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## **Delivering a Just Transition for Ireland – some policy options**

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# A climate crisis

## UNSUSTAINABLE PATTERNS

OF **CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION** ARE ROOT CAUSE OF

### TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISES



CLIMATE  
CHANGE



BIODIVERSITY  
LOSS



POLLUTION

A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT IN HUMANITY'S  
**RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE**  
IS ESSENTIAL

ESCALATING



FOREST  
LOSSES



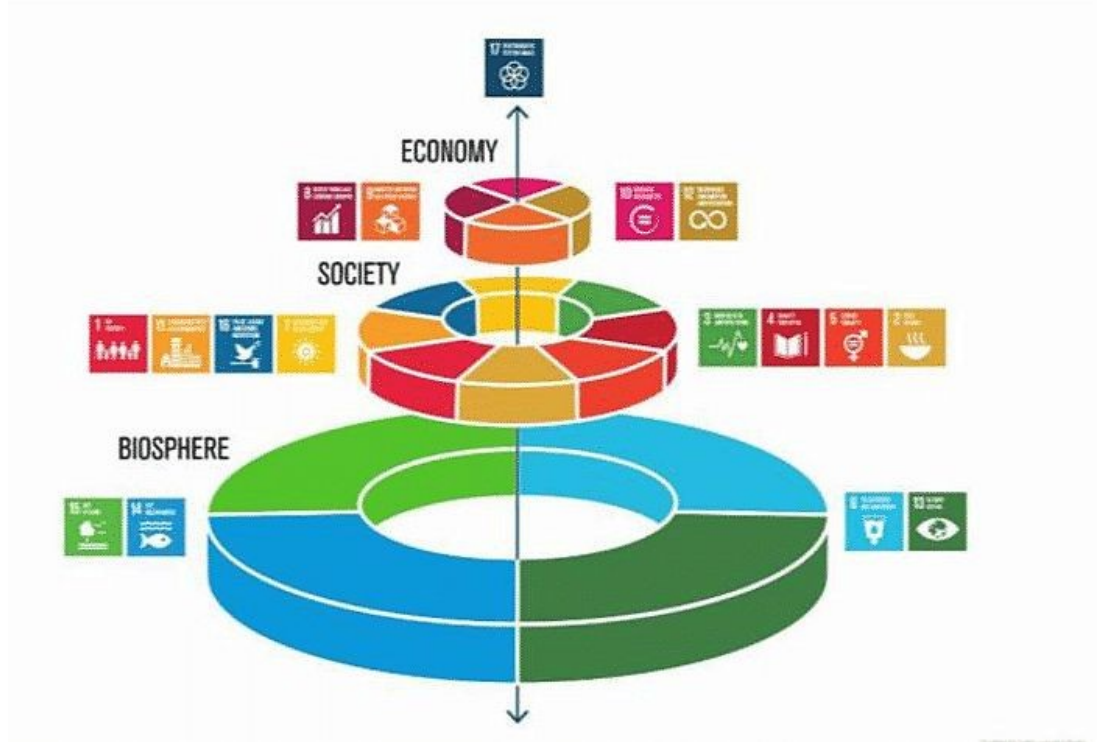
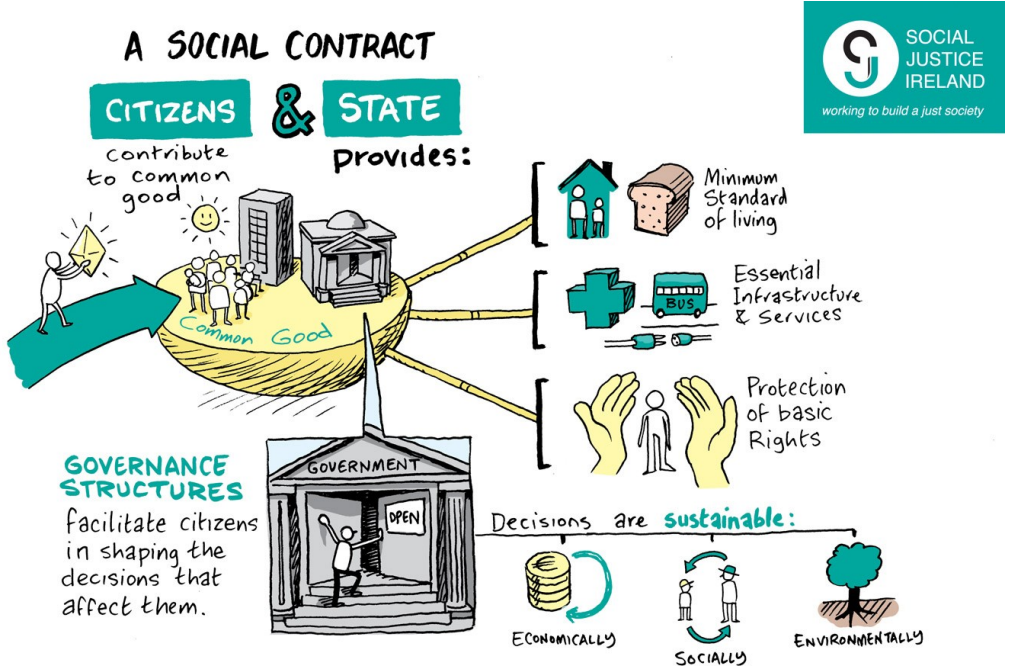
LAND  
DEGRADATION



SPECIES  
EXTINCTION

POSE **SEVERE THREATS** TO PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

# Social contract



# Just Transition



Source: Climate Action Plan 2021:40

# Policy options for a Just Transition

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# Investment

- Apply the principle of the 'common good' to public investment into climate research and development
- Investment rather than tax subsidies should be the preferred policy tool to support and develop climate infrastructure.
- Invest 0.01 per cent of GDP in climate research and development annually to 2030.

Source: State of Finance for Nature 2022 (UNEP)

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# Energy

- Develop a national retrofitting strategy of sufficient scale with a target to deep retrofit the entire existing housing stock in a 20 year timeframe and concurrent plans to increase capacity within the construction sector.
- Upgrade of the national grid must be a key element of infrastructure investment.
- Integrate a Building Renovation Passport Scheme into the National Retrofit Plan.

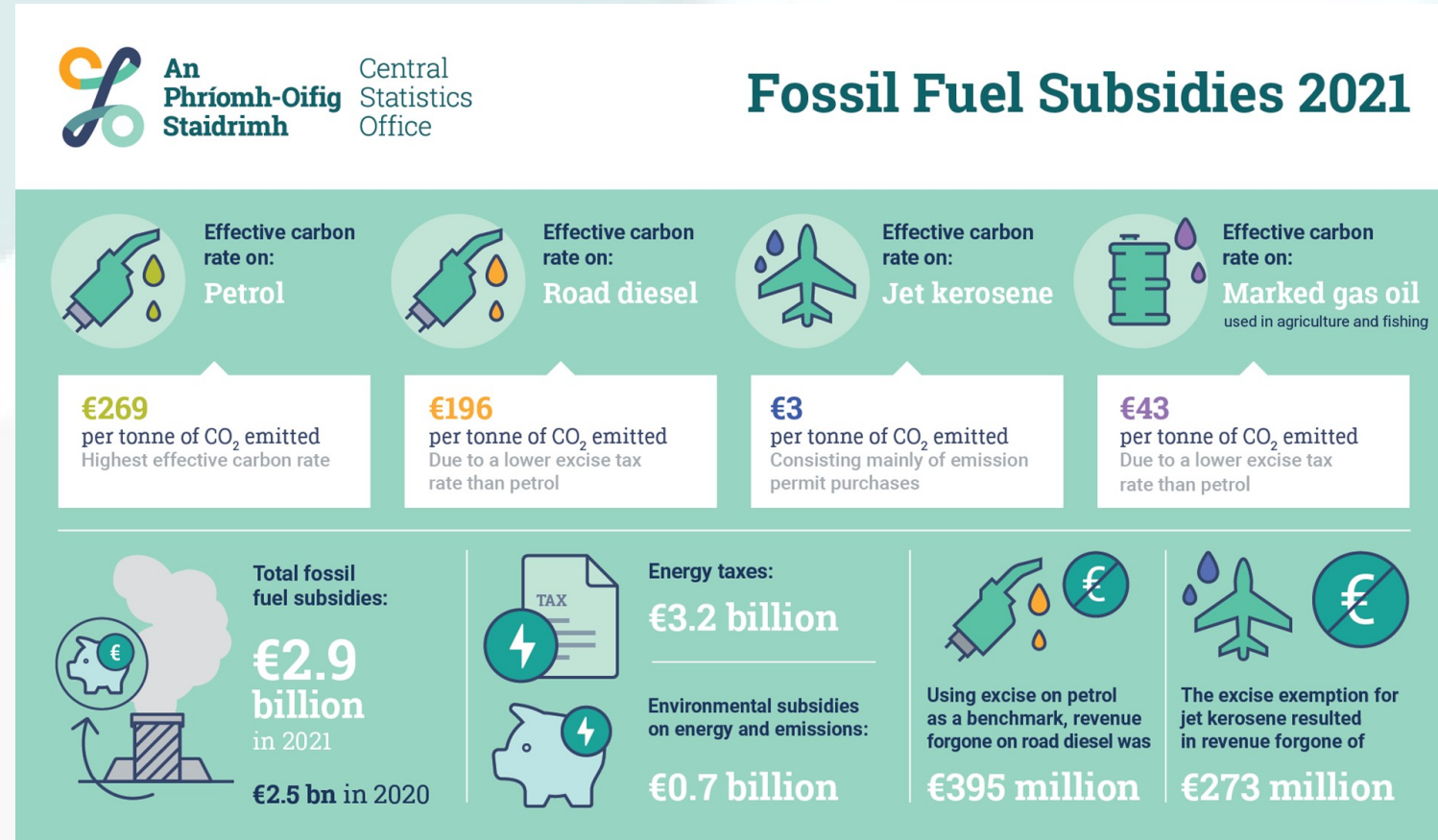
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# Taxation and renewables

- Review all fossil fuel subsidies and environmentally harmful tax expenditures in 2024 against alignment with our national climate goals.
- Set out a roadmap to remove all fossil fuel subsidies by 2030.





# Industry

- Implement a polluter pays principle across industry and other transformative policies to convert industry to a sustainable sector within the Just Transition.
- Pilot international examples of best practice to mainstream the sharing economy and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Invest in the development and expansion of Living Labs in each region focusing on areas such as plastics, renewables, zero carbon buildings.

# Agriculture and Land Management

- Government should publish Land Management and Farm to Fork strategies for 2024 in order to progress towards sustainable agricultural practices.
- Pilot Farm Sustainability Passport scheme to support farmers to move to environmentally friendly and sustainable agricultural methods.

# Transport

- Proactively pursue the removal of the exemption of Jet Kerosene from excise and carbon taxes at EU level.
- In the interim, Government should introduce a commercial air transport tax.
- Revenue accrued should be invested in:
  - improving public transport to reduce urban congestion
  - improving regional and rural public transport connectivity
  - expanding active transport options beyond urban centres

# Policy Coherence

- Integrate climate adaptation into the annual budgetary process.
- Publish a green budget within the annual national budget
- Create targets and a reporting system for each SDG to ensure accountability on targets at a national level.

# Social protection

- Ensure social protection systems adequately provide a safety net and minimum social floor.
- Benchmark core social welfare rates to 27.5 per cent of average weekly earnings.
- Generate an audit of services and infrastructure on a place-based approach

# Care

- Pilot a Universal Basic Services and a Universal Basic Income Scheme for Carers in line with the Programme for Government Commitment to a Carers Guarantee.
- Create a statutory entitlement to Home Care Services which has the required resourcing to support people to live and age well in their own homes and can keep pace with increased demand.

# Work, education and training

- Resource the development of place-based strategies which are key to supporting communities during the transition, as risks and impact will vary across different regions and sectors.
- Develop new apprenticeship and traineeships to support climate mitigation measures with a focus on place based, on the job training, targeting those in the labour market in positions that have been identified as at risk.
- Ensure those in employment have access to quality employment, where possible having the option to work remotely.

# A successful transition.....

- Support the most vulnerable people and communities.
- Coherence and collaboration across all Government Departments, state agencies and local authorities.
- Implement carbon budgets and the Climate Action Plan.
- Address current social and economic inequalities and infrastructure deficits.
- Transform our economic policies to support our social and environmental goals.







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Thank you