

PRESS RELEASE

[Embargo to Friday 12th February 2016]

Irish academics call for unprecedented "Citizen's convention for a Post-Carbon Ireland"

Launch, press conference, and photo call:

12.00-12:45pm, Friday, 12th Feb 2016
(Photocall immediately after press conference)
Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, Dublin 2 ("Gold Room")

In the face of the planetary emergency represented by climate change, twenty nine leading Irish academics have joined together in an unprecedented intervention in an Irish general election. They have today published an open letter to political parties and candidates calling for decisive commitment to climate action to be included in all election platforms.

Speaking on behalf of the group, which is drawn from all seven Irish Universities, Professor John Sweeney said that:

"By comparison with the imminent and implacable climate change threat, every other national issue now pales into insignificance.

"That is why we, as non-political but deeply concerned academics and citizens, are now calling on all candidates and parties to commit to establishing a Citizens' Convention for a Post-Carbon Ireland.

"We believe such a convention will allow the sustained, citizen-led, engagement that is now essential to unite all of society in embracing and designing our critically urgent transition to a secure, just, democratic and authentically sustainable post-carbon world."

Other signatories to the open letter, including Professor Peadar Kirby, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, and Professor Barry McMullin, will speak at the launch to discuss their motivations for engaging in this unique intervention. Following the launch, all political parties and candidates will be invited to formally express their support for establishing the Citizens' Convention. An online petition will be available for individual citizens and organisations to also endorse the call. Details, including the full text of the open letter, with the names of all twenty nine academic signatories, are available at the website:

<http://www.postcarbonireland.org/>

For further information contact:

Professor Barry McMullin, Dublin City University.

office: 01-700-5432
mobile: 087-913-0513
email: barry.mcmullin@dcu.ie

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