

## **CLIMATE ACTION PROPOSAL**

### **increasing the number of community gardens within urban areas**

Community Gardens Ireland have been highlighting the benefits of community gardens and calling for local authorities to provide more community gardens around Ireland. At the Spring Gathering and Forum of Community Growers in March 2023, attendees unanimously backed calls for legislation to require local authorities to provide allotments and community gardens where there is demand locally.

Community Gardens Ireland's "Let's Get Growing" report presented in March 2022 to the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage also highlighted the low numbers of allotments and community gardens in Ireland compared to other countries in Europe.

Dónal McCormack, Chairperson of Community Gardens Ireland said that "community-led initiatives such as allotments and community gardens help as climate and biodiversity friendly actions, but policies and legislation need to make it easier for communities to set them up in the first place."

Recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have highlighted how urban agriculture initiatives like community gardens can help to improve urban food security, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help as adaptation measures to climate change impacts, along with improving biodiversity and strengthening associated ecosystem services."

The Final Report from the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss also recently recommended that *"the State must ensure the expansion of community gardens and allotments through local authority initiatives in conjunction with private landowners, in both urban and rural communities."*

#### References:

Video of President Higgins' speech, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0tEst5y7qbCJ9edM1jV95sLmMDXyCbZtFaLVxsHp9GAuoVuuSUjYYz7C3cEkVU7N9I&id=100064688858813](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0tEst5y7qbCJ9edM1jV95sLmMDXyCbZtFaLVxsHp9GAuoVuuSUjYYz7C3cEkVU7N9I&id=100064688858813)

LGMA Report:

<https://www.lgma.ie/en/publications/local-authority-sector-reports/a-profile-of-local-government-climate-actions-in-ireland-final.pdf>

Let's Get Growing Report:

[http://cgireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Community-Gardens-Ireland\\_Lets-Get-Growing.pdf](http://cgireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Community-Gardens-Ireland_Lets-Get-Growing.pdf)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Reports:

[https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_FullReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf) & <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/chapter-5/>

Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss report:

[https://citizensassembly.ie/wp-content/uploads/Report-on-Biodiversity-Loss\\_mid-res.pdf](https://citizensassembly.ie/wp-content/uploads/Report-on-Biodiversity-Loss_mid-res.pdf)