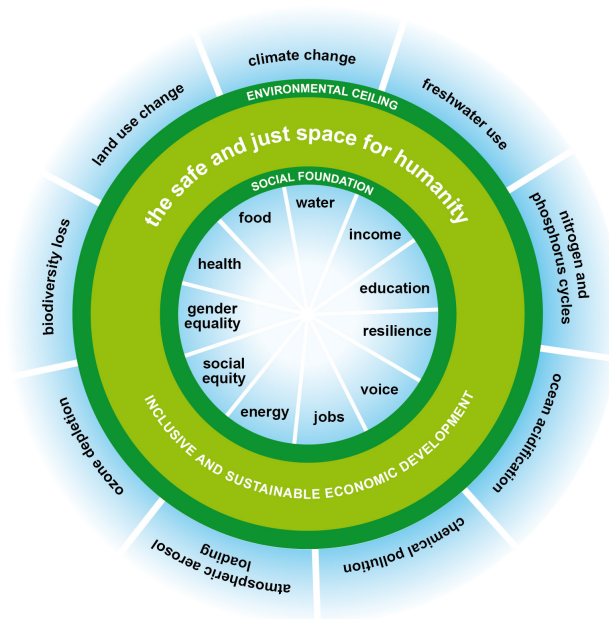




# Environmental Pillar

## Consolidated Policy Document



October 2012

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## Introduction

### The Document

This document is a compilation of the headlines of all Environmental Pillar Policies to date. Each policy is linked to its source document. This document is intended to be updated periodically

### The Policy Context

Human Society emerged from, and is entirely reliant for its survival on, the natural environment. Economic systems are created to serve society and can be changed by society. Human society on its present course, with a rapidly growing population, and with an economic system based on an ever increasing use and abuse of natural resources, is destined to destroy the natural systems on which it relies for its survival.

<http://environmentalpillar.ie/files/2012/03/Environmental-Pillar-FSDI-Submission-final1.pdf>

The continued emphasis on economic growth as a key to the success of society flies in the face of the reality that our species is living on a finite planet with finite resources, and a finite ecological carrying capacity. All policies must act to protect our ecological assets. These assets are at the core of our long-term wealth and well-being. The conventional “grow first, and clean up” path of development urgently needs to shift to a “green” path of development one which will result in a healthy, socially inclusive, productive, equitable, and more resilient society. The success of human society can no longer be based solely on financial metrics such as GDP or GNP, which measure financial activity regardless of whether it is good or bad for society. More prisoners, more ill-health, more waste etc. are all measured as positives within these yardsticks. The success of a sustainable economy must be counted differently.

Identifying and quantifying planetary boundaries that must not be transgressed could help prevent human activities from causing unacceptable environmental change, argued Johan Rockström and colleagues in 2009<sup>1</sup>. (See overleaf). From a purely selfish anthropocentric point of view, a safe operating space for humanity cannot exist whilst we continue to kill off the other species of plants and animals that provide many of the services that humanity relies on for its well-being. However, the Environmental Pillar would add that the whole diversity of life deserves a safe operating space too, and we as a species are reducing their space too

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nature.com/news/specials/planetaryboundaries/index.html> [Accessed 20/02/2012]

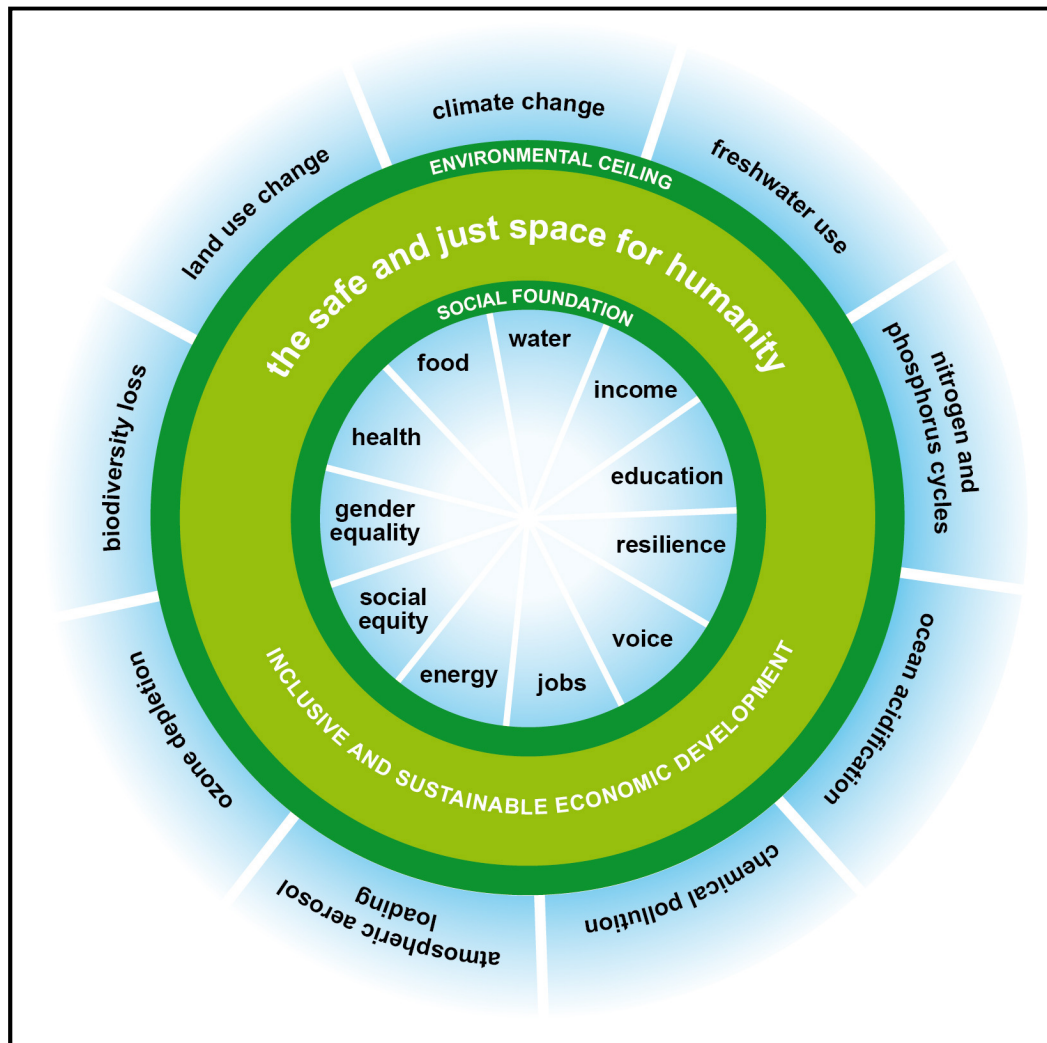


Fig. A safe operating space for humanity - Source Oxfam inspired by Rockström et al<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blog/12-02-13-can-we-live-inside-doughnut-why-world-needs-planetary-and-social-boundaries> [Accessed 20/02/2012]

## 1.0 Cross-sectoral Policies

### 1.1 Enforcement of Environmental Law

- Proper enforcement of environmental law especially in fishing, quarrying, energy industries, agribusiness and others is essential. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Create ‘Wildlife Crime Officers’ managed through the EPA, NPWS and An Garda Síochána to reduce infringements of wildlife legislation, with state solicitors advised to secure fines that support environmental NGOs and the Wildlife Crime corp. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Ireland should follow up on the ratification of the Aarhus Convention, by ensuring full implementation of its provisions and those of existing EU Law which transpose parts of the Convention. Ireland should support the revival of the European Commission’s proposed directive on access to justice in environmental matters. Pending the adoption of a cross-cutting EU directive on access to justice, Ireland should amend its national laws and practices to ensure that accessing justice in environmental matters is no longer prohibitively expensive.
- Ireland should pursue every opportunity to promote Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration globally, including easing accession to the Aarhus Convention; supporting countries that are considering acceding to the Aarhus Convention and supporting the negotiation and adoption of a global Principle 10 convention or other regional or sub-regional Principle 10 conventions.

### 1.2 Environmental Governance

- In the light of Rio+20, review the implementation of Agenda 21 in Ireland and put in place measures to fill the gaps. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

- The creation of an ‘Ombudsman for the Future’. Sustainable decision-making requires an advocate for the generations to come and not just for the human species. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]
- Clarify the role required of the EPA and revisit its legislative remit [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Configure and implement an essential complimentary programme of legislative reform. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Integrate the relevant decision making frameworks of An Bord Pleanála & the EPA under An Bord Pleanála to allow environmental aspects of decisions to be dealt with as part of the planning process. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Provide a structure to conduct a substantive review of licensing and other significant decisions. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Provide for an Environmental List within the Court System and associated reform of penalty provisions for environmental crimes and damage. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Widen the remit of the Enforcement Wing of the EPA and improve its function through the creation of an Environmental Crime Investigation Unit. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Clarify and optimise the relative responsibilities of the NPWS and the EPA for biodiversity considerations. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Specify additional licensing functions for the EPA. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Improved leverage of environmental monitoring & assessment information in assessing and feeding into National Strategies and Plans in order to:
  - Improve engagement of and by the public in the stewardship of the environment
  - Create a real appreciation of the alignment of interests between human health and environmental factors and thereby influence behaviour and choices to create positive environmental outcomes. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]

- Generate greater leverage of the public at large in compliance and monitoring and response to environmental matters. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Maintain the Review Panel as a steering group for the implementation of the Review Panel's approved recommendations. [Environmental Pillar Submission to the EPA Review Panel <http://bit.ly/QoEeAK> ]
- Include the Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment in the Terms of Reference for the Constitutional Convention. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

### 1.3 Taxation

- Taxes should be diverted from income and transactions to the use of the natural and social commons. The resultant receipts, less necessary investment to protect or build commons capital, should be broadly distributed to citizens on an equal per capita basis. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Introduce a Site Value Tax. Implement a property tax based on the value of all zoned residential land, extending it to all development land in replacement of commercial rates. [Policy Statement on Site Value Tax ]
- Employment Impact Assessment of Property Tax Options. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Establish an administrative structure to analyse and develop proposals to shift taxation from production and labour to resource use and pollution. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Maintain and increase fuel taxes. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

### 1.4 Subsidies

- Abolish PSO to peat fired electricity production. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Abolish Tax exemption of employee parking spaces. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

- Establish a task force to report on all other subsidies including those which operate by tax exemption. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Abolish red diesel in favour of tax rebates in agriculture and other forms of support/ rebates for fishing which support conservation. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- The Irish Government, the EU, its Member States and European Financial Institutions to cease providing financial or political support to shale gas, oil and coal bed methane development projects. Furthermore any financial and political assistance provided to shale gas projects in countries of the Global South should be redirected towards the production and promotion of renewable energy sources and energy savings, in line with the Millennium Development Goals. [Environmental Pillar Policy on Shale Gas, Shale Oil, Coal Bed Methane and ‘Fracking’ <http://bit.ly/R1oXHU> ]

## 1.5 Monetary Policy

- Establish a think-tank to investigate mechanisms for moving away from debt based money and for developing local currencies. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Government debt levels should be judged relative to economic conditions and how the borrowing is used rather than simplistic percentages. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

## 1.6 Reform of the Euro

- Engage with EU partners to reform the Euro and its governance so that it is capable of fulfilling its role in a sustainable economy. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 1.7 Employment

- Introduce a “Green Jobs Guarantee Scheme” for anyone who needs work at the minimum wage, to tackle ever increasing need for work to be done to protect and



enhance the environment and protect our heritage. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

- Explore the employment opportunities emanating from sustainable peatland management, conservation and restoration. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Remove the obstacles that prevent social welfare recipients from volunteering. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Reduce the working week to alleviate unemployment and reduce consumption pressure and associated environmental impacts. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 1.8 Training

- Government should support innovation and creativity in the training methodologies alongside the more traditional training courses. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 1.9 Procurement

- Government Policy should be based on ‘Sustainable Public Procurement’, where this incorporates Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability. [Submission on the Draft Green Public Procurement National Action Plan <http://bit.ly/RNruTM> ]
- There should be a single integrated sustainable procurement framework for all public authorities. The “twelve step” process could be a useful tool in this. [Submission on the Draft Green Public Procurement National Action Plan <http://bit.ly/RNruTM> ]
- The authorities should question the need for the purchase in the first place. Can existing products or equipment be used instead of buying new goods? Can the requirement be met by hiring or sharing instead of purchasing? [Submission on the Draft Green Public Procurement National Action Plan <http://bit.ly/RNruTM> ]
- The Most Economically Advantageous Tender must include full life cycle costing and be calculated using an appropriate weighting for sustainable criteria. These should include fair-trade and ethical criteria, where appropriate. Tenders should not be judged simply on the lowest price. To do this there is a need to develop green

specifications and contract weighting tools. [Submission on the Draft Green Public Procurement National Action Plan <http://bit.ly/RNruTM> ]

- Guidelines for implementation of the Plan should include targets for each body at least based on the following criteria: the proportion of procurement staff given sustainability training within a certain time period; the proportion of contracts in place upon which a sustainability risk assessment has been carried out; the proportion of procurement spend covered by sustainability initiatives with existing suppliers; and the number of high risk supply chains for which sustainability audits have been carried out. [Submission on the Draft Green Public Procurement National Action Plan <http://bit.ly/RNruTM> ]
- Sustainable procurement criteria should be incorporated into all key contracts focusing initially on those which are high spend, have a high environmental impact and are easily influenced. [Submission on the Draft Green Public Procurement National Action Plan <http://bit.ly/RNruTM> ]
- Build capacity - a flexible framework must be developed to enable public sector organisations to benchmark their own capability. [Submission on the Draft Green Public Procurement National Action Plan <http://bit.ly/RNruTM> ]
- A clear commitment to green public procurement is needed from the Cabinet through to general secretaries, local authority members and chief executives in all public bodies. [Submission on the Draft Green Public Procurement National Action Plan <http://bit.ly/RNruTM> ]
- Prioritise the proactive implementation of “Green Tenders – An Action Plan for Green Public Procurement. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Adopt BS 8903 - Principles and Framework for Procuring Sustainably - for all public bodies and promote its adoption by the private sector. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 1.10 Investment programmes

- Encourage investment in productive import-substituting activities such as renewable energy and to develop knowledge and expertise in environmental services for export. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Ensure that all major government investment programmes directed at job creation are based on an objective assessment of projects which could be included. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

- Ensure that the assessment considers how many jobs are likely to be created by each of the measures, policies or projects being compared for inclusion. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Ensure that the assessment also considers the impact of the projects on sustainability indicators including compliance with EU law and meeting national emissions targets. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Ensure public health and knock-on benefits (reduced medical costs, better productivity/reduced absenteeism and better educational results) are included in the factors to be taken into account in deciding on expenditure and investment. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Establish a fund to provide matching finance and support in making applications for drawing down a range of EU resources. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

### 1.11 Sustainability in the Private Sector

- Encourage the incorporation of sustainability considerations and analysis in private sector decision-making, such as new reporting requirements for limited liability companies. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Encourage a step of Corporate Social Responsibility. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

### 1.12 Planning

- The life of planning permissions must not be extended. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Projected population figures for planning be updated taking account of emigration. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Continuing review of the Planning Acts in-case they prevent sustainable development. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Plans must be consistent with each other at all levels. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

- Existing excessive land zoning to be curtailed. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Remove planning function from Port companies. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Create an explicit environmental remit for County/City Development Boards. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

### 1.13 Innovation

- The government works to establish a process of change in which all third level institutions become living laboratories for a Sustainable Ireland, for the Green Economy and as a driver for green job creation. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Use the Green Way as a prototype to promote similar Cleantech clusters around the larger urban centres. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Create ‘Wildlife Crime Officers’ managed through the EPA, NPWS and AN Garda Síochána to reduce infringements of wildlife legislation, with state solicitors advised to secure fines that support environmental NGOs and the Wildlife Crime corp. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

### 1.14 Cooperatives

- Update the legislation governing Cooperatives to give a level playing field for all enterprises. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 2.0 Sectoral Policies

### 2.1 Energy

- Push for higher targets for Green House Gas reductions in the EU. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Develop and implement an effective Pay As You Save scheme. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Restore the grants for thermal retrofit to their previous levels. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Promote closed cycle local Biomass projects nationally. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Establish a ring-fenced tax on all fossil fuel exploitation to be used to drive the move to renewable energy production, efficiencies and home energy retrofits. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Pursue a cross-border harmonisation of rules applicable to solid fuels. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Invest in decentralised provision of innovative power supplies from a wide range of sources to ensure greater energy security and thriving local economies. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Develop two new HVDC interconnectors for the export of renewable power in public ownership with European financing. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Until the many environmental and human health problems identified with unconventional gas extraction are adequately addressed, no further shale gas, shale oil and coal bed methane activities should proceed. We call on all the Irish Government and the European Commission to suspend all on-going activities, to abrogate permits, and to place a ban on any new projects, whether exploration or exploitation. [Environmental Pillar Policy on Shale Gas, Shale Oil, Coal Bed Methane and 'Fracking' <http://bit.ly/R1oXHU>]
- Plan the grid to maximise the penetration of Renewable Energy. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

- Plan properly the required interconnections, storage, gas-fired peaking plants and base load generating stations. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Ramp up to an annual programme of 40,000 home insulation retrofits with all the consequent benefits, as well as programmes to increase the efficiency of all heating systems. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

## 2.2 Climate Change

- A strong and effective Climate Change Act to be introduced which is capable of positioning Ireland as a leader in the international fight against climate change. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]
- Such an Act should include a legally binding 2020 domestic mitigation target of a reduction of 30% on 2005 emissions, and a legally binding 2050 target of 90% reduction on 1990 emissions. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]
- Provision for the setting of 5-year interim targets (if not three year) by Government. This would be aligned with the electoral cycle of political accountability and would be a spur to timely action. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]
- The establishment of a National Climate Change Commission to supervise and advise a fully coherent and integrated Government response capable of delivering international leadership on climate change. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]
- Provision of € 420 million annually as fair share of international UN financing for mitigation, adaptation, and forest protection in developing countries. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]
- 1% of GDP should be set aside annually for national and international decarbonisation and adaptation (additional to achievement of 0.7% Overseas Development Aid objective, with full 0.7% Overseas Development Aid objective to be immediately fully climate proofed). [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]

- Immediate introduction of carbon tax of € 30 per tonne, escalating by an additional €5 per tonne annually for non-traded sector. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]
- The establishment of a National Decarbonisation Fund to manage carbon tax revenue (as part of the 1% GDP set-aside) for decarbonisation, adaptation, and developing country development objectives. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]
- A strong domestic compliance regime to include short term, medium term, and longer term mitigation, renewable energy and energy efficiency targets embedded in national legislation. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]
- The Irish Government should acknowledge the national importance of peatlands as a major carbon store, the role of pristine and restored peatlands as carbon sinks, and the potential of degraded peatlands to enhance the greenhouse effect. Peatland conservation and restoration should be a priority of Ireland's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA>]

## 2.3 Nature Conservation

- Develop and adopt new and improved domestic wildlife legislation with associated enforcement, particularly for wildlife crime. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Develop and implement a National Biodiversity Action Plan. Ensure public consultation of the draft prior to its final adoption. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Pass the Environmental Liability Bill and fully implement the Environmental Liability Directive. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Adopt an overarching public policy which ensures an ecosystem-based approach to protecting and managing our natural resources, and which addresses perverse incentives and unnecessary policy conflicts. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Support the development of biodiversity indicators in quality of life and sustainable development indicators and in measures of sustainable growth. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

- Fully comply with and implement the EU Habitats Directive and EU Birds Directive and the Convention on Biodiversity in order to afford protection to biodiversity of national and European importance. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Ensure a formal statutory declaration of proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) under the Wildlife Acts (1976 & 2000). [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Implement and Enforce the Flora Protection Order. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Integrate biodiversity policy across all sectors, particularly agriculture, fisheries, energy, marine and transport. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Implement the cessation of turf cutting scheme on all SAC's and NHA's with the appropriate compensation measures and fuel alternatives. Publish the Bogland Project – a sustainable management plan for the peatlands of Ireland. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Include conservation in economic stimulus packages as an important part of the Green Economy. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Ensure R&D Funds for strategic collection of marine and terrestrial wildlife data. This will employ consultants in small to medium businesses and also help to inform sectoral decision-making in areas of further employment (wind energy, use of marine resources etc). [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Secure our natural capital through funding nature conservation work, 'accounting for nature' sooner rather than later in policy development and in decision-making as a matter of urgency and link this to performance indicators that go 'beyond GDP'. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Provide assistance to those interested in putting together LIFE+ projects. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 2.4 Water

- A National Water Authority with regional River Basin District offices should be established and charged with integrated management of all aspects of river basin (catchment) planning, including actively promoting public participation. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards]



<http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

- Investment in wastewater treatment infrastructure which is sufficient to meet our EU law obligations and bring our waterways and water abstraction sources to good status. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Stimulate the water conservation industry. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 2.5 Sustainable Agriculture

- Support the Greening of Pillar 1 of the CAP and increasing Pillar 2 to 50% of the CAP budget. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Prioritise a national debate on the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Develop a wild food policy framework to support the wild food sector. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Develop a wool fibre insulation industry to meet Irish and UK demand for insulation as our housing stock is retrofitted. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Support an accelerated move towards organic farming and organic horticulture. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Support the development of specialist and niche horticulture. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Food Harvest 2020 to be subjected to a screening under the Habitats Directive, and Appropriate Assessment. It also needs to be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment to comply with Ireland's legal obligations. [Submission on Environmental Analysis of Scenarios Related to Implementation of Recommendations in Food Harvest 2020 (FH2020) <http://bit.ly/OD90rq> ]
- Adaptation and resilience to climate change need to be considered in the assessment of both the implementation of Food Harvest 2020, and analysis of its impacts. [Submission on Environmental Analysis of Scenarios Related to Implementation of Recommendations in Food Harvest 2020 (FH2020) <http://bit.ly/OD90rq> ]
- Support the creation of an environmentally sustainable Agriculture sector that ensures delivery of an effective agri-environmental scheme including impact assessments and monitoring of outcomes, in order to demonstrate value for money

in delivering the public benefits of clean waters, healthy soils and a stable atmosphere. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

- The encouragement of on-farm waste to energy and fertiliser management including the full implementation of the Nitrates Directive. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Introduce a targeted grant aid scheme that rewards practices which reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on farms. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Convene a national debate on food security involving the full range of stakeholders to establish a widely agreed strategy by the spring of 2012. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- In order for Ireland to maintain its green image as a producer of good quality sustainably produced food, and the jobs that go with that image, a moratorium on the import or cultivation of GM crops should be introduced. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Establish a number of agro-forestry pilot projects around the country which could become centres of excellence for awareness, education and training, whilst adding to the job creation potential of agroforestry. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]

## 2.6 Tree Cover

- The proposed new Forestry Bill must incorporate a revision of both the Forestry Acts of 1946 and 1988. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- National Afforestation policy should be concentrated on semi-natural woodland, composed mainly but not exclusively of native species. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- There must be a ban on the sale of public lands if this contributes to deforestation. Where such a sale takes place then the full value of a sale must be reinvested in afforestation only. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- Cross border co-operation focussed on the implementing EU measures to eliminate the import of illegally harvested timber should be a government priority. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]

- Stabilise funding and rationalise grant schemes through interdepartmental and international co-operation on RDP and climate change strategies. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- Increase the resources of the Inventory and Research branches of the Forest Service in order that they can meet Ireland's international obligations. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- All Forest Service Guidelines need to be revised to ensure protection of biodiversity and water quality as part of all new planting and forest management operations and should be given statutory effect under the New Forestry Bill. Revised guidelines and a new 'National Forest Standard' need to fully incorporate the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the protection and improvement of the aquatic environment as per the Water Framework Directive. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- Ancient and semi natural woodlands of conservation merit, other than those designated as part of the Natura 2000 network, need to be awarded strong legal protection and managed for their conservation interest and long term protection. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- The Social Partners must be involved at all stages in the development and review of Coillte, and Forestry Policy and Legislation. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- All identified old/ancient woodland sites should be reinstated after first rotation. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- The administration of public Tree-Cover must be restructured while maintaining public ownership of Coillte's Forest Assets. A multi stakeholder leasing model should be considered. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- A new comprehensive National Forest Standard is a key requirement for achieving SFM in Ireland. This new National Forest Standard will enable delivery and integration of multiple objectives, including existing European and International commitments. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- Set as a policy goal the achievement of the "long-term multifunctional and sustainable forestry and innovative forest sector that fulfils present and future social, economic and environmental needs, and supports forest-related livelihoods". [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Protect and promote the genetics of native woodlands. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Develop forest biomass based enterprises in particular local energy supply. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

- Develop wood-fibre insulation manufacturing to meet Irish and UK demand for insulation as our housing stock is retrofitted. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Support agroforestry pilots. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Plantation Forests must be redesigned and restructured to avoid clear-felling. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- Ireland must be kept free of genetically modified trees. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- A national SFM training programme for farmers, for various elements of the forest industry including foresters and contractors, and for regulators should be introduced. A full SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) should be carried out on the new National Forest Standard. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- The use of Glyphosate (Roundup) as a management tool for controlling scrub etc. must not be permitted. A proper SFM management plan involving CTF and coppicing should always be the preferred option. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]
- Clearly defined limits on areas for clear-fell must be agreed. These limits and the promotion of Continuous Cover Silviculture in conifer stands must be linked to improved Carbon Accounting. [Tree Cover Policy <http://bit.ly/Wf1zd1>]

## 2.7 Marine

- The reformed CFP has as its main and primary objective the protection and conservation of the marine ecosystem, building resilient, healthy and diverse seas which leads to restoring the balance between fishing effort, fish stocks and the wider marine environment. To achieve this, the future CFP has to have an unconditional commitment to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, incorporating a robust application of the precautionary principle. The reformed CFP has a stated obligation to achieving ‘good environmental status’ of all Community Waters in line with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive as well as maintaining and improving the ecological status of Natura 2000 and other merging MPAs networks. It must address the 5 structural failings listed here and fully integrate into the future CFP, the establishment and protection of Marine Protected Areas, integration of climate change considerations and the full integration of aquaculture into the 2012 CFP.
  - A Deep-rooted problem of fleet overcapacity

- Imprecise Policy Objectives resulting in insufficient guidance for decisions and implementation
  - A decision-making system that encourages a short-term focus
  - A framework that does not give sufficient responsibility to the industry
  - Lack of political will to ensure compliance combined with poor compliance by the industry
- 
- Ensure access to fish resources to those who fish in the most socially and environmentally responsible ways and who adhere to scientific advice – securing healthy fish stock and hence supporting fishing communities and associated jobs into the future. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
  - Redirect fuel subsidy to transition package on sustainable low-carbon fishing with labelling and marketing support on an all-island basis. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
  - Establish Marine Protected Areas in 20% of Irish Waters. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
  - Adhere strictly to ICES scientific advice in this year's Fisheries Council negotiations to halt the overfishing of stocks. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
  - Highlight, disseminate and further develop the areas where Ireland is truly a leader in the Green Economy – e.g. Sea Bass. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
  - Prioritise the green securement of our marine and coastal ecosystems and their services including the natural defences against climate change impacts. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
  - Halt the highest impact wild fisheries and aquaculture in and around Natura 2000 sites now. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
  - Strengthen the research in the marine environment – not only in the welcome areas of green renewable energy etc. as flagged by government, but also in the inshore and coastal areas for both conservation and small scale multi use, where citizen science element empowers and informed coastal communities. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
  - Create green Jobs through the timely, innovative and participatory implementation of marine law: the Marine Directive being the most urgent legislation to address. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

- Following the implementation of the above there would be a need for training to shift the process of reform up a gear. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- A generic list of all wild fishery and aquaculture activities in each Natura 2000 site together with their potential adverse individual and cumulative impacts should be made available to the Public. [Environmental Pillar response to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food regarding the proposals for the opening up of inshore fisheries in Natura 2000 Sites 13/08/2009]
- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) should be carried out for each Natura 2000 coastal fisheries site as soon as possible and should progress rapidly with an agreed timeline of no more than 3 years. For sites where SEAs have not yet been produced, full agreement to ongoing monitoring is required. Fisheries should remain closed until an SEA is in progress, and should still require full Appropriate Assessment in advance of any decision-making regarding opening. [Environmental Pillar response to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food regarding the proposals for the opening up of inshore fisheries in Natura 2000 Sites 13/08/2009]
- Appropriate Assessment should be carried out where required. [Environmental Pillar response to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food regarding the proposals for the opening up of inshore fisheries in Natura 2000 Sites 13/08/2009]
- The development of sustainable fisheries including all forms of aquaculture and/or wild fisheries in each site must include a process of public participation. [Environmental Pillar response to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food regarding the proposals for the opening up of inshore fisheries in Natura 2000 Sites 13/08/2009]
- The public must be included in the development of Fisheries Plans, SEAs, Conservation Objectives and Management Plans from the start of these processes. Information about the processes must be proactively disseminated allowing adequate time for the public to participate. [Environmental Pillar response to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food regarding the proposals for the opening up of inshore fisheries in Natura 2000 Sites 13/08/2009]
- The public should also be involved in addressing known existing problems in Natura sites such as removal of invasive species, removal of boulders, identifying important areas such as Zostera beds. [Environmental Pillar response to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food regarding the proposals for the opening up of inshore fisheries in Natura 2000 Sites 13/08/2009]
- Clear science-based and legally-backed guidelines must be drawn up regarding the introduction of non-native species into fisheries as soon as possible. [Environmental Pillar response to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food regarding the proposals for the opening up of inshore fisheries in Natura 2000 Sites 13/08/2009]
- Non-selective fishing methods should be phased out through the development of a strategic plan for fisheries as soon as possible. [Environmental Pillar response to the

Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food regarding the proposals for the opening up of inshore fisheries in Natura 2000 Sites 13/08/2009]

## 2.8 Oceans

- The Environmental Pillar supports the designation of an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas. This network would significantly exceed the number of marine SAC's designated by the NPWS by combining NATURA 2000, Ramsar sites, Marine Conservation Zones and NHA's (after the UK model). MPA's would enjoy a similar level of protection from exploitation and development as SAC's and SPA's and could be promoted by the tourism sector as Marine parks or nature reserves. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]
- Employment in the seafood sector could be significantly and sustainably increased by hiring observers for the Irish Fishing fleet. Such a scheme would not only help to improve compliance with regulation but would also fill important knowledge gaps in relation to by-catch and by-kill. Local coastal surveillance officers could have a similar role in relation to aquaculture operations and ports. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]
- Commercial Development should be obliged to contribute to a dedicated environmental fund that is used to finance, for example, observer and license enforcement schemes, construction of coastal erosion mitigation measures, and development of better selective fishing gear. This fund could also be used to remove coastal litter and abandoned and defunct infrastructure such as old aquaculture trestles and cages. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]
- The powers and resources of the Sea Fisheries Protection Agency should be enhanced in order to improve license monitoring and enforcement. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]
- There should be a greater emphasis on informing the public on planned coastal and marine developments. Independent Appeals Boards should provide for local community representation. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]
- A Red List of endangered marine species should be established so that conservation efforts can be targeted, as is being done for terrestrial species. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]
- The Wildlife Act should be extended to marine species which currently do not enjoy protected legal status. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]
- An Inshore Fisheries Forum with NGO and local community representation should be established. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]



- Marine Spatial Plans should emphasize the Ecosystem Approach and put mechanisms in place that guarantee environmental law enforcement and compliance. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]
- The Environmental Pillar calls upon the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Member States to work together to establish a European Whale and Dolphin Sanctuary throughout European waters. <http://environmentalpillar.ie/2012/02/28/letter-calling-for-the-establishment-of-a-european-whale-and-dolphine-sanctuary/>
- Subsidies which incentivise large scale trawling should be discontinued. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]
- A Marine Authority should be created to coordinate the planning process at sea in an open and transparent manner, similar to that which exists above the high tide mark. [Our Ocean Wealth <http://bit.ly/SXMc6m> ]

## 2.9 Waste as a Resource

- Put in place and enact a National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Adopt a Zero Waste approach to waste management. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Give strong support to the Irish recycling industry. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Promote the development of anaerobic digestion of waste streams at community level to deliver combined heat and power and to recycle nutrients to the soils from whence they came. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Introduce deposit-and-refund schemes on all recyclable food and drinks containers. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Prioritise the implementation of the Food waste regulations of 2009 and investigate the use of edible foods discarded as waste. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- The Environmental Pillar is opposed to the use of mass burn incineration as a part of the waste management strategy. This opposition is based on the many impacts that incineration will have on the health and well-being of the public, and the damage it will do to the agri-food, tourism, blood-stock and green industries and their capacity



to provide jobs and sustainable employment. [Levy on Incineration: letter to Minister Hogan <http://bit.ly/Wr66I2> ]

- In the short-term the Pillar asserts the urgent necessity for an incineration levy to recover at least some of the costs, to society and the economy, of the pollutants released in the process. [Levy on Incineration: letter to Minister Hogan <http://bit.ly/Wr66I2> ]
- The introduction of the compulsory labelling of packaging to indicate the materials used based on the UK's On Pack Recycled Labelling Scheme. This labelling system should be designed to incentivise producers to ensure maximum recyclability of packaging and encourage development of recyclable alternatives to non-recyclable packaging materials. [Initial Submission on the Proposal to Introduce a Packaging Levy <http://bit.ly/RyY1zJ> ]
- The publication of a list of the known impacts on human health and the environment for all packaging materials used in Ireland. [Initial Submission on the Proposal to Introduce a Packaging Levy <http://bit.ly/RyY1zJ> ]
- The introduction of a packaging levy that aims to minimise the use of packaging, encourages reusable packaging, and differentiates between the following.
  - Unlabelled packaging (highest levy)
  - Non-recyclable packaging (High levy)
  - Recyclable packaging
  - Packaging made from recycled material
  - Reusable packaging
  - Reusable packaging made from recycled material [Initial Submission on the Proposal to Introduce a Packaging Levy <http://bit.ly/RyY1zJ> ]
- The introduction of complementary deposit and return systems for packaging. [Initial Submission on the Proposal to Introduce a Packaging Levy <http://bit.ly/RyY1zJ> ]
- The revenue from the packaging levy to be used to push Ireland up the waste hierarchy, by stimulating innovation and employment in the reduction, reuse and recycling of packaging. [Initial Submission on the Proposal to Introduce a Packaging Levy <http://bit.ly/RyY1zJ> ]
- The promotion of an EU Directive aimed at developing a harmonised packaging levy based on the above principles and aims. This to be achieved in alliance with Denmark and other Member States, culminating in the publication of a draft directive during the Irish EU presidency. [Initial Submission on the Proposal to Introduce a Packaging Levy <http://bit.ly/RyY1zJ> ]

- Develop closed loop policies for all materials streams, with labour intensive waste resource mining and recycling as a priority. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 2.10 Transport

- A Bus Rapid Transport spoke and orbital instead of Metro North should be given serious consideration. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- An end to the use of Public Private Partnerships for borrowings to fund road programme off national balance sheet. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- All currently contracted motorways connecting Dublin with regional cities should be completed. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- No new ‘Motorway’ standard roads should be started or contracted for. Where upgrades are necessary these should be undertaken using 2+ 1 carriageways on existing routes and the provision of bypasses where necessary. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- End all Public Service Obligation subsidies to regional airports. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Do not develop any new ports but instead concentrate on building capacity of existing ports using increased rail freight. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Do not build a second runway at Dublin Airport. [Environmental Pillar Proposals for the Programme for Government 2011 onwards <http://bit.ly/QJQ5ZA> ]
- Introduce measures to encourage Rail Freight. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Invest in Rail Electrification. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Prioritise regulatory reform for the transport sector. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

- Develop a network of tourism-oriented high quality cycle routes to build on the success of the Great Western Greenway and similar routes throughout Europe. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Drop the new major road proposals and use the capital to support public transport and cycling investments. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 2.11 Tourism

- Provide support for green tourism projects that enable local communities and businesses, including farmers to diversify and create more sustainable local economies. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Massively expand CE schemes and Tús scheme in order to benefit built and natural heritage and with follow on tourism benefits. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]
- Pump prime niche tourism with wildlife as a quality offering supporting local nature reserves as attractions for tourism with spin off for local communities. [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]

## 2.12 Flooding

- The Planning and Development Acts need to be amended to prevent zoning of flood plains. An immediate step that must be taken is to ensure that no development takes place on natural flood plains. [Policy Statement on the Flooding Crisis November 2009 <http://bit.ly/SYx7Nh> ]
- The Land Reclamation Act 1949 must be repealed. Its place should be taken by a Wetland Protection, Restoration and Wise Use Law. [Policy Statement on the Flooding Crisis November 2009 <http://bit.ly/SYx7Nh> ]
- Policies must look at the entire catchment area of watercourses and promote a coordinated framework for the development, management and conservation of water, land and related resources. [Policy Statement on the Flooding Crisis November 2009 <http://bit.ly/SYx7Nh> ]
- The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Ireland must integrate the principles of sustainable flood management. [Policy Statement on the Flooding Crisis

November 2009 <http://bit.ly/SYx7Nh> ]

- Local and planning authorities should adopt the ‘precautionary principle’ or approach in respect of flooding when considering planning applications. [Policy Statement on the Flooding Crisis November 2009 <http://bit.ly/SYx7Nh> ]
- County Managers and County Councillors should be held responsible for the damage done to the public and the environment, where respectively they have granted planning permissions and zoned lands contrary to the guidelines on flood plains. [Policy Statement on the Flooding Crisis November 2009 <http://bit.ly/SYx7Nh> ]

## 2.12 Leader Companies

- Include screening for environmental sustainability and job creation in the green economy in the pre-approval project evaluation by Leader Companies (Integrated Local development Companies). [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy]