

From: Tadhg Moore [REDACTED]
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To: National Planning Framework
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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Minister Coveney,

I have outlined some key issues that I would like to see addressed in this plan for Ireland. I really appreciate coming along and visiting DkIT.

Environmental Protection

When it comes to Environmental Protection I would like to see an All-Ireland approach taken with more coherence and harmonisation. As funnily enough if we drive 15 minutes up the road the environment doesn't change greatly so need to ensure that best methods and practice are in place to protect our waterways, air and sea. This will be done within the framework of EU directives.

An Ireland that has successfully cleaned up its act with regards air pollution. Tackling not only the environmental issues but also human health issues associated with particulates. This requires effort to tackle home heating and transport, particularly in urban centres. Reducing the number of motor vehicles within urban centres or through a wider introduction of electric cars and increased public transport within towns as well. Green public transport, in other Metropolitan cities buses are run on natural gas which is proven to be less harmful so a conversion of our transport system from petroleum to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) or Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Efficient, sustainable and affordable public transport needs to be the goal and this also feeds into the planning aspect where for building new houses within and around towns links to public transport should be incorporated into these designs to ensure that people have access and is part of building an inclusive society.

Carbon Tax & Agriculture

A Carbon Tax has been cited as one of the key measures that can be taken to seriously tackle the rising CO2 emissions. Ireland could be one of the leading countries in taking key measures to tackle the cause of climate change. In 2014 we had the second highest GHG emissions per capita after Luxembourg. Agriculture is the largest source of our emissions so measures to tackle this would be a diversification of our production systems. Shifting towards food productions that produce less GHG but return the same calorific value such as fruit and vegetables. As in an increasingly globalised world we are becoming more and more reliant on our food travelling hundreds if not thousands of miles to end up on our plates. A diversification of agricultural practices would allow us to become a food sovereign country. Buying food grown in Ireland will lead to a decrease in the carbon footprint because of food transport. We need to address the problems in trade that allow apples from Brazil to be cheaper than apples grown in Ireland or that having a monoculture of grass farming reduces our resilience as now farmers are under increasing pressure due to the drop in milk and beef prices. Diversification increases resilience and we need to move to protect the livelihoods of Irish farmers from an environmental and economic standpoint.

Waste

Currently with regards waste we produce 331kg of household waste per person in 2014. Our built landfill capacity is at a critically low level, basically we are an island and we are running out of spaces to dig holes and bury our rubbish. A vision for 2040 is an Ireland where we reduce our waste drastically as current levels are unsustainable. The problem of waste is inextricably linked to personal consumption habits but we are only able to buy what is on the market. I would like to see a top-down and a bottom-up strategy be deployed. Top-down by introducing legislation that prohibits or applies a landfill tax on the selling of products that are not recyclable or reusable. A stricter and more comprehensive packaging directive as I know I'm not the only person in this room that gets annoyed at the amount of plastic and cardboard that

comes with most of the food we buy. Bottom-up through encouraging responsible consumer behaviour, investment in community structures to encourage people to reuse and upcycle for example the Rediscovery centre in Ballymun. Only through investment and encouragement can we get citizens more actively involved and aware of the problems associated with current levels of waste production This is all part of a shift towards a circular economy which at its core is aimed at reducing inefficiencies in the system and increasing the reuse of resources which would otherwise be lost.

Hemp

I would like to see Ireland create a **a sustainable, successful, domestic** industry. One that is innovative, creates jobs and embodies the Irish spirit. An industry to do this would be the Hemp industry. Hemp is already available in Ireland for a variety of purposes. It is sold in food products like seeds, juices and cooking oils, and CBD from hemp is sold as a food supplement. It is already used in house construction in the form of hempcrete, hemp insulation and industrial and consumer textiles are made from hemp. You can buy hemp t-shirts! Hemp also has huge potential in areas such as a biofuel, biocomposites to make biodegradable plastics and it is used for its medicinal properties worldwide. Speaking with friends in the Irish Hemp Society I have learnt about the great struggles and difficulties that farmers have to go to get a licence to grow hemp. Then there are the bureaucratic hoops they must jump through with the requirements that you need a separate licence for each use; a licence for selling for food products, a licence for the textile fibres, a licence for use as a construction material etc. My vision is to see Ireland overhaul and streamline these procedures. In universities and colleges we could become a research hub for further development and advancement in hemp. We have the climate, the agricultural machine, farmers willing to grow it so what we need to see is the Irish Government to help us create this vision. To some of you here you might think this is an old hippy idea from the 70's but in actual fact George Sigerson, for whom the Sigerson Cup is currently named after, wrote about this exact same topic in 1866! 151 years ago before the early 1900's when prohibition started. We need to now encourage and support this development if we want build a happier, more sustainable Ireland by 2040.

Thank you,
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