

# A Better Tomorrow

## Coalition2030's Local Election Manifesto 2024



People in Ireland are experiencing a housing crisis, broken healthcare system, increasing inequalities, climate chaos, vanishing biodiversity, and a troubling expansion of exclusionary politics. And there is virtually no incentive for politicians - local Councillors included - to take a long-term and interconnected view. Decisions are made based on what will win votes in the next election, not on how they will impact on our collective future. This is a key reason why we are experiencing so many interconnected crises, and why so many people are being left behind.

But we all want to know that not only our children - but all generations to come - can look forward to a good life. We want the people we love to be healthy and safe, with access to education and decent jobs, and a secure and affordable home. We want them to always have good food to eat, clean air to breathe and water to drink. We want to know our loved ones have the same opportunities as everyone else - that they aren't discriminated against because of their income, gender, disability, colour of their skin or any other part of their identity.

That's what the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are all about - that political decisions take into account the needs of people today, and those of future generations too.

Governments across the world - including our Government here in Ireland and the countries of the EU - agreed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. But we won't meet this target unless our politicians take action for us all, now.

Achieving the SDGs requires decisions to be made with a view to how they impact on all policy areas, rather than in isolation. It requires joined-up thinking between local councils, committees and institutions. And it requires an understanding that the Goals are not just about the environment; they're about addressing every single area of policy to ensure we can build a world where everyone enjoys a decent quality of life.

To halt the growing politics of disenchantment and exclusion, elected Councillors should stand up for justice, champion the cause of the marginalised, and forge a path towards a future where every individual - both present and future - is afforded the dignity they deserve. They must commit to putting a social protection floor under everyone's feet, protecting workers' rights, reorienting local finances towards meeting the human rights of all both at home and overseas, and addressing the climate crisis and vanishing biodiversity.

These elections come at a make-or-break time for humanity. The question is, will those elected to our councils in a make-or-break period contribute to a **breakdown or breakthrough** for a better future?

Imagine the world we'd live in if the SDGs were all achieved.

That world is possible - but only with action from those we elect to power.

## We want those elected to our councils to commit to do the following if elected:

### Policy coherence and leadership

- Increase public awareness of the importance of Agenda 2030 and its 17 SDGs
- Link every local budget line to a corresponding SDG target and/or Wellbeing Framework indicator
- Work with the LGMA to ensure SDG training is delivered to local initiatives involved in delivering the SDGs
- Enable the PPNs, LENS, ETBs and communities to be true partners in policy design and SDG implementation
- Ensure SDG reports are developed by your Council
- Ensure all County Development Plans and LECs are aligned to the Goals

### Combat Poverty and Reduce Inequality

#### SDGs 1 and 10



- Roll out adequate service provision for the furthest behind in society using the Pobal deprivation index
- Facilitate access through reasonable accommodations to further and higher education and transition to employment for persons with disabilities
- Utilise the full allocation for Traveller specific accommodation and support the development of sites for this purpose
- Fully implement the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy



Poverty and Inequality: [Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)

### Promote good health and wellbeing

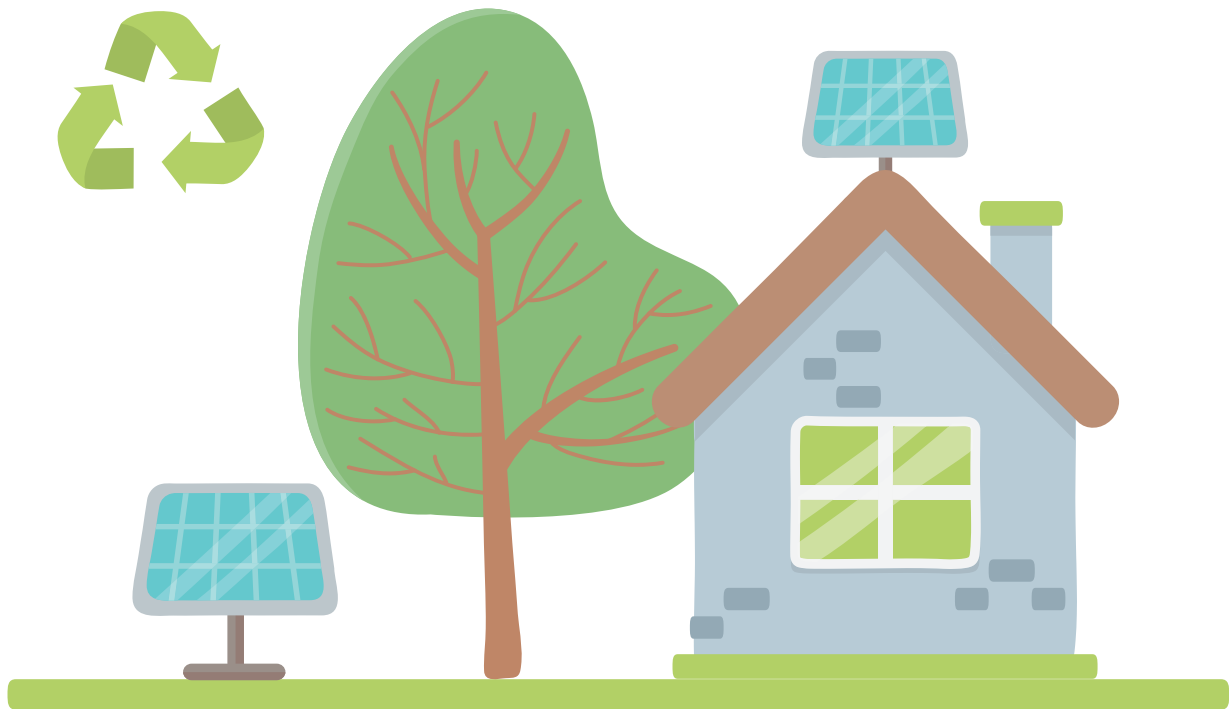
#### SDG 3



- Increase provision of youth and community mental health supports
- Ensure access to reproductive healthcare
- Work to eliminate the barriers faced by people with disabilities in accessing basic services such as housing, healthcare, and education
- Support the integration of primary care networks and GP led community healthcare services



Health and wellbeing: [Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)



## Recognise the importance of sustainable, affordable housing for all

### SDG 11



- Address the disproportionate levels of homelessness amongst disabled people
- Campaign for the free energy upgrade becomes accessible to tenants in the private rental sector
- Increase the provision of direct build social and affordable housing by Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies, with a specific focus on housing units offering tenants a differential rent as opposed to market based rent setting, particularly for the benefit of households on low incomes and living in poverty and those requiring special needs housing.
- Improve access to safe and stable housing across all housing types for victims of domestic violence
- Expedite the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan, commencing with those with the largest proportion of premises dependent on it
- Improve the primary road network across the country to support the increased provision of public transport
- Invest in a deep retrofitting programme for community spaces
- Ringfence continued funding to encourage sports participation and active lifestyle programmes
- Invest in the provision and maintenance of community spaces, playgrounds, and youth centres

[Housing: Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)

## Promote and enable quality, lifelong education for all

SDG 4



- Support and prioritise children who have the most significant needs eg. those with psychosocial disabilities and intellectual disabilities, children without a functioning communication system, and children who are out of school due to complex issues
- Base services on children's needs, and not on whether a child is in a special school/at home
- Enhance community education programmes and life-long learning through the library network
- Ensure full implementation of the 'Our Public Libraries 2022' strategy and ensure that its implementation is inclusive and supportive of smaller branch libraries as a hub for local communities
- Adopt and implement a national financial literacy strategy

## Improve Gender Equality

SDG 5



- Campaign for a domestic violence refuge in your local authority
- Campaign for an increase in refuge beds available to victims of domestic abuse
- Ensure sufficient access to reproductive healthcare services in your local area
- Support high-quality community childcare, particularly in disadvantaged areas
- Work towards ensuring all establishments have a gender neutral bathroom

[Gender Equality: Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)

## Address the twin climate and biodiversity crises

SDGs 7, 13, and 15



- Ensure all relevant staff (Biodiversity officers / Inclusion and Integration officers / Climate Action officers / Active travel / Climate and Local authority waters programme) receive training on the SDGs
- Host a public debate on annual implementation reports of each County Council on their Climate Action Plans
- Campaign for community gardens and accessible allotments in your LA
- Campaign for a Local Community Energy Advisors in your local area to increase awareness and reach amongst hard-to-reach energy users
- Work towards a street by street comprehensive, all-of-society retrofitting programme focusing on the worst performing and social homes first
- Hold a public debate on annual implementation reports of your County Council on its Climate Action Plan
- Develop Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in each Local Authority area, with the collaborative input of local communities and Public Participation Networks, supported by dedicated sustainable funding in the medium to long-term
- Invest in programmes to rewet the boglands



[Climate and Biodiversity: Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)



## Promote active and sustainable transport

SDG 11 and 13



- Consider car free zones in your LA at particular times (ensuring persons with disabilities retain access)
- Ensure local link availability times support access to the night time economy and cultural spaces
- Improve the primary road network across the country to support the increased provision of public transport



[Transport: Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)

## Improve water quality and ocean health

SDG 6 and 14



- Develop a Drinking Water Safety Plan, following EPA Guidelines, for each public water supply, identifying all potential risks and detailing mitigation and control measures
- Put a plan in place to tackle pesticides in drinking water
- Implement the 'Nature' programmes set out in the Climate Action Plan published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment



[Water: Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)

## Create secure, nourishing food systems in line with ecological limits

SDG 2



- Reduce food waste in local retailers and service providers
- Support local food producers
- Support regional and local food markets



[Food systems: Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)



## Lead the transition to sustainable economy that supports decent work and operates within planetary and ecological boundaries

SDGs 8, 9 and 12



- Tackle the exclusion of marginalised/underrepresented groups in the workforce, for example Travellers who experience disproportionate levels of unemployment
- Review the sustainability of jobs created through LEOs and develop plans to ensure the security of decent work
- Increase supports for social, small, green, community and micro enterprises
- Promote Doughnut Economics in your local authority as a way of ensuring coherence between environmental, economic and social goals
- Cultivate a 'repair culture' by supporting repair cafés and tool and toy swap centres in your local area
- Use LEOs to incentivise repair businesses, indigenous craft and skills
- Eliminate all single-use plastics from Local Authority buildings and public spaces
- Develop open consultation on ambitious waste management plans
- Adopt the principles of a circular economy, particularly for construction and demolition waste, including through leveraging sustainable public procurement

 [Circular Economy: Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)

 [Decent Work and Industry: Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)

## Create peaceful, secure, safe societies based on a restored social contract, democracy, civic space and human rights

SDG 16 and 17



- Adopt a human-centred response to migration
- Ensure adequate service provision based on human rights for refugees and those seeking international protection
- Value the cultural contribution of international protection applications, refugees and migrants to Ireland
- Protect the human rights of all seeking international protection in our communities

 [Immigration: Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)

## Promote and support the arts and recognise the importance of culture for fostering open, inclusive societies

SDG 11



- Move from an annual funding model for PPNs to a 3 to 5-year renewable commitment
- Provide hyper-local cultural spaces for community use
- Promote 'café culture'
- Ringfence continued funding to encourage sports participation and active lifestyle programmes
- Invest in the provision and maintenance of community spaces, playgrounds, and youth centres
- Value the cultural contribution of international protection applications, refugees and migrants to Ireland



Sustainable Communities: [Policy Ideas and Pledge](#)

