

CLIMATE CHANGE:

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Should it be decided that this document is over loaded, then the sections on Nuclear energy (see Section III) and National Nuclear Power (see Section VIII) will subsequently be offered as a separate document. Similarly the different sections could be printed separately.

WILL IRELAND RISE TO THE CHALLENGE OFFERED BY DR. AL. GORE TO GIVE THE LEAD IN A CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE?

I. INTRODUCTION:

On our television screens, we watch as Greenland melts, the permafrost of Siberia thaws out to release its poisonous methane, Bangladesh is flooded and Africa dries up while in the developed parts of the world we continue to spew out noxious gases, pollute our waterways and kill our vegetation in the misguided, greedy pursuit of profit.

There are of course a number of experts of integrity who continue to reject the thesis that man-made Global warming is contributing to Climate Change on a massive scale. Thus, in spite of the suggestion to the contrary, we just might – though extremely unlikely - be living through one of those periods of unique and massive Climate Change as part of a natural Cosmic Cycle.

Nevertheless the way we have poisoned the earth sky and waterways, the manner in which with gay abandon we have burned up our accessible Fossil Fuels and destroyed so much of the Natural Environment should surely be a warning that it is past time to take stock of how we have damaged the ecosphere and endangered all life as a result.

This paper was written to be published as a pamphlet issued from within the NEW IRELAND GROUP, (N.I.G.). The original draft was completed before and during the International Conference on the effect and challenge of Climate Change and Global Warming held in Bali in December 2007. Some of the draft readers felt it was too extreme in its recommendations and so it was not launched as a N.I.G. pamphlet at that time. It has since received minor amending and is to be read by one of the first supporters of Energy and Waste management in these islands, Dr. Walter Yellowlees of Aberfeldy, Perthshire. Regular reading of RESURGENCE over 20 years has persuaded me to make a belated consideration to publish.

As I have recently retired from the Executive Committee of the NEW IRELAND GROUP, I feel free to do so on my own behalf.

Whether or not we are experiencing a natural phenomenon in the Cosmic cycle of things, we should at least acknowledge that much of Homo mechanicus' activity to-day is not natural to the world ecology so that, one way or another, it's time to take stock and for a long time at least, endeavour to live the lives of our natural forbears, Homo sapiens. In Ireland we could make a start with the slogan, 'A Green Island for a New Ireland.'

THE RESPONSE:

**So many Observations:
So many Recommendations:
So very few Constraining Actions!
So little insistence on Compliance**

A WAY FORWARD;

the fast track! an urgent necessity

‘AWAKE’

(the title of a poem written by the late W.R. Rodgers and published in 1941- when Britain was facing potential catastrophe.)

“So spare your protests.
There are no interlopers in our fate.
Be sure of this, that in peace or war, we
Are where we are because of what we are:
No censor can excerpt, or scissor-snip
Excise this salient sentence from our lives.
O easy and peaceful were those days when
Our hopes bowled on before us like hoops,
And our biddable purposes pedalled
Slowly on rolling gradients of reason
And reform. Fools! In our stinking ditches
War was born, and grew gigantic legs that
Suddenly kicked the ground away like a frog
From under us all.
For that is how the world moves, not with meant
and maintained pace
Toward some hill-horizon or held mood,
But in great jags and jerks, probed and prodded
From point to point of anger, exploded
By each new and opposed touch. So War came,
The late and urgent agent of Change, not
Of Chance. So will it always come to wake
The deep sleepers. See how its sudden hands
Now garter and grow round us like quick sands
Here in these islands. O awake! awake!
And let us like the trapped intrepid man
Who on prairie hears the holocaust roar
And sees his horizons running to meet him
In mutinous flames, while the still grasses fill
With rills of refugees, let us calmly
Stand now to windward, and here, at our feet
Stooping, light fires of foresight that will clean
And clear the careless ground before us
Of all the dry and tindery increment
Of privilege. So will that other Fate
Arriving find no hold within our state,
And we on our ringed ground its roar will wait
Freely, **Awake!** before it is too late.”

IRELAND, LAND OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS?...A PLEA!

And indeed should we not be able to generate the inspiration, the intellectual vigour, the political will and the determined leadership to promote a campaign which will slow down climate change? Global pollution has gone hand in hand with prosperity for the few and poverty for the many for far too long. According to various reports, excessive consumption and indifference to waste and pollution have already produced irreversible damage to the ecosystems on which 'life' is dependent for its survival. Are we prepared to face the challenge of arresting further serious pollution while endeavouring to redress that which has already occurred?

On the contrary, must we be destined to live in an increasingly poisoned world? Are we prepared to hand on a poisoned planet to our children and to the future generations, a world in which life will, at the very least, be a constant, ultimately violent, struggle for survival? Are our grand children doomed to have a diminished quality of life, if life at all, because of us?

WARNING:

Worst of all, we cannot say that we were not warned of what might be in store. The discussion which is now taking place about 'Climate Change and the misuse of precious finite resources, quite apart from the actions required to deal with these challenges, should have been taking place years ago and then we would not have been under such pressure to fulfil our urgent obligations in such a short space of time (10-15 years!). Even the pace and scale of action which was proposed at Bali¹ may be far too little, far too late!

Back in the 1970s, thinkers and scientists were reminding us of our obligations to what we had received from our forbears 'in trust'. Because they could feel intuitively, and as a result of their researches, what was in process through destruction of the natural world, - that world of the interacting self-regulating myriad of biological processes, they pleaded that we should cease exploiting it and become better trustees of what we had received from those who had preceded us. We ignored them.

¹ The Conference, hosted by the Government of Indonesia, took place at the Bali International Convention Centre and brought together more than 10,000 participants, including representatives of over 180 countries together with observers from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and the media. The two week period included the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, its subsidiary bodies as well as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. A ministerial segment in the second week concluded the Conference.

And now, suddenly. We have come to realise that life – all life – is under threat and there may only be ten years left to restore sufficient balance to allow it to continue in the manner to which we are accustomed.

Blueprint for Survival:

It is around thirty five years since ‘Blueprint for Survival’² was published. Aware of the need to preserve that myriad of species which, in their random interaction, are responsible for the self-regulation that sustains ‘life’, the authors recognised an eco-principle which states that “the more diverse and more complex the ecosystem, the more stable it is.”³ This statement would seem to have validity whatever aspect of the natural world we are inspecting, be it insects, plants, animals, humans etc. Variety is not only the spice of life but also sustains it! Human greed has resulted in Human created destruction of vital elements of the natural world. We have already lost many of the essential self-regulating interactions on which we depend for the balance and order required to underpin our earthly existence.

“One of the most important features (of the ecosphere) is its complexity. The greater the number of different plant and animal species that make up an ecosystem, the more likely it is ***to be stable. This is so because, as Elton⁴ points out, in such a system every ecological niche is filled. That is to say, every possible differentiated function for which there is a demand within the system is in fact fulfilled by a species that is specialised in fulfilling it. In this way it is extremely difficult for an ecological invasion to occur, i.e. for a species foreign to the system to enter and establish itself, or, worse still, to proliferate and destroy the system’s basic structure.

It stands to reason that as we introduce more and more refining specificity into animal, vegetable or plant life, most likely for more easy profit, loss of variety of species makes the particular genus of animal, vegetable or plant in general more vulnerable to elimination by some lethal organism as the resistance which might have been expressed in some of the other species of the particular animal, vegetable or plant, is no longer available. Gene pools are in danger of being diminished so that the remainder of the genus has lowered resistance to attack.

The analogy of Young’s Modulus may seem apt.

By subjecting the end of a vertical length of wire to the application of increasing weight stress the wire will lengthen, albeit to a very small degree, in proportion to the stress applied.

² pp 139.

³ A Blueprint for Survival: Editors of the Ecologist: Penguin Books: (1972): p. 19:

⁴ Probably reference to RESURGENCE, No. 232 (to be checked)

Whenever the stress is removed the inherent properties of the wire restore it to its original length.

However, if the weight stress is increased beyond a critical point, the inherent properties of the wire alter fundamentally and it stretches until it breaks. After reaching that point of stress, removal of the weight stress will not be rewarded by the wire returning to its original state. The damage which has been caused by over-stress has become irreversible.

We cannot afford any longer to risk stressing the natural processes beyond their critical point of no return. [Perhaps we should ask (and research) the ‘Young’s modulus’ effect in Human stress, for example the effect of in-coordination of contractors and their relaxing antagonists in joint action or as a result of mental stress as contributors in the development of arthritis.]

I...PREPARE: A period of severe restriction:

In the meantime if we are to take the challenge seriously, post ‘Bali’, we cannot afford the luxury of gradual process and it is vital that all the participants, including the ‘Elephant’⁵ at the conference, should accept the need for significant changes in lifestyle and life experience:

For at least six years, 1939 until 1945 and beyond, the people of Europe had to accept a very strict form of restriction and constraint. In a current campaign to preserve life we should be persuaded, however difficult it may be, to control our use of carbon generated energy, develop urgently alternative and renewable sources of energy, ensure, by issue of Carbon Imprint Coupons (**C.I.Cs**) (rather than through pricing), that whatever we do is fair for all. The sanction of swingeing local taxation for all forms of wasting of material and of space should be devised to ensure that wealth is no privileged protection from the shared burden of living fundamentally changed lives during and beyond a designated trial period of years. Empty houses and empty commercial property should be subject to such taxation after a strictly limited period of exemption.

⁵ The reference made to his home country, the U.S.A.) by Nobel Laureate, Dr. Al Cole, at the Bali conference.

II...SHARING:

Coupons preferable to Cash.

At the very least, the restrictions and alterations to life style as bulleted below should be subject to serious consideration by Regional Advisory Councils (R.A.C.s) The list is not intended to be comprehensive. Rather it is intended to stimulate consideration for amendment and addition in the hope that all citizens will give serious thought to ‘making a difference’

SAVING LIFE ON THE PLANET

CARBON IMPRINT COUPON (C.I.C.) ALLOCATION BOOK.

Assessment and Allocation; Individual and Commercial:

Money should not be the means of obtaining restricted items, services and activities which others cannot afford. Coupons will keep everyone as equal players on the same playing field. Each person may decide how best to use their allocation.

- 1). **Trial period:** If we accept the need to be placed on an emergency footing, a specific period should now be designated to test the effect of statutory restraint on all anti-ecological life-styles. A number of proposals should be seriously considered for trial during the defined period and their effects measured to determine the value of particular strategies.
- 2). **C.I.C. allocation:** All citizens should be issued with C.I.C. Allocation books, the coupons of such being used to pay for the energy equivalent of every purchase. (In a very short time, rationing was achieved at the beginning of the '39-'45 war – and that, without the aid of today's information/communication technology!.)

If all inclusive sharing to conserve could be achieved on such a massive scale in such a short time in response to the threat of war in Europe, there can be no excuse for C.I.C.s not being introduced instantly and effectively now that we are faced with a potential ecological disaster on a global scale. The C.I.C.Allocation Book should be responsible for individual expenditure of Carbon/Energy annually, or for whatever other period is deemed most appropriate. Consideration should be given to the printing of different coloured sections of coupons for different aspects of life and living.

- 3.) **R.A.Cs & coupon allocation:** The appointment of Regional Advisory Councils (R.A.Cs) consisting of ecologists, relevant scientists, and others known to have political nous, clout, wisdom and influence. with well tried experience in the conservation and energy fields. Such should play a part in allocating coupon values to all forms of activity, in service and goods purchase. Initially 'coupon values' should be under frequent review. Rewards for coupons unspent out of the monthly, quarterly, annual or other term deemed appropriate for their allocation could be used as incentives to conservation.
- 4.) **Greenwill:** It should be an urgent requirement that energy conservationists and pollution experts meet regularly with concerned citizens and politicians to explain the Coupon Value on different energy consumptions, so creating Green Will as well as Good Will in relation to the distribution and surrender of personal Coupons and that this should start right away. Everyone should be issued with the same annual allocation of coupons. The individual will then be able to make the choices on how to use his/ her allocation.
- 5.) **Individual & Collective Community involvement:** Recently, after attending conferences in Belfast on Community Development and Community Planning, it was not possible to come away without realising how far the Community Movement has developed in Northern Ireland since those early days in the seventies when it was getting off the ground with initiatives such as the Greater West Belfast Community Association, the Ulster Peoples' College and, in Derry, through the work of the Derry Community Workshop, The North West Foundation for Human Development, and later, The The Inner City Trust.

The citizen will no longer co-operate merely because an 'expert' tells him or her what's best for either of them! The citizen now insists on consultation and expects to be given opportunity for significant input and to have her/his viewpoint taken on board because of its intrinsic value.

People who live in a community are the experts concerning that community's needs, feelings etc. People who operate the central institutions of a region are in no position other than to satisfy their own requirements by imposing their professional or entrepreneurial insights onto the rest of us without being either directly accountable to us or without having had any serious consultation with us.

Rank and file citizens expect to feel at least part ownership of matters affecting them and issues around the challenge of Climate Change should be no exception.

- 6.) **R.A.Cs –Proposals, Actions and Accountability:** The Regional Advisory Councils (R.A.C.s) should be asked to give an account of their work on a six monthly basis and this should be accompanied by their proposals for further developments for energy conservation and for the development of alternative, ecologically sensitive sources of energy creation.
- 7.) **County Organisation:** If sufficient expertise can be mobilised we should aim to have an R.A.C. branch in every county in Ireland and should recommend the same for other similarly defined areas in the UK, Europe and throughout the territories of the United Nations.
- 8.) **Challenge to N.I.G:** A Sub committee of the N.I.G. should now be formed (not more than six people, consisting of members plus/ minus co-option of one or two ecological advisers/ scientists/ economists, to work out a provisional fair and effective allocation of C.I.C.s for every item of goods, service, and activity, etc. This could then be submitted to the respective governments to assist them in their deliberations..
- 9.) **C.I.C. evaluation:** There is urgent need to allocate a C.I.C. value on all forms of activity, on raw material, and on the gathering/harvesting / mining etc., transportation of, manufacture, and purchase of all forms of goods.
- 10.) **Commercial Allocations:** Separate C.I.C. books should be issued to all industrial, commercial and service enterprises for their use in relation to energy consumption and pollution. Enterprises requiring various levels of exemption should be identified e.g., fuel for ambulances and other ‘reserved’ enterprises dealing, in particular, with the development and health of the child, the adolescent, and the frail elderly.

Rewarding reduction of energy consumption: A bonus of extra coupons should be awarded when it can be demonstrated that novel techniques of manufacture etc. are reducing energy consumption significantly.

- 12a.) **Domestic Energy Consumption:** A coupon ‘charge’ to be made on electricity consumption relating to the standard meter readings
- 12b.) Similar coupon charging should also be planned for domestic coal,gas and oil consumption.

- 13.) **Street & Shop Window Lighting:** A ban on street and shop window lighting after a designated switch off time. It will be argued that civic behaviour has changed since 1945 and that any attempt to insist on a 'Black Out' would be grist to the mill of petty and not so petty criminals. During the war we enlisted an A.R.P. and a Home Guard. The former was responsible for ensuring that no domestic light was visible from outside. A similar recruitment of responsible eco-friendly citizens should be persuaded to join a night patrol scheme working in electronic communication with the police service to patrol the streets once the street lights are put out.
- 14.) **Tolls:** these should be set up at all entry roads to any town over a certain threshold of population and the toll charge related to Horse Power and number of passengers (the fewer the passengers, the higher the tax and C.I.C. charge). Scales to be determined by the Energy Assessors.
- 15.) **Disposable mania:** Reduction leading to the elimination of disposable mania perhaps best exemplified by practice in 'Western' Health Centres and Hospitals. A scale of exemptions could be considered for special categories of treatment and investigation etc.
- 16.) Disposables in general should be subject to particular assessment for appropriate allocation of C.I.C.s.
- 17.) **Built in obsolescence:** Proof of knowledge of any deliberate design to 'build in' obsolescence to be dealt with severely in terms of coupons as well as cash
- 18a.) **Water conservation:** Regardless of the number of water flow meters available, the governments should aim to insert a Water Meter in every home and place of work. Quantities of water used, to be subject to the collection of appropriate coupons from the ration book. A scale of exemptions should be considered for special categories such as families with a specified number of children below a certain age.
- 18b.) **Water wastage:** In an enlightened article written in commemoration of the 60th. anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death, it is pointed out that in 'Developed' societies "more than 40% of the water available for domestic purposes is used everywhere for "the transportation of shit". Mainstream journalism has already alluded to water wars but is still "failing to connect the dots, it has not as yet traced global water wars to their source in our

personal, private flush toilets: failing to link the death of the oceans to our immediate daily addictions, to 'Progress' which demands flushing our excrements 'out of sight, out of mind'.⁶

Perhaps this should suggest that all homes with more than a stipulated ownership of surrounding land/ garden should be encouraged to build a robust privy. After all, many of us can recall the outside Loo-can under canvas when on caravan holidays and also a personal memory of staying in the home of a well-off old lady in Co. Offaly who at age 90 still refused to have or use other than a privvy in her garden. She also refused to have the luxuries of electricity, running water, radio or telephone in her large home as these were not 'natural'!

- 19.) **Transportation:** As example of how Carbon Imprint Coupon Books might be used as salutary reminder of one's carbon imprint; a lift in a side-car might be charged at one coupon; a journey by train from say London to Marseilles might require a page of coupons whereas an inter continental flight by 'Jet' might require the surrender of a half year's supply of C.I.C.scoupons!

Thus coupons rather than earnings would be the determining factor. As far as energy use and carbon imprint are concerned. rich people should be placed on the same level as the unemployed, the poorly off and otherwise less well off people.

- 20.) **Energy, Engine Output Assessment:** Account to be taken of the Horse Power, Journey kilometres and number of passengers in taxi, bus, train, air and ship travel. and coupon equivalents to be demanded accordingly by stewards, conductors, drivers, etc. In this respect 'Fuel Guzzlers' should be placed on the steepest section of an exponential curve for coupon demand.

- 21a.) **Motorway Madness:** The great Contradiction: motorways are intended to ease traffic flow. Yet, by doing so they draw more and more motor vehicles onto them until they reach the critical point of clogging with the resulting demand for replacement or at the very least the addition of new lanes. Thus they are responsible for the loss of more land, the consumption of much precious material, much exhaust fume pollution and, perhaps worst of all, for fragmenting the integrity of small communities by creating enticement for more and more people to become commuters. (A local

⁶ 'SACRED WATER': (a reflection on defaecation and development): Madhu Suri Prakash: 'RESURGENCE': 246: Jan./Feb. 2008: p. 15.

community thrives on commitment ,not on commuters). By encouraging more and more commuters to drive daily in and out of the targeted city, motorways are also contributing to an inevitable implosion of city infrastructure.

- 21b.)** The European Union wants Car manufacturers to cut greenhouse gas emissions to an average 120g/Km by 2012 suggesting that this could be done through improvements in engine technology and that there should be substantial penalties for non-compliance. **Irish Times: Paul Taylor in Brussels: ‘Motors Section’: page 1. (19-12-’07)**

See article entitled: ‘**Commission to rule on Contested emission burden**’

- 22a.) Similarly,** purchase of fuel for cars should also involve the surrender of the appropriate number of C.I.C.s. In this respect, Horse Power as well as litres of fuel should be taken into account.
- 22b.) Petrol & Oil Consumption:** Whereas a fill up of petrol for a 125cc. motor bicycle might cost, say two coupons of fuel allowance, those who are insensitive enough to book a place in some space travel bonanza may have to surrender their complete annual coupon allocation.
- 22c.) Slow Down:** A return to ‘Shanks’ Mare’, the bicycle, the scooter and even the pony and trap for routine educational attendance and routine local business with obligatory arrangements for reception, care and security by the relative educational establishments, places of work or business. Youth should be expected to walk or use the bicycle, older people to engage, where possible horse drawn transport for short journeys and all to use public transport (train or bus) for longer journeys.
- 23.) Armed conflict:** WWI with all its carnage, waste and destruction was intended to be “The war to end all wars” WWII included the flattening of Hamburg and many other European cities and the fire-balling of Dresden. The effect on the climate of the world would be difficult to evaluate yet that was not enough! The atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki finally demonstrated to us that we had the ability, by nuclear holocaust or, as we now know, through Ecological disaster, to terminate all life on the planet:
- 24.) Carbon Imprint of Conflict:** It is pointless to talk about reducing Climate Change let alone halting it without addressing the challenge of arms

limitation and embargoes on the use and transportation of arms: warship construction (battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, submarines, troopships etc.) warplane construction, war transport construction (tanks, trucks etc.) artillery. How many C.I.Cs to sustain the Iraq and Afghanistan invasions?

- 25a.) Banning of arms' industry:** We should strive for a ban on the arms industry other than that required for the national self-defence of the country producing them or for service under sanction by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Land mine production should cease, in other words be illegal and subject to most severe penalty under international law applied without fear or favour.
- 26.) Alternative Employment:** In a separate article written some time ago for the 'NewIrlander' dealing with current employment haemorrhage, it was suggested that the skills in design and manufacture which are presently employed in the weapons' industry should be taken up by the design and manufacture of the technology and production of alternative forms of clean energy Solar Panels, Windmills; Wave Turbines, Tidal management, etc.,
- 27.) Renewable energy:**
Wood is both a source of fuel and of building and furnishing material. As a renewable it is one of our most precious remaining resources. Thus, all uses of wood should, under the fear of legal penalty, place its purchaser under obligation to replace what has been used either directly or indirectly through re-planting. No tree to be cut down without permission of the Regional Advisory Council (R.A.C.) and each such event to result in the planting of two trees to replace the one cut down. *Regulations should apply to all trees, no matter how privately placed.*
- 28a.) Waste Paper:** At the outset of this cybernetic era, we were led to believe that we would need far less paper for writing and printing. As we now know, we use many many times more of it! Thus, to save the slaughter of many more precious trees for the wood pulp which feeds the paper production industry, it should be mandatory to use **both** sides of all paper for communication and to ensure that all used paper is referred for recycling. Thus, we should not be offended to receive letters written on the unused side of an already written on piece of paper.

- 28b.) The newspaper obsession:** Furthermore, the day must surely come when it will be unacceptable to have more than one newspaper per day brought into any place of domicile. Indeed a further case could be made for limiting the number of ‘Broad’ *sheets* and ‘Tabloid’ *sheets* used in each edition of every newspaper
- 29.) Homes:** We have heard in recent times that there is a great shortage of houses yet, not so long ago we were seeing new houses going up everywhere and the sale price was becoming more and more prohibitive. Now with the crash in credit the sales value of houses is falling catastrophically. A few years ago, first time buyers couldn’t find the money with which to purchase successfully, now, those who scrapped together to put a roof over their heads are caught again, this time by losing out severely through the sudden calamitous fall in the value of what they had managed to purchase.

It is obscene that some people own empty second houses while others are desperate to have a home of their own. One home should be enough for anyone, yet many people – including the author of this piece - have a ‘holiday’ home which may be rarely occupied and which does little for the commerce of the local community . Is it not time for Local Government to impose a locally appropriate tax on the owners of second homes who do not spend at least fourteen *consecutive* days in residence as well as a further fourteen days allocated to family members, friends or others throughout a calendar year. A second house should be perceived as an alternative home and not as a form of currency.

The recent annual tax on holiday ‘houses’ by the government of the Irish Republic of E200 is a joke when compared to the profit which was being made from such houses not so long ago; it is also a joke when the family enjoyment to be derived from it is compared with the cost of other forms of holiday.

- 30.) National, International and Intercontinental reciprocating carriage of goods:** of such as unseasonal food, and other luxuries and the same fruit etc. going in opposite directions at the same time with the great irony that such reciprocal movement may result in similar, if not identical, products passing each other, going in opposite directions on the same roadway!!: Travel Tourism should be C.I.C. rated.

The Regional Advisory Council should be commissioned as an urgent

priority to establish C.I.C.values for such indulgences regardless of how unintentional the wastage in fuel etc. may be. In terms of similar, if not the same goods passing in the air, in truck travel over huge distances. We have witnessed on our Television Screens, the transporting of shrimps from the UK to Thailand for removal of their outer casing prior to being flown back to the UK for distribution. Such an absurd operation is barely credible and should be subject to a huge surrender of the annual coupon allowance.

31.) Raising Awareness: Local Community Ecology Guild, Local Community Forum meetings, Local Community Ecology Workshops⁷

It should be an urgent requirement that energy conservationists and pollution experts meet with concerned citizens and politicians to explain the C.I.C. Value on different energy consumptions, so creating Green Will as well as Good Will in relation to the distribution and surrender of C.I.C.s and that this should start just as soon as the first allocation values has been made

32.) Conclusion: The items and assessment parameters for C.I.C rating are endless; nevertheless wisdom dictates that every item, service and activity should be considered for the action plan that will be used for assessment over a designated period of years and for review at the end of it.

‘A Green island for a New Ireland’. This was the title of a talk given by John Barry, to our North Coast branch. Perhaps we should re-phrase this challenge: **‘A Green Island for a Citizens’ Ireland in a New Ireland.**

III. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY:

It is essential that we develop our re-cyclicable and re-useable resources. We must now go into over-drive if we are to win the battle for the sake of our own lives let alone those of our children.

- i. Domestic conservation of energy:** solar panels, draft proofing, double glazing within health parameters, low voltage bulbs, smokeless fuels, re cycling of rubbish, creation of compost facilities etc., etc.

⁷ See the New Ireland Group’s Communitarian Manifesto, (2003) ‘Out of the Past: A Divisive Democracy; Into the Future: A Citizens’ Alternative’: This contains a Local Community Charter, pages, 25-35

As recently as the 1950s, students at school, if last out of a room, hall or gym etc. and who, as 'last out', had failed to turn off the lights were punished. 'Last out, turn off the lights' should become an eco-slogan.

- ii. **Wind power:** this should be further developed with the utmost urgency. (The West coast of Ireland, the Western Islands of Scotland and Scotland's West coast are reputed to have the greatest potential for creating power from wind)
- iii. **Off shore Wind Power:** this expensive novelty has now been acknowledged as an adjunct to land generated Wind power.
- iv. **Extraction of power from High altitude, High velocity wind**

The design, the applied technology and the engineering required to succeed in this challenge might well be suitable for any one rendered redundant as a result of cutting down on or eliminating other forms of work in enterprise considered to be no longer acceptable from an ecological standpoint, e.g., the weapons industry

- v. Tidal power is probably best generated by the mobilisation of the tides as is presently being demonstrated by the outlet of Strangfjord Lough. Twice each day that vast lough empties and then fills up again. It has been said that the current which passes through the mouth of the lough is the second strongest in Europe. There are other river basins which come to mind where twice each day millions of gallons of water move in and out
- vi. **Wave power:**
- vii. **Develop Alternative Agriculture to harvest energy from new crops such as willow. We already have among our population, one of the best known authorities in willow farming in these islands, namely, David Gilliland who lives in Derry.**
- viii. **It is now some years since a deputation of farmers from Northern Ireland first visited Denmark to learn about the generation of energy from vegetable and animal waste. A campaign of awareness-raising and knowledge about these alternative means of supplying energy from anaerobic digestion should be promoted urgently.**

- ix. **Underground thermal heating:** This is probably best observed and understood by visiting Reykjavik, capital of Iceland.
- x. **To counteract the need for alternative energy production to reduce the Carbon Imprint, a technique has been developed for capturing the CO2 already in the atmosphere and returning it to where it belongs, in Mother Earth⁸**
- x. **NUCLEAR ENERGY:** This demands some special consideration,
 - a). **On the support side for it, the outstanding argument for it is that Nuclear Energy is a ‘clean’ form of energy!!. Yet it should be immediately apparent that in its generation, manufacture, production and distribution there is a huge amount of energy involved. Furthermore, for as long as Human Beings are fallible, the chance and subsequent consequences of a mistake are too horrendous to contemplate.**
 - b). **1945 – over 60 years ago, saw the birth of the United Nations and the Declaration of Human Rights. However, its Charter provided for a Security Council which would have five permanent members, each with the power of Veto over the Security Council as a whole. In discussion with a former chairman of the Security Council, we were informed that at the time of the formation of the U.N., and in spite of being one of its co-founders, the US might not have joined, if a Security Council had not been formed and if the U.S.A. had not been granted permanent membership of it with right of veto!**

Now, in the quite different context of the world, sixty years later, it is not much wonder that countries which were not involved with the Allies or Axis forces during the '39-'45 war, may feel aggrieved that the same five nations can still exercise a veto over them. When we consider the damage which a nuclear explosion may do to the environment and thus to the Climate, perhaps now is the time to push yet again for a ban on all nuclear development leading to a ban on all nuclear weapons and to couple this promotion with a campaign for change in the composition of permanent members of the Security Council.

⁸ **‘Turning Back The Climate Clock’: Peter Russell:RESURGENCE:246: Jan/Feb 2008:p.8/**
www.peterussell.com/Earth/CarbSequest.php

IV. THE ARMS TRADE:

Caroline Lucas MEP says that the five permanent members of the United Nation's Security Council account for 90% of all arms trading⁹...

Recorded: 9 February 2005

TRIDENT:

At a time when the world needs urgently to eliminate all man-created damage to the environment we learn that the MPs at Westminster voted to replace the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system when it reaches the end of its 'useful life' in fifteen or twenty years time. "The decision isn't just a shameful waste of billions of pounds of taxpayers money; it sends out a deadly signal to the rest of the world: "We don't care about nuclear proliferation, so neither should you," and thus massively increases the chances of a nuclear confrontation in the future¹⁰

The cost of developing, building and maintaining the successor to Trident throughout its lifetime is likely to be in the region of £76 billion. To put that in perspective, it's enough, for example, to employ an extra 300,000 nurses, teachers or police officers.

Rather than protecting Britain's future security, the reality is that it is bound to increase the risks to that very security.¹¹

Imagine if Trident replacement's anticipated £76 billion costs were invested in the much more serious threat of Climate Change, if it were used to massively increase energy conservation and renewable energy generation, for example. In that case we might actually have a chance of cutting CO2 levels sufficiently to stave off the worst impacts of climate change.¹²

"Earlier this year (2007), The UN International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), comprising more than 2,000 of the world's leading climate scientists, warned of a future of floods, droughts, famine and hundreds of millions of environmental refugees. In this context, the idea that spending billions on upgrading Trident, could make Britain or the world, a safer place isn't just incorrect – it's dangerous and obscene".¹³

⁹ This statement will require verification

¹⁰ 'True Security': Caroline Lucas: RESURGENCE: No. 244, Sept/Oct. 2007:p32

¹¹ 'True Security': Caroline Lucas: RESURGENCE: No. 244, Sept/Oct. 2007:p32

¹² 'True Security': Caroline Lucas: RESURGENCE: No. 244, Sept/Oct. 2007:p32

¹³ 'True Security': Caroline Lucas: RESURGENCE: No. 244, Sept/Oct. 2007:p32: col. 3.

“It is also a clear breach of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and therefore seriously undermines the legal regime designed to protect us from the unregulated spread of nuclear weapons around the world. This can only lead to **increased nuclear proliferation and increase the chances that nuclear weapons will be used in time of war**, that they will fall into the hands of **terrorists** or other non-state actors, or will be the subject of **accidents**.

Replacing Trident won't just violate the NPT – it will undermine it by persuading other countries to breach it too..

Diplomatic efforts to persuade Iran to abandon plans to develop a nuclear programme are almost doomed to fail as long as we continue to develop ours, and as long as we encourage the use of nuclear energy in (so called) ‘responsible’ states.”¹⁴

V. ‘FOLLY TO BE WISE’?

We ignore at our peril the findings and recommendations of some of the world's most distinguished scientists in the areas of energy creation, global pollution, global squandering, global resource exploitation, carbon imprint, all affecting the now acknowledged potentially lethal effects of Climate Change. Don't suggest that we haven't been warned!

FURTHER READING:

Silent Spring: Rachel Carson: Houghton Mifflin: (Sept., 1962)

Recognised as helping to launch environmental movement

Concerned with pesticide pollution of the environment

Viciously criticised by the Chemical industry and others especially the manufacturers of DDT

“one of the greatest scientific books of all time”: Editors of ‘*Discovery*’

She evoked a spring season without bird song!

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silent_Spring]

‘The Limits to Growth’ : 1970s : A Report to The Club of Rome (1972),

Summary:

1. If the present growth trends in world population, industrialization, pollution, food production, and resource depletion continue unchanged, the limits to growth on this planet will be reached sometime within the next one hundred years. The most probable result will be a rather sudden and uncontrollable decline in both population and industrial capacity.

¹⁴ This section on Trident and nuclearism is taken from an excellent article on the subject by Caroline Lucas, the Green M.E.P. for South East England: RESURGENCE: No. 244, Sept/Oct. 2007:pp32-33 [www.resurgence.org]

2. It is possible to alter these growth trends and to establish a condition of ecological and economic stability that is sustainable far into the future. The state of global equilibrium could be designed so that the basic material needs of each person on earth are satisfied and each person has an equal opportunity to realize his/her individual human potential.¹⁵

[www.resurgencee.org]

The Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 – encouraged Developed Countries to stabilise Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) emissions

Kyoto Protocol adopted its 3rd. conference of the parties to the UNFCCC – Dec.1997

Entered into force, 16th. Feb. 2005, committed Developed Countries to stabilise GHG emissions:

targets to be met between 2008 and 2012. USA and Australia did not sign up.

Emissions Trading allowed ‘Developed’ Parties to earn and trade Emissions credits through products developed elsewhere resulting in\ emission reductions.

[www..wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_Protocol]

The Stern Review: Sir Nicholas Stern: 2006

The world has to act now on climate change or face devastating economic consequences, according to a report compiled by Sir Nicholas Stern for the UK government.

If no action is taken on emissions, there is more than a 75% chance of global temperatures rising between two and three degrees Celsius over the next 50 years

Rising sea levels could leave 200 million people permanently displaced

Up to 40% of species could face extinction

¹⁵ ‘The second part of the Gandhian Trinity’: ‘*Swaraj*’:led to his statement that “There is enough in the world for everybody’s need but not enough for anybody’s greed”: MAHATMA GANDHI: The Gandhian Trinity: Satish Kumar: RESURGENCE: 246: p. 13: Col. 2: Jan./ Feb.2008.

If temperatures rise by five degrees Celsius, up to 10% of global output could be lost. The poorest countries would lose more than 10% of their output

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC)

Launched in 2007: this put an end to any lingering doubts about the scientific basis of the connection between GHG emissions and Climate Change. The work was carried out by scientists from all over the world

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol Initiative:

This is “the most widely used international accounting tool for government and business leaders to understand, quantify, and manage greenhouse gas emissions. The GHG Protocol Initiative, a decade-long partnership between the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, is working with businesses, governments, and environmental groups around the world to build a new generation of credible and effective programs for tackling climate change.”

Two important publications, which provide the foundation for ‘A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (2004) and the GHG Protocol for Project Accounting (2005):

‘A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard’ (2004)

The GHG Protocol for Project Accounting

More important information to assist in understanding –
[www.ghgprotocol.org]

The Annual UK Festival of Science which was organised in Norwich by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, issued warnings reaffirmed by the more recent Report on Climate Change issued by the United Nations.

United Nations and Climate Change: Nov. 2007.

[www.energybulletin.net/37355.html].

These have now been followed by **the Irish government’s paper on Climate Change**¹⁶ published on **November, 30th., 2007**. The summary in the Irish Times read well on observations and findings; also on recommendations yet there seemed to be little to suggest urgent far reaching **action**.

¹⁶ See Irish Times, 29th., Nov., 2007.

On the whole these publications are good in identifying the problem and on listing the enormity of loss in the Natural world and on making recommendations. Yet , they would seem to be singularly defective in yielding the far-reaching and wide-ranging **action** so urgently required with appropriate penalties for non-compliance. If we wish to ensure the survival of reasonable life on planet Earth it would seem that we may have only ten years left to put our world in order

VI. A LEAD FROM IRELAND ?

These islands survived two World wars. We can survive the challenge of Climate Change but only by **placing the people on a state of alert for urgent action**. If we are not prepared to do so then the consequences seem dire..

We can give a lead; we should give the lead. It would be similar to shooting ourselves in the foot if we were to do nothing on grounds that countries like China, India and the U.S.A. – a country which should know better - are continuing to poison the climate on an unprecedented scale. **Let us lead so that others may follow.**

Before we reach the critical point of no return, we should be prepared to suffer restriction. If that critical point is reached, even those who have survived the struggle and the fighting for survival will also be doomed.

Hope... ‘Need not Greed’:

In spite of my gloomy resumé of our perilous situation we should retain hope provided we focus on meeting Collective need at the same time as we seek to eliminate Individual greed.

Relevant environmental education and training are vital to survival.

Individual and Collective Community Development are essential in order to empower the citizen and ensure that s/he has the self confidence to face up to fundamental social change as a significant challenge rather than perceiving it as a paralysing threat. These complex problems should be addressed through the development of Local Community Planning strategies such as were being outlined at the NICVA conference held in the Duncairn Centre, Belfast, on November, 23rd and the Community Development and Health Network held in the Radisson Hotel, Belfast on November, 30th. The citizen in community or in neighbourhood must feel that they too can claim ownership over changes which will inevitably take place if we are to face up successfully to this challenge of Climate Change.

“My own guess is that we should accustom ourselves to thinking in terms of very much smaller units than we may be inclined to, conditioned as we are to a society addicted to ‘rationalisation which too often results in centralisation and giantism’. On a small scale people’s power may be mobilised; when the scale becomes too large, people’s power becomes frustrated and ineffective”¹⁷

Payback Time:

Are those of us who have been fortunate enough to experience the fullness of life so selfish that we are not prepared to make the necessary adjustments by accepting the necessary restrictions to allow the generations ahead to continue to experience what we and our forbears have enjoyed? In other words will those of us who have been poor trustees of what we received in trust now be willing to regain viable trusteeship of this living planet so that we may pass on sustainable life to those who come after us.

We would urge all governments to insist that biodiversity is respected and encouraged, that *all* waste, if not eliminated, is re-cycled, and, in this context, to ensure **that any attempt to make profit through deliberately creating built-in obsolescence in production** is most severely dealt with by the law. There is indeed much to be done before we run out of time.

Governments should also be encouraged to disallow tampering with the genetic inheritance of animals and plants merely because we, in our ignorance or arrogance, believe that such tampering must inevitably be beneficial to the survival of other forms of life.

We have been conditioned to believe that we should pursue speed and size in the drive for more economic security when it is wisdom combined with common sense in the pursuit of the Good will, Green Will and Well-Being which we need if the objective of a Healthy society is to be realised. In these respects study of the Humanities is as important if not more so than the study of the Sciences. Let the randomness of what still remains be preserved in order to underpin our survival as we recall that natural randomness has sustained us thus far through many millennia.

Final words of warning:

“Society is limited in its capacity to adapt to environmental change, not only by its inability to comprehend it, but also, among other things, by the social disruption that could be caused by attempting to adapt too rapidly to such change.”¹⁸

¹⁷ ‘This I Believe’: E.F.Schumacher: A Resurgence Book: (1997):Green Books Ltd.:’ The Critical Question of Size’: page, 62.

¹⁸ ‘A Blueprint for Survival’: Editors of the Ecologist: Penguin Books: Appendix B: p. 101, para.,3: (1972)

“Science may facilitate comprehension, and may provide the technology for ensuring partial short-term adaptation to change, but, by failing to provide the means for ensuring the corresponding adaptation of social structures, it must thereby determine their disintegration.”¹⁹

(What a pity we didn't heed those words 35 years ago; we can no longer afford the luxury of *gradual* change; the situation is far too serious for that) Our survival may thus depend on electing women and men of wisdom to manage what may be a very difficult period of adjustment lying immediately ahead of us.

New Ireland Group:

This paper has been prepared for discussion within the New Ireland Group in the first instance. In this respect, we should all read the full report of the Irish Government's proposals which were published (29th or 30th November, 2007, date to be checked!) and we congratulate it on its initiative in this regard. We should be thankful to David Ahlstrom for his article

**‘The Earth's climate canary is singing, but is anyone listening?’
Irish Times, September, 5th.**

He scared the wits out of at least one of his readers. Thank you and congratulations.

The Life Preserving Option in the event of us slipping into Ecological Death

Most people would surely prefer to live on the planet they know than to have to take the risk of being scientifically hibernated so that they may travel at unprecedented speeds to some other life sustaining planet elsewhere in the universe, arriving, perhaps, light years later yet only a few, if any, biological years older.

A CELTIC TIGER, YESTERDAY; A WORLD LEADER, TOMORROW?

If we are to be taken seriously, a truly New Ireland should become the exemplar in a world so badly in need of leadership, direction and encouragement if we are to avoid catastrophic ecological disaster on a global scale.

This is the challenge for governments world wide yet, because of our relative smallness and the inter-relatedness of our people, Ireland, its two parts complementing each other and its diaspora mobilised throughout the world, could give the lead which is so badly needed. It would be the thinking of the doomed to refuse to give such a lead merely because everyone else is not yet making similar sacrifices.

¹⁹ ‘A Blueprint for Survival’: Editors of the Ecologist: Penguin Books: Appendix B; p. 101, para 3: (1972)