

**Draft National Mitigation Plan**  
***Consultation Response from Faith in Action Group, Ballineaspaig Parish,  
Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross, Cork***

**Introduction:**

The Paris Agreement, which came into force on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016, is an international agreement to restrict global temperature change to below 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels, and if possible to 1.5 degrees C.

Ireland signed up to the Paris Agreement, and agreed to meet legally-binding targets for GHG emission reduction by 2020 and 2030.

Ireland's 2020 target:

- for non-Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) emissions is to be 20% below those of 2005
- renewable energy sources to increase to 16% of total energy sources
- a 20% improvement in our energy efficiency

Latest Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) projections that our emission target will not be met, and is likely to be 6% versus the target of 20%.

Only 9% of our energy requirements of 2015 were met from renewable sources.

Additional measures are urgently needed, especially in the agriculture and transport areas;

Agricultural emissions are projected to increase by 6 – 7% by 2020; and Transport emissions by 10 – 16%.

The National Mitigation Plan is to be finalised for submission to Government for June 2017.

**Observations:**

**No consideration is given in the Draft Plan to the reality that we will probably not meet our legally binding targets.**

- This will certainly lead to financial penalties;
- We will not be doing our fair share, and will be parasitic on the work of those countries which do meet their targets;
- We will be contributing to further global climate injustice, particularly experienced in less-developed countries.

**We need to identify the costs of NOT meeting our targets, and to invest urgently in meeting our targets, rather than waste money in paying penalties for our failure.**

**The Agriculture and Food Policy needs to be modified to address the major contribution (33%) of this sector to the GHG emissions.**

Ireland has been pleading special status for agriculture, claiming among other things, that it is more efficient than in other countries. However, a recent EU analysis (Irish Times, April 1 2017) claims that Ireland has the highest GHG emissions per euro output in the EU!

**In the “Residential” area, which accounts for 10.1% of overall GHG emissions, the pricing structure of electricity and gas needs to be examined.**

At present there is little incentive for individual consumers to reduce their electricity or gas usage. This is because under the present pricing structure the network/site charge fee forms a major component of the bill, while the unit charge for energy forms the minor component.

**Overall, we need clear, annual targets for decarbonisation for each sectoral area:**

While some of the possible mitigation measures have been presented in the Draft, others are a ‘work in progress’.

**Finally, there is an urgent need for each individual and group to be informed and actively working on this global national programme.**