

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/irelands-changing-climate/extinction-rebellion-protesters-brave-the-rain-in-shorts-and-swimwear-to-highlight-leos-fantasy-island-38658962.html>

brave the rain, kitted out in, lounged, tongue-in-cheek, smack in the face, more suited to, sunnier climes, soaking it up, not doing anyone any service, the downsides,

## Extinction Rebellion protesters brave the rain in shorts and swimwear to highlight 'Leo's fantasy island'

Gabija Gataveckaite. Irish Independent  
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Photo: Gareth Chaney/Collins

Claire Brennan responding to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's comments that climate change will have positive effects Photo: Gareth Chaney/Collins

"I would personally like to thank all of the oil companies that made it this warm," said protester Clare Brennan from Shankill, who was dressed in a bikini and sunglasses in the cold November weather as she laid back on a sun lounger.

"I'm in a bikini today to highlight the comments that Leo Varadkar made about climate benefits, saying that there would be fewer deaths and lower heating bills," she told Independent.ie.

"Basically, we feel that that's a smack in the face to all the people who are suffering and who will suffer from the effects of the climate crisis," she said.

"It was just a bit ignorant from Leo Varadkar, it wasn't something that you would expect from him, it was something you'd expect from Donald Trump.

"But I am freezing," she laughed.

Extinction Rebellion protesters braved the pouring rain this afternoon outside Leinster House as they kitted out in bikinis, flip flops and sunglasses in response to Leo Varadkar's controversial comments about climate change.

The Taoiseach claimed that there are some 'positive' upsides to climate change, such as warmer winters and less deaths over the winter.

Despite a rainfall warning in place, environmental campaigners from Extinction Rebellion lounged out in front of Leinster House this afternoon kitted out in bikinis, shorts and sunglasses to protest against what they described as 'Leo's fantasy island'.

The protest was a tongue-in-cheek response to the Taoiseach's comments over the weekend.



Protester Tadhg Dempsey from Kildare was also dressed in clothes more suited to sunnier climes in a bid to highlight climate change.

“We’re enjoying the lovely warm weather that is provided to us by our Taoiseach and all the oil and gas industries that are destroying our planet, we’re out here soaking it up,” he said.

“I thought the Taoiseach’s comments were ridiculous and showed just how little he understands about climate change.”

Green Party leader Ramon Ryan, who was dressed in cycling gear, said that the Taoiseach’s comments were not doing “anyone any service”.

“Leo Varadkar is not doing anyone a service with this,” he told Independent.ie.

“He’s just confusing people and he’s undermining public confidence and the actions we need to take.

“We will have a few warmer days because of climate change but the downsides are so huge,” he added.

“I think by tackling climate change, the only upside, and there’s not many upsides to this climate challenge, but some of the upsides will actually be a better, fairer economy.

“So if we’re going to talk about upsides, let’s talk about the solutions as upsides,” he added.

#### Video transcript:

Claire:

I'm in a bikini today to \_\_\_\_\_ the comments that Leo Var made last week about climate benefits. He said that there would be fewer deaths \_\_\_\_\_ the winter and lower heating bills. It wasn't something that you'd \_\_\_\_\_ from him. It sounds like something \_\_\_\_\_ from Donald Trump.

Tadhg:

They don't just show like \_\_\_\_\_ he understands about climate change, or climate justice, or about how like the rest of the world is \_\_\_\_\_ this, It was just \_\_\_\_\_ ignorant like, the words he saying. it really \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Eamon:

He needs to change his ways, and change the language, and change the ways government \_\_\_\_\_ climate. It's not working, Our emissions are rising. That needs to change. Those sorts of \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday saying "Oh maybe climate isn't such a bad thing" You can't say that if you know the \_\_\_\_\_, you can't say that. That's kind of . . . that come from some climate \_\_\_\_\_ I read, but it shouldn't come from the Taoiseach.

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#### Eamon Ryan Criticises Taoiseach's "Bizarre" Climate Change Comments

<https://www.todayfm.com/news/eamon-ryan-criticises-taoiseachs-bizarre-climate-change-comments-921147>

#### An Taisce calls on Varadkar to clarify climate change remarks

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/an-taisce-calls-on-varadkar-to-clarify-climate-change-remarks-1.4073052>