

CLIMATE NEWS



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council Climate Action Team Official
Newsletter

FOOD POVERTY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

What is the connection between food poverty, price hikes and climate change? You might have noticed that your groceries are getting more expensive and there are lots of reasons for this but one you might not be aware of is the impact of climate on our food prices.

Did you know, for example, that the cost of lettuces from Australia went up by 300% in 2022?

Or that Brazilian coffee went up by 55% in 2024?



Recent articles from [The Guardian](#) and [Time](#) highlight the rising costs of food staples due to climate events.

Below is a graph from the Guardian showing some of the price increases that were caused by climate events like floods, drought or heatwaves.



The Guardian outlines that ‘such price jumps not only affect local food security and health, particularly for the poorest in society, but have knock-on effects around the world.’

The graph below from [Kotz et al](#) shows an outline of climate induced food price spikes.

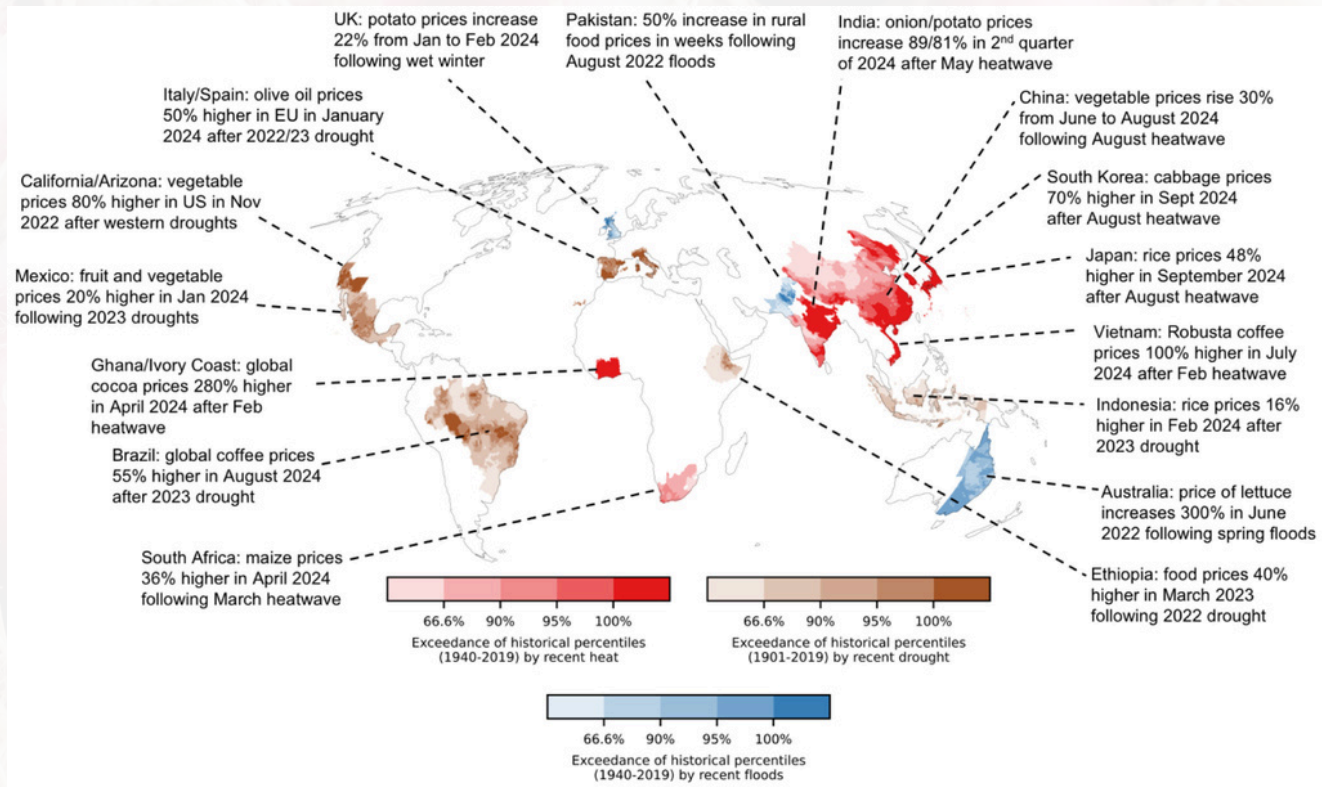


Photo Credit: [Kotz et al](#)

It isn't only climate which is influencing food prices but there is no doubt that events like drought and flooding will continue to have an impact on food supplies, adding to the climate burden which disproportionately affects poorer and more marginalised people.

Food poverty, and poverty in general is on the rise in Ireland. According to the [Child Poverty Monitor 2025](#) there is a 'significant spike' in 'consistent poverty' rates for children.'

It is important that food is part of our conversations on tackling climate change and that we work within the principles of just transition.

The [Edible Dublin Food Strategy](#) aims to work within that framework of food and climate and to nourish a climate resilient food system in the city.



The purpose of the strategy is to create a way of addressing climate and health related factors within our food system.

[CLICK FOR EDIBLE DUBLIN FOOD STRATEGY](#)

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

The Community Climate Action Programme Strand 1 Building Low Carbon Communities and Strand 1a Building Low Carbon Communities Shared Ireland Fund is part of a €60 plus investment over 3 years by the Government of Ireland which will see a wide range of community groups deliver bespoke climate actions.

Dublin City Council is supporting 50 community groups under Strand 1 and 2 community groups under strand 1a (including a community farm in Belfast) to deliver these actions with almost €2m of funding already committed to supporting these projects. One of those groups is Doras Bui:

Doras Bui is a lone parent support centre based in Coolock, providing essential services to lone parents over a wide area. You can read more about them here [About Us - Doras Bui](#)

In early 2024 Sara Fiamano, a staff member at the facility, applied for a small grant from the Community Climate Action Programme (Fund) seeking to install solar panels on the roof of their facility. Little did they know the impact that would have.

Having been successful with their application (awarded €19,140), the group installed a near 10kW photovoltaic system in September 2024. The panels were fixed to the roof directly over the entranceway to the centre, and a visual display unit was installed in the reception area.

Both would be difficult to miss for anyone using the facility. Apart from the obvious financial savings that were being made (estimated at over €3,600 per annum), the prominent photovoltaic panels and visual display unit had other, slightly more unexpected benefit...

These fabulous new solar panels became the catalyst for conversations around sustainability. 'How many trees have you saved?', 'Wow, that's amazing!' turned into 'Is there anything else we can we do to protect our planet?'.



As a result of these conversations the centre organised a clothes swap shop, shortly followed by a jewellery upcycling workshop where participants learned how to repurpose and upcycle jewellery and other household items! These hands on activities shared the creative wonder of sustainable practices and even more conversations ensued... ‘How about repairing household items?’, ‘What about growing our own food?’. Needless to say the centre is exploring other options to further enhance their drive towards sustainability. The timing is fortunate, because the second round of funding under the Community Climate Action Programme (Fund) is expected to launch later this year, rumour has it, the fund could be available for applicants as early as September. Dublin City Council are supporting community groups, sport clubs, community gardens, not-for-profits and a host of other community centred applicants in preparing applications for the Community Climate Action Programme (Fund). If you want to know more, please visit our website here [Community Climate Action Fund | Dublin City Council](#) and make an Expression of Interest application here [Apply for it - Self](#). Our Community Climate Action Officer, Dean Eaton, will be delighted to assist any groups making an Expression of Interest application to further enhance your project proposals.



BIODIVERSITY ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Our third Biodiversity Artist in Residence, Louis Haugh, will work within the Council on Biodiversity responsive projects, assisting the Council to transform thinking around the challenges of protecting and improving space for nature within the city. Louis Haugh is a visual artist with a background in photography and video making. His work looks for new ways to engage with and learn from ecology, while platforming public and community engagement in the process. Over the duration of his residency at the Council, Louis will be looking at how language and systems of communication help to shape our relationship to the environment and will be offering different opportunities to the Council's community of staff to participate in this research. Louis will be working with the Climate Action Team until September 2025. This project is funded by Creative Ireland, through the Creative Climate Action Fund.



RAINSCAPES

The Harmonstown section of the Dublin City Council Rainscapes Project was opened on the 12th July by Councillor Supriya Singh, deputising for the Lord Mayor of Dublin Councillor Ray McAdam.

What is a Rainscape?

A Rainscape is formed when green spaces are adapted to allow rainwater from the road and other hard surfaces to flow into these spaces when it is raining. Rainscapes can also include special hard surfaces that allow rainwater through them.

Rainscapes help reduce runoff from roads and other surfaces and help reduce pollution in rivers. They also support health and wellbeing, as well as introducing informal play areas and attracting desirable wildlife.

The Rainscapes Project is one of the largest urban Nature-Based Solutions retrofit projects in Ireland and the UK. Dublin City Council collaborating with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funded this project as part of its commitment to comply with the Water Framework Directive and to quantify the benefits of this approach. The council now hopes to expand this successful methodology to other locations in the near future.

“Rainscapes is more than just an engineering feat; it’s a living example of our commitment to a greener, more sustainable Dublin,” said Councillor Singh.



IN OTHER NEWS..

WEDNESDAY 20TH AUGUST

ReViewing Ireland: A Photo Study of Ireland's Environment 2024-2025:

For Heritage Week 2025, Paula T Nolan will present a selection of photographs from her year-long project, 'ReViewing Ireland: A Photo Study of Ireland's Environment'. This project was undertaken as the inaugural National Library of Ireland (NLI) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Photographer-in-Residence. Over one year, Paula travelled the 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland using public transport and e-bike, capturing images of current environmental interest and importance.

21ST AND 24TH AUGUST

Fiadhúlra sa Pháirc an Fhionnuaisce - Bilingual Biodiversity Tour of the Phoenix Park:

Beidh fáilte roimh gach duine go dtí turas ar bithéagsúlacht na páirce- fiadhúlra sa pháirc. Mas rud é go bhfuil suim agat sna crainn agus na hainmhithe i Páirc an Fhionnuaisce seo é an turas duit- turas tri mean na Béarla agus Gaeilge.

Everyone is welcome on this bilingual tour of the biodiversity of the park. If you have an interest in the trees and animals of the Phoenix Park then this is the tour for you. The tour will be conducted through a mix of English and Irish.

SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

Widening The Lens - Power, Purpose & Priorities: In-Person Strategy Session:

This in-person, 50-minute session organised by Dublin South City Partnership is a space specifically for Social Enterprises driving environmental and climate impact to step back, connect, and work through what matters most right now. Followed by Environmental event @ 11 am with Beta Bajgart.

SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

Creating Community & the SDGs - a morning in GLAS garden:

Over the morning, this event, organised by GAP Ireland, will be talking about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); what are they? How do they relate to me? How can I contribute to them?; sharing food and doing a gardening activity - all while chatting to new people and getting to enjoy the beautiful environment of GLAS garden.