

**From:** Gordon D'Arcy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 February 2017 15:35  
**To:** National Planning Framework  
**Subject:** an all-Ireland environmental vision for 2040

The following is my environmental vision for 2040:

General: We should seek a better balance between man and nature on the island of Ireland. We should do more to popularize the concept of respect for all life. We should seek ecologically sensitive rather than human-centred demands in dealing with environmental challenges, for instance in the fields of fisheries, food production, coastal resources, river catchments, energy production.

We should have environmentalists and ecologists involved directly in the national decision-making process- particularly planning.

We should bring nature into the educational process in a comprehensive way, not simply as a means of 'enlightened self-interest'.

We should take seriously the allocation of funding for the nature protection bodies such as the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Funds should be made available for the development of nature trails, bird hides, nature educational centres etc.

Positive consultative action should be taken to reduce conflict over environmental issues ie agriculture/conservation, flood control/ inland fisheries, fish farming ,commercial forestry, bog exploitation.

Serious protection should be afforded our remaining intact bogs and wetlands, river systems, native woodlands, wild uplands etc. through local educational programmes.

The river Shannon should be celebrated for its attributes rather than exploited and controlled.

A determined effort should be undertaken to link the protection of the environment of the North of Ireland with that of the Republic through cross-border educational programmes initiated in the Republic.

An international outreach programme showcasing our areas of ecological importance, eg the Burren, should be undertaken. This should invite reciprocating arrangements such as the twinning of towns.

Rural planning should emphasise rural quality of life including the enriching contact with nature. Housing should be designed and located with this in mind. Housing should never be permitted in river flood plains or near eroding coasts. Priority must be given to maintaining local post-offices, schools, garda stations, broadband and other facilities and infrastructure necessary for measured community growth and sustainability.

Prosperity should not be measured in the number of jobs available but rather in the meaningful nature of work.

Communities should be encouraged to proactively develop a dossier of alternative employment (plan B) in the event of the collapse of an employment centre such as a factory or IT plant.

We should generate an open and honest debate about the pros and cons of renewable energy particularly in the context of the diminishment of the visual appeal of landscapes due to the erection of pylons and wind turbines.

We should face up to our responsibilities in regard to climate change threats. Proactive measures must be commenced to mitigate the production of greenhouse gas - particularly from agricultural sources.

Many thanks for the opportunity to express my ideas.

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