

Easy Read version

Draft
Environment Strategy
for Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland
Executive

www.northernireland.gov.uk

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- **Telephone:** 028 9056 9497 and talk to a member of the Team. If you have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via Text Relay. Dial 18001 028 9056 9497.



- **Email:** esni@daera-ni.gov.uk



- **Visit:** <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk>

About us

We are the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

What do we do?

Here are some of the things we do.



- We look after the development of farming, forests and fishing in Northern Ireland.
- We provide a service to look after the health and welfare of animals, fish and plants.
- We look after environment and rural development in Northern Ireland.
- We provide research, expert advice and education.
- We look after some parts of public health in how food is made.

The Environment

- The environment is very important to all of us - we are a part of nature too and clean air, good water and being able to use outdoor spaces can improve our lives.
- Many of the things that we do affect the environment in a bad way but there is a lot we can do to make it better.
- This is important because the environment supports our lives, businesses and jobs, communities, families and our health.
- This Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland is needed to improve our environment, improve people's health, and help to protect our planet.



Programme for Government

- The Programme for Government (PfG) is how the NI Executive (the Ministers of all the NI Departments) sets out what it wants to do.
- DAERA is responsible for PfG Outcome 2: “We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment”
- We are doing some things well – such as recycling waste from households – but other targets have been harder to achieve, like protecting nature and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.



What does the strategy cover?

- The Environment Strategy will focus on results that will make a difference to the lives of people here.
- The Environment Strategy covers:
 1. Air and water quality
 2. A healthy environment we can enjoy
 3. Nature and wildlife
 4. Using our environment to make things without damaging it
 5. Waste and recycling
 6. Our changing climate

Green Growth

- ‘Green Growth’ is about how we aim to grow our economy in an environmentally friendly way. The Environment Strategy will support this.

Sustainability

- The United Nations have agreed ‘Sustainable Development Goals’.
- These goals are focused on improving people’s lives while protecting the world we live in.



- The Environment Strategy is linked to these goals.

Working Together

- Cooperating and working together is important when it comes to improving our environment.
- The strategy will also be our first 'Environmental Improvement Plan'. This is a plan to improve our natural environment and help us enjoy it.
- A new group called the 'Office for Environmental Protection' will check how well we're doing at improving our environment each year.

What Will We Do To Help?

- It is important that everyone plays their part in protecting our environment. Government departments will be doing their bit. For example, they will move to 100% renewable electricity, set up new hubs to reduce staff journeys and pollution, and encourage recycling.

Natural Environment

- Our natural environment supports life, is important to our economy, and improves the wellbeing of everyone.
- The land, air, water, plants and animals make up the natural environment. We are lucky in Northern Ireland to have such varied surroundings.
- There are threats to our natural environment and action needs to be taken to protect it.

Agriculture & Our Environment

- ‘Nature Friendly Farming’ will help protect our environment and grow our economy. This will be supported through new policy schemes.
- We want to have a sustainable agricultural-food industry with Northern Ireland setting an example. It will protect our environment, ensure our farm animals are properly looked after, and produce food for people to eat.

Outcomes: what we want to achieve

- We have 6 important outcomes:
 1. Excellent air, water, land and neighbourhood quality
 2. A healthy environment and landscapes we can enjoy
 3. Thriving nature and wildlife
 4. Production and consumption that doesn't damage our environment
 5. Zero waste and a circular economy
 6. Playing our part in reducing greenhouse gases while making changes to help us live with climate change
- There are different actions and targets for each outcome:

1



Excellent air, water, land and neighbourhood quality

- Set out a plan to improve our air quality
- Protect our seas to ensure they are clean and healthy, with less litter and pollution

- Improve the quality of our beaches, lakes and rivers
- Give councils new powers to deal with rundown buildings

2



A healthy environment and landscapes we can enjoy

- Protect our land and sea while encouraging everyone to enjoy and look after them
- Make it easier for people to access natural spaces like forests
- Encourage sport and exercise in the natural environment
- Promote outdoor learning opportunities
- Improve the environment in our villages, towns and cities
- Protect our historic environment such as monuments

Outcomes: what we want to achieve



Thriving nature and wildlife

- Protect and restore nature on land and at sea
- Protect our important peatlands and improve their condition
- Increase the amount of woodland by planting more trees
- Use a new approach that will help people making decisions that impact our environment take account of its full value



Production and consumption that doesn't damage our environment

- Develop new schemes that encourage farmers to protect our environment
- Produce even more of our electricity from renewable sources and make our homes more energy efficient
- Protect and improve our seas to ensure they are productive and fish sustainably

- Less single-use plastic
- Increase the cost of carrier bags
- Improve processes for managing pollution

5**Zero waste and a circular economy**

- Move to a circular economy where we reuse, repair and recycle as much as possible
- Reduce waste – including food waste
- Work with our local councils to stop people dumping their rubbish in our precious environment

6**Playing our part in reducing greenhouse gases while making changes to help us live with climate change**

- New laws requiring Northern Ireland to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we produce
- Grow a green economy by helping people learn and train so they have the skills they need

Have Your Say

If you would like to say something about the new Environment Strategy just click on this link and answer the questions,

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk>

For Help Contact Lisa: 028 9056 9497



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Or email esni@daera-ni.gov.uk and we'll email you a form to complete. We need to receive your views by 4pm Tuesday 18 January 2022



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