# **Centre for Law & the Environment UCC**

# **Digital Badge in Climate Law and Governance for Engaged Citizenship**

**2020/21**

**Seminar 3**

**Recommended Advance Preparation for class on 2 December 2020**

In advance of our third online class, which will take place on Wednesday, 2 December 2020 from 6-8pm, it would be helpful for you to prepare the materials marked **\*** below. There is also a set of questions to consider which is designed to assist you in identifying key points from these materials.

There are three overarching themes which we will explore further at our next class: 1) the new State of the Environment Report published by the Environmental Protection Agency; 2) further, deeper analysis of *Climate Case Ireland*; and 3) the role of research and advocacy in bringing about change in law and policy.

1. **Ireland’s Environment: An Integrated Assessment 2020**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published *Ireland’s Environment: An Integrated Assessment 2020* (November 2020) – full text of the report and other related resources [here](http://epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/stateoftheenvironmentreport/) for future reference – including an excellent short video.

As regards advance preparation for class, and useful background material for your own analysis of the current state of play in terms of environmental protection / environmental governance, the **\***[Executive Summary](http://epa.ie/media/EPA-Ireland%27s-Environment-2020-Summary.pdf) from this important report provides an excellent overview – note in particular the comments on Climate and Nature on pp15 and 16.

1. **Further and deeper analysis of *Climate Case Ireland***

**\***David Boyd, ‘Why all human rights depend on a healthy environment’ *The Conversation* 27 October 2020. Available [here](https://theconversation.com/amp/why-all-human-rights-depend-on-a-healthy-environment-148689?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=bylinetwitterbutton&__twitter_impression=true).

‘Irish Supreme Court quashes Government’s climate action plan’ *PILA Bulletin* (Public Interest Law Alliance) 19 August 2020. Available [here.](https://www.pila.ie/resources/bulletin/2020/08/19/irish-supreme-court-quashes-governments-climate-action-plan/)

**Webinar recording:** Planning Environmental and Local Government Bar Association (PELGBA) webinar, *Implications of the Supreme Court Judgment in Climate Case Ireland,* 6 October 2020

If you scroll down the PELGBA home page [here](https://www.pelgba.ie/), you will see ‘**Open Access Recording**’. This is the link that will bring you to the recording of the webinar.

***Sincere thanks to the PELGBA Committee for agreeing to make this recording ‘open access’ and available for use as a teaching resource in Law Schools.***

1. **Research and Advocacy**

**Podcast**

‘Tell Me in Ten’ with JP Quinn, Head of UCC Visitors’ Centre, is a podcast recorded for [Cork Discovers 2020](https://www.corkdiscovers.org/) and European Researchers’ Night, which took place on 27 November 2020.

On this podcast, JP Quinn interviews Áine Ryall about her research and advocacy work on climate law and governance. Podcast is online [here](https://www.corkdiscovers.org/other-resources) (it has been submitted to iTunes and Spotify).

There is a set of questions below to prompt you to identify some of the key points arising from these materials and to set the scene for our class discussion on Wednesday.

**Please consider the following questions in advance of class:**

What aspects of Ireland’s environment / environment policy has the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified as posing particular challenges?

What is the thinking behind the idea of **a national policy position for Ireland’s environment** as recommended by the EPA?

What role do human rights / constitutional rights play in environmental protection / climate action?

What role does research and advocacy play in driving reform of law and policy?