

Ask the Climate Question

On Thursday 5th of May, 90 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) will be elected by voters, five from each of Northern Ireland's 18 constituencies. The elected assembly will govern Northern Ireland in devolved matters, for the next five years.

As political parties campaign in advance of the election, Tearfund Northern Ireland and Christian Aid Ireland are calling on supporters to ask candidates what action they'll take to tackle climate change, and pose the following question.

The question:

“I care about climate change because it is hitting the world's poor the hardest - those who have done the least to cause this crisis. If you are elected, what action will you take as an MLA to tackle the climate crisis?”

Background

- The climate crisis is hitting people living in poverty the hardest and threatens to push millions more into poverty. Christian Aid and Tearfund have witnessed first-hand the devastating impacts of this crisis around the world, on the communities they have been working in for decades.
- The Northern Ireland Assembly recently passed its first climate change legislation, which will establish legally binding targets to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Climate change does not respect national boundaries, and so Tearfund and Christian Aid recognise this important step, and the impact it can have on our global neighbours living in poverty if paired with ambitious action.
- In the next assembly mandate, we call on MLAs to work for ambitious climate action, including as a first step the full implementation of the Climate Change Bill, with a net-zero emissions target, a system of carbon budgeting, creating the office of an independent climate commissioner and establishing a just transition fund for agriculture.

Further resources

Tearfund climate resources can be found at tearfund.org/climate

Christian Aid climate resources can be found at: caid.ie.ie/climate

