



Cyclist.ie - The Irish Cycling Advocacy Network

For immediate release

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Transport silence maintained in Minister Naughten's climate statement to Seanad on 7 December.

Cyclist.ie was disappointed with the near absence of actions to decarbonise transport in Minister Denis Naughten's first Annual Transition Statement on climate action.

To test the credibility of the government's climate action plans the Stop Climate Chaos coalition (of which Cyclist.ie is a member) identified 5 key questions including the rebalancing of existing transport funding away from roads to prioritise investment in walking, cycling and clean public transport.

The Taoiseach returned from the climate conference in Paris last December promising that Ireland would play its part in climate-change mitigation. With transport contributing massively to our national greenhouse gas emissions, there is scant evidence that any serious actions to decarbonise everyday travel is under way on the scale required to meet international commitments.

The noxious fumes of transport emissions are not only about deleterious effects on climate but also the human health impacts. With over 50% of all journeys by car being less than 6 km allocating for increased bicycle use is surely one solution to meet the emissions challenge. The increased physical activity would also have added health and wellbeing benefits. Let's not forget that 26% of our 9-year olds are already overweight or obese (ESRI, 2011).

So far there appears to be no effective policy to cut transport emissions except an economic crash. Emission reduction should be a core priority in transport and treated as a matter needing an emergency response from government.

Will Minister Naughten's 5 year climate action plan next week break the silence on transport? We wait in anticipation but with no real hope that this government understands how serious is the challenge that faces the World and Ireland

ENDS

Notes

The Stop Climate Chaos briefing is here: <http://bit.ly/SCC5tests>

The 5 questions for the credibility of the Government's action plan are

- 1, Does the new plan add up to doing our fair share ?
2. Does it start the phase out of fossil fuels ?
3. Does it ramp up renewable energy and kick-start community ownership ?
4. Does it put agriculture on a path to carbon neutrality ?
5. **Does it realign transport investment to reduce emissions?**