

NEWS RELEASE

DATE: 17/02/2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ISSU Statement: Students to Debate Politicians on Sustainability

On February 20th, the Irish Second-Level Students' Union will hold a National Consultation Event on Sustainability for second-level students called 'Debate Your Decision Makers'.

On Thursday February 20th, 40 second-level students will come together with three main aims; to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals, to formulate a list of demands on behalf of students that will be presented to the government and other political parties to sign on to, and to engage in meaningful dialogue with their decision makers.

Speaking ahead of the event, keynote speaker, the Lord Mayor of Dublin Emma Blain said *"As politicians, we need to not only keep the opinions of young people at the forefront of the decision-making process, but also offer them a chair at that table. Empowering students to take an active role in sustainable development not only benefits the planet, but it also cultivates the next generation of leaders who can drive positive change for a better future."*

ISSU Oifigeach Inbhuanaitheachta, Orla Quigley adds *"Debate Your Decision Makers will provide a platform for second-level students to get involved with activism, debate policy makers and have their voices heard. Tackling the climate crisis and creating a sustainable world is the most important issue for our generation and generations to come. The list of demands that will come out of Wednesday's event will become the base for lobbying and working with officials on actual sustainable change."*

ISSU Uachtarán Jack McGinn said *"ISSU will always work with stakeholders to improve student participation and engagement on issues that affect them. Debate Your Decision Makers is a wonderful opportunity for students and young people alike to have a discussion on the challenges surrounding sustainability that young people face today and a proposal on solutions we see fit for these"*.

Debate Your Decision Makers will take place in The Mansion House in Dublin on February 20th, 2025.

******* ENDS *******

For more information, please contact:

Orla Quigley - ISSU Oifigeach Inbhuanaitheacha - sustainability@issu.ie

Jack McGinn - ISSU Uachtarán - 089 984 9124/uachtaran@issu.ie

Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin - ISSU Secretariat - 087 456 1289/jamie.macgiollabhain@issu.ie

Notes to editor:

The Irish Second-Level Students' Union (ISSU) is the national representative body for second-level school students in the Republic of Ireland. The ISSU towards an education system in which the views, opinions and contributions of students are respected and in which students are recognised as an official partner in creating an education that is centered around and caters best for students.