

13.2. CLIMATE JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION – Why is this a Global Justice Issue?

Heat waves, floods, hurricanes and drought and killing and displacing communities across the world. There is no country not affected by climate change and our greenhouse gas emissions are more than 50% higher than those in 1990. However, climate change is already a deadly reality for many communities globally. Global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system which threatens to have irreversible consequences if we do not act.

Climate Justice is the reality that it is those that contribute least to climate change (through their emissions) are the ones that are impacted first and worst. This is crux for understanding Climate Change as a Justice issue. As Ireland has the 3rd highest greenhouse gas emissions per person in the Europe – there is a lot of scope to take action to redress this global justice issue at a local level.

GLOBAL GOAL INDICATOR:

Global Goal 13 states that we need to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’. Many of the indicators relate to adapting and mitigating (stopping) climate change – and supporting countries and communities who are already vulnerable and seriously affected by climate change. 13.2 relates to integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. This will be essential to create meaningful change.

SUGGESTED AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Impact of Climate related disasters on vulnerable communities worldwide.
- Climate Change Bill in Ireland
- Farming industry in Ireland
- Divestment and phasing out Fossil Fuels

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS:

- Science
- Geography
- Religious Education
- CSPE

TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS:

Resource Pack:

Trocaire (2015,16,17) Climate Change, Climate Justice

Overview: Three resources launched over three years:

1. Science of Climate Change and how it affects different people
<https://www.trocaire.org/education/climate-change/post-primary>

2. Changing climate, global impacts and how we contribute to it at home:
<https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/education/lent2016/post-primary-teacher-resource.pdf>

3. Taking action -
<https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/education/lent2017/english-post-primary-resources-2017.pdf>

Content: Includes curriculum links, teacher notes, activities and resources/worksheets.

More Resources: Go to their website to find more information and resources for each of the years: <https://www.trocaire.org/education/climate-change/post-primary>

Development Perspectives - Global Goal 13 Resource Pack

Overview: This kit is split into 4 sections – The goal, understand, act and share. Includes articles websites, campaigns and documentaries.

Content: It looks at Climate Change and the key areas of Fossil Fuel Divestment, Food and Agriculture and Climate Change and Ireland.

Link:<https://www.developmentperspectives.ie/SDGChallenge/InformationPacks/SDG%2013%20Climate%20Action.pdf>

Games:

Trocaire (2018) Project Honduras

Overview: ‘Project Honduras’ is a strategy game where the primary goal is to show how important it is for communities to work together to combat climate change.

Link: <https://www.trocaire.org/education/resources/project-honduras>

Short Clips/ Videos:

Great Thunberg – Speeches

Greta Thunberg full speech at UN Climate Change COP24 Conference

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFkQSGyeCWg>

Great Thunberg – Ted talk “School strike for climate - save the world by changing the rules”

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAmUIEsN9A>

Trocaire (2015) Drop in the Ocean –

Overview: “Climate change is the biggest threat facing humanity today and yet our political systems refuse to move quickly enough to do anything about it. It threatens to undo all the gains that have been made against poverty in recent decades. But how does it affect Ireland and where do we fit in the global picture? ‘Drop in the Ocean?’ talks to some of Ireland’s leading environmental scientists, writers and activists to find out.

Note: Good overview of Climate Change, the context of Ireland's role and the impact that climate change is having on others in the world. Slightly older now so does not have the current UN data

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtIYyuJjACw

Documentaries:

Cowspiracy

Overview: A documentary that highlights the impact that animal agriculture is having on the planet.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtIYyuJjACw

Range of documentaries:

Link: <https://gofossilfree.org/europe/films>

Climate Action Map:

Schools Climate Action Network (SCAN) climate strike map

The map allows you to 'host' of an event at your school or in a local area. You'll need to create an account to save the action, but it's fairly quick and once completed allows others in your area to get in touch with you directly. For example students and teachers in Limerick, can communicate with one another directly and organise themselves in whatever way suits them best, without needing to go through the Schools' Climate Action Network. Any questions

email schoolsclimateactionnetwork@gmail.com

Link: http://event_campaigns://www.actionnetwork.org//climate-strike-map

INFORMATION WEBSITES:

United Nations – Climate Change

Includes an overview of Climate Change, UN Panels, reports and legal instruments including an overview of the agreements and summits.

Link: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>

United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals- Goal 13

Includes an overview of Climate Change, facts and figures, links, infographics, an overview of Climate Action Summit, the IPCC Climate Report of 2018, the Paris Agreement and other conventions etc

Link: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

An Taisce (2015) The Case for Fossil Fuel Divestment

This is a 15-page booklet making the case for educational and religious institutions, governments, and other organisations that serve the public good to divest from fossil fuels, as well as suggested further reading. There are 6 sections with the following headings: What is Fossil Free? What is Divestment? Why Divest? The Science. The Carbon Budget

Link: <https://developmenteeducation.ie/resource/the-case-for-fossil-fuel-divestment/>

GRASSROOTS/ TEACHER/ STUDENT LED CAMPAIGNS

'Schools' Climate Action Network Ireland'

Who: Set up by teachers, it's a network connecting students, teachers and their schools in Ireland calling for urgent action to prevent climate breakdown and ensure a just and sustainable future. The network aims to empower and facilitate students to work together to achieve key demands for climate action, decided democratically by students in the member schools. Students discuss and propose key demands to make of their government within their own schools. These proposals are discussed further and agreed between students from across the network at an interschools meeting.

Link: <https://form.jotformeu.com/83521871535358>

Fridays For Future Ireland

Who: They are a branch of the global #FridaysForFuture movement. This is a network of Irish student climate activists leading Fridays For Future school strikes across Ireland in solidarity with Greta Thunberg and other school strikers across the globe. Their aim is to force the Irish government into taking action on climate change in Ireland, they want the Irish government to align itself with its commitments to the Paris Agreement and to do their part in lowering our emissions to the point where we can limit global climate change to a 1.5 degree average warming target.

Link: www.fridaysforfuture.ie

School Strikes 4 Climate (SS4C)

This is a website developed by a group of Irish Students who are “dedicated to raising awareness and forcing action on the Climate Crisis”. They have posted some videos for other students to “get up to speed” on climate change.

Link: <http://www.schoolstrikes4climate.ie>

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Friends of the Earth - Ireland

Friends of the Earth campaigns for environmental justice and sustainability. There are a number of blogs and campaigns on their website including ones related to our Bogs, Solar Panels, Oil and Gas Exploration, plastics and have Solar Schools competition. They offer information on each and an online petition to take action.

Link: <https://www.youngfoe.ie/about/>

Stop Climate Chaos

Stop Climate Chaos are a “coalition of 30+ civil society organisations campaigning to ensure Ireland does its fair share to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change”. They run campaigns you can get involved in e.g. phasing out fossil fuels, respect the citizens assembly and focus on travel.

Link: <https://www.stopclimatechaos.ie>

Young Friends of the Earth

Young Friends of the Earth are “a volunteer activist group working to advance global climate justice by mobilising and inspiring people to join the movement in Ireland!”. They have a really good resource section. Not all will be relevant for the school setting but there are a few that could be useful.

Link: <https://www.youngfoe.ie/about/>

ACTIONS - CREATING CHANGE:

Ideas for Political Action:

- Organise students to write letters to their local councils and TDs about Ireland's commitments (see the recommendations made by the Citizens' Assembly and Friends of the Earth outlined here)

Ideas for School/ Community Actions:

Climate Strikes – within and outside of school

There are a number of popular options for actions students can undertake in the school:

- Attend a strike – locally or national events
- Have a walk out but confine it to the school grounds like a fire alarm-encourage students to bring their placards-invite the local media to report on it.
- Have a Friday For Future event in your school to mark key strike dates
- Organise students to write letters to their local councils and TDs about Ireland's commitments (see the recommendations made by the Citizens' Assembly and Friends of the Earth outlined here)

Ideas for Behaviour Change Actions:

Create a Vegan Challenge in the school for students to try for one week.

Tips and Ideas for Teachers

Ideas for teacher to support interested students to organise climate actions/ Strike

- **Interschool Planning Meeting** – Students and their teachers who are interested in taking an active role in the strikes organise a meeting. Here students can decide the time and date of a strike action together. They can then invite students from their schools to join. These meetings have already been happening and successful in Cork and Dublin.
- **Student Meetings** - pick a day and time for a student meeting in your school. Get together with any students who are interested in your school e.g. at lunchtime and create space for them to discuss and decide on a strike action they will take. This action could take any form! They could then place their action on the map. It could be a walk to a city or town hall, or a strike outside the school gates or anything else they can come up with.
- **Use Existing Forums** - Create space for students to discuss and decide what they'd like to do via an existing forum in your school - e.g. Student Council, CSPE class, green schools committee, YSI or ECO-UNESCO group, Young Scientists group, TY group.

Tips for guiding students on taking action

1. Talk to your students about the strike and explain this campaign to them if they do not know yet. Show them Greta's video and host discussions.
2. Do a lesson on climate change so the students understand the issue.

3. Ask them if they'd like to strike and give them your support.
4. Support students to organise and plan strike
5. Register action on the Schools Climate Action Network (SCAN) map (see below)
6. Talk to fellow teachers to inspire them to do the same with their students.
7. Speak with the school administration along with fellow teachers to show your support for the school students taking a stand to protect our future.
8. Assure parents who may be uncertain or opposed and support your students.
9. Join the strike with your students if possible!
10. Make placards or construct messages based on the advice in this document (see below)