



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Monday, 3rd November, 2024

Connacht's First Youth Climate Justice Assembly to Empower Young People in Regional Climate Action

Event takes place Tuesday, 4 November 2025, at the University of Galway

Young people from across Connacht will come together on Tuesday, 4 November 2025, for the Connacht Youth Climate Justice Assembly, the first of four regional Youth Climate Justice Assemblies planned across Ireland in 2025–2026.

Funded through the Department of Education and Youth's Climate Justice Fund, Léargas (European Union) and the University of Galway, with the support of Atlantic Technological University and the Galway National Park City Initiative, the Assembly is hosted by the SAUTI-Youth Project (Youth Work Ireland Galway). The event aims to amplify youth voices in shaping climate action and policy at local and regional levels.

"The Assembly provides a space for young people to learn, connect, and influence decision-making on climate action," said Letizia Gorini Coady, Coordinator of the SAUTI-Youth Project. "It's about empowering youth to move from awareness to meaningful action, ensuring their perspectives shape the future of our communities."

"The climate has done enough changing, it's our turn" said Adam Fahy member of the SAUTI-Youth project youth organizing committee

Minister for Education and Youth Helen McEntee said:

"I am delighted to see Connacht's inaugural Youth Climate Justice Assembly taking place with the support of the Department's Youth Climate Justice Fund. Young people have so much to contribute to society, and platforms like this are vital in empowering them to share their perspectives and shape the future.

"I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Youth Work Ireland for organising this important event.

"I wish all of the young people participating every success and inspiration as you engage in this meaningful work for climate justice."



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Dr Patrick Burke, CEO of Youth Work Ireland said of the event, “The Youth Work Ireland federation is firstly a movement supportive of young people, their rights and well-being. Nothing could be closer to the purpose of Youth Work Ireland than to afford young people the opportunity to be heard on and create a just and sustainable future Ireland.”

Programme Highlights

The live programme runs from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., featuring keynote speakers, youth-led discussions, and creative workshops on climate justice themes.

Confirmed contributors include:

- Laura Costello – Effective Climate Communication
- Dr. Sinéad Sheehan – Active Hope
- Aisling Maloney, UN Youth Delegate – Youth Representation at the Global Level
- Eva Lambert, Marine Policy & Advocacy Officer, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group- Fair Seas Campaign
- Clara Blodau, Youth Climate Activist

Participants will take part in interactive sessions including a Youth Manifesto activity, ocean and transport workshops, and a Q&A session.

Why It Matters

The Youth Climate Justice Assembly model builds on the success of the Galway Youth Climate Assembly, first launched in 2022 by Youth Work Ireland Galway and supported by community partners and Galway County Council. The Connacht event expands this youth-led model regionally, enabling young people from secondary schools and youth services to contribute directly to local authority climate planning and community sustainability initiatives.

Outcomes from the Assembly will include youth-led recommendations for regional and national climate policy, strengthening connections between young people, decision-makers, and community organisations.

” said Dr. Patrick Burke, CEO of Youth Work Ireland. ”

Event Details



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When: Tuesday, 4 November 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Where: University of Galway, Galway City

Who: Young people from secondary schools and youth services across Connacht, supported by local authorities, universities, and community organisations.

Funding: Department of Education and Youth (Climate Justice Fund), Léargas (European Union), University of Galway

Background

The Connacht Assembly marks the beginning of a national series of Youth Climate Justice Assemblies that will also take place in Munster, Ulster, and at national level in 2026. Each regional assembly will produce youth-led recommendations and foster the development of regional youth climate justice groups, strengthening collaboration between young people, policymakers, and environmental stakeholders.

The initiative is co-designed with youth advisory groups to ensure genuine youth participation in climate and sustainability planning across Ireland.

Media Contact

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