

CLIMATE NEWS



Dublin City Council Climate Action Team Official
Newsletter

CLIMATE AND GENDER

‘Climate change is more than an environmental crisis – it is a social crisis and compels us to address issues of inequality on many levels: between wealthy and poor countries; between rich and poor within countries; between men and women, and between generations.’

It is recognised that the effects of climate change are not experienced equally across the globe. It is understood that socio economic status determines vulnerability, with those living in poverty to be most adversely impacted by climate change. This is the reason the agreement to have a Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 was vital. However, socio economic status is not the only determinant of vulnerability, there is a correlated and compounding determinant – Gender.

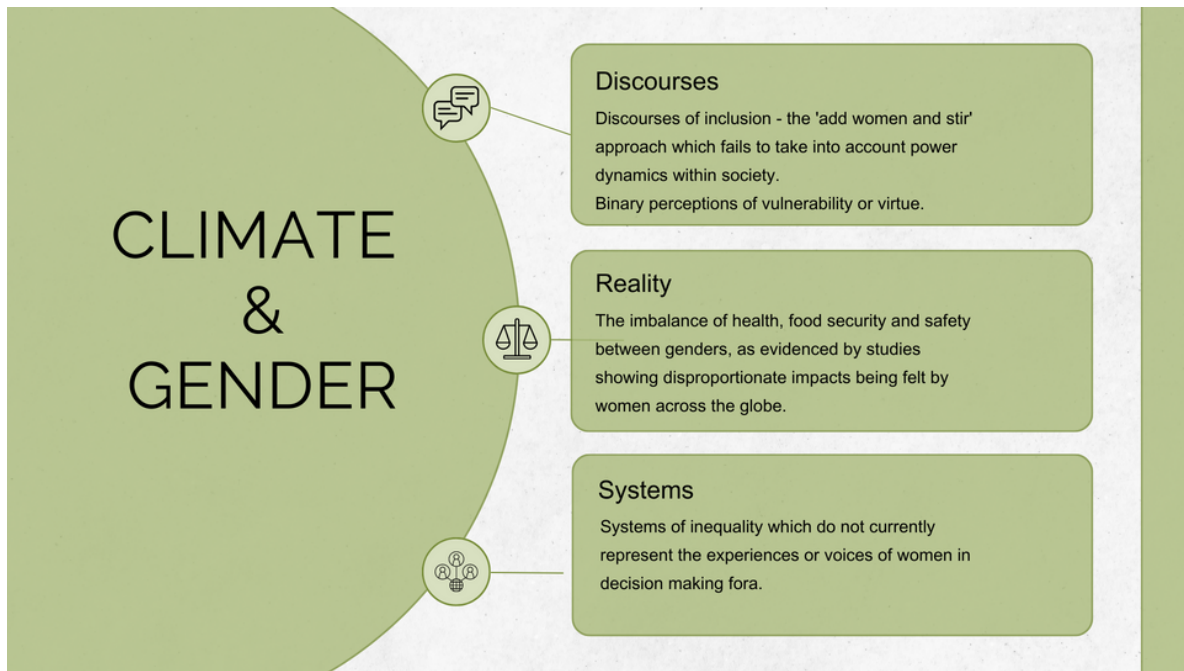
With regard to gender, some of the inequalities which present for women, in particular, are unequal access to food and resources, additional caregiving responsibilities and cultural norms which lead to economic poverty and low standards of education. Women are less likely to survive severe climate events and are less likely to be included in decision making.

According to ‘Race to Resilience’

‘Gender parity in national-level environmental decision-making is rare, and employees of environmental ministries are on average one-third women. Although the gender balance of government delegations to climate negotiations has improved, UNFCCC research found that men spoke 74% of the time in plenary meetings between May and June last year.’

There is a great deal of complexity in the bigger picture but what is clear is that greater gender equality is likely to produce better policy and better outcomes overall, not just for women.

‘...there is mounting theoretical and empirical evidence indicating that greater gender equality may be connected with better environmental stewardship.’
(Ergas and York, 2012).



Some of the reasons suggested for this are the practical lived experience of women as caregivers and solution providers, the different world view and approach to complex problems, and the fact that women tend to be a majority in grassroots environmental organisations (it should be taken into account that social conditions, rather than 'innate' female characteristics are often the drivers for particular positions).

Women tend to have a different take on transport and urban planning solutions also – Sara Ortiz Escalante suggests that

“Cities are based on a model that follows a pattern of mobility of a certain group of people, and this group is mostly men – who have a full-time job, and the privilege to drive and own a car.”

(<https://citychangers.org/how-to-build-a-city-for-women/>).

In this context, creating cities which acknowledge the differentiated needs of women, are likely to favour less car usage and therefore less carbon emissions. Climate change is a 'threat multiplier' which means that current inequalities are likely to be exacerbated in the future, unless they are addressed in a decisive manner, so it is crucial that steps are taken, in line with SDG progress, to rebalance some of the equity.



‘Commitment to SGD 5 on “gender equality” can provide a global action tool to address the gender-specific vulnerabilities linked to environmental change through more inclusive practices as well as an international framework of reference to evaluate the possible benefits of migration, climate change adaptation and DRR policies and programmes.’

(<https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/blogs/3-ways-which-gender-equality-interlinks-climate-migration-adaptation-strategy-exploring-links-between-migration-environment-and-sdg-5>)

This is the start of a series focused on gender and climate change because we know “The world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030.”[1]

And we want to change this trajectory.

Over the next year we will talk about;

- Gender and transport
- Gender and food
- Gender and housing
- Gender and policy

CLIMATE CAMPAIGNERS



Our climate team promoting the Campaigners project.

Climate Campaigners is a Horizon 2020 EU Funded project. There are 14 cities across the world taking part as Lighthouse cities, including Dublin.

Climate Campaigners is an app that presents individuals and communities with challenges to help them live more climate friendly lifestyles. The challenges range from reducing waste and active travel to retrofitting. Challenges in the app also include tips and inspiration and users of the app can also track how their actions are reducing their CO2 footprint.

There are user rewards to help us drive action and say thank you to all those that are taking on climate challenges. That's why when users take part in the #CCchallenges, they receive Climate Coins. The harder and higher impact the challenge, the more coins it's worth. In Dublin's case, there is a chance to earn an annual subscription to Dublin Bikes.

The app has recently released a new feature – the ability for users to submit their own climate action challenges. The premise of Climate Campaigners is that everyone can contribute to a more sustainable future, “Lets change climate change together”. The new feature offers users to a more dynamic and engaging experience, offering the opportunity to inspire others and be inspired. Climate actions can be found all around us, we just need to recognise and pursue them. Challenges can be big or small, when done together they hold the power to set us on a greener path.

In recognition of the expanding app, the DCC Climate Action Team went out into Dublin to promote Climate Campaigners and inspire Dubliners to action. Download the Climate Campaigners app and take on #CCchallenges for a better life in Dublin - share your experiences with fellow Dubliners, get inspired by a global climate community and even enjoy local rewards! www.climate-campaigners.com

(Author: Daisy Gallagher)

FRANCIS STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Public realm enhancement of Francis Street is now complete. The improvements included kerb build out, repaving and the addition of planters and bicycle stands. The works were done as part of the Liberties Greening Strategy.

The project was designed by Áit Urbanism + Landscape in collaboration with DBFL Consulting Engineers and CSR Planning Consultants, as well as the DCC Roads Design Division and the South Central Area Office. The improvements and addition of trees and planters have created a pleasant and greener walking area, whilst preserving heritage features.



(Photography: Cliona Kelliher)

BRIDGEFOOT STREET PARK WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

It's over a year since Bridgefoot Street Park opened and some recent great news is that the Park won the Landezine International Landscape Award (LILA) in the Public Landscapes category at the annual awards.

In the award statement the jury noted, “Bridgefoot Street Park is a story about public space, community participation, circular economy, and ecological measures, and, above all, it is a project that well reflects our growing care for social and environmental issues of urban open space in the 21st century.”

On a recent visit to the park, the sun was shining and biodiversity was very evident, as well as how much the park is used by the local community.



(Photography: Cliona Kelliher)

OTHER NEWS

An Taisce recently welcomed Professor Kevin Anderson to Ireland. Professor Anderson is professor of Energy and Climate Change at the University of Manchester and he spoke also at the Mary Robinson Conference in Ballina. You can see the recorded lecture below.

[A Velvet or Violent Climate Revolution - Prof. Anderson Lecture](#)

The Climate Alarm Clock is a great Podcast series to listen to - the latest episode looks at climate events in July and how to tackle climate anxiety. Listen to the episode below.

[Hot, hot, hot: Making sense of July.](#)

The Climate Change Advisory Council published its Annual Review 2023 and outlined that:

'Ireland will not meet the targets set in the first and second carbon budget periods unless urgent action is taken immediately and emissions begin to fall much more rapidly.

Ireland's first task is to reduce and ultimately prevent emissions of greenhouse gases. To support this, there must be effective and consistent engagement with communities, ensuring there is a fair and equitable transition, while building and maintaining public support and action.'

[CCAC Annual Review and Report 2023](#)

Sign up to Active Travel Updates to receive email updates about Dublin City Council's Active Travel Projects. The list available will change as projects are completed and new ones added. Details below.

[Subscribe to Active Travel Updates](#)