



YOUNG GREENS / ÓIGE GHLAS

New Members Booklet

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Welcome to the Young Greens!

We're delighted to have you on board!

The Young Greens are the independent youth wing of the Green Party, open to both members and non-members under the age of 30. We are a diverse group of passionate campaigners from all corners of the country and all walks of life.

The Young Greens organise events and workshops for young members and advocate for youth policies both within and outside the Green Party. Every meeting brings new opportunities to get involved, make meaningful connections and friendships, and share new ideas with fellow members.

We are all about campaigning for cleaner, greener, better future, and we're very happy that now includes you! If you have questions please contact oigeghlas@gmail.com.

Make sure to keep up to date with the Young Greens by following us on social media!



[@younggreens](https://twitter.com/younggreens)



[@younggreens_irl](https://www.instagram.com/younggreens_irl)



www.younggreens.ie



[@young_greens_irl](https://www.tiktok.com/@young_greens_irl)



[@YoungGreensIreland](https://www.facebook.com/YoungGreensIreland)



1. Who we are and what we stand for

Here you will read about the basis of the Young Greens and our philosophy as set out in the constitution. The full constitution is on the Young Greens website.

Philosophy, Principles, and Objectives

The principles assert the connection of all life and the role of the Green movement in establishing appropriate relationships in this web of interdependence. While respecting the human person, we recognise and celebrate our links with other species. We oppose the destructive processes which are destroying the planet. We favour a balanced and sustainable system of production and utilisation of resources, keeping account of real costs. The task before us is to transform the vision of continued viable life on Earth into reality.



Young Greens Principles

We have a responsibility to pass on a healthy planet to future generations

The poverty of two thirds of the world's population demands the fair redistribution of the world's resources

We want to build a green, feminist, democratic economy to oversee the fair redistribution of wealth, a just transition and intergenerational equity

There is no place for intimidation, violence or threats of violence in the democratic political process

We fight for intersectional feminism that is anti-racist, anti-fascist, and supports queer and disability rights

Unrestricted economic growth must be replaced by an ecologically and socially just economy

All political, social and economic decisions should be taken at the lowest possible level

Foreign policy must uphold human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and respect international law, preserving and building peace through multilateral solutions

1.1 Climate and Environment

Our future is more important than the profits of individual companies. The policies of recent years are destroying the climate by protecting the interests of large corporations and allowing them to continue to exploit people and nature unchecked. Our earth is getting hotter and time is running out to save our natural resources and secure our future. With the destruction of our environment comes ever new resource conflicts – over water, habitats and healthy food. The current economic system of material growth and environmental exploitation is not only the root cause of climate change, but a cause of injustice. To stop climate change, it is essential to adopt an intersectional approach that recognizes those who are the most responsible for climate change are least likely to be affected by it when analysing the causes and effects of the climate crisis.

1.2 Feminism and LGBTQ+ Rights

In recent decades, feminists have won important achievements such as women's suffrage and legal independence from husbands or fathers. But it's not over yet! Women, intersex and trans people are still unable to make their own decisions about their bodies. Women are still often dependent on their partner's account balance. And supposedly "women's professions" are still paid far too poorly and are counted on the fact that someone will do them. We fight for intersectional feminism, a feminism that is anti-racist, anti-fascist, and draws from the queer and disability rights movements. Our feminism recognises diversity and the different ways in which privilege and oppression manifest in society. Let's join the feminist fight for real equality, an end to discrimination, and higher wages!

1.3 Social Justice

Our public infrastructure - our housing, healthcare, and education systems - have been devastated by austerity and systemic underinvestment. Everyone deserves a roof over their heads, free and accessible healthcare, and the opportunity to succeed. The Young Greens believe that the state must provide comprehensive and efficient health care, affordable housing, and secular education in all regions of the country. That is why fundamental social rights such as the right to housing, health and mobility must be enshrined in our constitution.

1.4 Green Economy

The constant compulsion to maximise profits leads to insecure jobs, poor salaries and climate destruction. We identify the root causes of the social and environmental crises as lying within the current economic system. We are committed to a democratic economic policy that is socially just, protects our environment, and increases our quality of life. The measurement of prosperity cannot be defined solely by gross national product and requires the inclusion of social and ecological factors. The green and feminist economy we want to build means the democratisation of the economy, the redistribution of wealth, a just transition and intragenerational equity. Instead of profits for the few, we support good working conditions and fair wages for all.

1.5 Democracy and Foreign Affairs

The protection of the rights of the people, representative democratic systems, lowering the voting age to 16 and protecting the right to organise and to take part in protests freely.

We believe in the European Project and that both national and European foreign policy must uphold human rights, democracy, the rule of law and the respect of international law; preserve and build peace; pursue multilateral solutions; and fight for effective action at the global level to fight climate change, the biodiversity crisis, and other global environmental and social challenges.

1.6 Our Objectives

The objective of the Young Greens is to promote the Principles above by:

- (a) active participation in the political process,
- (b) campaigning, canvassing and protesting, and
- (c) informing, educating, and involving the public.

The Young Greens operate on an all-island basis.

2. Young Greens Executive Committee

Introduction

The Young Greens are the youth wing of the Green Party / Comhaontas Glas, for any resident of Ireland aged 16-30 (or a student of any age) who supports social justice, climate action, sustainability, grassroots democracy, and peace.

2.1 The Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring the medium and long-term development and expansion of the Young Greens.

The tasks of the Executive Committee include the following:

1. To advocate for Climate and Social Justice, particularly in areas relating to young people and minorities.
2. To support branches in third level institutions in organising students for climate action.
3. To organise Young Green participation in election campaigns.
4. To formulate proposals for Policy Council to consider.
5. The Executive Committee nominates a representative to sit on the Green Party Executive to provide and participate in Party decisions and operations.
6. To prepare an Annual Budget for, and to present the annual accounts to, the Party Treasurer and the Young Greens Annual Convention.
7. The meetings of the Executive Committee is minuted and the minutes is normally accessible on demand to Branches. The Executive Committee may however decide that certain matters are confidential and refuse access to minutes..

2.2 Committee Positions

Co-Chairpersons

Secretary

Treasurer

Communications

Policy Coordinator

International Liaison

Membership & Events

Equality

Branch Coordinator

Irish Language

Dublin Rep

Leinster Rep

Munster Rep

Connacht Rep

Ulster Rep

Northern Ireland Rep

Ordinary Members

Eimer Conlon & Ben Ryan

Sam Geraghty

Rob O'Donnell

Martha Cosgrove & Sean Dalton

Sarah Seymour

Adam Ó Ceallaigh

Cillian Moore

Sofia Keogh

Donnacha Geoghegan

(Vacant)

(Vacant)

Michael Kennedy

Justin Fleming

(Vacant)

Ewan Fuller

Ellie Byrne

Ash Jones & Vanessa Mulhall



3. Young Greens Branches



3.1 College Branches

The Young Greens currently have branches in University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, National University of Galway, Dublin City University and Queens University Belfast. They are heavily involved in activism based activities such as protests, marches, and voter registration. Events include Dáil visits, hosting political party meetups, and coffee hours. Since the pandemic, we have gotten more into online activism through online petitions, email campaigns, and zoom webinars. We also mobilise Young Greens across the country to support Green Party Candidates in the Local, European and General Election campaigns.

3.2 Spreading the Green Word

Young Greens work together to share information and insights across a broad range of Green issues. Please follow our social media channels and like, share and comment on the posts that you see on the our channels. This increases the visibility of our posts and helps to promote positive achievements.

4. Policy Development

4.1 Policy Council

The Green Party relies predominately on its members to create and direct policy. Policy Council develops, approves, and amends policies that are then adopted by the Party and used in election manifestos. Some policies that the Young Greens have been involved with forming include:

- Reproductive Rights
- Drug decriminalisation
- Housing
- Education
- LGBTQI+ Rights
- Banning conversion therapy
- Banning Private Jets

Please contact the Policy Officer if you have questions.

Ways you can get involved:

- Join the Young Greens Policy Subcommittee.
- Become the voting delegate for your local Young Greens branch.
- Write and submit your own policy proposals to Policy Council.

4.2 Policy groups

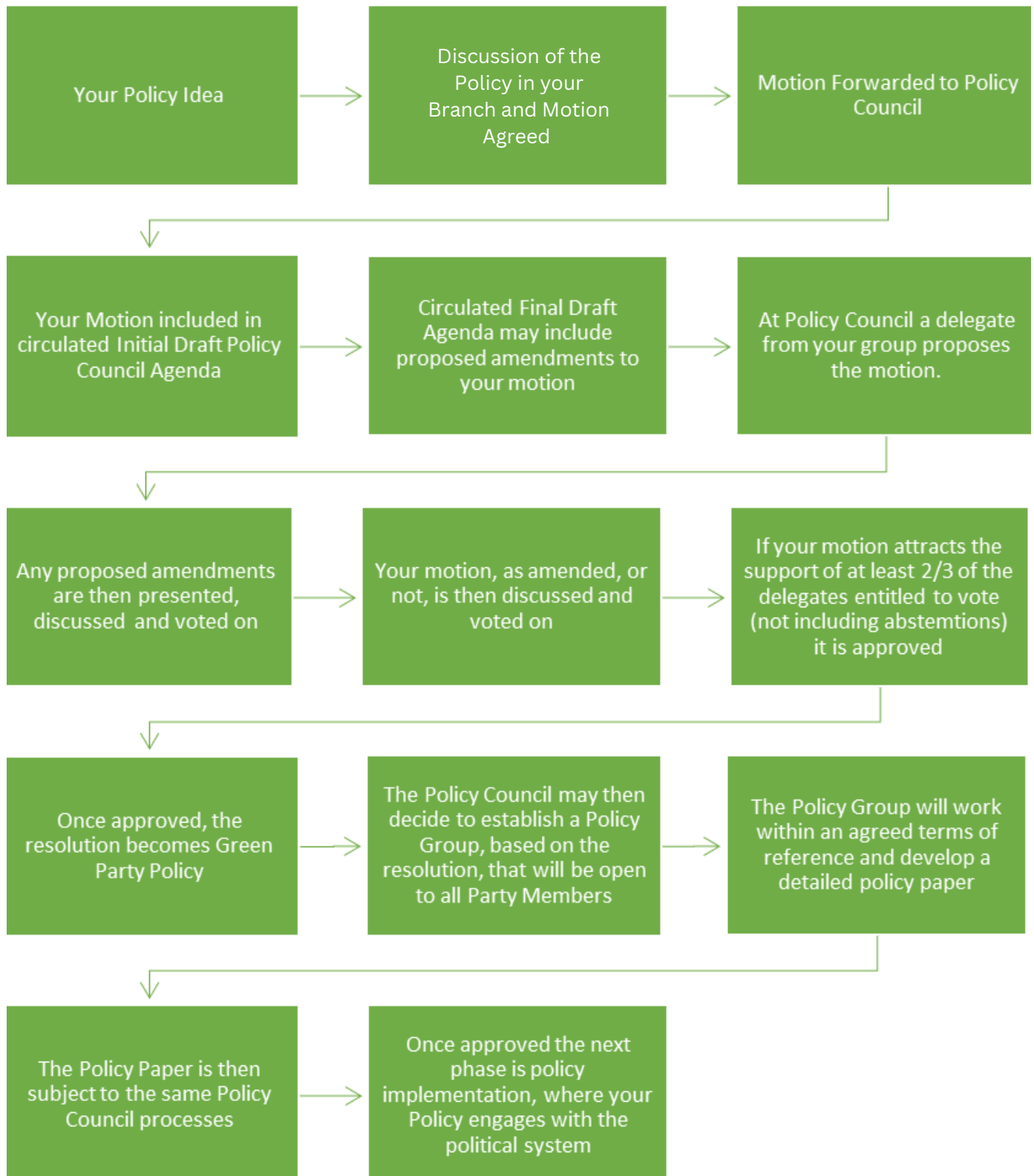
Policy Council regularly sets up Policy Groups to review existing policies and create new ones where we have a gap. When new groups are set up an email is sent to all party members inviting them to sign up. Groups elect a convenor and collaborate to draft a policy document.

Ways you can get involved:

- Join a policy group to stay updated on a policy that interests you.
- Review and redraft an existing policy.
- Contribute to the creation of an entirely new policy.
- Volunteer as a convenor for a policy group or one of its subgroups.

There are 48 groups working on a variety of policies. Some of them are Animal Welfare, Climate Change, LGBTQI+, Irish Language, Equality, Rural Affairs, Housing and Homelessness, Flexible Working, Migration, Marine, Political Reform, Reproductive Rights, and many others.

The flowchart below illustrates how policies are created.



5. Politics and Politicians

The Green Party currently has 12 TDs, 4 Senators, 2 MEPs and 44 councillors. [Green Party Northern Ireland](#) has five councillors.

The Republic of Ireland is divided into:

- 39 Dail Constituencies, from which TDs are elected and
- 166 Local Electoral Areas, from which councillors are elected.

The next Local and European Elections will be in June of 2024.



5.1 Your Elected Representatives

IRISH POLITICAL MAP

Parliamentarians



Teachtaí Dála

1. Minister Eamon Ryan
2. Minister Catherine Martin
3. Brian Leddin
4. Francis Noel Duffy
5. Minister of State Joe O'Brien
6. Minister of State Malcolm Noonan
7. Marc Ó Cathasaigh
8. Neasa Hourigan
9. Minister of State Ossian Smyth
10. Patrick Costello
11. Minister Roderic O'Gorman
12. Steven Matthews

MEPs

13. Ciarán Cuffe
14. Grace O'Sullivan

Senators

15. Pauline O'Reilly
16. Minister of State Pippa Hackett
17. Róisín Garvey
18. Vincent P. Martin

6. Federation of Young European Greens

6.1 FYEG

FYEG is the European umbrella organisation for Young Green organisations from all over the continent, from Georgia to Ireland and from Cyprus to Norway. Member organisations comprise various backgrounds: local ecological groups, student unions, youth wings of Green parties and Green Youth NGOs. In addition, they are also the independent, official youth wing of the European Green Party (EGP).

The Young Greens/Óige Ghlas have a rich history of engaging with European partners and fostering strong connections with (FYEG). For several years, Óige Ghlas has actively participated in European events, notably attending the FYEG Mental Health summer camp in France in 2022 and holding a significant presence at the 2023 FYEG General Assembly held in Barcelona, where we had the largest delegation among all member organisations. The primary point of contact between us and FYEG is our International Liaison Officer (ILO), who regularly participates in quarterly meetings representing Ireland in the northern region of FYEG.



7. Affiliate Groups

7.1 Subgroups

Just Transition Greens

The Just Transition Greens is a green-left action think-tank with a particular focus on the social justice, peace, and democracy pillars of green politics and is explicitly feminist. To find out more please visit

<https://justtransition.green/>

Mná Glasa | Green Women

Network for women in the Green Party, aiming to promote gender equality in the Green Party and the Irish political system. It is open to all people who see the need to rebalance the political power structures between women and men in society. Currently, 50% of our elected representatives identify as women. You can contact Mná Glasa / Green Women at mnaglasa@greenparty.ie.

Ways you can get involved:

- Join a mailing list or social media group
- Attend events
- Contribute to policy submissions
- Serve on a committee



Contact Information



Co-Chair
Eimer Conlon



Co-Chair
Ben Ryan



Equality Officer
Sofia Keogh



Membership Officer
Cillian Moore

To get in contact with us, please email
oigeghlas@gmail.com

For further information please visit our website at
<https://younggreens.ie/>

All elected representative contact details are available at
www.greenparty.ie/our-people/representatives/