

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Thursday, 13th June, 2024 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Horizon Europe Urban Planning 2030 (UP2030) Update (Pages 1 - 8)**
3. **Belfast Festival of Learning Food Data Hackathon (Pages 9 - 18)**
4. **The Climate Change Act (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Pages 19 - 50)**

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Subject:	Horizon Europe Urban Planning 2030 (UP2030) update
Date:	13 June 2024
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner
Contact Officer:	Callie Persic, Development Manager, City Regeneration & Development Niamh Mulrine, Regeneration Project Officer, City Regeneration & Development

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the ongoing activities as part of the UP2030 Net Zero Neighbourhoods Project including stakeholder engagement, workshops, partnership working and highlight upcoming milestones.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that Belfast, represented by Belfast City Council, is a pilot city within the Horizon Europe UP2030 project which is focused on the development of a net zero

	<p>neighbourhood framework using technical tools and support that are provided through the UP2030 consortium including analysis, mapping and engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support a partnership with the RSUA to deliver the design competition in the UP2030 area in alignment with the project ambitions. • To support Groundwork NI's Heritage Lottery bid, 'Climate Resilient Heritage' that is proposed to roll out within communities in the UP2030 pilot area. • To note that an update report on UP2030 was also brought to the City Growth & Regeneration Committee yesterday, 12 June 2024.
3.0	Main report
3.1	In March 2022 Council was invited to participate in a three-year Horizon Europe consortium funding application from the Urban Planning 2030 (UP2030) fund to guide cities through the transitions required to meet their climate neutrality ambitions. As reported in November 2022 and March 2023, the City Regeneration and Development and Climate teams were successful in joint bid of €204,250/£176,024 to further an integrated approach between urban planning, achieving net zero and aspects of resilience.
3.2	<p>Cities account for 70% of the global CO2 emissions and consume 78% of the world's energy. The UP2030 project is about recognising the role cities play in achieving net zero by 2050, and the sequence of actions and transitions that would be required by 2030 to ensure this target ambition is met. The 5UP approach guides the work of the project and the considerations required for the development of a framework for creating a net zero neighbourhood:</p> <p>UP-Dating: Identifying the needs and barriers, and reviewing the processes, planning codes and policies that should be urgently updated to create future proofed NZ neighbourhoods.</p> <p>UP-Skilling: Building capacities to upskill the entire stakeholder ecosystem, from city departments to urban practitioners to the construction industry, through to citizens.</p> <p>UP-Grading: Considering the transformation at the suitable physical scale.</p> <p>UP-Scaling: Scaling solutions and integrating them across sectors by shaping governance arrangements and matching financial resources.</p> <p>UP-Taking: Sharing knowledge and learning through the project to create long-lasting communities of practice.</p>
3.3	The project kicked off in February 2023 and will run until December 2025 and is driven by robust project milestones and constant engagement across the consortium that is made up of 46 partners, with Belfast one of 11 pilot cities and only UK city. As agreed at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in March 2023, the geographic area of the UP2030

	<p>pilot covers the Linen Quarter and the surrounding communities of Barrack Street, Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Market. The primary focus of UP2030 is on the development of a Net Zero (NZ) Neighbourhood Framework that is shaped around three thematic areas: active travel, greening and retrofit. These themes link across to the UP2030 pillars of a fair and just transition, carbon neutrality and resilience.</p>
3.4	<p>Council's UP2030 team is comprised of City Regeneration & Development and Climate team staff who collaborate on project development, engaging stakeholders and achieving the milestones set out within the wider UP2030 project. This includes regular consortium and work package meetings, project and financial reporting and ongoing contact with our liaison partner, Mapping for Change, as well as ongoing discussions with tool providers through the programme who can provide free technical support to enable the transition to NZ.</p>
3.5	<p>Progress to date: Stakeholder engagement and workshop delivery</p> <p>Since the beginning of the project, stakeholder engagement has included mapping across sectors and areas of work, attending relevant events or meetings and building partnerships and sharing information. This has included one-to-one meetings with community representatives and site walks to understand local priorities and the challenges facing the surrounding city centre communities. It quickly became clear that there is a need to have 'climate conversations' with stakeholders to help everyone begin to understand the wider issues in relation to the impact of climate change, what the transition to net zero means for them and their work and the ways people can begin to participate in the transition. Therefore, a component part of UP2030 is to also support awareness raising regarding net zero in general and we continue to work through these multi-stakeholder channels throughout the programme to secure input into the development of the NZ Neighbourhood Framework.</p>
3.6	<p>A key feature in our approach has been linking into existing thematic stakeholder groups that have broad membership and expertise. In particular, this includes the City Greening Group that is convened by Belfast Healthy Cities; the Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel (CAST) subgroup within the Belfast Agenda; and engagement with Retrofit Hub that is coordinated by the Climate Team. There has also been engagement across government, academic, community, thematic city partners and Council teams to elicit input and included a presentation to the Resilience and Sustainability Board. This approach has ensured that we have developed a sound understanding of the challenges, opportunities and barriers across the thematic areas of work and are linked into relevant projects among city partners.</p>

	<p>An example of this is through an existing partnership with the Graduate School of Queen's University School of Built Environment and NIHE, where partners came together to deliver a QUB social innovation challenge with residents of John Street and Hamill Street.</p>
3.7	<p>This initiative was run by QUB and focused on NIHE land within the UP2030 area in the Barrack Street vicinity and focused on improving the quality of life of residents through the development of climate friendly place shaping proposals. Students from a variety of disciplines came together to deliver the challenge through the challenge title: 'Making Belfast a Green and Playful City'. Further to this work, a number of proposed interventions were identified through the consultation and NIHE are leading on exploring how these can be implemented and have already taken an initial step to begin reshaping the space based on needs identified in the engagement and supporting NZ interventions. This a strong example of multi-partner approach to deliver NZ and this along with the ongoing learnings from QUB and the NIHE will shape the UP2030 framework.</p>
3.8	<p>Additionally, Officers work in partnership with the Master's of Architecture StreetSpace initiative in QUB that has focused on the Market, Donegall Pass, Sandy Row and the Village communities over the past two years. In mid-June StreetSpace will hold a workshop based on the research and engagement with communities in these areas over the past year. The workshop is called "Women in the Neighbourhood" and will investigate how issues of mobility and housing affect the everyday lives of women and explore solutions to foster safe, more inclusive cities and the feedback from this will further enhance our understanding of the community issues and inform the UP2030 NZ Framework.</p>
3.9	<p>As a result of our engagement sessions, we received a request from Groundwork NI to support their bid 'Climate Resilient Heritage' to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which would focus on two areas within the UP2030 area, i.e. Sandy Row and the Market. The project would aim to ensure that the natural and cultural heritage of Northern Ireland is conserved for future generations and involves developing a network of young climate champions, supporting them to gain an understanding of the drivers of climate change, how this is/will affect the heritage of Northern Ireland, and what practical steps can be undertaken to mitigate against these effects in their local community. The programme will include training and practical action, e.g. carbon literacy training, data collection and greening projects. Members are asked to support Groundwork's bid in principal and, if successful, Officer attendance at future steering group meetings, which will ensure alignment of the thematic ambitions of the UP2030 project and can build on the momentum of engagement and data developed in the area to date,</p>

	<p>supporting development and delivery of the net zero neighbourhood framework within the pilot area.</p>
4.0	<p>Delivering project milestones</p> <p>Key milestones achieved to date include the delivery of five workshops held between April to October 2023 with cross sector stakeholders, including a specific neighbourhood engagement session for community representatives from the pilot area. These events provided an introduction and background to the UP2030 project, exploration of the importance of climate neutrality for cities, and outlined the intention to develop a net zero framework neighbourhood approach within the pilot area but that can be replicated across the city. The workshops were interactive and facilitated input from participants with thematic and community interests as well as engaged strategic partners who operate across the city and region. This initial phase of engagement gathered quality input from diverse stakeholders that helped shape the thematic outline of the framework and refined the areas of focus.</p>
4.1	<p>Data collection and analysis has provided another layer of understanding of the UP2030 area and helped identify further needs, challenges and opportunities for net zero led regeneration to future proof the area and communities. A geospatial analysis of the UP2030 pilot area was undertaken, using interactive mapping software to overlay current information on the district such as demographics, tree data, deprivation indices, economic activity, travel to work/school behaviours, housing tenure, as well as projected climate impacts such as flooding and heat risk.</p>
4.2	<p>Building on this the initial engagement activities and data collection, a key project milestone was the delivery of five Visioning workshops with cross sector stakeholders that took place in Spring/Summer 2024. The purpose of this most recent engagement programme was to establish a common vision for the UP2030 area and test the emerging Framework ideas. The sessions also provided a chance to identify future opportunities for improving greening and active travel, as well as exploring the potential to progress a retrofit pilot that builds on the recent learnings of the Retrofit Hub.</p>
4.3	<p>The workshops included internal Council staff, the Belfast Agenda CAST group, the City Greening Group and a session for young people organised with Alternatives. The purpose of these was to gain agreement on the vision for the project across the three themes (greening, active travel and retrofit) and underpinned by the three project pillars (carbon neutrality, resilience and a fair and just transition) by asking participants to imagine what a</p>

	<p>net zero Belfast could look like in 2050 and considering the actions required to support or deliver that transition. Participants were presented with mapped geospatial analysis data and the insights gathered on the project to date.</p>
4.4	<p>The final Visioning workshop with the Retrofit Hub will address three areas: commercial, public buildings and residential (divided into area, tenure and typology). This approach aligns to the identified areas of work within the Retrofit Hub, emerging data from the Local Area Energy Plan and will explore issues in relation to funding opportunities and financial models, capacity issues (e.g. skills/training, supply chain), policy and legislation and potential pipeline opportunities.</p>
4.5	<p>Following analysis of the feedback and findings from the Visioning sessions, coupled with analysis of the previous learning and research produced by the Retrofit Hub, we re-engaged the workshop stakeholders in a final follow up session. Through this we were able to sense check the emerging framework ideas, build a shared understanding of NZ options and agreed the adaptive pathways for the short/long term sequence of actions that would be required to support the transition and explore opportunities for pilot projects to help test concepts for the NZ Framework alongside continued stakeholder engagement.</p>
4.6	<p>An opportunity has been flagged through the Retrofit Hub Steering group to align the ambitions of the retrofit strand of the UP2030 work with a proposal to run a Net-Zero Neighbourhood Ideas Competition as a partnership between the Royal Society of Ulster Architects (RSUA) and JP Corry with support from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and the Northern Ireland Construction Group (NICG). It will challenge design teams led by Early Career Architects to generate ideas for the best way to deliver a net-zero neighbourhood in Northern Ireland. The competition seeks to explore how a holistic neighbourhood approach to lowering carbon emissions compares to a more focused property-by-property approach. This will be an opportunity to build on the visioning outcomes of the retrofit work and engage with communities in the pilot area to codesign approaches for net zero delivery and contribute to the development of the framework. Members are requested to support UP2030 partnering with the RSUA to deliver the design competition in the UP2030 area in alignment with the project ambitions.</p>
4.7	<p>Maximining cross council alignment to NZ goals</p> <p>Ensuring alignment of this project with the ongoing work and priorities of Climate team is a critical aspect of UP2030 and will shape future milestones and opportunities. This is</p>

	<p>particularly relevant to the work underway in relation to the Solar PV Study and possible follow up studies that could provide analysis of rooftops that may have potential for solar PV, greening interventions/retrofit or both. A Retrofit Hub Report on the UP2030 area, and an active travel scoping study would also to help us understand the potential of meeting net zero ambitions through active travel and the cost benefit analysis of these measures by using tools such as University of Cambridge innovative Scope 4 analysis. Furthermore, opportunities exist across Council to align resources and ambitions towards NZ outcomes and ensure that all investment in the regeneration of the city considers carbon neutrality, resilience and a fair and just transition to net zero.</p>
4.0	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
4.1	<p>Members will be aware that given that the UK is no longer within the EU, the status of Council was changed from to being a Partner to that of an Associate which means that funding will be underwritten by the UK government (UK Research & Innovation, UKRI) fund rather than the EU. The Horizon Europe UP2030 Project is 100% funded for revenue only. No additional funding is required from Council however a small team drawn from the Climate Unit and City Regeneration and Development work together to oversee development and support implementation. Officers continue to work with partners to identify potential capital or revenue funding in the future and align current and emerging workstreams that could support the transition to net zero.</p>
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
5.1	<p>Officers are currently developing the Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Screening and will incorporate within the emerging proposals.</p>
6.0	Appendix 1

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Agenda Item 3



Belfast
City Council


CLIMATE & CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Subject:	Learning Festival – food hackathon
Date:	13 June 2024
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner
Contact Officer:	Claire Shortt, Climate team

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To update Committee on the results of the food hackathon as part of the festival of learning 2024.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	To note the contents of the report and be presented with the findings of the challenge from the winning group.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Belfast Learning Festival is part of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and ran this year from 22 nd to 27 th of April. As part of the festival, the climate team agreed to hold a hackathon that would explore the current food systems in the city. The aim was to help tackle real-world challenges using data driven solutions. The invite went out to students in the Belfast Met, University of Ulster (UU) and Queens University Belfast (QUB) and more than 40 students registered their interest.
3.2	To help the students tackle ‘the challenges of accessing healthy sustainable food in the city ’, the climate team arranged a number of workshops throughout the week that included a modelling session with Allstate data analysts, a demonstration of the latest census data, the QUB Geoportal and lessons on how to use the NISRA data platform.
3.3	Allstate donated the prize of £300 worth of shopping vouchers to the winning team who came from the Ulster University. The team presented their findings to a panel that involved lecturers from QUB, statisticians and BCC officers. Their solution was a mobile farmers market that would bring farm fresh produce to locals regularly. Residents can log onto an app to find out what producers will be in their area and any given time and what produce they will be bringing with them. The team are currently studying digital technology and the app is something that they maybe able to develop in the future as part of their course.
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None at this point
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None known
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	 <p>Mobile Farmer's Market App - By Neil :</p>



Mobile Farming Market App

Overview

Our aim is to develop an app for a mobile farmer's market that will travel throughout different neighbourhoods in Belfast, aiming at those with limited access to fresh produce. These markets will offer locally sourced fruits, vegetables, and other sustainable food products at affordable prices.

By bringing the market directly to people, we can eliminate the transportation barrier and make healthy food more accessible.

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What is the purpose of the app?

This app serves as the platform to connect local farmers & producers directly with consumers in Belfast.

Did you know? Despite battling extreme weather events like flooding and drought, and facing soaring energy and production costs, data suggests farmers received less than 1% of profits if supplying to a supermarket chain.



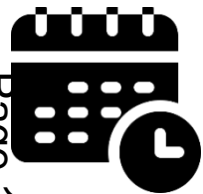
Features

Vendor Listings



Local farmers, growers and food producers could register on the platform. Each listing would include information about the vendor, their products, prices, and upcoming market locations.

Market Schedule



Users can access a schedule of mobile farmer's market locations and timings. Attendance can also be registered using a poll system.

Product Catalogue



Users can access a catalogue of available products from participating vendors. Products are categorized by type, with descriptions, prices, and photos.

Notification



The app sends notifications to users about upcoming market dates, special promotions, new vendors, or product offerings.

Feedback & Ratings



Users can provide feedback and ratings for vendors, products, and even the app.

Future Developments...

Ordering & Payment



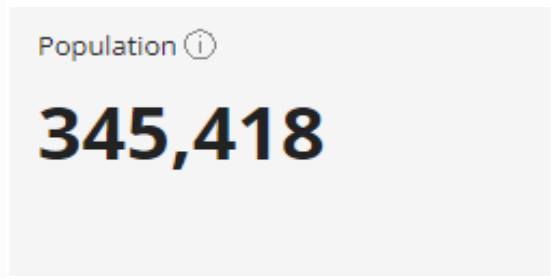
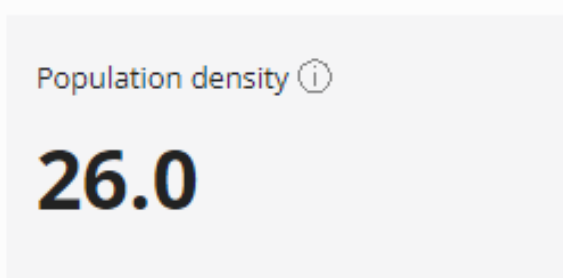
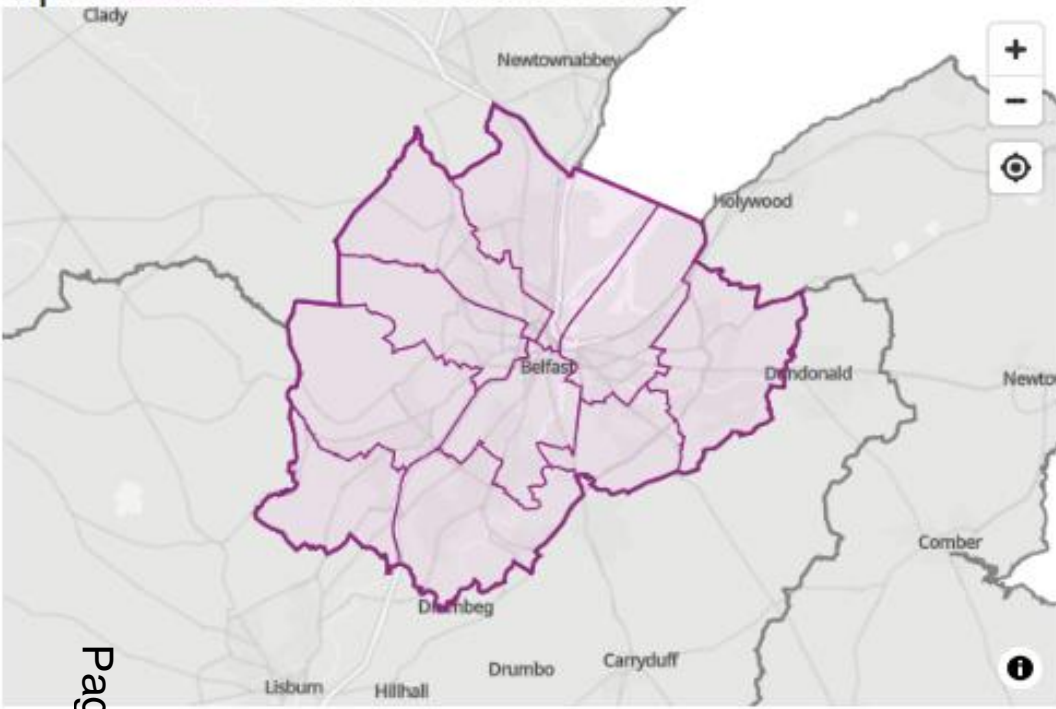
Users can place orders directly through the app for pickup at the nearest mobile farmer's market. The app facilitates secure payment transactions.

Community Forum



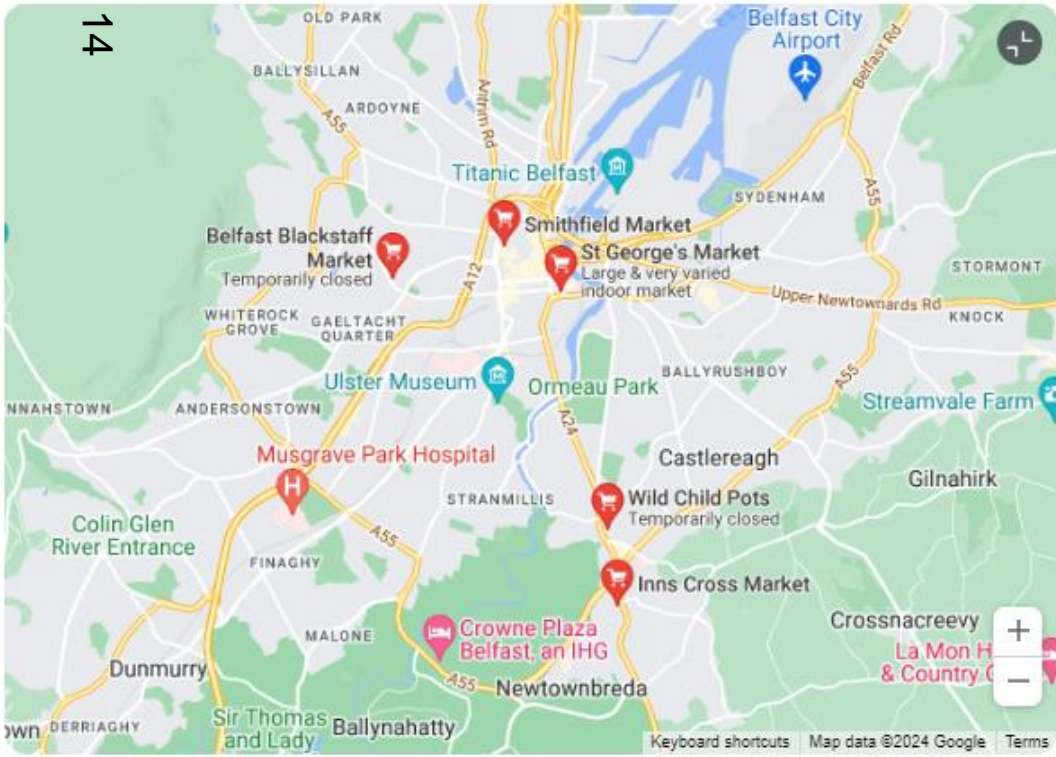
Users can engage in discussions, share recipes, tips for sustainable living, and other relevant topics related to food and agriculture.

Explore Belfast - Local Government District



explore.nisra.gov.uk

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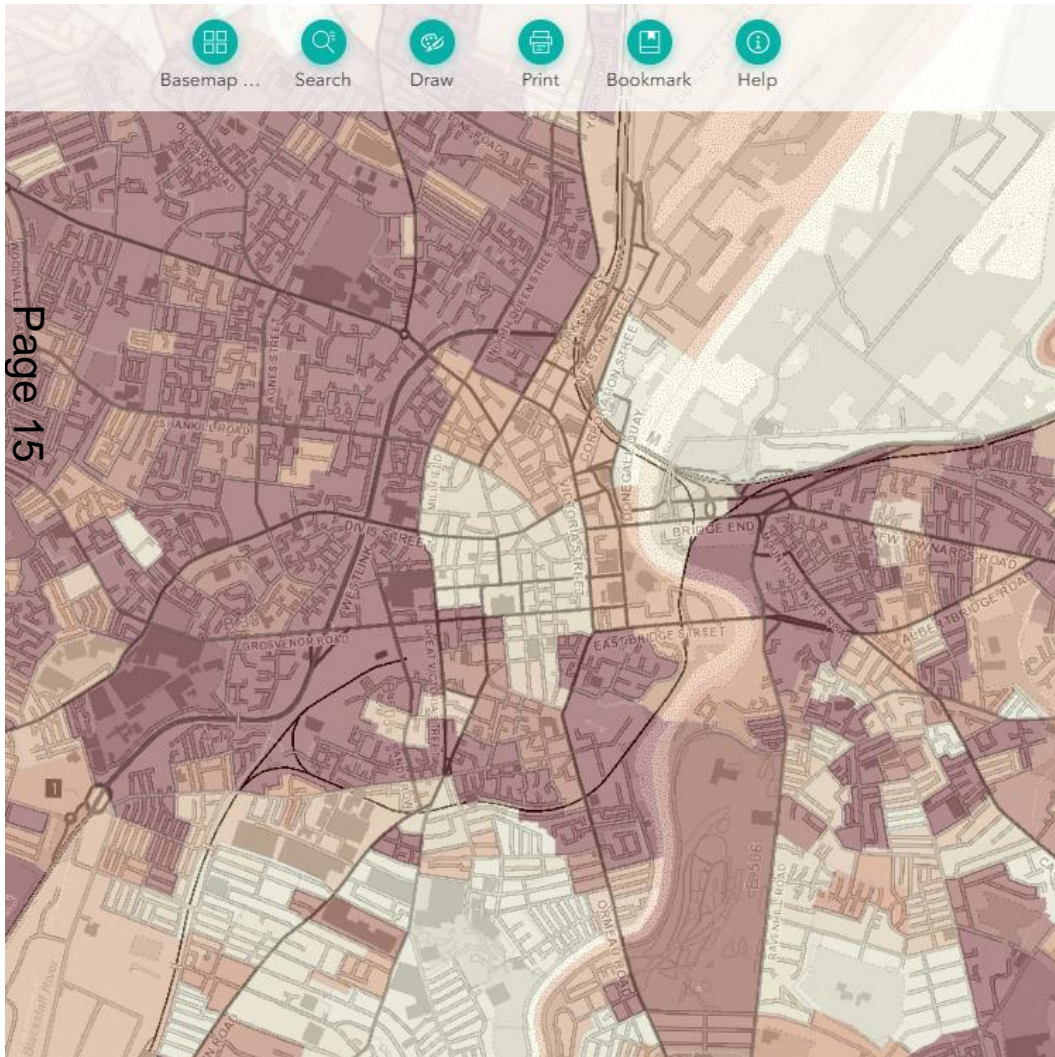


Using Census Data

Using 2021 Census data, we can see that Belfast has a high residential population density (>25p/ha). There are very few farmer's markets available in Belfast (see Google Maps data bottom left).

This prompted us to develop a mobile farmer's market app, making fresh produce more accessible for all.

Queen's Geoportal Data



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Using QUB's SPACE Geoportal, we can view health data in the Belfast area. We can see that population-dense areas are suffering from very bad health, which could be due to the lack of fresh produce.

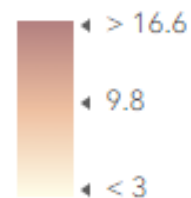
Our app could positively impact the health in these areas.

NISRA Health Data

General Health



Very bad health



[SPACE Geoportal](#)

Case Studies

Newent, England

'Market To Your Door' is a small mobile shop and delivery service run by Char and Sue in Newent, England. They noticed the growing demand for fresh local produce, and the lack of shops, bus services and large percentage of elderly people who couldn't access their goods.

Page 10
"We gained so many new customers that initially we were almost overwhelmed with demand but as things calmed down and time progressed so did the service."



[Market To Your Door](#)

San Jose, California

Fresh Approach is a mobile farmer's market based in California, successfully running for the past 15 years. It connects local communities with healthy food from local farmers. They travel three days a week, setting up markets on the East and South Bay.

"We believe everyone should have access to locally sourced and nourishing food, and that the health of our communities and the livelihood of our local farmers should go hand-in-hand."



[Fresh Approach](#)

What does a sustainable food city look like?



Our app brings people together to talk about food issues and share solutions. Together we can make sure everyone has access to good food and a healthy community.

Joined up approach



By providing a platform for local farmers and producers to sell their goods directly to consumers, our app helps them access a broader customer base and achieve financial stability.

Connecting local growers and suppliers



By providing a platform for consumers to access locally sourced produce and learn about sustainable farming practices, our app raises awareness about where food comes from and the importance of supporting local agriculture.

Active food citizenship



By implementing criteria for sustainability into our app's vendor listings, we can encourage caterers and procurement managers to prioritize suppliers to adhere to sustainable farming practices, such as organic or regenerative agriculture.

Leadership in public procurement



Our app can connect consumers with local farmers and producers who offer fresh nutritious food at affordable prices, making healthy food more accessible to people with limited budgets.

Food justice



Reducing our impact

We can incorporate features into our app that helps consumers minimize food waste, such as meal planning tools, recipe suggestion for leftover ingredients and notifications about expiring food items. Locally sourced food travels shorter distances, reducing fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emission from transportation.

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Agenda Item 4



Belfast
City Council

CLIMATE & CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Subject:	The Climate Change Act (Reporting Bodies) Regulations
Date:	13 th June 2024
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner
Contact Officer:	Claire Shortt, Climate team

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
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6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>




Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To highlight the new regulations that will place new climate change reporting duties on public bodies, including Belfast City Council.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note the attached correspondence from DAERA. II. Note that the regulations come into place early May 2024 and an update will be brought back to update Committee in due course.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 requires DAERA to make new Regulations, which will place climate change reporting duties on specified public bodies. The regulations will come into operation in early May 2024, 21 days after they are laid in the Assembly. However, the first reports by public bodies required under the regulations, will not be due to be submitted until October 2025.</p>
3.2	<p>What will be required?</p> <p>There are two types of reports which we will be required to provide under the reporting duties set by the Regulations: 1) ‘climate change mitigation’ reports; and 2) ‘climate change adaptation’ reports.</p>
3.3	<p>Climate change mitigation reports must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a statement, in respect of each of the three preceding financial years, of the amounts and the sources of the council’s greenhouse gas emissions; 2. a statement of the council’s proposals and policies for reducing those amounts and otherwise for mitigating the effects of climate change in the exercise of its functions; 3. a statement of the time-scales for implementing those proposals and policies; and 4. an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change mitigation report.
3.4	<p>Climate change adaptation reports must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. an assessment of the current and predicted impact of climate change in relation to its functions; 6. a statement of council’s proposals and policies for adapting to climate change in the exercise of its functions; 7. a statement of the timescales for implementing those proposals and policies; and 8. an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change adaptation report.
3.5	<p>The Regulations state that we must also have regard to the most recent 5 yearly UK Climate Change Risk Assessment and that we must publish the report on the council website and DAERA will also publish it on theirs.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for cooperation between two or more reporting bodies to submit a joint report.</p>
3.6	<p>What support will be provided by DAERA</p> <p>DAERA will provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. technical, co-designed guidance on how to complete climate change reports;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. a reporting template containing a list of climate change questions; 3. an online climate change reporting portal to enter data; and 4. training to complete the reports.
3.7	<p>Timescales for reporting</p> <p>The frequencies and timings are set to align with the development of the 5-yearly UK Climate Change Risk Assessments which are required under the UK Climate Change Act 2008 – these risk Assessments include detail on the current and projected climate change risks and impacts to Northern Ireland.</p>
3.8	<p>The regulations require the Council to submit the first of its 3-yearly reports on mitigation by 31 October 2025. The second and third ‘mitigation report’ must be submitted to DAERA by 31st October 2028 and 31st October 2031 respectively, and so on for subsequent reports every 3 years.</p>
3.9	<p>The first ‘adaptation report’ must be submitted to DAERA by 31st March 2026 (the first report will cover a 4 year period beginning from 1st January 2026). The second and third report will be submitted by 31st January 2030 and 31st January 2035 respectively, and every 5 years from then on.</p>
3.10	<p>How have we prepared for this reporting?</p> <p>Mitigation</p> <p>A greenhouse gas emissions baseline report was completed for the Councils operations for the period 2019/20. This report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope 1 emissions (direct emissions from combustion in Council owned or controlled boilers, furnaces and vehicles); and • Scope 2 emissions (emissions are associated with purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling).
3.11	<p>The report included only a small portion of Scope 3 emissions (these occur upstream and downstream of the Council’s operations from sources not controlled by the Council) as it did not include the emissions from the Council’s supply chain. The report estimated the Council’s emissions to be 18,783 tonnes CO₂e with the majority of these from gas (46%), electricity (23%) and fleet (15%). The most significant cost centres in terms of emissions are Capital, Residual waste and GLL.</p>
3.12	<p>The Council’s supply chain emissions have since been calculated separately (for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) and the team worked closely with Procurement to develop a capacity to track these emissions annually going forward. Scope 3 supply chain currently makes up the bulk of the council's emissions at 84% (71,714 tonnes CO₂e in 2022/23) with 18% of supply chain emissions coming from River Ridge Recycling (Portadown) Ltd and Arc 21 Joint Committee.</p>
3.13	<p>Going forward, an annual emission report will be provided to Committee by June each year thereafter. There are some gaps in the data around internal waste that need to be captured to get the clearest picture of Council emissions, however the climate team are working on a proposal through the climate fund that will help make the estimates more accurate.</p> <p>The Council is therefore well positioned to provide the required statement of the amounts and the sources of the council’s greenhouse gas emissions (1 above) by 31 October 2025.</p>
3.14	<p>A Climate Data Platform is currently being developed by Digital Services to store this information and track progress on delivery. This will enable a snapshot progress report at any time and the climate team will be able to provide an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies (4 above).</p>
3.15	<p>Adaptation</p>

<p>3.16</p> <p>3.17</p> <p>3.18</p> <p>3.19</p>	<p>A Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) undertaken by KPMG in 2023 includes an assessment of the current and predicted impact of climate change on Council functions (5 above). In terms of providing a statement of council’s proposals and policies for adapting to climate change and the timescales for implementation (6-7 above), these are all captured in the Council’s Climate Action Plan and have been included in the draft Corporate Plan. Again, it will be important going forward that the relevant Departments include these climate actions in their annual business plans and budgets to demonstrate progress on adapting to current and future climate risks in adaptation reporting (8 above).</p> <p>The Council is therefore well positioned to deliver it’s first ‘adaptation report’ to DAERA by 31st March 2026 (covering the 4 year period beginning from 1st January 2026). As above, the Climate Data Platform will enable regular tracking and reporting of progress.</p> <p>Next steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Climate Team will be briefing DMTs as required to ensure staff are aware of reporting requirements. 2. Updates will be brought back to Committee in due course. <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There is no known extra funding available, however DAERA have stated that they will be providing all the necessary practical support with public bodies, training and an online portal for public bodies to use. There may be additional costs associated with data exploration and development options identified through the working group. CMT will be kept informed of the progress.</p> <p>Resourcing needs are not fully understood at this point, however we will review the progress and report back to Committee in due course.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None Identified</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The list of 40 public bodies that are required to report under the Act.</u> 2. <u>Climate change Act 2022 (section 42)</u> 3. Annexe A – the climate change reporting body regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Letter to Specified Bodies - Annex A - The 4. Annexe B – FAQ <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Letter to Specified Bodies - Annex B (FAC 5. Letter to Specified Bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Letter to Specified Bodies - The Climate C

STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2024 No. [TBC]

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

Made []2024

Coming into operation []2024

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 42(1) of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022⁽¹⁾.

In accordance with subsection (7) of that section the Department has consulted such public bodies, and such other persons, as it considered appropriate before making these Regulations.

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.

(2) These Regulations come into operation on _____ [NOTE: a date 21 days after the Regulations are laid in the Assembly will be entered here].

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“climate change adaptation report” means a report under regulation 4;

“climate change mitigation report” means a report under regulation 5;

“publish” means publish in electronic form;

“reporting body” means a body specified in the Schedule;

“sent” means sent in electronic form.

⁽¹⁾ 2022 c. 31

Reporting bodies

3.—(1) The Schedule (reporting bodies) has effect.

(2) Reporting bodies are specified public bodies for the purposes of section 42(1) of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

Climate change adaptation reports

4.—(1) Every reporting body must prepare reports which include—

- (a) an assessment of the current and predicted impact of climate change in relation to its functions;
- (b) a statement of the body's proposals and policies for adapting to climate change in the exercise of its functions;
- (c) a statement of the time-scales for implementing those proposals and policies; and
- (d) an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change adaptation report.

(2) The first report must relate to the period of four years beginning with 1st January 2026.

(3) Subsequent reports must relate to the period of five years beginning immediately after the end of the period to which the previous report relates.

(4) Reports must be prepared and sent to the Department not later than one month after the end of the period to which the previous report relates, or in the case of the first report 31st March 2026.

Climate change mitigation reports

5.—(1) Every reporting body must prepare reports which include—

- (a) a statement, in respect of each of the three preceding financial years, of the amounts and the sources of the body's greenhouse gas emissions;
- (b) a statement of the body's proposals and policies for reducing those amounts and otherwise for mitigating the effects of climate change in the exercise of its functions;
- (c) a statement of the time-scales for implementing those proposals and policies; and
- (d) an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change mitigation report.

(2) A report must, unless the Department otherwise agrees, use—

(a) as the reporting body's greenhouse gas baseline year the financial year ending 31st March 2025, and

(b) as the reporting body's baseline greenhouse gas emission amounts the amounts in that year.

(3) The first report must be prepared and sent to the Department not later than 31st October 2025.

(4) Subsequent reports must be prepared and sent to the Department every third year not later than 31st October.

(5) In relation to the first report—

(a) paragraph (1)(a) has effect as if the words “each of the three preceding financial years” were “the financial year ending 31st March 2025”;

(b) paragraph (2) does not apply.

(6) References in this regulation to a financial year are to be construed in accordance with section 39(6)(e) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954⁽²⁾ whether or not a body uses that financial year.

Guidance

6.—(1) The Department may issue guidance to reporting bodies on their functions under these Regulations.

(2) The Department may publish any guidance issued under paragraph (1).

Matters to which reporting bodies must have regard

7. Reporting bodies must have regard to (among other things) the following, so far as relevant—

(a) the most recent report under section 56 of the Climate Change Act 2008⁽³⁾ (report on impact of climate change);

(b) the most recent programme under section 60 of that Act (programme for adaptation to climate change for Northern Ireland);

(c) the desirability of co-ordinating the proposals and policies referred to in regulation 4(1)(b) or 5(1)(b) with corresponding proposals and policies in other parts of the United Kingdom, in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere; and

(d) guidance under regulation 6.

⁽²⁾ 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

⁽³⁾ 2008 c. 27

Co-operation in preparation of reports

8. A reporting body or any other public body may co-operate with another reporting body in the preparation of a report under these Regulations.

Joint reports

9. Two or more reporting bodies may prepare a joint report under these Regulations.

Corrected reports

10. – (1) If it appears to a reporting body or to the Department that a report sent to the Department by the reporting body requires correction, the reporting body must send a corrected report to the Department as soon as practicable.

(2) A corrected report must state the reasons for each correction.

Publication of reports

11. Every reporting body and the Department must publish any report sent by the reporting body to the Department under these Regulations.

*A senior officer of the
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs*

Regs. 2, 3(1)

SCHEDULE REPORTING BODIES

Education

Education Authority

An institution of further education within the meaning of Article 2(2) of the Further Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 ⁽⁴⁾

Queen's University of Belfast

University of Ulster

Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment

Health and social care

A Health and Social Care Trust

Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being

Regional Business Services Organisation

Miscellaneous

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

Board of Trustees of the National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland

A district council

Invest Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Northern Ireland Library Authority ("Libraries NI")

Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company

Northern Ireland Water Limited

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Probation Board for Northern Ireland

⁽⁴⁾ S.I. 1997/1772 (N.I. 15)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations specify certain public bodies (“reporting bodies”) for the purposes of section 42(1) of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (regulation 3 and the Schedule).

Regulation 4 requires a reporting body to prepare prospective reports on how it is adapting to climate change in the exercise of its functions (a “climate change adaptation report”). The first report covers the four years beginning 1st January 2026 and subsequent reports cover periods of five years.

Regulation 5 requires a reporting body to prepare a report every three years on how it is reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and otherwise mitigating the effect of climate change in the exercise of its functions (a “climate change mitigation report”).

Regulation 6 enables the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to issue guidance to reporting bodies on their functions under these Regulations.

Regulation 7 requires reporting bodies to have regard to certain matters including the most recent report on the impact of climate change under section 56 of the Climate Change Act 2008 and the most recent programme for adaptation to climate change under section 60 of that Act.

Regulation 8 provides for co-operation in the preparation of reports and regulations 9 and 10 provide for joint reports and corrected reports.

Regulation 11 requires any report sent by a reporting body to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs under these Regulations to be published in electronic form by the reporting body and by the Department.

Annex B

The Climate Change (Reporting bodies) Regulations 2024: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Index:

- Question 1: Why are the Regulations being brought forward?
- Question 2: When and how often will reporting be required?
- Question 3: What information will the reports need to contain?
- Question 4: What are the other requirements/allowances set by the Regulations?
- Question 5: What support will be provided to you for meeting your reporting duties, and when?
- Question 6: Why must the Regulations wait for 21 days before coming into operation, after they are made and laid in the Assembly?
- Question 7: How were the Regulations informed?
- Question 8: What was the UK Climate Change Committee's advice to DAERA?
- Question 9: What criteria was used to identify which organisations should be specified to have climate change reporting duties placed on them by the Regulations?
- Question 10: Will other public bodies be required to report in the future?
- Question 11: What next?

Question 1: Why are the Regulations being brought forward?

Ans: Section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 ('the Act') requires DAERA to make new Regulations, which will place climate change reporting duties on specified public bodies. The Regulations are crosscutting and so the content of the Regulations in **Annex A** has been agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive, who have also agreed that DAERA should make and lay them in the Assembly and bring them into operation.

Question 2: When and how often will reporting be required?

Ans: There are two types of reports which you will be required to provide under your reporting duties set by the Regulations, and these are - 'climate change mitigation' reports and 'climate change adaptation' reports. The required content of these reports is discussed in question 3 below. Detailed guidance, which will be co-designed with reporting bodies, and training, will be provided to you on the requirements and on how to meet your reporting duties.

The timings and frequency of reporting are set in the Regulations (Annex A), specifically regulation 4 for adaptation, and regulation 5 for mitigation.

The following provides an explanation of the timings and frequency of reports:

Regulation 4: Adaptation Reports

- Your first 'adaptation report' **must be submitted to DAERA by 31st March 2026** (the period which the first report will cover is 4 years* beginning from 1st January 2026).
- Your second and subsequent adaptation reports will be on a 5-yearly cycle*.
- Your second adaptation report will therefore begin from 1st January 2030, and must be submitted to DAERA by 31st January 2030.
- Your third adaptation report will begin from 1st January 2035. This third report must be submitted to DAERA by 31st January 2035; and so on for subsequent 5-yearly adaptation reports.

*[*N.B. The frequencies and timings are set to align with, in order to aim to inform, the development of the 5-yearly UK Climate Change Risk Assessments which are required under the UK Climate Change Act 2008 – these risk Assessments include detail on the current and projected climate change risks and impacts to Northern Ireland (see question 10 for more detail).]*

Regulation 5: Mitigation Reports

- Your mitigation reports will be on a 3-yearly cycle.
- Your **first ‘mitigation report’ must be submitted to DAERA by 31st October 2025.**
- Your second mitigation report must therefore be submitted to DAERA by 31st October 2028.
- Your third mitigation report must be submitted to DAERA by 31st October 2031, and so on for subsequent reports every 3 years.

Question 3: What information will the reports need to contain?

Ans: The Regulations (Annex A) set the requirements on what your reports must contain. The requirements are set under regulation 4(1) which relates to adaptation, and regulation 5(1) which relates to mitigation. Please note that DAERA intends to develop and co-design guidance with reporting bodies to help them meet their reporting duties. This will include technical detail and guidance on what is reported, and how it is reported, for both adaptation and mitigation. Further detail on support to be provided to you to help you to meet your reporting duties is discussed under question 5.

Adaptation reports

The first (4 year) adaptation report, and the subsequent 5-yearly adaptation reports are required to include your public body’s:

- (i) current and predicted impact of climate change in relation to its functions; and
- (ii) proposals and policies for adapting to climate change in the exercise of its functions, including the timescales for implementing these proposals and policies.

Second and subsequent 5-yearly adaptation reports are also required to include your public body’s:

- assessment of the progress it has made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any of its previous climate change adaptation reports.

Mitigation Reports

The first mitigation report is required to include your public body's:

- (i) amounts and sources of greenhouse gas emissions, in respect of the financial year beginning 1st April 2024 and ending 31st March 2025; and
- (ii) its proposals and policies for reducing its emissions in the exercise of its functions, including timescales for implementing those proposals and policies.

The second and subsequent 3-yearly mitigation reports are required to include your public body's:

- (a) amounts and sources of greenhouse gas emissions in respect of each of the three preceding financial years (1st of April – 31st March) [*For example: Your public body's second mitigation report, to be submitted to DAERA by October 2028, will include the amounts and sources of its greenhouse gas emissions in respect of the three preceding financial years – i.e. from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2028.*];
- (b) proposals and policies for reducing its emissions in the exercise of its functions, including the timescale for implementing those proposals and policies; and
- (c) assessment of the progress it has made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any of its previous climate change mitigation reports.

The Regulations require that a mitigation report must use as a baseline, the body's greenhouse gas emissions and sources which were reported in its first mitigation report, for the financial year beginning 1st April 2024 and ending 31st March 2025. This baseline will be used for assessing and reporting on progress. The Regulations also allow for an alternative baseline to be used, however, this will require agreement with DAERA.

For the support in place to help you with the reporting, and especially the first reports please see the answer to question 5 below.

Question 4: What are the other requirements/allowances set by the Regulations?

Ans: The Regulations:

- require the reporting bodies to have regard to certain matters (if relevant) when reporting, including, for example – the most recent 5-yearly UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, required under the UK Climate Change Act 2008, which contains climate change risks and impacts to Northern Ireland (see regulation 7, Annex A);
- allow co-operation in preparation of reports, and/or joint reporting, between two or more reporting bodies to meet their reporting requirements (see regulation 8 and 9 respectively, Annex A);
- allow for corrections to be made to the reports, after they are submitted to DAERA (see regulation 10, Annex A); and
- require publication of a body's own reports on its website and also on DAERA's website (see regulation 11, Annex A).

Question 5: What support will be provided to you for meeting your reporting duties, and when?

Ans: To help your organisation meet its reporting duties under the Regulations, DAERA will provide the following practical support:

- Technical, co-designed guidance on how to complete climate change reports.
- Co-development of a reporting template containing a list of climate change questions for your organisation to answer.
- Provision of an online climate change reporting portal, for you to enter your data into, to create your reports and make subsequent reporting as easy as possible.
- Provision of training on how to complete climate change reports to meet your reporting duties.

DAERA is undertaking preparation work to bring forward this support as soon

as possible. Support will be provided at the earliest opportunity and ahead of the reporting submission dates. DAERA may contact you regarding input to the co-design developmental work regarding this support.

DAERA also, intends as part of its co-development of support, where possible and as appropriate, to ensure a streamlined and consistent approach to reporting, where public bodies are required to report on climate change elsewhere. For example, we have already engaged with the Department of the Economy regarding their Energy Carbon Data Repository System. We recognise as streamlined and consistent approach as possible, in order to avoid any duplication of process, is very important for public bodies and for the success of the reporting.

Question 6: Why must the Regulations wait for 21 days before coming into operation, after they are made and laid in the Assembly?

Ans: The Regulations are subject to the ‘negative resolution’ procedure under the Act. This means that they are required to be ‘laid’ in the Assembly for 21 days, before they can become operational.

Question 7: How were the Regulations informed?

Ans: The following have helped to inform the development of the Regulations:

- advice from the UK Climate Change Committee (the statutory independent expert advisers on climate change, to the Northern Ireland government);
- the outcome of DAERA’s public consultation on developing the Regulations; and
- the outcome of the pre-consultation workshops with public bodies which informed the consultation’s development.

The consultation can be found at: [Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies - Developing New Regulations.](#)

The summary of responses received to consultation, including findings from the pre-consultation workshops with public bodies, can be found at: [Summary of Responses and Next Steps: Consultation on Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies - Developing New Regulations](#)

Question 8: What criteria was used to identify which organisations should be specified to have climate change reporting duties placed on them by the Regulations?

Ans: The Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 ('the Act'), in section 42, requires DAERA to make new Regulations which will set 'climate change reporting duties' on 'specified public bodies'. The Act's definition of a public body in section 42, is very wide - it can be: "*a person or body with functions of a public nature*" and "*a person who is a statutory undertaker within the meaning of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011*". The Act does not require all public bodies to report under the Regulations. DAERA therefore is applying a phased and balanced approach, in which these first set of Regulations will focus on large-sized organisations being required to report. DAERA intends to explore at a future point, bringing forward amending Regulations, to expand the scope of these first set of Regulations, including the scope of who is required to report.

The following criteria, which has been informed by the consultation and the pre-consultation workshops with public bodies, was used to identify the bodies which are specified in these first set of Regulations as having reporting duties placed on them:

Public Bodies:

- (i) with 250 or more staff (based on full-time equivalent (FTE) data or total of permanent staff),
- (ii) which are listed authorities in Schedule 3 to the Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 and/or in the list of organisations subject to the

- Department of Finance's public procurement policy,
- (iii) whose remit/functions do not fall under reserved or excepted matters, or they are not North/South government dual funded, and
 - (iv) which are not a Registered Housing Association, a General Practitioner, nor a Northern Ireland Civil Service department and their Executive agency(ies) (due to the more extensive requirements* placed on these departments by other sections of the Act).

**The Act sets a range of duties on Northern Ireland departments including that they must all contribute to delivering the Act's emissions reduction targets and carbon budgets (i.e. caps or limits on the level of emissions which are permitted over a 5-year period). The Act places a range of reporting requirements on departments in that regard, including developing and publishing sectoral plans, climate action plans and progress reports and statements. Section 42 of the Act has a much narrower scope, in that the Regulations required by this section can only be made to require public bodies to report solely on climate change.*

Question 9: Will other public bodies be required to report in the future?

Ans: DAERA intends, at a future point, to review these Regulations (after they are made and are operational). The Review will include exploring the making of amending Regulations to expand the scope of the Regulations including who is required to report.

Question 10: What was the UK Climate Change Committee's advice to DAERA?

Ans: The following is the UK Climate Change Committee's ('the CCC') advice to DAERA on the timing and frequency of climate change reporting by public bodies, with which the Regulations (in Annex A) are aligned:

General Advice from the CCC

Actions and especially policy, for both tackling the causes of climate change (i.e. mitigation) and adapting to its impacts and risks, can have long lead-in times before they are embedded, and the results and benefits are seen. This is particularly true of adaptation.

CCC Advice on Adaptation Reporting

5-yearly reporting is considered an appropriate interval at which to reassess climate risks, as the type and magnitude of climate risks facing an organisation are unlikely to change significantly on a year-to-year basis. Likewise, the observation that adaptation actions take time to identify, fund and implement, similarly supports 5-yearly adaptation reporting, to provide meaningful updates on progress and to identify new adaptation priorities. They have also said that 5-yearly reporting removes the risk of overly burdensome and unnecessary reporting and is consistent with similar reporting in other nations e.g. the adaptation reporting power under the UK Climate Change Act (2008).

Timing: The CCC recommended that the timing of provision of the adaptation reports by public bodies should align with development of the CCC's five-yearly evidence reports, which inform the five-yearly UK Climate Change Risk Assessment ('CCRA') required under the UK Act 2008. This is because the information collected under the regulations could be used to help inform these CCC evidence reports. The CCC also advised that public bodies should provide a risk assessment and an adaptation action plan at the same time. They said this is necessary to provide better insight, and full understanding into whether climate risks will be appropriately managed by a particular specified public body.

- DAERA has set adaptation reporting for every 5 years (which also aligns with the outcome of the consultation – see question 7 above).¹

¹ The first adaptation report will cover a 4-year period, and second and subsequent adaptation reports will be 5-yearly. The frequencies and timings are set to align with, in order to aim to inform, the development of the 5-yearly UK Climate Change Risk Assessments required under the UK Climate Change Act 2008.

CCC Advice on Mitigation Reporting

The CCC have said that reporting every 5 years on mitigation should be a minimum. However, they also advised that every 5 years would likely be too infrequent to drive the rapid progress needed to see any difference in cutting emissions, and it would not be enough to build a robust database (for mitigation). It was also their perspective that reporting every year (annual reporting) on mitigation by public bodies would not be necessary.

- DAERA has set mitigation reporting for every 3 years (which also aligns with the outcome of the consultation see question 7 above).

Question 11: What next?

Ans: Once you have provided to DAERA, your body's nominated person(s) contact details, we will be in touch with that person to initiate engagement and regularly as the support referred to in question 5, is being developed, implemented and delivered.

Climate Change and Science Innovation Group

Climate Change and Green Growth Policy Division

Your reference
Our reference



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Climate Change and Green Growth
Policy Division

Clare House

303 Airport Road West

Sydenham Intake

Belfast BT3 9ED

Telephone: 028 90524561

Email: jane.corderoy@daera-ni.gov.uk

12th April 2024

Dear Public Body,

Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 – New Climate Change Reporting Duties for Your Organisation

I am writing to confirm with you that your public body organisation is specified as a 'Reporting Body' within the Schedule of the attached draft Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024, as having climate change reporting duties placed upon it.

A copy of the draft Regulations, which have recently been agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive, is attached in Annex A for your information. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs ('DAERA') intends to make and lay these Regulations at the earliest opportunity in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Annex B of this letter contains some frequently asked questions and corresponding answers for your information on what the Regulations require and what they mean for you which we hope will address any immediate concerns that you may have.

Context

Making and bringing into operation these Regulations delivers on DAERA's legal requirement to do so under section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 ('the Act'). The Regulations put in place a climate change reporting framework for the specified public bodies, which can enable them to take informed, and timely climate action. The aim of this is to make public bodies more sustainable and give them the

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opportunity to provide a positive example and exploit the opportunities that early and effective climate action can deliver.

Operational date of the Regulations, and when reporting is required.

The Regulations will come into operation in early May 2024, 21 days after they are laid by DAERA in the Northern Ireland Assembly. The duties placed on the scheduled list of public bodies cover climate change reporting requirements on both adaptation and mitigation. However, reporting by public bodies will not be required immediately and they will not be required at exactly the same time. The first mitigation report by the public bodies will be required to be submitted to DAERA by October 2025. The first adaptation report is not due until March 2026. Mitigation reports will then be required on a 3-yearly cycle, and the adaptation reports will be required on a 5-yearly cycle.

The timing and frequency of reporting is to allow, and enable, your organisation to collect the necessary data, and for DAERA to develop and provide practical support to help you and the other organisations specified in the Regulations to report.

Support will be provided by DAERA through the provision of guidance co-designed with public bodies themselves. DAERA is also working on developing a reporting template which will again be informed by and co-designed with the specified public bodies. Training and an online portal for reporting bodies will also be put in place to make the process as straightforward as possible. Further information on timings and frequency of reporting is in Annex B at Question 6, and 'support' to public bodies at Question 9.

Consultation, and pre-consultation engagement

Your organisation had been previously contacted by DAERA regarding our consultation (which ran for an extended 10-week period from March 2023 until June 2023) on the development and making of these Regulations. The consultation can be found at Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies - Developing New Regulations. The summary of responses received to the consultation can be found at Summary of Responses and Next Steps: Consultation on Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies - Developing New Regulations. This summary of responses document also includes the detail on, and the outcome of, DAERA's pre-consultation engagement workshops undertaken with public bodies in the later quarter of 2022 which informed the development and content of the consultation.

Reporting Bodies

The Act does not require all public bodies to have reporting duties placed on them by the Regulations. A balanced approach has been applied to these first set of Regulations to minimise the risk of undue burden, by requiring only those public bodies which are large-sized organisations to report (40 organisations in total, which can be viewed [here](#)). Large-sized public bodies are more likely the highest emitters, and they can help most in contributing to ensuring a climate resilient and sustainable Northern Ireland, while also having the capacity to deliver on reporting requirements and show leadership in climate action. Details of the definition of a 'public body' under the meaning of the Act, and the criteria used to identify who should be required to report under this first set of Regulations, is detailed in the attached Annex B at Question 5.

Please note that DAERA is committed to reviewing these first set of Regulations, at a future point, to explore expanding them through amending regulations, including the

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scope of bodies required to report. In the interim the Department intends to promote voluntary reporting from those public bodies not specified in the Regulations. It is clear from the consultation that there are many public body organisations that are keen to assess and report on their climate change risks, and actions to address these risks and reduce their emissions, including developing adaptation and mitigation plans. However, not all of these organisations come within scope of these first set of Regulations. The voluntary reporting is therefore a way for those bodies, that are not specified in the regulations, to develop their experience and skills for reporting.

What does DAERA require from you now?

After the Regulations are laid, DAERA's preparation work will then commence on the co-design of technical guidance including a reporting template, development of an online portal, and development and provision of training, to help public bodies meet their reporting duties.

In the interim, we would be grateful if you could please provide DAERA (at: climatechangediscussion@daera-ni.gov.uk), with the name and contact details of a nominated person(s) for your organisation for future direct engagement on matters regarding the requirements set by the Regulations.

DAERA looks forward to working with you on these important matters. Reporting will give the bodies an opportunity to show continued leadership on climate action within the public sector, providing positive examples and shared learning of what effective climate action can deliver, which is benefit to us all. If you have any issues or queries about these matters, you can contact the Public Body Reporting team at climatechangediscussion@daera-ni.gov.uk, or please call Arlene McGowan on (028) 9056 9484.

Yours faithfully,



Jane Corderoy

Director

Climate Change and Green Growth Policy Division

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CLIMATE ACTION

Public Body Reporting

Claire Shortt, Debbie Caldwell Climate Team

Climate Change Act 2022



Section 42 of the Act requires regulations to be made in regard to climate change reporting by public bodies. The reports will include:

- Climate change **mitigation** report
- Climate change **adaptation** report

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Regulations come into force in May 2024

Timelines



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Mitigation = every 3 years
Adaptation = every 5 years

Mitigation – 3 yearly

This will include:

- a statement, in respect of each of the three preceding financial years, of the amounts and the sources of the council's **greenhouse gas emissions**;
- a statement of the council's **proposals and policies for reducing** those amounts and otherwise for mitigating the effects of climate change in the exercise of its functions;
- a statement of the **time-scales** for implementing those proposals and policies; and
- an assessment of the **progress** made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change mitigation report.





Adaptation – 5 yearly

- This will include –
 - an assessment of the current and predicted **impact of climate change** in relation to its functions;
 - a statement of council's **proposals and policies for adapting** to climate change in the exercise of its functions;
 - a statement of the **timescales for implementing** those proposals and policies; and
 - an assessment of the **progress made** towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change adaptation report.

Progress so far

Mitigation

- Greenhouse gas emissions baseline report
- Council supply chain analysis
- Climate data platform under development

Adaptation

- Climate Risk Assessment CRA
- Climate Action Plan CAP

Annual disclosure to Carbon Disclosure Project and UK Climate Scorecards



Next steps

- Climate Team will be providing a briefing to DMTs as required to ensure staff are aware of reporting requirements
- An annual climate report will be provided to Committee annually (June each year)



Thank you 😊