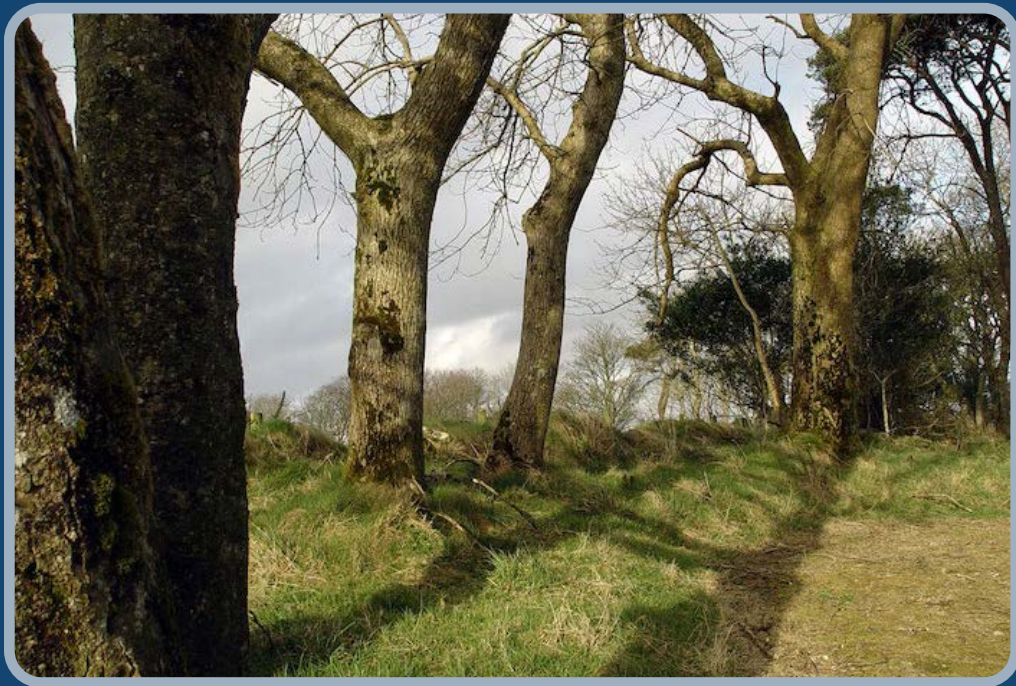


 **feasta**  
**Annual Report**  
2022



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# Introduction

by Mike Sandler (Chair of Board of Trustees)



On behalf of the Board of Feasta, I am pleased to present Feasta's 2022 Annual Report.

The Overton Window (what is perceived as politically possible) shifted during the pandemic. People began receiving pandemic payments from their governments in many parts of the world. People changed their habits, in some cases reducing travel or commutes. Some people were able to telework more, with a proportional increase in screen time (if it can even go any higher). The media attention to public health could also help boost interest in the Wellbeing Economy. Meanwhile, carbon emissions and economic inequality keep rising, people are now “catching up” on their missed travel, and a return to pre-pandemic “normal” is possible or even likely. Taken as a whole though, the public may be more receptive to Feasta's proposals now than ever before.

To move forward with Feasta's systems view towards solving the world's most pressing environmental-economic problems, the Board began reviewing some materials that were developed 20 years ago, and updating them to better reflect our current thinking in 2023. This may extend all the way to Feasta's mission statement, which the Board is considering merging with the goal of its Theory of Change. We welcome members' input on this process, which will be discussed at the next AGM in September.

**Feasta's Board has been reviewing some materials that were developed 20 years ago, and updating them to better reflect our current thinking in 2023. Members will get to weigh in at the AGM meeting in September.**

Read on to find out more about Feasta's activities in 2022, and our attempts to alert the world about the dangers of the growth-dependent economic system and opportunities for reform, and systems-based solutions to climate change, the monetary system, inequality, ecosystems, agriculture, mental health, democracy, and more. Please check our website for the latest blog posts, podcasts, and event announcements.

Gabhaim buíochas le gach duine a chabhraigh linn sa bhliain atá caite, agus go raibh rath ar an obair san bhliain le teacht.

- Mike

# Staff & Management



*Graham Barnes*



*Michele Brady*



*John Sharry*



*Mark Garavan*



*Willi Kiefel*



*Mike Sandler*



*Brent Ranalli*

Feasta's Board of Trustees continued to oversee its activities in 2022. The trustees as of December 2022 were Graham Barnes, Michele Brady (Secretary), John Sharry, Mark Garavan, Willi Kiefel, Mike Sandler (Chair) and Brent Ranalli. Mike and Brent are both based in the U.S.A., while the other trustees are resident in Ireland. In the course of the year, a process was begun in order to diversify the Board in terms of age and gender.



*Morag Friel*

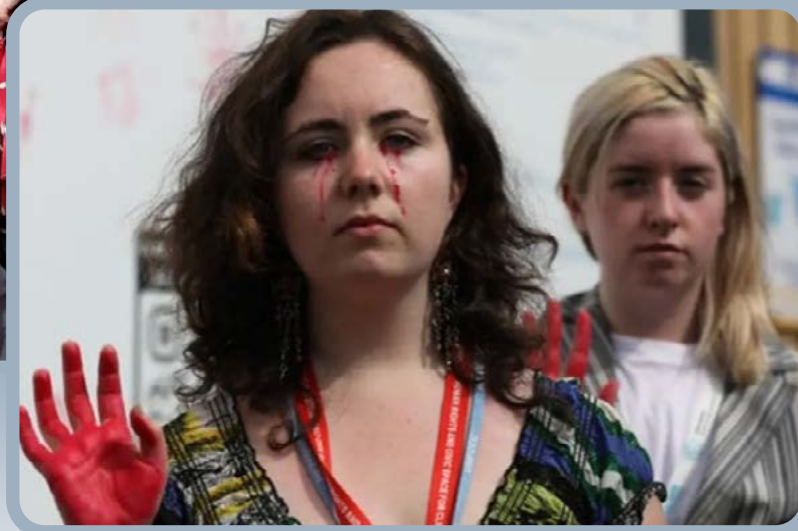


*Caroline Whyte*

Feasta's administration continued to be ably handled by Morag Friel, while Caroline Whyte focussed on research and communication.



*Theresa O'Donohoe and Martin Vernon representing Feasta at COP 27*



*Jessica Dunne, Feasta Youth Delegate at COP 27, and Dearbhla Richardson*

# Theory of Change

## 2023 iteration

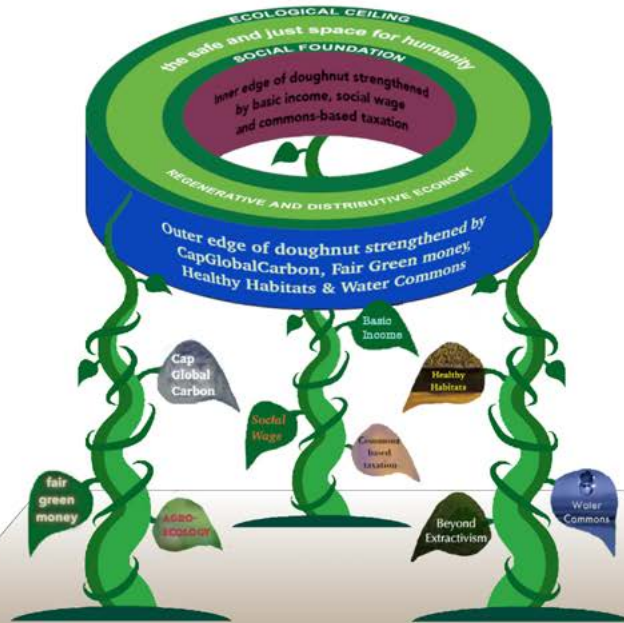
### Feasta's vision of a safe and just space for humanity

A vibrant, commons-focussed, locally-oriented and stable global economy that enables human flourishing and well-being within a resilient and healthy global ecosystem

#### Values and Context

This graphic illustrates prerequisites for healthy structures which can help to provide a secure foundation for people within our society to be healthy in mind, body and spirit.

- Ecological regeneration
- Not dependent on GDP growth
- Racial, gender, LGBTQ+, social class equality and disability rights
- Democracy
- Equality of opportunity
- Emotional well-being



Note: the green circles on the left are adapted from Kate Raworth's Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries.

The pale green inside of the doughnut represents the safe and just space for humanity. The dark green outer edge represents ecological limits (ecological ceiling), while the dark green inner edge represents the social foundation necessary for human survival (adequate food, housing, healthcare etc).

You can find out more about the Doughnut at <https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/>.

We have placed the Doughnut on three supports, surrounded by climbing beanstalks. The leaves on the beanstalks represent seven initiatives that Feasta members consider important. If one support is removed, the structure will fall over. This is because we think that all seven initiatives, or something like them, are needed.

While we were inspired by the Doughnut model, any errors in this Theory of Change are our own.

#### Global-level preconditions

International level, NGOs, citizens: Citizen's Climate Trust, Financial System Reform, changes to international law, Alternative Economic Accounts (Beyond GDP), World Basic Income, Social Wage, intelligent agriculture

Medium to longer term

Medium term

Future pilot projects  
State and national level, NGOs, citizens

#### Broader preconditions

Changes in national law and taxation, improved performance budgeting

Current/short term

Current pilot projects  
Local or state efforts, NGOs, citizens

#### Consciousness raising (short term)

Outreach to academics, media, like-minded NGOs and citizens; submissions to government; podcasts; reports and other publications

Current/short term

Grassroots actions

Top-down actions

Current/short term



#### Feasta programme development

Research, advocacy, ideas sharing and discussion, including Beyond GDP group and Feasta website resources

# 2022 Groups/Activities

## Climate Group

### COP-27

In 2022, Feasta continued to support the global youth climate justice movement by providing NGO observer access to several young people attending the UNFCCC's COP-27 in Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt. Although Greta Thunberg herself did not attend COP-27 due to concerns about human rights abuses there, Feasta's youth delegation were able to bear witness to the challenges and frustrations of the UN process as Feasta continues to promote an alternative approach: [CapGlobalCarbon](#).

Our delegates were Hania Imran (from Pakistan), Amália Garcez, Mikaelle Farias and Nayara Almeida (from Brazil), Theresa Rose Sebastian (from Ireland and India), Prakash Chaudhuri (from India) and Jessica Dunne, Theresa O'Donohoe and Martin Vernon (from Ireland). They brought with them perspectives representing women, indigenous peoples, the Global South, youth, and others. Hania Imran participated in a panel on resource justice and the wellbeing economy. The delegation's experiences are [documented on the Feasta website](#), and many of the pictures are worth a thousand words. Special thanks to the Irish Environmental Network for their support as well.



COP 27 Delegates

**Our delegates brought with them perspectives representing women, indigenous peoples, the Global South, youth, and others.**

### Cap & Share

Another exciting development arose through a new partnership with Equal Right, a group based in the UK that had referenced Feasta's Cap & Share reports as they developed a similar proposal. This partnership is in the process of being formalized into a Cap & Share Climate Alliance, which will invite like-minded groups to join together to promote systemic solutions based on the cap and share model. Members may not have complete consensus on all the details, but we are forming a common cause to get the ideas out into the public sphere and networking with environmental justice and advocates for the Global South.

In May, Caroline Whyte gave an online talk to the Wellbeing Economy Alliance on 'The Climate as a Commons', as part of their monthly series of talks. This also gave her an opportunity to discuss Cap and Share with a more global audience.

In September, with the much-appreciated support of the IEN, Caroline also prepared a paper which explored a proposal by Feasta's Climate Group to expand the existing Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance in order to accelerate a phase-out of the extraction of fossil fuels globally, while providing significant climate finance to the Global South. In the latter part of the year she attended several meetings with other NGOs interested in influencing and promoting BOGA.

## Beyond Extractivism

This new working group was formed in mid-2022.

Feasta is working with partner organisations in Ireland and elsewhere to identify and address the economic dynamics that are encouraging the current rush to mineral prospecting and mining, both in Ireland and elsewhere.

While it is clear that everyone on the planet needs access to a certain amount of energy and resources in order to live a decent and dignified life, we believe it is dangerously erroneous to assume that overall energy and resource use must (and can) therefore remain at its present high level, or indeed increase.

**We believe it is dangerously erroneous to assume that overall energy and resource use must (and can) remain at its present high level**

Rather than planning for a massive expansion in minerals mining in order to achieve decarbonisation, we are advocating a sufficiency-focussed approach which focuses on ensuring that our energy and resource needs can be met within planetary boundaries, while supporting the rights of communities to say no to mining.

The working group's convenor, Emma Karran, is a representative of the Environmental Pillar on the Advisory Group on Irish State policy on mineral prospecting and mining, while Feidhlim Harty is a Pillar representative in the Waste Advisory Group.

## Commons-Based Taxation & Fair Green Money

In January 2022, Feasta made a submission to the Irish Commission on Taxation and Welfare (see page 21). As a result, we were invited by the Commission to participate in a two-day workshop in February 2022. Anne Ryan, Seán Ó Conláin and Caroline Whyte attended and participated in different breakout sessions during the workshop, advocating for capping carbon, Universal Basic Income and land value tax.

Caroline Whyte was also an active participant at the European level in the CSO debate on the fiscal framework reform for the EU. She participated in several workshops organised by the Commission and by NGOs such as the 'Fiscal Matters' coalition in the course of the year. Her aim was to stimulate debate on achieving growth-independent fiscal and monetary policy, and on changing our ways of measuring economic progress.

# Agroecology

This new Feasta working group was formed in 2022.

Agroecology is a holistic approach that seeks to reconcile agriculture and local communities with natural processes, for the common benefit of nature and livelihoods. Feasta supports agroecological farming as a vital part of the transition to a wellbeing economy.

Talamh Beo core member and farmer Fergal Anderson is a Feasta member and an Environmental Pillar representative on the NESC Agricultural and Climate Action Working Group.

Agroecology is one of the themes of our ongoing [Food for Thought](#) events, which are held annually in County Mayo, in partnership with [Afri](#) (see page 12) for information on the 2022 Food for Thought event.

## The Agricultural Goalposts Project

Thanks to an earmarked IEN fund, Feasta's Caroline Whyte undertook a research project on broader economic dynamics affecting Irish agriculture and how these could be altered so as to make it easier for farmers to adopt agroecological practices. Her findings were published in a Feasta discussion paper, "[Land, Labour, Housing, Money, Farms: Moving the economic goalposts of Irish agriculture.](#)"

Two online workshops were held in April and May 2022 (see page 11) which included comments and responses to the paper from contributors in many different sectors, including Talamh Beo, An Taisce, the Think-tank for Action on Social Change, [ARC2020](#), academia, [Basic Income Ireland](#), the Nevin Economic Research Institute and Social Justice Ireland. Videos of the workshops are available online.



As a result of this project, Caroline was invited to become an advisory partner of [ARC2020](#), a pan-European network promoting EU policy that supports agroecology. She contributed a short section to ARC2020's book '[Rural Ireland on the move: farm diversification and just transition](#)', and was among the speakers at the book launch in Cloughjordan in April 2022. She also spoke briefly at an online event on June 7, which was a launch for the book 'Rural Europe Takes Action'.

Caroline subsequently attended a 3-day workshop in Brittany in September 2022 on rural resilience, called 'Nos Campagnes en Resilience', which brought together farmers, rural actors, regional and European organisations and policymakers to share, reflect and prepare action for the future of the European countryside.





*Mike Sandler and Brent Ranalli at Walden Pond in Massachusetts, USA.*

## Feasta North America/ Feasta USA

Feasta members Brent Ranalli and Jim Boyce co-wrote an article on Environmental Justice and carbon capping which was due to be published in early 2023. Feasta members in North America also continued to build on their connections with other organisations in the region.

Mike Sandler, Professor Jim Boyce (who serves as an advisor to Feasta's North American efforts), and Brent Ranalli presented a panel of papers on carbon dividends and resource dividends at the June 2022 US Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) Conference.

## National Well-being Index (NWI)

Feasta Trustee Willi Kiefel, and members Seán Ó Conláin and Professor Emeritus John Sweeney continued their regular monthly online meetings with their German partners from [Heidelberg University](#) - Prof. Hans Diefenbacher and Dr. Benjamin Held. The conversations enabled an ongoing review of progress in the area of Wellbeing measurement, in particular as it relates to GDP in both countries. While there is acceptance in several regions in Germany of the need for a directly comparable economic based indicator to GDP, there has been a lack of buy-in in Ireland to the concept. However, the discussions have helped contextualise the work of Feasta in Wellbeing approaches in general, and ongoing European developments.

## WEAll Ireland Hub

The Wellbeing Economy Alliance Hub Ireland is the island focus for a social movement for a wellbeing economy, speaking truth to power and building networks to lead the great transition. It also focusses on building a greater public understanding of the dominant economic narrative, which drives a number of related social and ecological crises.

Feasta's work in the Wellbeing Economy Ireland Hub intensified in the course of 2022. Feasta holds the secretariat role in the Hub, whose other member organisations include the European Health Futures Forum, Social Justice Ireland, Cultivate, the Derry Playhouse and Queens' University Belfast School of Law.

We met with WEAll Hubs in Scotland and Wales to form a WISE (Wales Ireland Scotland England) group of Hubs and coordinate on project planning and funding proposals. This process was facilitated by Michael Weatherhead of WEAll Global.

Caroline Whyte and David Somekh also represented the Ireland Hub in the European Union's Wellbeing Economy Coalition, attending monthly meetings and helping with the preparation of documents and publicity in the lead-up to the European Parliament's Beyond Growth conference, to be held in May 2023.

## **Cultural Creatives Project: building a proto community of practice**

In mid-2022, the Hub received funding from the Carnegie UK Trust to develop a proto community of practice, in order to explore ways in which artists and the arts can explore and challenge the dominant 'social imaginary', and support the transition to a wellbeing economy. The community of practice would include artists, activists and academics from around the island of Ireland.

This project had already gained some energy with a 'campfire/Comhrá cois teallaigh' event in March on 'the role of the artist in the wellbeing economy' (see page 10). The Carnegie funding enabled us to build our capacity, to plan a Deep Dive workshop in Derry in the spring of 2023 and to prepare a 'call to action' to help to explore and develop the wellbeing economy narrative in Ireland.

Cultivate and Feasta were also awarded funding from the IEN for a related project on 'Build Back Better' policy in Ireland, which is to be used on a second community of practice Deep Dive for the Hub later in 2023, and on the production of supporting documents.

## **Policy Influence**

During the course of the year Feasta has attempted to influence policy both directly and indirectly. Direct submissions are covered on page 21 and Feasta members' work as Pillar representatives on different advisory boards is covered on page 9. However, other areas have included influence on topics such as the Wellbeing Economy, Forestry policy (through our involvement with Pro Silva Ireland and Teagasc), the Irish language as an endangered minority language through Teacht Aniar and conversations with political representatives.

On the Wellbeing Economy, Feasta contributed a section to the Pillar's submission on the National Economic Dialogue, with recommendations on the Irish Wellbeing Framework. While preparing this, we received useful advice from international colleagues in WEAll. We emphasised the need to include some kind of 'alarm button' in the Framework to draw attention to dangerous environmental destruction, the need to replace existing measurements of economic 'success' that assume that maximising wealth and income is always a good thing, and the importance of local, community-based participation and of culture.

We were subsequently invited to attend a meeting with the officials responsible for the Irish Framework in November, and we plan to continue our communication with them.

Ireland has not yet joined the Wellbeing Economy Government network, although the Green Party voted to do so at their annual convention. Feasta have liaised with the leadership of WEAll to facilitate the process.

# Networking & Partnerships



In 2022, Feasta was represented in the Environmental Pillar - an Irish advocacy group of around 32 Irish eNGOs - by Anne Ryan and Caroline Whyte. In the latter part of the year, Caroline joined the Pillar's Steering Committee, and both Anne and Caroline participated in Pillar plenaries during the year.

Several Feasta members represented the Pillar in official advisory groups in Ireland. As mentioned above, Emma Karran joined the newly-formed Advisory Group on Irish State policy on mineral prospecting and mining, while Fergal Anderson joined NESC's new Agricultural and Climate Action Working Group. Feidhlim Harty continued to be a Pillar representative in the National Waste Advisory Group.

Caroline Whyte was reappointed to the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) when the Council's membership was renewed in April 2022. She represents the Pillar in NESC along with Karen Ciesielski (IEN) and Jerry McEvelly (Friends of the Earth Ireland) and she attended three Council meetings in the course of the year and submitted comments on a number of draft NESC publications. In addition, Seán Ó Conláin participated in the NESC interview process on their research projects.

Feasta contributed to several Pillar submissions during 2022, in particular the July Pillar submission on enterprise policy, and we participated in Pillar meetings concerning the Irish budget, the Climate Action Plan and the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity.



Feasta also continued to be an active member of the Irish Environmental Network, with Feasta members attending IEN workshops and the AGM and Caroline Whyte continuing as a member of the Governance Sub-Committee.



Feasta and EHFF continued and enhanced their collaboration in 2022, and have formed an increasingly mutually beneficial relationship. Increasingly the crisis in healthcare - or rather 'sickness care' - across Europe is being linked to Wellbeing policies. EHFF has been shifting to a more explicit approach of linking factors

such as climate change, biodiversity collapse, extractivist economic policies and consumption to the crisis in healthcare. The ongoing work in EHFF of defining strategic approaches for the organisation - with an emphasis, for example, on Community of Practice and Transformational Catalyst - parallels, and enriches the work of Feasta in the WEAll Hub and our search for an emergent new social imaginary. The collaboration has included, our joint podcast series, mutual involvement in the WEAll Steering Group in Ireland, cross-collaboration with other member organisations of EHFF e.g. Danish Committee for Health Education, and also at European level, e.g., AP4HE (All Policies for a Healthy Europe). Feasta's holistic, systems-based approach has also influenced thinking in these organisations.

**Increasingly the crisis in healthcare - or rather 'sickness care' - across Europe is being linked to Wellbeing policies**



Following an application process which began in late 2021, Feasta joined the EEB as a full member in May 2022, with much-appreciated support from An Taisce and the IEN. We were pleased to be able to participate in the EEB's Economic Transition Working group meetings in May and December, and to attend the annual conference, as well as the [Economic Doughnut street action](#) that the EEB organised in Brussels in May.

The year ended with an invitation from the EEB to give a talk on Cap and Share in early 2023 and with plans to meet up during the Beyond Growth conference at the European Parliament in Brussels, in May 2023.



In addition to our work in the WEAll Ireland Hub mentioned above we also continued to build our relationship with the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance. We attended monthly member meetings and workshops, engaged in discussion on the WEAll Slack channel, and Caroline Whyte gave a talk for WEAll in May 2022 (see page 4).

### **Wealth of Nations 2.0 Glasgow WEAll Conference**

Seán Ó Conláin attended this event in November 2022. As well as a coming together of those involved in Wellbeing in Scotland, it also featured inputs from the other leading countries involved in the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance. In particular, there were significant contributions from Finland, Wales, Iceland and New Zealand.

Scotland has already integrated the wellbeing and SDG thinking into all sectors; perhaps most significantly in the National Performance Framework. Senior politicians - including the then First Minister - have publicly spoken about the importance of putting wellbeing at the centre of political activity. Although the event was an international one, the conference itself was a testament to how Scottish civil society aims to adopt wellbeing approaches.

Delegates heard about the approach in Finland where nature is placed as an important source

of mental and physical wellbeing. In addition, emphasis and importance is placed on the relationship between humans and nature, Finland approaches the Wellbeing Economy project from a governmental perspective through policy, restructuring and the building of the welfare state. But, unlike in Scotland, these ideas and similar projects are less obvious in other sectors, or in civil society. The importance of engaging civil society is a significant element in the Scottish wellbeing approach.



*'The Wealth of Nations conference in Glasgow. Photo by Seán Ó Conláin*

Wales, on the other hand, has put a particular emphasis on the future with the appointment of the world's first 'minister for future generations', with statutory powers to represent people who haven't yet been born.

Clearly Ireland has a long way to go.

# Events

## Feasta Led or Partnered

### Living Well in a Time of Crisis (March 23)

This Feasta workshop, facilitated by John Sharry, looked at our emotional response to the crises that we are facing and how we can ensure that we are not disabled but, instead, maintain a creative, thoughtful, empathic response as we navigate our way forward. It followed on from a series of workshops and discussions that had been held over the previous few years.



### WEAll Hub Campfire Event: the Role of the Artist in Catalysing a Wellbeing Economy in Ireland (March 25)

This event focussed on a 'Social Imaginary' project which the WEAll Hub of Ireland's core members have been developing (see page 8). The project is a co-production process – a community of practice of artists, activists and researchers exploring how we might imagine the wellbeing economy.



## **Online Discussion: Moving the Economic Goalposts of Irish Agriculture (April 28)**

An exploration of cross-sectoral measures that could help to ease expansionist pressure in the Irish agricultural sector (and elsewhere in the Irish economy), with contributions from a group of panellists. Part of our 2022 'agricultural goalposts' project, described further on page 6.

## **Phasing Out Fossil Fuels, Supporting Climate Justice (October 6)**

We held an online launch event for a new Feasta climate group paper (described on pages 4-5). The event featured an introduction by Mike Sandler and a brief presentation of the paper by its author, Caroline Whyte, followed by some reactions from panellists Laura Bannister (World Basic Income), Stan Cox (the land Institute) and Susana Martín Belmonte (REVO), and an open discussion. The video is available [here](#).



## **Online Event: Feasta Youth Delegate's Report on the Pakistan Floods, and New Capping Carbon Report (October 21)**



18-year old Pakistani Feasta delegate to the COP-27, Hania Imran, made a presentation on October 21 on the situation in Pakistan with the dangerous floods. This was followed by a short description by Caroline Whyte of her new paper on fossil fuel phase-out.

## **Food for Thought (November 23)**

Feasta partnered with the Atlantic Technological University and AFRI to facilitate another Food for Thought event in 2022. This was held on the Castlebar, Co. Mayo Campus of ATU. There were almost a hundred participants. The main purpose of the event was to reflect on the contemporary world and how we might collectively



address our multiple social, economic, political, and ecological crises. The event was very interactive with talks, music, dance, food preparation, activism training, and tree planting. The greater number of participants were students in ATU and various community activists. A [video](#) capturing the day was made by AFRI.



## Events with the participation of Feasta members

### World Wise Global Schools Forum (January 27)

Anne Ryan gave a presentation at this Teacher Training course about Feasta and some of the key ideas we work with, including the need for systems interventions and the commons.

### Just Transition in Ireland - Next Steps (April 20)

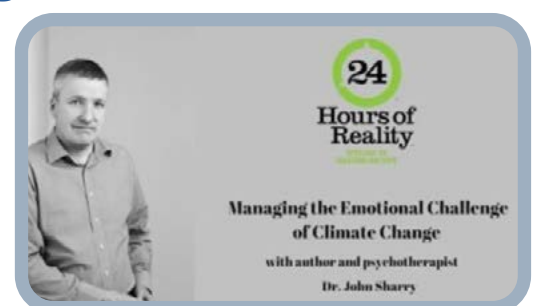
Caroline Whyte spoke about the need to alleviate expansionist pressure in agriculture and the wider economy at this hybrid event in Cloughjordan, which launched a new publication by ARC 2020, [‘Rural Ireland on the move: farm diversification and just transition’](#).

### Feeding Ourselves: Rural Resilience in Europe (June 7)

Caroline also spoke briefly at this event organised by ARC2020, which was the launch of the book [Rural Europe Takes Action](#). Caroline talked about the wellbeing economy, the need for strengthened upstream environmental regulations, and the need for measures to ease pressure on the economy to expand and make it easier for consumers to pay more for good quality food.

### Managing the Emotional Challenge of Climate Change (October 7)

John Sharry, a family psychotherapist and Feasta trustee, facilitated this workshop on managing and communicating our emotional response to the climate crisis, as part of Climate Reality’s 24 Hours of Reality.



## Caring Sufficiency instead of Extractive Excess (October 20)

Anne Ryan gave this keynote address at the OLA Ireland [Conference on Intergenerational Climate Justice](#), an online event which explored systems that exacerbate the climate crisis and considered changes we can make for a more sustainable future.

## Head, Hands, Heart: Embedding Climate Concerns in the Social Science (November 3)

Mark Garavan spoke on behalf of Feasta at this symposium at ATU Sligo on politics, community and climate activism.

## From Growth Trap to Dynamic Balance: Achieving a Wellbeing Economy (November 17)

Caroline Whyte gave this keynote address at the Development Studies Association of Ireland conference in Limerick on November 17th 2022. The theme of the conference was '[Critical Perspectives in Sustainable Development](#)', and its goal was to rigorously interrogate the concept of sustainable development, examining its viability and adaptability to the emerging 21st century climate and habitat crises, and exploring some possible ways forward. Caroline gave an outline of Feasta's research and recommendations.



Caroline speaking at the [Development Studies Association of Ireland conference](#) in Limerick in November 2022



# Communications

## Website

In 2022 we continued to regularly publish new material on the Feasta website. In addition to our submissions, reports, podcasts and the videos of the online events that we hosted, we published a series of commentaries, books and film reviews, which are linked to below.

### Commentaries/Blog Posts



#### **Healthy Habitats to Address Climate Breakdown**

“Whereas carbon savings offer only abstract feedback images of graphs and charts, habitat restoration immediately provides beautiful places to visit, living trees and other plants and animals to watch and enjoy, as well as near-term tangible benefits” . A commentary by Feidhlim Harty.

#### **Theda Skocpol Names the Problem, and the Solution Involves Climate Dividends**

“If we can learn from the past, maybe we will not be doomed to repeat it,” wrote Mike Sandler in a discussion of some of the themes raised in our March 2023 podcast with sociologist Theda Skocpol.



#### **Inflation Rebates are Better Than Gas Tax Holidays**

Mike Sandler explained the benefits of an alternative to ‘gas tax holidays’ which would put money in people’s pockets in the short term while laying the groundwork for a new type of economy that supports people.

#### **After a Russian Oil Price Cap, How about a Quantity Cap on All Oil?**

“A few months ago, politicians’ rhetoric regarding Russian energy started to sound similar to policies that Feasta has been promoting for decades”, wrote Mike Sandler.





## Custodians of Wellbeing

Graham Barnes discussed potential links and barriers to wellbeing that might derive from Central Bank Digital Currencies and from Universal (or is it Unconditional?) Basic Income.



## Does Ireland Need to Reorientate its Education System to Cultivate Self-Sufficiency and Achieve a Regenerative Economy?

Andrew Gillick argued that “to save the planet there is one glaring technology that no government or education consultant is advocating: our hands”.

## Book & Film Reviews



### [The Next 500 Years by Christopher Mason](#)

Mike Sandler found Mason’s 500 year agenda ‘very interesting to read’, but argues that ‘before we can embrace it, we need abundance instead of scarcity, and economic institutions that value equity.’

### [Permission to Panic – Movie Review of “Don’t Look Up”](#)

Mike Sandler explained why this movie has struck a chord with many climate scientists, ‘the modern Cassandras’, and suggests that Feasta’s activities and Theory of Change might help those who are looking up to figure out what to do next.



### [Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver](#)

‘A big theme of this book is how science can get blocked out by fear - the kind of fear that can lead people to vote for racist, misogynist, anti-environmental demagogues.’ A review by Caroline Whyte.



## Podcast

We also continued our successful 'Bridging the Gaps' podcast series in 2022, in partnership with the European Health Futures Forum, and with a striking new logo that was designed by [Leontien Friel Darrell](#).

### Podcast 1: Bioregionalism, the Commons and the Doughnut

January 31 2022

To kick off our 2022 series, Caroline and David Somekh of the EHFF spoke with Isabel Carlisle, the director of the [Bioregional Learning Centre](#) in Devon in the UK. Isabel spoke about her earlier career as an archaeologist and in the art world, and how she became involved in the climate movement and bioregionalism. She described a [collaborative community project](#) which the Centre is working on to figure out effective ways to keep the river Dart clean and to save water, and how the Centre is also helping to put the ideas of the [Economic Doughnut](#) to work at a regional level. We also talked about coordinating local action in different places through global networks such as the [Regenerative Communities Network](#) and the [Wellbeing Economy Alliance](#), and about ways in which bioregional thinking could be useful to the new [Wellbeing Economy Hub](#) for the island of Ireland.



### Podcast 2: A Small Farm Future

February 28 2022

UK-based smallholder Chris Smaje spoke with Seán and Caroline. Topics covered include agroecology, the need to balance different forms of property ownership, and the globalism/localism debate. Chris is based in Somerset in the UK and worked as an academic sociologist and anthropologist for some time, but then changed focus to the practice and politics of agroecology. He has written several books, including, most recently, [A Small Farm Future: Making the Case for a Society Built Around Local Economies, Self-Provisioning, Agricultural Diversity, and a Shared Earth](#). He writes the blog [Small Farm Future](#) and has also written for various publications, such as The Land, Dark Mountain, Permaculture magazine and Statistics Views, as well as academic journals such as Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems and the Journal of Consumer Culture.





## **Podcast 3: Problems of U.S. Climate Politics (and maybe some solutions?)**

March 31 2022

Our guest this month was Professor Theda Skocpol, who is the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology at Harvard University, and the founder and director of the [Scholars Strategy Network](#). Professor Skocpol has extensively researched the social and political dynamics that can bring about major changes in social policy in the US. Her most recent book, co-authored with Caroline Tervo, is [Upending American Politics: Polarizing Parties, Ideological Elites, and Citizen Activists from the Tea Party to the Anti-Trump Resistance](#). We discussed her 2013 report “[Naming the Problem: What It Will Take to Counter Extremism and Engage Americans in the Fight against Global Warming](#)”, which came out in the aftermath of a failed attempt at climate legislation in the US that took place in 2010. The report also supports Cap and Dividend, or [Cap and Share](#), a climate policy that’s advocated by members of Feasta’s climate group. Mike Sandler, who is a member of Feasta’s climate group and the current Chair of the Feasta Board of Trustees, and who also manages the [Commons-Share](#) and [Dividends for America](#) websites, joined Caroline Whyte for the interview. Mike has also written a [blog article](#) about ‘Naming the Problem’.

## **Podcast 4: The Theory and Practice of Communities of Practice**

May 31 2022

Caroline Whyte and David Somekh of the European Health Futures Forum spoke with Davie Philip about Communities of Practice. Davie is a community catalyst, climate coach and facilitator at [Cultivate](#), the Sustainable Ireland Cooperative. Since 1997 Davie has been active in Ireland promoting sustainability, community resilience and cooperative approaches to meeting our needs.



Davie, Caroline and David are all core members of the [Wellbeing Economy Hub](#) for the island of Ireland. Davie explains what Communities of Practice are and why they’re useful, and he and David exchange insights on their experience with them.



## **Podcast 5: Supporting Nature's Connections**

June 30 2022

Seán Ó Conláin spoke with ecologist Julien Carlier, who is a postdoctoral researcher at the Marine and Freshwater Research Centre, Atlantic Technological University Galway. Julien's research can be found [here](#). He did a doctoral thesis on the ecological benefits of greenways and is currently working on the [HNV\\_FarmForBio](#) project, mapping High Nature Value farmland and forestry. Julien discussed his work and also

gave his impressions of the new Common Agricultural Policy programmes which aim to pay farmers for restoring biodiversity on farmland.

## **Podcast 6: Breaking Down Silos in Healthcare and the Economy**

July 31 2022

In this month's podcast, David Somekh, the network director of the [European Health Futures Forum \(EHFF\)](#) who often co-hosts our podcasts, spoke with Caroline Whyte about the challenge of breaking down silos, employing systems thinking and scenario thinking, the importance of health literacy, the need to move away from 19th-century models of healthcare, and persuading people to change their minds. David explains how the EHFF came to be created and why it focusses on the overall 'health ecosystem', and its interconnectedness with the 'wellbeing economy' model which seeks to achieve the overall outcomes we want in society, rather than trying to constantly expand GDP growth. David also talks about the roots of the [Wellbeing Economy Hub for Ireland](#), which both Feasta and the EHFF are involved in.



## **Podcast 7: Empowerment Through the Arts**

October 3 2022

Cristina Ciampaglione, originally from Italy, is an artist and arts manager who has worked on a range of arts projects in Ireland and is a Project Manager at the [Walls project](#), which uses street art as a tool of engagement between communities and artists. She recently coordinated – and spoke at – an event on [Art and Climate Change](#) at the Italian Institute of Culture in Dublin. In this

podcast, she spoke with Seán and Caroline about how she came to be working as an arts manager, and about the enormous role which she believes the arts can play in improving life by empowering people and helping to create a vision for the future.

## **Podcast 8: Lessons for Community Health from the COVID Pandemic**

October 31 2022

David Somekh and Caroline Whyte spoke with Lars Münter. Lars works on international relations for the Danish committee for health education, and he also manages the communication for [Nordic Health 2030](#) and is a member of the EHFF's Advisory Group and the [Wellbeing Economy Alliance's](#) Danish hub. Topics covered in our discussion included the impact and implications for community health from the COVID pandemic, the need to shift emphasis in the healthcare system away from 'illness care' and towards empowering patients and helping to build community capacity, synergies between the changes needed in the healthcare system and those needed in the broader economy, the energy system, and the education system, and possible ways forward.



## **Podcast 9: Housing Access and Mass Retrofitting in Ireland and Europe: Challenges and Solutions**

November 30 2022

Seán Ó Conláin and Caroline Whyte interviewed Anne Barrington, who is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the [Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance](#) in Ireland, and Uuriintuya Batsaikhan, an economist based in Brussels who oversees the research projects at [Positive Money Europe](#). Topics covered in our discussion included the challenges faced by those trying to provide affordable and social housing in Ireland, the impact on the housing supply of the ECB's monetary policy and other EU policies such as the Stability and Growth Pact, the effects of the current energy crisis, the need to mitigate climate disruption, and the role played by ideology in current Irish housing policy. We also explored some ways forward, including the [Unlock Campaign](#) for providing mass retrofitting of housing in Europe that is being spearheaded by Positive Money Europe, and potential changes to the treatment of housing under Irish law.

## **Podcast 10: Transforming Chaos into Coherence**

December 31 2022

David Somekh of the EHFF and Caroline Whyte spoke with Jim Garrison. Jim is the founder of [Ubiquity University](#), whose founding purpose is to develop learning experiences grounded in the world's wisdom traditions blended with practical interpersonal and entrepreneurial skills.

Jim has a doctorate in philosophical theology from Cambridge



University and has been active throughout his life in the anti-war, anti-nuclear, citizen diplomacy and environmental movements. He worked closely with Mikhail Gorbachev in the State of the World Forum. Since the pandemic began, he has been co-hosting a series of webinars called [Humanity Rising](#). Topics covered in our podcast include climate disruption, the Russia-Ukraine war, the Cuban missile crisis and the power of the youth movement.

# Submissions

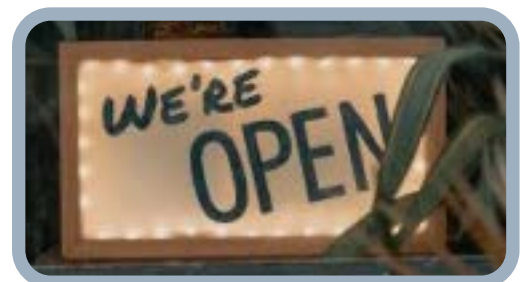
## **Submission to the Irish Commission on Taxation and Welfare**

Our recommendations on taxation and welfare in Ireland - and elsewhere - include a reorientation of taxation policy towards 'commons-based taxation', the introduction of a Universal Basic Income, and taking a cap-and-permit approach to fossil fuel taxation, as opposed to a price-led approach.



## **Submission on Enterprise Policy in Ireland**

This submission recommends a number of internal and external measures which could enable Irish businesses to adapt nimbly and thrive in a 'post-growth', wellbeing-oriented economy.



## **Submission to the Call for expert evidence: Climate Action Plan 2023**

This submission advocates a legally-binding phase-out of fossil fuel production and imports, and the introduction of measures to provide assistance to the most vulnerable in society.

## Submission to the Irish citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss

This submission makes a series of recommendations to help reorient economic activity in Ireland away from pursuing increased consumption (GDP growth) as an end in itself, and towards social and ecological wellbeing.



# Fundraising

As in previous years, Feasta received much-appreciated funding in 2022 from the Irish Environmental Network and from our members and donors.

In addition to this core funding, we also successfully applied for IEN funding for two short-term projects: the “agricultural goalposts” project that was completed in May (see page 6), and the paper and online event on ‘Phasing out Fossil Fuels: Supporting Climate Justice’ in October (see page 12).

Along with our colleagues in the WEAll Ireland Hub, Feasta received funding from the Carnegie UK Trust in October for a 6-month pilot of the Hub’s ‘cultural creatives’ project, beginning in November 2022 (see page 8). Feasta is acting as secretariat for this project. The plan is to apply for further funding from at least two other sources in the first half of 2023, in order to continue with this work.

We produced a [2022 round-up and funding appeal](#) in December, which we sent to our mailing list and posted on our website, and which garnered positive responses.

In addition to the grants and other sources, Feasta is supported by individual membership donations. To become a member, go to Feasta’s membership page at <https://www.Feasta.org/donate-or-join-Feasta/>



*Feasta (the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability) is a member of the Irish Environmental Network, the Environmental Pillar, Stop Climate Chaos, the European Environmental Bureau and the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance, and a partner of the International Movement for Monetary Reform.*

<http://www.Feasta.org>



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**Pg 18:** Featured image on the homepage link: 'sunrise 1' Author: angiea. Source: <https://www.freeimages.com/photo/sunrise-1-1574201>

Featured image: <https://unsplash.com/photos/n6GFPqCd8c0> Author: Timon Wanner.

**Pg 19:** Featured image: 'One of the wards in the hospital at Scutari' by William Simpson (artist, 1823–1899): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hospital#/media/File:'One\\_of\\_the\\_wards\\_in\\_the\\_hospital\\_at\\_Scutari'.\\_Wellcome\\_M0007724\\_-\\_restoration,\\_cropped.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hospital#/media/File:'One_of_the_wards_in_the_hospital_at_Scutari'._Wellcome_M0007724_-_restoration,_cropped.jpg)

**Pg 20:** Photo by Emma Simpson on Unsplash

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