

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2023-2027



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DEVELOPING NORTHERN IRELAND'S FIRST CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

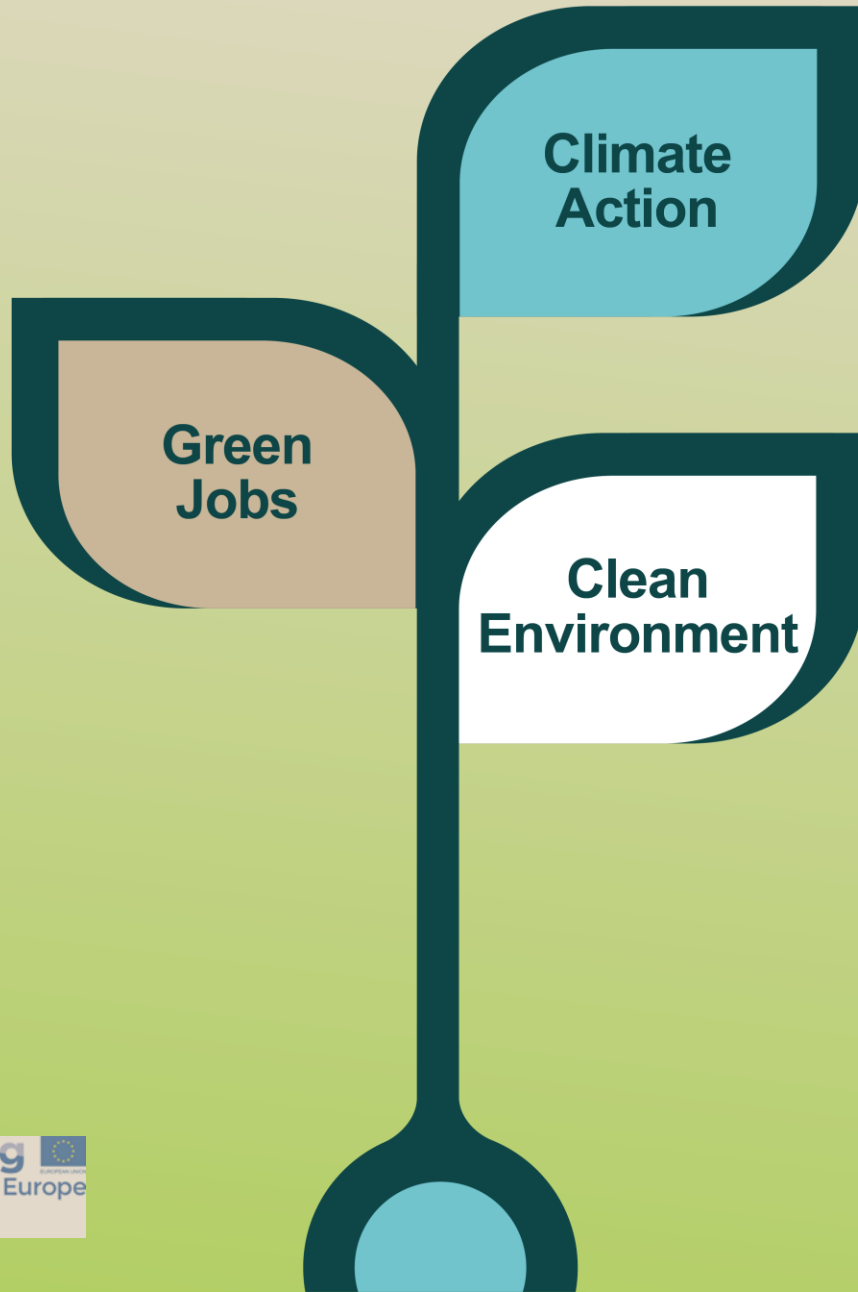
GENCOMM CONFERENCE 2023

31 MAY, 2023

GREEN GROWTH STRATEGY

- ▶ Draft Green Growth Strategy approved by Ministers Oct 2021
- ▶ Consultation completed Dec 2021
- ▶ Redraft following consultation approved by DAERA Minister
- ▶ Awaiting return of NI Executive





Climate Action

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through adaptation and mitigation measures.

Green Jobs

Develop a low carbon, inclusive, skilled workforce and a strong circular economy.

Clean Environment

Quality built environment, clean air and water, more sustainable land use, improved habitat and greater biodiversity.

Green Growth Test

Green Growth Test (GGT) mandated by the Green Growth Strategy



Will be used to climate-proof all future public spending commitments



GGT Study to identify best national/ International practice to inform GGT development



NICS to consider GGT Study recommendations later in year & agree way forward



CLIMATE CHANGE ACT (NI) 2022



ACT



Passed Final Stage in the Assembly on 9th March 2022.
Received Royal Assent on 6th June 2022.

NET ZERO 2050

Sets a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Public Body Reporting



CARBON BUDGET
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

NORTHERN IRELAND CLIMATE COMMISSIONER

SECTORAL PLANS



JUST TRANSITION FUND FOR AGRICULTURE

JUST TRANSITION COMMISSION

SECTORS IDENTIFIED IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE ACT



1. Energy Production
2. Business and Industrial Processes
3. Public Buildings (Buildings sector)
4. Transport
5. Residential Buildings
6. Waste
7. Fisheries
8. LULUCF
9. Agriculture
10. Financial Assistance

- The Climate Action Plan is based on delivering emissions reductions verified via the GHG Inventory
- GHG Inventory monitors ‘production based emissions’ (technically known as ‘territorial emissions’)..... as opposed to ‘consumption based emissions’ which things like embodied carbon or other more familiar economic activities might measure

Climate Action Plan



- ▶ DAERA is the lead department, working on behalf of the NI Executive to produce Northern Ireland's first Climate Action Plan. Climate Action Plans will be produced every 5 years and will align with carbon budget periods.
- ▶ Significant work has taken place within DAERA, with members of the Green Growth Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) and with other Departmental representatives to scope and set the direction for the Climate Action Plan, in the context of our climate change legislation.
- ▶ Each department has been asked to submit their draft proposals and policies to DAERA for inclusion in the Climate Action Plan.
- The purpose of the first Climate Action Plan will be to help ensure that the first NI Carbon Budget for the **2023-2027** budgetary period is achieved. It is a detailed and strategic framework for measuring, planning, and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- The Climate Action Plan must also set out how interim targets (for 2030 and 2040) and the overall target for net zero will be achieved by 2050.

Climate Action Plan



- ▶ As well as outlining a series of targets and budgets for carbon reduction with associated reporting requirements, the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 contains provisions relating to other environmental metrics e.g.
 - ▶ *The Climate Action Plan associated with the carbon budget should include measures which will contribute to achieving public health and biodiversity goals.*
 - ▶ *Proposals and policies shall as far as is practicable, support nature-based projects that enhance biodiversity, protect and restore ecosystems, and seek to reduce, or increase the removal of, greenhouse gas emissions or support climate resilience.*
 - ▶ *The Climate Action Plan must contain a target on soil quality to be achieved during the relevant budgetary period.*
- ▶ In providing input, all NI departments are required to have regard to or take into account:
 - ▶ *the desirability of coordinating with UK, ROI etc.*
 - ▶ *the just transition principle.*
 - ▶ *the special economic and social role of agriculture.*
 - ▶ *the desirability of using nature-based projects.*
 - ▶ *the risk of carbon leakage and the desirability of eliminating or minimising that risk.*

CCC ADVICE REPORT: THE PATH TO A NET ZERO NORTHERN IRELAND - 02 MARCH 2023



Carbon Budget

- 2023-27 - 33% average annual reduction on 1990 levels
 - ▶ 2028-32 - 48% average annual reduction on 1990 levels
 - ▶ 2033-37 - 62% average annual reduction on 1990 levels

Targets

- 2030 - 48% reduction on 1990 levels
- 2040 - 77% reduction on 1990 levels

March 2023

Advice report:
The path to a Net Zero
Northern Ireland



<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/advice-report-the-path-to-a-net-zero-northern-ireland/>



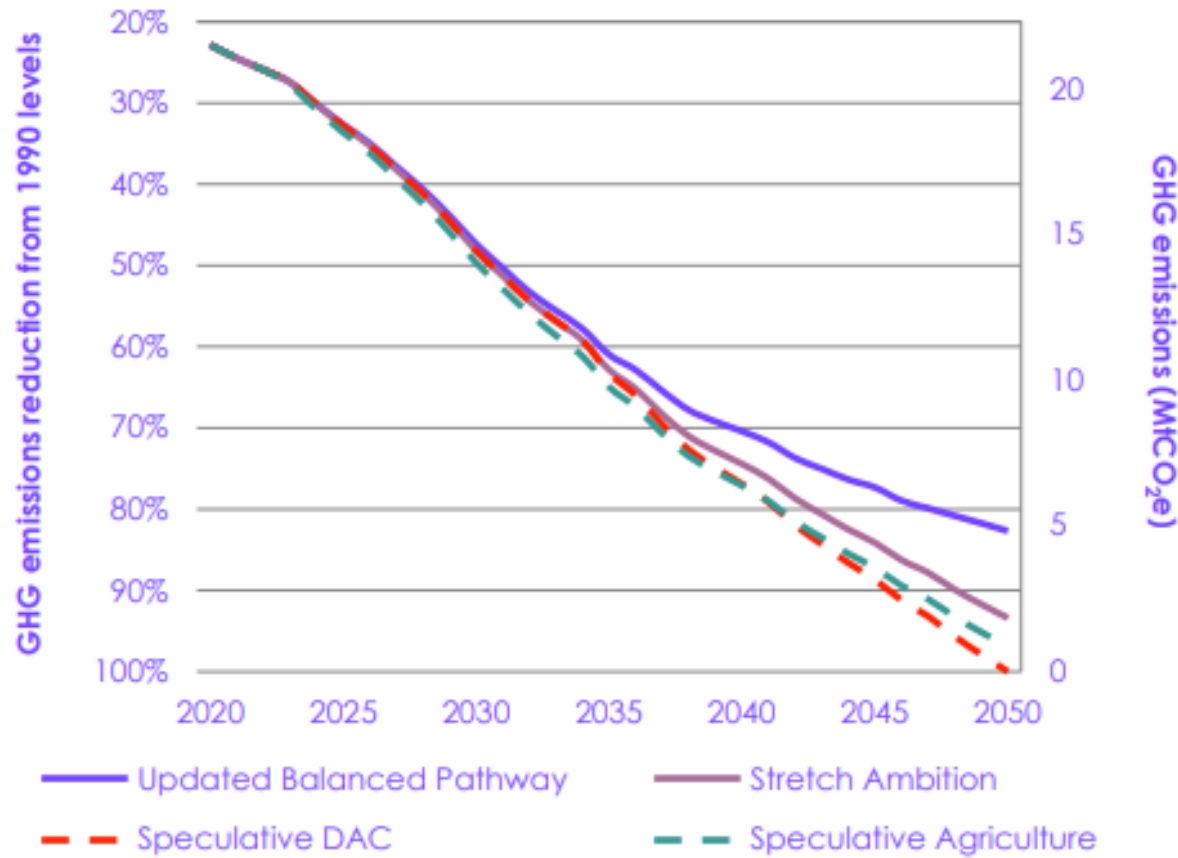
CCC ADVICE REPORT: THE PATH TO A NET ZERO NORTHERN IRELAND - 02 MARCH 2023



The report considers that achieving the necessary reduction in emissions (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 will require:

- ▶ **Energy Generation:** Deployment of new renewable electricity generation is required at scale in Northern Ireland, with access to appropriate energy storage and decarbonised back-up solutions.
- ▶ **Surface Transport:** By 2032, every new car and van sold in Northern Ireland should be zero-emission. This implies substantial investment to expand the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Northern Ireland.
- ▶ **Buildings:** All newly constructed homes should be zero-carbon as soon as practicable, with no requirement for later retrofit. Substantial improvement is also required in the energy efficiency of existing buildings. **By 2030 for homes off-gas grid and 2033 for homes on-gas grid, all new heating appliance installations should be zero-carbon.**
- ▶ **Business and Industry:** Industry in Northern Ireland should **cut fossil fuel use by 45% by 2030**. Achieving this will require a coordinated combination of resource efficiency, energy efficiency and fuel switching.
- ▶ **Agriculture:** A reduction in livestock numbers with a **22% reduction in numbers of dairy cattle, 17% in beef cattle and 18% in sheep by 2030** compared to 2020.
- ▶ **Land Use:** Management of peat must shift fundamentally: **low-yielding trees must be removed from peat soils by 2030**, all extraction sites must be restored by 2035, and by 2050 more than half of peatland in Northern Ireland should be under restoration in addition to that already under sympathetic management. Afforestation will also need to increase substantially: **average tree-planting rates need to increase from an average of 226 hectares per year over the last decade to 1,000 by 2024, and 3,100 by 2035.**
- ▶ **Engineered Removals:** Northern Ireland must **scale up bioenergy plants, biogas generation with anaerobic digestion of wastes and conversion of this biogas into biomethane**, while developing the capability to capture and store the CO₂ generated in these processes.

Figure 3 Pathways to 2050 for Northern Ireland



Source: CCC (2020) Sixth Carbon Budget; CCC analysis.
Notes: GHG stands for greenhouse gas.

CCC'S ADVICE REPORT: CARBON BUDGET (2023-2027)



Year	Total NI Emission Levels (MtCO ₂ e)	% reductions on 1990
1990 / 1995 (Baseline)	28.1	-
2019	22.6	20
2020	21.5	23
2021	Published June 2023	
2022	Published June 2024	
2023		27
2024	Average 33% emissions reduction per year in	30
2025	First Carbon Budget	33
2026		35
2027		38
2030 (Target within CC act)	14.6 or less	48

THE COST OF NET ZERO?



- CCC estimates £1.3bn/yr from 2030 to achieve 82%.
- To achieve Net Zero, an additional up to £900m/yr is required.
- At least £2.2bn/yr

- Where will the money come from?
- The cost of inaction likely to be much higher

NEXT STEPS



- ▶ Drafting the Climate Action Plan
- ▶ Further work with departments and their stakeholders