

## ABOUT THIS PROJECT

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## ABOUT SLI

The Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative (SLI) is an organisation designed to promote responsible consumption and sustainable living as a means to combat climate change. The word SLI means 'The Way' in Irish and we think that sums up our work perfectly.

All of our work takes place within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. We provide workshops, seminars and other awareness raising events to young people both in schools and groups and also to the general public. SLI works on a variety of issues that fall under this umbrella including the problems of single-use plastic, waste, food waste, ethical fashion, water, transportation, etc.

SLI is the parent organisation to a number of projects that work toward these same goals including: Plastic Free Waterford, Waterford Global Schools and the Plastic Free Schools' Network.



## The European Union & Climate Change



## ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

### What is Climate Change?

Climate change refers to the overall change in our weather patterns. The science clearly shows that we are in a warming pattern and most scientists (97%) confirm that this pattern is the result of human activity. The top 3 causes of this climate change is the use of fossil fuels, farming and loss of forest cover.

### What are the Impacts of Climate Change?

Globally, we are seeing melting glaciers, rising sea levels and more extreme weather events. More people will be forced to move as hot climates become too hot to support human life.

### What will happen in Ireland?

Ireland will experience warmer temperatures along with more intense storms and torrential rains, rising sea levels and heat waves. Ireland will also experience a significant increase in flooding and loss of coastal land. Ireland's infrastructure is also at risk which threatens our treated water supply, road and rail networks and electricity grid.

## ROLE OF THE EU



The EU adopted the 2030 Agenda (along with the Sustainable Development Goals) which have a strong focus on combatting climate change through the adoption of more sustainable policies and lifestyles.

The EU has emerged as a leader in the fight against climate change setting ambitious targets across all sectors. EU measures combine decreased emissions, adaptation strategies and awareness raising efforts.

Specifically these efforts include:

- Support for renewable energy sources
- Decreased energy use in industry and transportation
- Using less water
- Building flood defences
- Development of drought and flood resistant crops

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Although much of the work to combat climate change must be done at the state and corporate level, there are also a number of things that we, as individuals and European citizens, can do to help.

- Support the work of Ireland and the EU to combat climate change
- Eat less beef and dairy. Cattle release methane which contributes to global warming as well as the deforestation that is taking place in order to make room for the 1.5 billion heads of cattle currently maintained.
- Decrease the distance, or food miles, that your food travels in order to get to your plate.
- Use less water through simple changes such as not letting the water run, filling the dishwasher, taking showers instead of baths, collecting rain water for the garden, etc.
- Avoid fast fashion. The clothing industry uses high amounts of water, pollutes both through emissions and via waste into local water ways. Most clothes are produced in South East and have to travel far to land in our shops.