



25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## **Edward Norton and Mary Robinson headline speakers at 8<sup>th</sup> annual AIB Sustainability Conference**

Environmentalism, entrepreneur and actor Edward Norton and Former President of Ireland, Chair of The Elders and Former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change Mary Robinson have been announced as headline speakers at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual AIB Sustainability Conference, which takes place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 9am to 1pm.

The reality of climate change and its impact on society and the economy has become undeniable, and is everybody's business. The ambition for this year's conference is to highlight the opportunity the required transition presents, and the central role AIB continues to play in supporting our customers on this journey.

Businesses and customers remain central to the event, with additional Irish businesses and international speakers set to be announced in the coming weeks.

AIB Chief Executive Colin Hunt said "We're delighted to announce the 8<sup>th</sup> annual AIB Sustainability Conference. As we collectively grapple with the challenges of climate change we should not lose sight of the opportunity to protect our fragile planet for generations to come. By being united in our resolve to combat climate change we can empower people to build a sustainable future. Through their actions Edward Norton and Mary Robinson have led the way on sustainability, and they, along with our other speakers will provide thought-provoking insights and solutions to the thousands of people who participate on the day, further inspiring us and our 3.3 million customers in the transition to net zero."

The event is free, and conference registration for those who wish to attend virtually is now open at [www.AIBsustainabilityconference.ie/register](http://www.AIBsustainabilityconference.ie/register)

AIB's strategic priority of greening our business can be seen in the actions below:

- AIB's €30bn Climate Action Fund is actively supporting our customers with €13.7bn of green and transition finance deployed since the fund launched in 2019 including €2.1bn in the first half of 2024.
- AIB this year established a Climate Capital segment to deploy significant additional funding towards renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects, both nationally and internationally.
- Earlier this year AIB raised €650 million in its sixth green bond issuance. With €6.4 billion raised from issuing green and social bonds to date, this allows the bank to contribute to the financing of projects with clear environmental, climate action and social benefits.
- AIB purchases renewable power from solar farms in Gorey and Macallian, Wexford, which generate approximately 21.4 GWh of clean renewable electricity annually, creating additional capacity for the national grid and helping AIB to meet its commitment to ensure 100% of its power requirements will come from certified renewable sources by 2030. Both farms are

part of AIB's virtual Corporate Power Purchase Agreement with NTR to source energy generated following NTR's construction of the solar farms.

**Media enquiries:** [paddy.x.mcdonnell@aib.ie](mailto:paddy.x.mcdonnell@aib.ie) 087 739 0743

### **About Edward Norton**

Award-winning actor, screenwriter, director and producer, Edward Norton is also a committed social and environmental activist and entrepreneur. He is the UN Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity, President of the Board of the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust, founder of the Yale University Middle East Peacemakers Fund, and an early member of New York's High Line Urban Redevelopment Project.

For nearly 20 years Norton has served as the Board chair of the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT), an organisation he helped create. MWCT is a community-based Kenyan organisation working to preserve the endangered wildlife and threatened forest ecosystems in Kenya's southern rangelands. It has developed a portfolio of sustainable, natural capital-based revenue streams for Maasai communities. Norton speaks personally about his fundraising efforts and our responsibilities, particularly with regard to sustainability and natural resource management, in our industrial economy.

### **About Mary Robinson:**

Former President of Ireland, Chair of The Elders & Former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, Mary Robinson is one of the world's most respected advocates for climate justice and Ireland's first woman President. She has moved audiences around the world with her passionate and hopeful call for all nations to work together to fight for a sustainable future. Former US President Barack Obama, awarding Robinson the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, praised her as an "advocate for the forgotten and the ignored," noting that she has "not only shone a light on human suffering but illuminated a better future for our world."

President Robinson first rose to international prominence as President of Ireland from 1990-97. She elevated the public role of the Irish presidency, helping to shape modern Ireland in a period of rapid and unprecedented economic growth. From 1997-2002, Robinson served as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, also transforming that office through highly visible public advocacy.