The Time is Now for

Climate action 🔍 Affordable housing 🏡
Gender equality 👩‍🦳 Protecting nature ⚖️ Accessible transport 🚶‍♂️
Electoral reform 📃 Transformative education 🧑‍🏫 Rural regeneration 🌋
Wellbeing priorities 🧖‍♀️ Immigration reform 🇬🇧 Clean energy 🌍 Circular economy 🔄 Women’s health 💖
Carer recognition 🧑‍⚕️ Greening trade 🌿
Cultúr na hÉireann 🌿 Young voices 🕺
Farming with nature 🌿 Community engagement 🧑‍🌾 Heritage restoration 🌳
Ending homelessness 📢
A message from Eamon Ryan

I am delighted to welcome you to our 2021 National Convention. We’ve had a challenging but productive year in government, and are working hard to rejuvenate our communities, promote safe, sustainable transport, create a more equal society and protect our future for everyone in Ireland.

It is 40 years since the Green Party was established, and while we look back with pride on our achievements, we must focus on the future and the importance of the global Green movement of which we are a part. I’m proud that we can meet this milestone with our proudest achievements in government – the passing of the historic Climate Action Bill into law in July and the launch of the Climate Action Plan 2021.

I know you have shown faith in our work in government. I want to thank you for that and most importantly thanks to all of you who have helped us to this point, not just over the last few months, but over the years and decades.

Following the recent IPCC report which demonstrates unprecedented changes in the climate system across the world, this year’s Convention theme, The Time is Now, reflects the urgent need for continued action and reminds us that there has never been a more important time for our Party.

The convention includes an exciting line-up of insightful speakers and challenging sessions and I look forward to meeting you, both in-person and virtually, for constructive debate and discussions.

Kind regards,

Eamon
Green Party Leader

Catherine Martin

Céad mile fáilte romhainn i bhfuil i bhfeidhm an Chomhaontais Ghlais, 2021!
Welcome back to our National Convention. I am looking forward to an enjoyable few days reconnecting with everyone. I am delighted we can come together in this format to reflect on what has been a busy time for the Party, discuss new ideas, and plan for the future.

As a Party, we have come so far in such a short space of time. In just over one year in Government, we have massively influenced and shaped Government policy, with our Green fingers prevalent across many sectors.

We have made history with the Climate Action Bill, have succeeded in getting agreement and commitment to introduce a Basic Income Guarantee pilot scheme for artists, and we are on track to end Direct Provision by the end of 2024. We are making critical changes in housing, sustainable transport and tourism, improving our walking and cycling infrastructure and in protecting biodiversity.

We are working hard towards securing a just transition for communities across the country, ensuring that climate and social justice is at the core of everything we are doing.

Our Green voices are in the room, at the table, and we are making a positive difference. As a Party, we must continue to use this voice, continue to build sustainable, green communities at local and national level.

Every member of our Party has played a role in getting us to where we are today. Let us continue this work, together. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Mile buíochas.

Catherine
Green Party Deputy Leader

Hazel Chu

Dear Green friends,

With such difficult challenges that we’ve faced as a nation, I am delighted that we are slowly transitioning to a better place and I am able to welcome you back to our National Convention online and in person. What we’ve been through and are still going through is unprecedented and it is a great relief that we have this opportunity to come together to discuss our successes as a party, internally and in government, and our issues so that we can learn from them.

Our Green representatives in national and local governments, our staff and our volunteers have been working incredibly hard across the board to ensure there are Green wins in all that we do. None of which would have been possible without the support of you, our members.

As we enter the next phase of government and approach the 40th anniversary of our party, it is time for us to reflect and listen to each other while we build to a better future. This is what the coming days are all about, having honest respectful debates so that we can be stronger than ever.

I look forward to building that future with you. 

Hazel
Green Party Coletteach

Bláithin Gallagher

A chairde, ’tá an t-am anois.
Welcome to Convention 2021. I’m really looking forward to meeting you, my hardworking colleagues and friends from the north, south, east, west, paid, unpaid, younger, older, all of you carrying the Green torch and keeping it burning brightly.

This year’s programme showcases some of the numerous areas where we are actively engaged in working for a fairer more sustainable society. Many are working hard bringing to fruition policies formulated by our grassroots. A successful year in government has seen our legislation passed, in particular, the Climate Bill. The next hurdle is implementation.

A strong unified message must emerge from comprehensive participatory, respectful, inclusive and robust discussions. Our collective voice must drive widespread and real climate mitigation and adaptation measures, side by side with a genuine just transition – locally, nationally and internationally. Le chéile is feidir linn difríocht a dhéanamh.

Go raibh maith agaibh as gach rud a dhéanann sibh,

Bláithin
Green Party National Coordinator
**Friday 26.11.2021**

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<td>The value of care in our society – Discussion with Mná Glas</td>
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<td>Tuarascáil an IPCC, COP26 agus na chéad chéimeanna eile – The IPCC reports, COP26 and next steps</td>
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**EVENT SCHEDULE**

- **Concurrent session**
- **Livestream session**
Friday 26.11.2021
(online)

14:15 – 14:30
Opening Address
Hazel Chu, Green Party Cathaoirleach
and Dr. Bláithin Gallagher, National Coordinator

14:30 – 16:30
Technical Motions and Voting

16:30 – 17:15
Women’s Role in Peace
In this session chaired by Minister Catherine Martin TD, the panel will discuss the crucial role women have played in peacebuilding, particularly in the context of Northern Ireland, and the role of women in strengthening North-South cooperation across our shared island. They will also explore how we can best support and empower women’s voices both in politics and peace-making into the future.

17:15 – 17:45
Break

17:45 – 18:30
Defenders of the Earth – Protecting activists at risk
In many parts of the world being an environmentalist or a Green politician can be literally life-threatening. More than 200 activists were murdered in 2019 in one of the deadliest years on record for climate advocates, with many more subject to torture, kidnapping, arbitrary detention, and intimidation. Join Green Party Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Senator Vincent P Martin; Green Party Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, Claudia Lopez; UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Mary Lawlor; and the President of the Democratic Green Party in Rwanda, Frank Habinzwa for a discussion on how Ireland can help protect these environmental activists.

18:30 – 20:00
EC Hustings – Candidates for the Executive Committee

Saturday 27.11.2021
(online)

09:00 – 09:10
Cathaoirleach Opening Address
Hazel Chu, Green Party Cathaoirleach

09:15 – 09:45
Address by Mar Garcia, Senator General of the European Greens

09:45 – 10:15
Sustainable Development Goals – International co-operation in the implementation on SGDs
Minister Eamon Ryan TD and David O’Donoghue discuss the role of international co-operation in the implementation of SGDs and the future role in international co-operation and how Ireland can play its part.

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:45 – 11:45 The future is green – A strategic plan for the years ahead
What does the Green Party stand for? Green Party National Coordinator, Dr. Bláithin Gallagher will present an overview of the new strategic plan which sets out a roadmap for the Party to 2024. Keynote speaker, CEO of Rethink Ireland Deirdre Mortell, will then talk about opportunities and challenges for the Green Party at this critical moment.

11:45 – 12:45 Shaking up the system – Separating church and state in education
The Green Party believes that there should be equality in our education system regardless of religion or non-religion. In Ireland, 90% of schools are Catholic; 5% have another religious denomination, and just 5% are multi-denominational. Join Education Spokesperson, Senator Pauline O’Reilly; UCD Director of STEM Teacher Education, Dr Aoibhinn Ni Shúilleabháin; Educational columnists, Jennifer Horgan; ISSU Education Officer, Jack McGinn; and Education Equality campaigner Paddy Monahan to look at a shake-up of the education system to better reflect society.

12:45 – 13:45 Younger voices in politics – The role of Young Greens in local government and community activism
The Young Greens are at the forefront of the Green Party’s commitment to bringing younger voices into politics. In this session, Thomas O’Faoiláin, Cllr Darcy Lonergan and Cllr Daniel Whaley discuss their experience in local government, how they got involved, and the challenges they have faced. This event will provide members with an understanding of the local council electoral system in Ireland, how to engage with local government and community politics.

13:45 – 14:30 Climate action and a just transition – The role of the community and voluntary sector
Civil society has played a huge role in mobilising public and political action on climate change at a national and international level. In Ireland, the ‘Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities’ strategy sets out a long-term vision for our communities in Ireland. Minister Joe O’Brien TD is responsible for the implementation of the strategy which gives particular weight to the need for climate action and climate justice. The government’s new climate action plan will also see a central role for the community and voluntary sector in helping to implement climate action at a local level. The session will explore what this might look like going forward with particular reference to climate justice and the need for a just transition.

14:30 – 15:30 Brighter futures – Supporting young people as we emerge from the pandemic
The impacts of Covid have been felt across society, but few groups have been as adversely affected as our children and young people. From extended school closures to suspended social interactions, the normal lives of our youngest citizens have been upended. How do we address the time lost to our young people and tackle the asymmetric impacts in terms of education?
and deprivation? Green Party Spokesperson for Social Protection, Marc Ó Cathasaigh TD joins Minister for Children Roderic O’Gorman TD and representatives of youth organisations to discuss how we ensure the brightest possible future for our children.

14:30 – 15:30 Clean transport for rural Ireland – The realities of moving from fossil fuels towards sustainable transport

Spokesperson for Rural Development, Senator Róisín Garvey leads a discussion with Brian Leddin TD, Kerry Greens Chair An Rialachán Duruine, and James O’Donoghue of TFG Local Link Waterford to explore how rural Ireland can move away from fossil fuels and towards sustainable transport.

14:30 – 15:30 Electoral office or grassroots campaigning – The merits of each approach and where they can overlap

Climate breakdown and the need for a socially just transition demand urgent action and wide-reaching changes in our society. In this session, MEP for Dublin Ciara Cuffe will sit down with a leading environmental campaigner and an elected official to debate the question of how environmental and social change can best be pursued: through political office or campaigning? The session will examine the merits of each approach, and where these efforts can overlap.

15:30 – 16:30 A new era of affordable housing – Delivering cost rental at scale in Ireland

The Green Party has ensured that cost rental housing, based on the Vienna model, is now in legislation in Ireland. How can we make sure that thousands of new cost rental homes are delivered throughout the country? Housing Spokesperson Francis Noel Duffy TD talks to the people in charge of making this happen, including Professor Michelle Norris, Chair of the Housing Finance Agency and Board member of the Land Development Agency, and Declan Dunne, CEO of Respal Housing.

16:30 – 16:30 Farming with nature – Putting our land and communities first

We are at a crucial time for farming in Ireland. The EU’s and Ireland’s strategies on Farm to Fork, climate and biodiversity, require the agriculture sector to adapt in a significant way. Meanwhile, the role of agriculture in food security is still crucial. We must move to more localised production and consumption to build healthy resilient communities. In the discussion, Minister Pippa Hackett and Aofe Franklyn, Chair of the Agriculture Policy Group, discuss the need to put our land and communities first, for the benefit of our natural world and the society that depends on it.

16:30 – 16:40 Break

16:40 – 16:50 National Coordinator Address, Bláithín Gallagher

16:50 – 17:00 Cathaoirleach Address, Hazel Chu

17:00 – 17:30 Deputy Leader’s Address, Minister Catherine Martin TD

17:30 – 18:30 The future of biodiversity policy in Ireland – where to from here, and how? Ireland’s biodiversity is in need of urgent attention, and this is the decade in which to act. Following COP15 and the biodiversity framework, the EU has set down clear markers for where we need to be by 2030. Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Normand TD leads a discussion on the proposed Citizen’s Assembly on Biodiversity and new National Biodiversity Action Plan, and how Ireland can make the most of these opportunities.

17:30 – 18:30 The Journey to net zero – Systemic change to carbon emissions and what it means for Ireland

Systematic change is needed to transform Ireland to a net zero society. What does net zero mean in the Irish context, and how will the high-level transitions be made? Green Party Spokesperson for Transport, Climate Action and Environment, Brian Leddin TD discusses the journey to net zero and the next steps with Sustainability Consultant Tadgh O’Mahony, and An Taisce Clean Costs Campaign Officer Clare O’Connor.

18:30 – 18:45 Announcement of EC Election Result by ROs and trustees, appeals & treasurer announcements

Sunday 28.11.2021 (online)

09:00 – 11:00 Technical / Non-Technical Motions and Voting

Hazel Chu, Green Party Cathaoirleach and Dr. Bláithín Gallagher, National Coordinator

11:00 – 11:45 From Green Wave to Blue Wave – Lessons from the sea

Grace O’Sullivan MEP and Dr Easkey Britton explore what local government level and our most vivid water memories; the power of neuroimaging in a multi-sensory benefit; and the concept of ‘blue health’ and ‘blue mind’. The panel will also examine creative leadership through nature and take the audience through ‘ocean breath’ breathing practice and blue mindfulness exercises, cultivating a culture of care and reciprocity with the sea.

11:45 – 12:30 Green Party policies – From creation to implementation

An important way of linking the grassroots of the party with the publicly elected representatives is through connecting the members that work hard to develop our policies, with the people who work hard to implement them. Green Party members work in Policy Groups to develop policies that will form the basis for election manifestos, advocate at local government level and much more. In this session, the Policy Committee will discuss new structures currently being developed to more closely link our public representatives with policy decisions, and invite feedback on these structures.

11:45 – 12:30 Ensuring Traveller and minority rights are included in climate decision making

Of the 55,000 Travellers living in Ireland today, approximately 9,000 are living in inadequate, unsafe and impermanent accommodation, and face huge difficulties around health, education, employment and life opportunities. Disproportionately affected by socioeconomic inequalities, Travellers are more vulnerable to climate impacts and are reliant on fossil fuel energy. In this session, Director of the Irish Traveller Movement Bernard Joyce speaks of the importance of Travellers’ views and experience for an equitable and just Climate Action Plan.

12:30 – 13:15 Nil aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin – Affordable housing for all

Housing is the most critical issue in Ireland at the moment, spanning every sector of society and every age group. The government’s Housing for All strategy aims to give people access to high-quality housing to rent or buy at an affordable price. Green Party Housing Spokesperson, Francis Noel Duffy TD speaks to the founder and the CEO of the housing and homelessness charity Peter McVerry Trust, Fr Peter McVerry and Pat Doyle, about the strategy and how Green policies can effect real change in housing for Ireland.

13:15 – 13:45 Just Transition Greens – Activism within Green politics notably involves a tension, often described as having “one foot in the parliament and one foot on the street”. Lead by Co-chair of Just Transition Greens, Cllr Lauren Randall, this session explores that tension in the context of the party being in government with panellists Ciara Cuffe MEP, Neasa Hourigan TD, Prof John Barry and Cllr Oliver Moran.

13:15 – 13:45 Lunch

13:45 – 14:00 Report from Treasurer and Auditor nomination

14:00 – 14:45 Pluralism is possible – The case for preferential decision-making
Set Ireland on the path to net-zero emissions no later than 2050 by passing the Climate Action Bill

Secured commitment to retrofit 500,000 homes by 2030 – ensuring thousands of homes will be warmer and cheaper to heat

Ensured that 100% of homes built in Dublin and Cork by the new Land Development Agency will be social or affordable

Delivered an unprecedented €360m annually for cycling and walking infrastructure

Doubled the budget for nature-friendly and organic farming

Secured a Basic Income Guarantee pilot scheme for artists

Announced a ban on all new oil and natural gas exploration

Extended the smoky coal ban to an additional 13 towns and began work on a nationwide ban

Took major steps to end direct provision by publishing a White Paper and developing alternative accommodation models
1981 The Ecology Party of Ireland holds its first meeting at the Central Hotel, Dublin.

1984 Party is renamed to the Green Alliance/ Comhaontas Glas.

1985 First Councillor, Marcus Counihan, elected in Local Elections.

1988 Party is renamed to the Green Party/ Comhaontas Glas.

1989 The Green Party wins its first seat in Dáil Éireann, with Roger Garland winning in Dublin South.

1994 Two Green Party MEPs, Patricia McKenna and Nuala Ahern elected.

2002 6 Green Party TDs elected.

2007 The Green Party enters Government for the first time with two Senior Ministers, two Ministers of State and two Senators.

2019 A record 49 Green Party Councillors and two MEPs elected in Local and European Elections.

2020 12 Green Party TDs elected in General Election. Green Party enters Government with three Senior Ministers, four Ministers of State and four Senators.

2021 Green Party instrumental in passing historic Climate Action Bill into legislation.

Celebrating 40 Years

40 YEARS OF THE GREEN PARTY