



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland



**An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Eacnamaíoch agus Shóisialta**  
National Economic & Social Council

# **Climate and Biodiversity Ambition: Shared Island as a Catalyst**

**Online launch event hosted by NESC, in association with the Department of the Taoiseach**  
**Wednesday 8th December 2021, 10am to 12.15pm**

Addressing climate change and biodiversity loss lends itself to integrated and collaborative shared island solutions.

This online launch event, Climate and Biodiversity Ambition: Shared Island as a Catalyst, will be hosted by the National Economic and Social Council, in association with the Department of the Taoiseach.

We are very pleased that the Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan, T.D. will participate in this event. Other speakers from across the island, will discuss their shared experiences, networks and outline opportunities for future development.

The focus of the event is to discuss collaboration on climate and biodiversity from a shared island perspective. It will include presentation of findings from a new NESC report Collaboration on Climate and Biodiversity: Shared Island as a Catalyst for Renewed Ambition & Action.

Extensive consultation and research informed this report, including 64 submissions and 38 interviews with people from a range of organisations and different areas of expertise, across the island. It illustrates the potential opportunities for strengthening existing networks, and building new ones, in order to underpin the mutual efforts to contribute to a thriving and prosperous island, north and south.

This event will be of interest to policy makers, business, environmental, community and voluntary organisations, practitioners, local authorities, academics and interested individuals across the island.

The report and this event forms part of a wider body of NESC work on a Shared Island, for the Department of the Taoiseach.

<b>10.00</b>	<b>Zoom-room Opens</b>
<b>10.00</b>	<p><b>Welcome by NESC Director, Dr Larry O’Connell</b></p> <p><b>Opening Remarks: Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D.</b></p> <p><b>Introduction to Launch Event: Moderator Prof Geraint Ellis, QUB</b></p>
<b>10.15</b>	<b>NESC Report Collaboration on Climate and Biodiversity: Shared Island as a Catalyst for Renewed Ambition &amp; Action, Dr Jeanne Moore, NESC</b>
<b>10.30</b>	<b><u>Panel Discussion</u>: Is there evidence to suggest that all-island collaboration can make a real difference to climate and biodiversity action?</b>
	<p><b>Dr Una Fitzpatrick</b>, National Biodiversity Centre</p> <p><b>Cathy Burns</b>, Derry City &amp; Strabane District Council</p> <p><b>Marzia Doro</b>, DCU MSc student</p> <p><b>Dr Aoife Ní Lochlainn</b>, Irish Environmental Network (IEN) with <b>Sean Kelly</b>, Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL)</p> <p><b>Minister Eamon Ryan, T.D.</b></p>
<b>11.05</b>	<b><u>Panel Discussion</u>: Where are the key opportunities and challenges?</b>
	<p><b>Prof Michael Morris</b>, AICEP/ AMBER TCD</p> <p><b>Dylan Murphy</b>, DCU MSc student</p> <p><b>Michael D’Arcy</b>, IBEC/CBI Joint Business Council</p> <p><b>Prof Tasman Crowe</b>, UCD-Member of All Island Climate and Biodiversity Research Network (AICBRN)</p>
<b>11.30</b>	<b><u>Panel Discussion</u>: What could be further developed?</b>
	<p><b>Dr Eimear Cotter</b>, EPA</p> <p><b>Dr Jade Berman</b>, Climate Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>Shane Campbell</b>, Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)</p>
<b>11.50</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>12.10</b>	<b>Closing Remarks by Dr Helen Johnston, NESC</b>
<b>12.15</b>	<b>Wrap-up</b>

Please note programme may be subject to minor changes.

## Biographies

**Prof Geraint Ellis:** is Professor of Environmental Planning in the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University, Belfast and Co-editor of the Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning. His research interests are in planning and sustainability, with a particular emphasis on renewable energy, planning governance and healthy urban planning. He has researched and published widely on these topics, with recent projects focussing on the role of the built environment in healthy ageing, the history of community planning in the UK and he is currently leading an EU Innovative Training Network on the social aspects of renewable energy (MISTRAL).

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**Dr Jeanne Moore:** has been a Policy Analyst at the National Economic and Social Council since 2010, with a particular interest in the environment and social inclusion. She has worked on climate and sustainable development projects in NESCC, most recently on environmental aspects of a shared island, just transition, sustainable recovery from Covid-19 and climate policy. Jeanne has a PhD in Environmental Psychology awarded by the University of Liverpool, and lectured in social and environmental psychology at the University of Teesside for 8 years. She has also worked with Focus Ireland, Combat Poverty and the National Economic and Social Forum.

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**Dr Úna Fitzpatrick:** is a Senior Ecologist, and has a PhD in botany. She worked on a project on the conservation of Irish bees before joining the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2007. The Centre is responsible for the collection, collation, management, analysis and dissemination of data on Ireland's biological diversity. As Senior Ecologist, she is responsible for the plant, vegetation and pollinator work programmes of the Centre. In 2015, she co-founded the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. She is Chair of the Steering Group and also oversees implementation of the Plan.

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**Cathy Burns:** Climate Programme Manager, Derry City and Strabane City Council. Cathy has led the development of the first council Climate Adaptation Plan in Northern Ireland and is currently managing the development of the North West Climate Action Plan, a cross border multi-agency initiative. Cathy has a background within natural, cultural and built heritage. She has over 20 years' experience across the public sector and NGOs specialising in strategy development, project management, landscape and environmental regeneration and communication and engagement.

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**Dr Aoife Ní Lochlainn:** is the Policy Officer at the Irish Environmental Network. Her work covers the UK Withdrawal agreement as it relates to the environment, as well as broader environmental policy and advocacy work to advance sustainable policy in Ireland on behalf of the NGO sector. She is a public policy analyst and researcher with over thirteen years of experience in economic, social and environmental policy.

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**Sean Kelly:** is Development Manager at Northern Ireland Environment Link (the networking and forum body for non-statutory organisations concerned with the natural and built environment in Northern Ireland). Previously as Parliamentary & Development Officer at NIEL, he assisted members to influence policy at the local, UK & EU levels as well participation in European funding opportunities. He has also provided the secretariat for the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group and the NI Assembly All Party Group on European Environmental Directives and has also led a number of work streams within NIEL including Climate Change, Freshwater, Biodiversity, Marine and Agriculture and represents NIEL on a number of external local and European fora. Sean has a background in agriculture and European project development and a former member of the statutory advisory body - the NI Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside.

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**Marzia Doro:** DCU student is originally from Sardinia, Italy. She has been living in Dublin since 2016, where she has been mainly working in the travel and tourism industry, which is her main field of expertise. As she gained knowledge of the impact of the travel industry on the environment, and the devastating effects of global warming, she decided to dedicate more time and energy to climate action, making this her main subject of interest and to actively contribute to it. Marzia has participated in sustainable tourism courses and has a certificate from the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). She is currently undertaking a Master's degree in Climate Change Policy at DCU. Her studies have provided her with the knowledge of the science behind climate change, climate policy in Ireland, the importance of climate advocacy, as well as sustainable practices for tourism businesses. Marzia has had the opportunity to participate in public consultations with individual and group submissions, including NESCC Climate and Biodiversity Ambition consultation, and an expert group submission to the 2021 Climate Action Plan consultation.

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**Eamon Ryan TD:** is the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Minister for Transport. He was appointed to this role in June 2020. Eamon Ryan was elected to represent Dublin Bay South in the 2020 general election. He was born in Dublin and raised in Dundrum and Dartry. He studied commerce in UCD before taking a job managing a marketing course in the university's School of Business. He went on to found a cycling tourism company - Irish Cycling Safaris - in the late 1980s and in 1996 won the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award. He was the founding chairperson of the Dublin Cycling Campaign and began his political career as a Dublin City Councillor for the Rathgar-Rathmines ward. He then went on to serve both as a TD for Dublin South and as a Government Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. In recent years he has worked for a European climate organisation and chaired the digital policy group in the Institute of International and European Affairs. He is currently leader of the Green Party/Comhaontas Glas.

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**Prof Michael Morris:** Director AMBER Research Centre and School of Chemistry, Trinity College Dublin. Michael moved to Trinity College Dublin and the School of Chemistry in 2015, following more than 20 years at University College Cork, to lead the SFI funded research centre AMBER. His work is focused on self-assembly and phase separation in polymers and polymer solutions. To date, Prof Morris has authored over 400 peer reviewed papers and more than 20 patents. More latterly, Prof Morris has focused on the sustainability of polymers in the modern world. He leads a DAFM grant on looking at wood as a sustainable source of materials and particularly the use of forest waste. He also leads efforts in measuring the impact of circular solutions to new material technologies. He is a member of the ISO TC 323 technical committee developing standards for the circular economy. Prof Morris has worked closely with industry throughout his career. He leads the AMBER interaction with Merck in developing novel membrane materials and processes and works with several other collaborating AMBER companies.

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**Dylan Murphy:** is an activist and part-time student on the DCU Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society masters program. His NESC submission was made as part of a policy submission module conducted by Dr. Diarmuid Torney. Dylan has a particular interest in climate mitigation, energy decarbonisation and coastal erosion adaptation, due to his proximity to the devastating coastal erosion in Portrane, Co. Dublin. .

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**Michael D'Arcy:** is Programme Lead for the Ibec/CBI Joint Business Council (JBC) where he supports their joint work to support N/S economic and business interaction. This includes researching and promoting connectivity, investment and policies to protect and sustain the all island economy. He is also a Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) in Armagh and his 2013 Report for them on '*Developing a Prosperity Process: Opportunities in North/South Public Service Provision*' has recently been cited by NESC. Recent publications include a Brexit Briefing Paper jointly authored with Frances Ruane for the Royal Irish and British Academies and with Professor Peter Shirlow for the Institute of Irish Studies in University of Liverpool on the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol. Since 2016 Michael has been a member of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) Interreg VA Programme Monitoring and Steering Committees and lectures annually on the all island economy, the peace process and Good Friday Agreement in Trinity College Dublin. This is his fourth decade working to support, facilitate and progress N/S economic interaction to mutual benefit.

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**Prof Tasman Crowe:** is Director of the Earth Institute at University College Dublin, co-director of a new interdisciplinary BSc in Sustainability and chair of the National Biodiversity Forum. His research characterises individual and combined impacts of multiple stressors on marine ecosystems. He has also worked on biomonitoring, eco-engineering, invasive species, marine protected areas and the cultural value of ecosystems. He collaborates widely on national and international research projects and is coordinating the Land2Sea project funded under the Belmont-Biodiversa programme. He has published 100+ papers and book chapters and co-edited *Marine ecosystems: human impacts on biodiversity, functioning and services* published by Cambridge University Press (CUP). He is on the editorial boards of *Frontiers in Marine Ecology* and CUP's *Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation Series*. He is on the committees of Future Earth Ireland and the Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland and was a founding member of the All-Island Climate and Biodiversity Research Network. He was co-chair of the European Marine Board working group on ocean observation and was President of the European Marine Biology Symposium 2016-2019. He recently chaired an MPA Advisory Group established by the Irish government to provide advice and recommendations on the expansion of Ireland's network of Marine Protected Areas.

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**Dr Jade Berman:** is the acting Climate NI (Northern Ireland Environment Link) manager and works on the Transboundary Adaptation Learning Exchange project (TaIX) as a Climate Resilience Researcher. She is based at Climate NI working in partnership with SNIFFER Scotland and MAERI Institute University of Cork. Jade has almost ten years' experience working in Northern Ireland previously working at Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and Ulster Wildlife, as an honorary lecturer in Marine Policy at Queen's University Belfast and advising Government departments as sitting as a committee member for CNCC and JNCC. Previously Jade has worked all over the world from New Zealand and Antarctica to Panama and Hawaii, above and below the sea and is looking forward to getting up to speed with international climate adaptation best practice and the best ways to share with others.

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**Dr Eimear Cotter:** Director of the Office of Evidence and Assessment, EPA was appointed in 2017 as Director of the EPA initially with responsibility for the Office of Environmental Sustainability. Eimear has a wide range of experience in environmental protection, climate change, sustainable energy and sustainability. She previously worked in the EPE and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. Eimear holds a BA (Mod) in Chemistry from Trinity College Dublin, a PhD in atmospheric chemistry from Oxford University and an MBA from UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School. She is a 2019 Eisenhower Fellow and a Board member on the National Statistics Board.

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**Dr Helen Johnston:** joined NESC as Senior Social Policy Analyst in July 2007. Since then she has worked on issues of well-being and social reporting, social regulation and standards, the social consequences of the crisis, as well as undertaking work for the OECD on social disadvantage. Helen was previously Director of the Combat Poverty Agency. A native of Northern Ireland, Helen has previous experience working in the Northern Ireland civil service. She is currently Chair of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Helen has qualifications in Environmental Science and Town and Country Planning, a Master's in Business Administration, and a Doctorate in Governance, where she examined the implementation of mental health policy in Ireland.

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**Shane Campbell:** is Chief Executive of the Irish Central Border Area Network Ltd. (ICBAN). ICBAN is the local authority-led cross-border group for the Central Border Region of Ireland / Northern Ireland. ICBAN actively advocates for its region, which includes the Council areas of Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon, Cavan, Donegal, Fermanagh and Omagh, Leitrim, Mid Ulster, Monaghan and Sligo. In March 2021 the organisation launched a new strategic initiative for the area entitled 'The Framework of Regional Priorities, 2021-2027' in response to the challenges of climate change, the pandemic and Brexit. The FRP recognises and builds on this rural region's abundance of natural environmental strengths and assets. It focuses on promoting ambitions and opportunities around 5 key strategic pillars, one of which is on Natural Capital – Greening the Region. Shane has been working in economic development in and around the border region for his entire working life: in cross-border co-operation; rural development; urban regeneration; and with SMEs. He lives in Cookstown, Co. Tyrone and has a Masters in Executive Leadership from Ulster University.

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