the European Environmental Bureau, and Jan Mayrhofer, the Policy and Advocacy Manager for Sustainability at the European Youth Forum.

Katy and Jan discussed the recommendations in their co-authored report ‘Escaping the Jobs and Growth Treadmill,’ their impressions of the European Parliament’s recent Beyond Growth conference — including Katy’s experience on a panel
discussing shorter working hours – and some potential next steps at the EU level to help achieve a post-growth, wellbeing-oriented European economy. 

Image source: still from Modern Times by Charlie Chaplin, 1936

Podcast 7: Healthcare on a burning platform
Sept 2023
FEASTA and EHFF - Healthcare on a burning platform
David Somekh of the EHFF and Caroline Whyte spoke with Bogi Eliasen, the Director of Health at the Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies (CIFS). Bogi initiated the Nordic Health 2030 process and has a key role in both the global Future Proofing Health Index and Movement Health 2030 that aspires to improve health by applying a new health paradigm. His current focus is facilitating the shift and building bridges between the fields of personal and public health. Conversation topics included whether the goal of healthcare should be to have a good healthcare service or good health, how to support the 90% in living more healthily and sustainably, the best measurements of health to use in Wellbeing Frameworks, and the fact that countries are a social construction and we need global action.

Podcast 8: Taking stock and moving forward in environmental politics
Oct 2023
Seán Ó Conláin and Caroline Whyte spoke with Molly Scott Cato. Molly was formerly a Professor of Green Economics and speaks for the Green Party of England and Wales on Economy and Finance. She recently published a book on Sustainable Finance (Springer, 2022).

Topics covered in our discussion included Molly’s experience as an MEP and her reflections on the European Parliament’s role, the dynamics within the UK which led to Brexit, the challenges involved in achieving environmental and social progress within flawed political systems, and the importance of the arts and culture in bringing about change.

Podcast 9: Resilience in times of turbulence
Nov 2023
David Somekh and Caroline Whyte interviewed Professor Jane Gray of Maynooth University Department of Sociology on her research on resilience in times of crisis. We discussed two projects that she recently led which explored the ways in which families coped with the wake of the Great Financial Crisis and, in the case of Ireland, how the Family Income Supplement affected them.

Topics discussed included differing understandings of poverty
and hardship, the need to avoid placing all of the burden of overcoming poverty and other difficult challenges on individuals or individual households, the circumstances which make it particularly hard for families to ‘bounce back’ from adversity, the role of commons in helping people to meet their needs during times of crisis, and the importance of support that is broadly based, rather than narrowly targeted.

**Podcast 10: The importance of being seen**  
*Dec 2023*  
Thobile Chittenden, network co-lead of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll), speaks with Seán Ó Conláin about her early childhood at the end of the apartheid regime in South Africa and how that experience influenced her, leading eventually to her decision to join the WEAll global amplification team.

Topics covered in their conversation also include the importance of people and communities being seen and recognised in order to heal from past traumas and abuses, the frustration generated by attempts to achieve progress within a corporate world which has not changed its core values, alternative approaches being explored in the Makers Valley initiative in Johannesburg, and the need to bring about global economic system change in order to support grassroots activism.

**Other Communications**

Caroline Whyte had 2 letters published in the Irish Times; the first, in *April 2023*, was in relation to a controversy over a speech that President Michael D Higgins had made in April 2023, in which he criticised the ‘obsession with economic growth’ of some economists.

The second, in June 2023, was under the heading *“Green growth’ is a risk-laden economic goal”*

Caroline Whyte co-authored a blog article on the WEAll Ireland Hub’s Derry/Londonderry Deep Dive that was published on the Carnegie UK website in June 2023.

Caroline was also interviewed by Bridget Meehan for the Z Net website, in July 2023. They spoke about Feasta’s purpose and the need to improve measurements of progress.

As mentioned above, Caroline also wrote a blog article on Cap and Share in March 2023 for the EEB’s META website, which was subsequently also published in the ‘Imagining Europe Beyond Growth’ magazine.
Funding and Fundraising

Core funding
In 2023, as in previous years, Feasta received core funding from the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), along with donations and membership subscriptions from individual supporters. This core funding is invaluable to Feasta as it enables us to continue with our core administrative and advocacy work.

Project funding
On behalf of the WEAll Ireland Hub, Feasta received project funding from the Carnegie UK Trust for the Cultural Creatives project described on page 13, and from the IEN (in partnership with Cultivate) for a related Wellbeing Economy project which is to be carried out in 2024, including support for a planned ‘Rethinking Growth’ conference in June 2024.

Through the European Environmental Bureau, we also received funding to support two employees to carry out work on the EU’s REAL DEAL project, as described on page 16.

Fundraising
In the course of 2023 Feasta made several project funding applications: two to the IEN for projects on energy and on the wellbeing economy in 2024 (in partnership, respectively, with the Green Foundation Ireland and Cultivate); and one to the Irish Department of Foreign Affair’s Shared Island Fund, for Cultural Creatives work (on behalf of the WEAll Ireland Hub).

We learnt in early 2024 that all three of these project applications were successful, and the projects will be carried out in the course of 2024-25.

In 2023 Feasta was part of a pan-European bidding consortium for an EU agriculture research project called ENERGISED. This funding application was unsuccessful, but we have well-established links with academic institutions and NGOs across the EU and are continuing to actively seek out EU-level funding alongside our partners in other member states.

In late 2023, Feasta applied successfully for a fundraising membership programme organised by the IEN. This mentorship will enable us to benefit from tailored advice on diversifying our income from an experienced charity fundraiser in the course of 2024. Plans include expanding our existing database of potential funders, fine-tuning our strategy for attracting foundation funding, and improving our outreach to members and potential individual donors. We also plan, with guidance from our mentor, to develop a coherent legacy fundraising strategy.
Financial snapshot

Note: This is a general overview of Feasta’s finances in 2023. As our accounts for 2023 have not yet been audited, there may be some minor modifications to the data below. Our audited 2023 accounts will be published on the Feasta website in the course of 2024.

Annual turnover for 2023: €110062.63
Feasta (the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability) is a member of the Irish Environmental Network, the Environmental Pillar, Stop Climate Chaos, the European Environmental Bureau and the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance, and a partner of the International Movement for Monetary Reform.

http://www.Feasta.org

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Podcast 6: still from Modern Times by Charlie Chaplin, 1936
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Pg 33 Podcast 10: Makers Valley