

Taking Action

Engaging the Story

What do you feel as a result of this presentation?

...can you name your reaction?

...can you identify your attitude?

...can you identify where you could take action?

Personal Action

You might like to respond with an action that is a change:

...of attitude;

...of heart;

...of mind;

...of policy;

...of funding priorities

What can you do to live a more sustainable life?

Thank you for your participation in this week's Soup and Substance Lenten programme



22ND MARCH 2012

The Challenge of Sustainable Living

Presenter: Eamon Ryan

Leader Green Party





Green Party

The Green Party is a political party formed in 1981 by a group of people interested in better planning, social justice, sustainable economic growth and protection of our natural environment. The first Green Councillor was elected in 1985 and in 1989 the Party took its first seat in the Dáil. The Green Party served in a coalition government from 2007 to 2011 with 6 TDs.

What the Green Party stands for

The founding principles of the Party are based on peace, democracy, protection of the environment and our natural resources and social justice. Greens believe in a range of policies to alter things for the better, from properly funded education and a better transport system, to improved primary health care and a fairer tax system. They believe in equality, in a political system that is transparent and in decision-making at community level. Greens understand that we need to plan now for our future energy needs.

Eamon Ryan is leader of the Green Party and former Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources. Prior to his appointment as Minister, he was the Green Party spokesperson for Transport and Enterprise, Trade and Employment and opposition convenor on the Joint Oireachtas Committee for Communication, Marine and Natural Resources. Before he was elected to the Dáil he set up and ran two businesses, Irish Cycling Safaris and Belfield Bike shop. He was an active member and chairman of the Dublin Cycling Campaign, and from 1995 to 2002 he served on the Advisory Committee of the Dublin Transport Office.

Eamon is married to the writer Victoria White and they have four children.

Finding Inspiration

What do the themes of Catholic social say to us about sustainable living?

The aim of Catholic Social Teaching is to bring about justice. Its original emphasis was mainly on social and political justice, for the poor, oppressed and working people. Today we recognise that justice has to be extended to all of creation, human and non-human. It is imperative we understand our place on earth in the light of new understandings about our inter-dependence on all other life.

Human beings cannot flourish in an impoverished and depleted world. The natural world provides us with food, medicines, industrial resources and clothing. But it also allows us to be more fully human in every other aspect of life.

It inspires our minds to creativity – poetry, music and art - through beauty and awe, it drives our curiosity through the mysteries of life still waiting to be solved and it reveals to us the face of the Creator, instilling in us a humbleness when faced with a God that can create such an astonishing universe.

Scripture

“Think of the flowers, they never have to spin or weave, yet, not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field, which is there to-day and thrown in the furnace to-morrow, how much more will God look after you.” Luke 12: 27-28

