

HELP SAVE THE PLANET!

HERE'S HOW.....



As 2022 has landed, we thought what better way to start off LawEd's blogging series this year than with a bit more insight into the **new environmental laws that were spoken about towards the end of last year.**

The aim of these blogs is to showcase how the law impacts everything around us. Every single day the state of the environment in which we live is changing.

Have you heard of the **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2021?** Well, if you haven't don't worry! We have all the info! Happy reading....

It can't be denied that there are some serious issues in terms of our environment in this day and age. Therefore, it's good to know that there are plans in place to improve our current environmental situation!

This bill was brought in just as recently as July of 2021, and the goals of this act are quite extraordinary. Through this bill, the **Irish government plans to level with countries like Sweden, France and New Zealand in terms of their environmental progress.** The primary goal of this act is to reach net zero **GHG emissions** by the year of 2050. We know what you're thinking – what in the world are net zero GHG emissions??? To simplify, this term **refers to the release of some greenhouse gases into the air, however, these gases do not ferment into the likes of soil, plants and other minerals,** therefore they cannot be stored permanently, ultimately reducing the amount of toxins in the air.

This bill also follows up on some of the promises made in the 2019 Climate Action commitment, such as **reducing emissions being released into the air by a whopping 50%, establishing annual climate action plans and strengthening the CCAC** (psst! The CCAC is the Climate Advisory Council). So the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill is basically an add on from all the aims made by the government in the past few years in regards to the environment, with some new bits added in! It is definitely an act that will leave its mark on Ireland!

The most progressive parts of the bill being introduced has to be the **carbon budgets.**

A carbon budget is the **total of emissions that may be emitted in the state** over a period of five years and is calculated on an economy wide basis. Once carbon budgets are approved by the Oireachtas, the next step to follow is the preparation of sectoral emission ceilings. This basically means that different budgets have to be applied to different sections of the economy. This will be the responsibility of the CCAC. Every year, this committee will be expected to review the positive and negative effects of these budgets to make sure Ireland is on the right track.

To the average person, **there is a lot of material in this act that is hard to understand and at the end of the day, you might just want advice on ways to help the planet yourself,** to know that you are doing your best environmentally. Well, there are many ways you can serve the world the right way, small deeds add up! **Let's take a look at the ways in which we as humans can lower carbon emissions:**

- **Eat less meat!** Yes, eating less meat has a big impact on the amount of emission released into the air we breathe. Meat products have a bigger carbon footprint than fruits and vegetables, therefore it's a good idea to lower meat consumption and start upping your veg intake.
- **Start walking or take the stairs!** Transport plays a big part when it comes to the environment and emissions being released. By taking the stairs or walking to school/work, you avoid public transport and elevators which contribute greatly to air pollution.
- **Eat local!** By eating foods sourced near you, you lower the emissions being emitted into the air through transportation of exports. Eating French cheese or American candy does have its effect on the planet – and much more than you would think!

With the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development bill now legally being signed into law, it is true to say that the Irish government are taking the climate change crisis seriously. **We at LawEd are definitely pushing for more to be done regarding the world we live in,** we are happy to see a structural move being made by the Irish government to highlight the grave issues that are happening all around us. It is up to us as humans to do all we can to protect our planet!

