

Just Transition Commission membership confirmed

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The government has approved the appointment of Just Transition Commission members, for an initial three-year term.

The Just Transition Commission (JTC) has been finally established, following on from the work of a separate Just Transition Taskforce of 2023. The Commission, the government says, “will have a key role in advising and supporting the government to ensure that the move to a climate neutral economy is fair and benefits everyone.”

As part of a just climate transition there is a need to “maximise employment opportunities, and to support people and communities that may be most negatively affected by the transition away from fossil fuels, and to put engagement and sustainable community development at the heart of its approach.”

Membership of the Just Transition Commission comprises nominees from the five pillars of social dialogue, together with independent experts with backgrounds in a range of areas relevant to the work of the Commission, including human rights and equality, skills development, rural and community development, social inclusion, the green economic transition, and youth perspectives.

The JTC will be chaired by Ali Sheridan. Other members of the JTC are:

- Vanessa Kiely O'Connor – Agriculture Pillar
- Michelle Murphy (Social Justice Ireland) – Community and Volunteer Pillar
- Conor Minogue (Ibec) – Employer Pillar
- Oisín Coghlan (Friends of the Earth) – Environment Pillar
- Ryan McKinney (Fórsa) – Trade Union Pillar
- Diarmuid Torney (DCU) – Independent Expert
- Evan Boyle (MaREI Centre Energy) – Independent Expert
- Seamus Boland (Irish Rural Link) – Independent Expert
- Suresh Kumar – Independent Expert
- Tanya Ward (Children’s Rights Alliance) – Independent Expert

WORK FOR EVERYONE

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, said the Commission “will have an important role in advising and supporting us so that our climate policies work for everyone and benefit all communities.”

“It will work to anticipate and inform long-term climate policy by focusing on the potential impacts, risks and opportunities arising from the climate transition for different sectors of the economy and society, in particular those at most risk of being left behind. Importantly, the Commission will support Government to work from the bottom up, ensuring that we are

innovative, flexible and above all people centred in the way we approach this move to new green jobs, green agriculture and green transport.”

JTC chair, Ali Sheridan, added: “While reaching our climate targets is now a key priority, there is much yet to be done to ensure we achieve them in a way that leaves no one and no place behind.

“We have an opportunity, and a responsibility, to ensure that the transition ahead is a fair one. One that looks beyond emission reductions towards transforming our society and economy to thrive while meeting social needs and respecting planetary boundaries.”

TERMS OF REFERENCE

In line with the approved Terms of Reference, the functions of the Just Transition Commission are:

- To prepare and analyse strategic evidence-based research in relation to just transition: to anticipate and inform long-term climate policy and investment planning, including focusing on the potential impacts, risks and opportunities arising from the climate transition for different sectors of both the economy and society, including the social, economic and employment impacts of this change and the policy responses required
- To evaluate, advise, and comment on policy planning and implementation and progress on the application of Ireland’s just transition principles into national and sectoral climate policies, based on high-quality, evidence-based analysis
- To provide strategic advice and engagement on just transition: the Commission will support the National Dialogue on Climate Action, as well as any dialogues on climate/just transition matters within individual sectors, in engagement on the implementation of climate programmes agreed by government
- Sectoral or regional engagement and road-mapping: the Commission may, on its own initiative, or at the request of the government, undertake proactive engagement with particular communities, sectors or regions facing specific acute or long-term challenges arising from the transition, and advise government on strategic co-ordination by the agencies of the State, on any interventions or targeted supports which may be helpful to address the challenges being faced by that community, sector or region