

**CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION:
WHAT WE CAN DO OURSELVES – SOME IDEAS**

| A. AT HOME | B. IN OUR LIVES & COMMUNITY | C. LOBBYING & NETWORKING |
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| <p>A.1: Inform ourselves about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the linked issues of climate change and biodiversity loss; - the growing scientific evidence and public consensus that these represent an urgent threat to life on our planet - an emergency on the global, national & local levels – and that ‘there is no Planet B’; and - the sort of action that needs to be taken to halt this - at all levels and by ourselves. <p>Know that, though this crisis is massive and immediate, it <u>can</u> be addressed through concerted. Urgent action and that we <u>all</u> have a part to play</p> | <p>B.1: Become a local advocate and activist on climate change and biodiversity loss – share knowledge and concerns about these issues and the need for urgent climate action to everyone we know - family, friends, neighbours, community, the local Council and the government</p> | <p>C.1: While welcoming recent declarations by Government & Wicklow CC of a national and local ‘Biodiversity & Climate Change Emergency’, the increasing public awareness of the need for urgent effective action to combat these, and the pro-environment election results, we must use our power as citizens and voters to press national, local and European Parliament representatives to step up and speed up planning and concrete action to levels which match what they have now admitted to be an ‘emergency’</p> <p>C.2: Express aversion to government’s consistent failure to meet climate action targets and, as taxpayers, to the use of public funds to pay massive EU fines for these failures, demanding instead that these funds be used for urgent climate change mitigation to prevent fines</p> |
| <p>A.2: Investigate/Install/Use Energy Efficient heating/lighting systems/appliances, drawing on renewable energy sources if possible.(Note grants/Better Energy Homes Scheme/SEA; and that the Bray Heads U3A Group will be organising an event to provide information of the technologies available)</p> | <p>B.2: Join and engage in a Group that is active on environmental/climate issues – including our own Climate Action Sub-Group, where information will be shared, experts invited to talk to us and ideas for practical action that we can take ourselves developed</p> | <p>C.3: Lobby government, local TDs and Councillors, ourselves or jointly with others, pressing for decisive national and local climate mitigation action, including rapid progress on renewable energy technology & production; raising carbon taxes; improved waste reduction and management strategies, incl. deposits for glass, plastic cans, etc;</p> |
| <p>A.3: Decrease Heat Loss – Insulate/Retro-fit etc (Note grants available)</p> | <p>B.3: What about encouraging your neighbours to create a residents climate action group with even a simple plan for your immediate area?</p> | <p>C.4: Lobby national and local government to act courageously to adapt our agriculture and land-use policies, priorities & practices in a sustainable and farmer-sensitive way to tackle cattle emissions; vastly increase non-animal-based local food production, protect habitats , trees and biodiversity; and eliminate harmful fertilisers/pesticides</p> |
| <p>A.4: Check which energy-supply companies are best in terms of drawing on renewable energy sources and look into switching to a greener one</p> | <p>B.4: Share any relevant climate-friendly practical skills as broadly as possible</p> | <p>C.5: Urgently write to/email WCC in the context of the current public consultation exercise on their Climate Adaptation Plan demanding both a comprehensive climate action plan that covers climate & biodiversity loss <u>mitigation</u> (and not just adaptation) and the appointment of a Biodiversity and Climate Change Officer</p> |
| <p>A.5: Reduce energy usage time, even by a short time every day; turn off when not using; minimise, or better still eliminate, use of coal & turf</p> | <p>B.5: Support maintenance and creation of community gardens, allotments, local greenspaces, biodiversity, pollinator plots; trees; tree-planting, etc</p> | <p>C.6: Canvass local Council to employ eco-friendly practices in all planning & activities, incl. tree-planting, eco-friendly spraying & grass cutting, beach protection, ban on coal burning , etc</p> |
| <p>A.6: Reduce water consumption; stop leaks; minimize baths, shorten shower time by a minute or two, use bath/shower water to use in garden</p> | <p>B.6: Prepare to pay increased carbon charges. No-one wants to pay more taxes but the alternatives will cost us all very much more!</p> | <p>C.7: Re local housing strategies, lobby Council to minimise urban sprawl into undeveloped lands and mature tree-removal by intense appropriation & utilisation of uninhabited property, including ‘above the shop’ spaces in the town (also good for town regeneration & reducing homelessness)</p> |

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| A.7: Plant a tree (or more than one) and be active in pressing for the protection of mature trees, especially hardwoods and native species | B.7: Initiate/join clean-up actions to pick up & recycle plastics that might end up in the river/sea | C.8: Urge the local Council to engage pro-actively in promoting climate-awareness and action through their website, posters etc |
| A.8: Maintain a nature-friendly, biodiverse, pollinator garden; replace dangerous pesticides, weed-killers & fertilisers with eco-friendly products | B.8: Instead of driving, walk, cycle or use public transport whenever possible | C.9: Lobby Council to reduce littering & damaging waste disposal by greatly increasing the number of waste-bins on seafront and around the town and by doing all possible to prevent plastics entering the river and sea; |
| A.9: Reduce meat consumption, starting with one meal or day a week | B.9: If possible invest in an electric/ hybrid vehicle or the most fuel- efficient car you can afford | C.10: Lobby for better/eco national public transport system, incl, for the urgent extension of the Luas to Bray. Also for a free or low-cost local shuttle bus |
| A.10: Reduce the annual tons of per capita food waste – buy only what we need, use a list & stick to it when shopping | B.10: Consider the huge level of carbon emissions produced by air-travel before booking flights; chose alternative means of travel if possible; consider carbon offsets if taking flights | C.11: Ask Council & Gardaí to control speeding in the area, both to reduce emissions & on safety grounds |
| | | C.12: Maybe they could also install a few water fountains to reduce need for purchasing bottled water? |
| A.11: Sort out our waste, compost and recycle everything we can | B.11: Shop locally where possible & avoid high carbon footprint air-freighted food products | C.13: Talk to local papers and radio about climate issues, action and our concerns, demands and activities; engage in selective social media action, e.g. Bray Open Forum... |
| A.12: Minimise paper-usage; print out less; adopt paperless billing; put a junk-mail sticker on/near your letterbox | B.12: Buy products with minimum packaging; avoid single-use/non- recyclable plastics; where shops maintain bins for unwanted packaging, use these where possible | C.14: Link with other groups who are, or could be, involved in climate issues and consider/organise joint action (e.g. Common Ground, the local Public Participation Network, etc |
| A.13: Reduce purchase of bottled water by filtering tap-water and putting it into re-fillable bottles | B.13: Identify shops and businesses offering eco-friendly and re-usable products, e.g. Cool Planet at Powerscourt etc | C.15: Canvass local businesses to adopt climate action plans and to support local climate action initiatives |
| A.14: Replace disposable & single-use products with re-usable ones; e.g. batteries, razors, plastic water bottles, coffee cups etc | B.14: Always remember to bring our re-sable shopping bags with you when you go shopping | C.16: Canvass supermarkets/shops to minimize packaging, especially plastics and to have bins for shoppers to leave packaging in to recycle |
| A.15: Re-use as much as we can and repair items that can be repaired rather than replacing them. Only replace large appliances when absolutely necessary & then recycle | B.15: Note below any other climate or environment protection action you can take yourself in your community - with neighbours and friends, local groups, businesses etc: | C.17: Canvass takeaway food outlets to take responsibility for waste generated by them, with messaging to customers, installing bins outside their premises, picking up waste of theirs dumped nearby, |
| A.16: Give old clothes and household items in good order to second-hand/charity shops - and maybe pick up useful used items there ourselves? | | C.18: Encourage members of other U3A and similar groups to engage in climate actions and joint lobbying activities |
| A.17: Ensure that money, investments, pensions etc are managed in a sustainable way, not linked to climate damage; be prepared to divest if not | | C.19: Encourage links to be created between our Group and relevant local & international groups and movement |
| A.18: Note below any other climate or environmental actions that you and your family can take at home: | | C.20: Support young people and others calling for urgent climate action |
| | | C.21: Join peaceful, well-organised, climate action rallies/marches? |
| | | C.22: .Note any other lobbying/networking ideas you may have below: |
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