

# CAN'T PAY - WON'T PAY

Campaign Against Household and Water Taxes | Autumn/Winter 2011



# DON'T PAY the Household Tax!

Job losses, pay cuts, social welfare cuts, negative equity, energy price hikes.

This Government, like its predecessor, is determined to make us pay for the financial crisis. Our living standards are being attacked and our social services are being savaged to pay for the financial gambling of developers and bankers.

From January the Fine Gael/Labour coalition will attempt to impose a new household tax on us and will begin installing water meters in homes across the state. Rural households will face an additional septic tank tax.

While the government has said the household tax will initially start at €100 annually, it has agreed with the IMF/EU that from 2014 households will be charged for the use of water.

This then is just the beginning of a range of taxes that households will face over the coming years. They will amount to a full scale property tax on the family home.

The combined bills could cost your household more than €1000 each year. John Fitzgerald of the Economic & Social Research Institute (the government's semi-official economic think tank) has said that the new taxes should be as high as €1300 per annum on the average household.

This tax will be charged at a flat rate. So a millionaire living in a mansion will pay the same rate of household tax as a worker living in a modest house. This is deeply unjust and is yet another example of the government trying to force ordinary people pay for the greed of the rich.

It will be claimed that revenue from this tax will be set aside for investment in local services and that certain households will be offered exemptions and waivers. We have heard all this before.

Remember that bin charge waivers have all but been abolished and the waste collection service across the

state has been privatised. The revenue collected will not be used to enhance local services but will go straight into paying bankers' gambling debts.

But we don't have to take this. We have the power to stop this tax. If we all refuse to pay they cannot impose this unjust tax on us.

Across the state a campaign is being built to oppose this tax. The campaign will be based on a refusal to pay and the defence of non-payers. Building this campaign will need the active involvement of ordinary people like you.

Get involved. By standing together we can beat this tax!

For further information:

**[www.nohouseholdtax.org](http://www.nohouseholdtax.org)**

Find us on Facebook – 'Campaign Against Household and Water Taxes'.

or call:

**(086) 7389943**

## IT STARTS AT €100...

## IT WILL RISE TO

## €1000+



## A Campaign Of People Power Defeated The Water Tax In The 1990s

# Why You Should Not Pay: 7 Reasons to Boycott the Household Tax

1. It will **INCREASE** every year. Starting off at €100, the combined home and water tax will soon be up to €1,300 per year.
2. It's another attempt to make us pay for the financial crisis. Every cent taken in from this tax will go straight to paying off **BANKERS'** gambling debts.
3. If this tax is successfully implemented it will lead to a water tax which will in turn lead to the **PRIVATISATION** of the domestic water supply. Just as happened with our bin service, our water supply is being seen as a potential source of profit for private companies.
4. The household tax will take money out of your pocket and the pockets of hundreds of thousands of others. This is money that won't get spent in local shops and businesses leading to more workplace closures and higher unemployment. Instead of helping to solve the economic crisis the household tax will make the crisis **WORSE**
5. It's an **UNJUST** tax. It's a flat rate so the millionaire living in a mansion will pay the same as ordinary working people. It takes no account of ability to pay.
6. This is our chance to **FIGHT BACK**. Ordinary people have suffered hugely under the government/EU/IMF austerity agenda. This is our chance to say no!
7. **WE CAN WIN!** In the 1990s a campaign of people power, based on a refusal to pay, forced the government to abolish domestic water charges. In Britain a non-payment campaign defeated Thatcher's Poll Tax in 1989/90. It's clear that non-payment and community solidarity can win.



## Boycott the Household Tax: Make the Rich Pay for their Crisis!

Despite the economic downturn, there is still huge wealth in Ireland. But that wealth is held in the hands of an elite of super-rich individuals. A Bank of Ireland 'Wealth of the Nation' report in 2006 found that just 1% of the population own 34% of the wealth in the state.

The report showed that there were then 33,000 millionaires in Ireland who had a combined net worth (excluding their family home) of an astonishing €156.21 billion. In October 2010, Cork IT lecturer in economics Tom O'Connor updated these figures and found that these 33,000 millionaires still owned wealth of €121 billion.

So while ordinary people face a savage EU/IMF imposed austerity pro-

gramme, which has slashed incomes, public services and jobs, the billion euro gambling debts of the rich elite have been cleared and they continue to enjoy their luxurious lifestyles.

Bankers, property developers, speculators, media tycoons, business executives, and landlords make up the super-rich elite in Ireland. These are the people who have been bailed out while ordinary people face unemployment, poverty and emigration. Many of them are tax exiles who refuse to pay their taxes here. Others pay a minimal rate of tax.

Instead of trying to impose a household tax on us, the government should make the wealthy pay their fair share of tax.

Boycott the household tax! Let the rich pay for their crisis!



# We Can't Pay – We Won't Pay!

“Sure it's only €100 per year, that's just €2 a week –everyone can afford that”.

When he announced the household charge, Minister for the Environment, Phil Hogan described it as “a modest €2 per week”.

The household tax has been introduced as a “temporary measure”. The government plans to replace it with “a full property tax” and a separate water charge by 2014.

Minister Hogan has said that he could not even guarantee that the charge would not increase for the duration of the so-called “temporary period”

John Fitzgerald of the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI) has estimated that by 2014 households could face **a property tax bill of up to €800 and a water tax bill of approx €500, leaving us facing total annual charges of up to €1,300** – a figure which will continue to grow.

The so called “modest €2 per week” is an attempt to sucker us in.

For Minister Hogan on his ministerial salary of €169,000 plus expenses, €100 per year is a “modest” figure. But for large numbers of families this charge is far from modest. A report published by the Irish League of

Credit Unions shows that:

250,000 people (approx 7% of the adult population) have no money left after paying their monthly household bills

A further 750,000 people (20% of the population) have only €70 left each month after paying their household bills.

Charities such as St.Vincent de Paul have reported a huge increase in the number of applications they are receiving for help with day-to-day expenses. For a lot of people €100 per year is far from a “modest” charge.

**750,000 people have only €70 left each month after household bills**



## Don't Be Bullied...

As the non-payment campaign is established, and as the government begins to feel the pressure, they may threaten us with fines and maybe even imprisonment. But we can resist those threats if we build a campaign that involves hundreds of thousands

of people and is firmly established in every community.

It will be impossible for them to take everyone through the legal process. In the 1990s when we resisted the water charges, every time they took

someone to court, hundreds of fellow non-payers turned up to support them. The campaign's legal team challenged every case in the courts, clogging up the court system and making it impossible for them to proceed. We can do the same now.



# Let's stand together and beat the Household Tax!

Since 2008, between pay and social welfare cuts and tax increases, the incomes of ordinary working people have been slashed. We have had little choice in this because to date these taxes, levies and income reductions have all been imposed at source.

The government and the bosses have effectively pickpocketed us for the last three years. Now they expect us to voluntarily hand over money to pay off the gambling debts of bankers and property developers.

The Fine Gael/Labour government's decision to introduce a new household tax, by order of the EU/IMF, gives us all a chance to say 'Enough is Enough!' They expect each household to register for this tax and to send the annual tax payment directly to the government.

So the most effective way to defeat the household tax is through a mass campaign of non-payment. We can simply refuse to pay this unjust tax.

The Campaign Against The Household and Water Taxes has begun to establish a base right across the

country. In September a National Forum was attended by over 200 people from 16 counties.

From Dublin to Galway, Cork to Donegal, the Campaign Against Household and Water Taxes is currently being built in communities across the state. Public meetings are being held to organise local opposition and build support for non-payment.

This campaign will only be built successfully if people like you get involved in building it at a local level. By standing together and encouraging our neighbours, family, friends and workmates to get involved, the government will find it impossible to collect this unjust tax.

The message must be heard loud and clear 'we cannot pay and we will not pay!' Just as we proved when we defeated the water tax in the 1990s, a mass non-payment campaign is the way to win. There is strength in unity – Ní neart go cur le chéile.

By standing together we can beat the Household Tax.

## What YOU can do to beat the Household Tax

1. Refuse to pay
2. Attend or organise a public meeting in your area
3. Discuss with your neighbours and friends how to build the campaign in your community
4. Deliver newsletters to your neighbours
5. Encourage your neighbours, family, friends and workmates to get involved
6. Donate to the campaign
7. Contact the Campaign Against Household and Water Taxes at:

[www.nohouseholdtax.org](http://www.nohouseholdtax.org)

[contact@nohouseholdtax.org](mailto:contact@nohouseholdtax.org)

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