



25th November 2024

AIB announces over €20 million investment in new sustainability education and research

- €10 million for new AIB Trinity Climate Hub in Trinity College Dublin
- €10 million commitment as founding partner of *Innovate for Ireland*
- Sustainability support tools for SMEs launched on Green Living Hub
- Edward Norton and Mary Robinson to address 8th annual AIB Sustainability Conference today

Recognising the importance of quality education and innovation in solving our global challenges and building a sustainable future for all, AIB is committing over €20m in new sustainability focused education and research initiatives, including €10m for the new AIB Trinity Climate Hub at Trinity College Dublin.

The AIB Trinity Climate Hub will bring researchers together to address challenges around maintaining a stable and liveable climate, securing biodiversity and the ecosystem services provided by nature, adapting to climate change, and reversing water degradation. AIB will be the lead industry partner supporting research on the solutions we need for the climate and nature crises and developing capacity for addressing these challenges through the AIB Climate Leaders programme. Research will provide new ways of adopting and scaling up existing solutions, and enabling the rapid development of new ideas, technologies, social structures and economic tools needed for the transitions ahead.

As a founding partner, AIB has also committed €10m to support world class PhD research through **Innovate for Ireland**, a public-private partnership and flagship initiative of Ireland's Global Talent Strategy, designed to attract and retain world class talent undertaking research to meet the challenges of the future.

Together with these new initiatives, AIB will continue to build on its long history in supporting quality education and research across all levels from primary to PhD, including programmes such as Junior Achievement Ireland, AIB's Future Sparks secondary level education programme, and the Chair of Sustainability in UCC, to inspire and educate future changemakers.

With 170 branches embedded in communities across the country, AIB has a central role to play in educating and supporting our 3.3 million customers. AIB has launched its **Steps to Sustainability** on our new [Green Living Hub](#), a set of simple and practical support tools designed to help SME businesses build their knowledge and take the steps they need to in the transition.

AIB Chief Executive Colin Hunt said "Education and knowledge play a critical role in creating strong and resilient economies and societies. The transition to a low-carbon future creates real opportunities for learning and innovation. That's why AIB is committing over €20 million to support quality education and research in this space. The work undertaken by the AIB Trinity Climate Hub, alongside our partnership with Innovate for Ireland, will benefit society and shape a better future for us all."

Dr Linda Doyle, Provost and President of Trinity College Dublin said "The scale and depth of our partnership with AIB will lead to truly meaningful impact in this critically important research area. It really is a strong investment in the future. Rigorous academic research, which is at the heart of the

AIB Trinity Climate Hub, is central to addressing the challenge of climate change. Such research feeds innovation, informs public policy and deepens public engagement.”

AIB’s 8th Annual Sustainability Conference takes place today (Monday 25th November) from 9am to 1pm. Environmentalist, entrepreneur and actor Edward Norton and Former President of Ireland, Former Chair of The Elders and Former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change Mary Robinson are headline speakers. Businesses and customers are central to the event, with Irish businesses and international speakers also contributing. The event is free, and conference registration for those who wish to attend virtually is at 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 €15.1bn of green and transition finance deployed since the fund launched in 2019 including €3.5bn in the first nine months of 2024 (35% of all new lending).
- 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.

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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, Former 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.