



# Talking about the challenges of Climate Change

Climate change means significant disturbances for the environment and our way of life. For years, messages coming from scientific reports, news headlines, social media feeds and government awareness campaigns have brought public attention to this critical issue. Yet, as climate change is becoming more real, it is increasingly important to look at the many ways in which climate change collectively and individually affect us.

Critical questions include:

- **How is climate change affecting communities in Ireland?**
- **What are the benefits and drawbacks of promoting a low carbon energy system?**
- **What is a good vision for Ireland for a climate resilient future?**



Ireland faces considerable challenges in tackling climate change and moving away from a carbon based society. Ireland's current target is for 16% of the country's total energy consumption to come from renewable energy sources by 2020 and to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide to between 80-95% by 2050. All current projections indicate that Ireland is not on track to meet these targets. Novel approaches are required to engage everyone in making this shift towards a sustainable and climate resilient future.

**Imagining2050** seeks to engage with Irish society in all its richness and diversity to explore and develop in a collaborative manner visions and pathways to an environmental and socially inclusive future.

The **Imagining2050** project is hosted by the Environmental Research Institute in UCC and the team is composed of highly experienced researchers from diverse

backgrounds, with a combination of researchers from University College Cork and Queens University Belfast. We hope to make use of this expertise to develop a more unified vision, which links different strands of science with various community and local perspectives.

Between 2019 and 2020 we will be engaging with local communities, state organisations and other groups to develop scenarios. These will not only provide a starting base for what our future could look like in 2050 but it will also help test out ways of genuinely connecting with different communities in a collaborative process.

This collaborative work will contribute to the development of the National Dialogue on Climate Action.



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