



# CLIMATE ACTION

Ambitions Review

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[www.belfastcity.gov.uk/climate-change](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/climate-change)

# The Belfast Agenda

Continuing the conversation



Theme 4

## Our planet

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Creating a sustainable, nature-positive city

Theme 3

## Our place

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Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city

Theme 2

## Our economy

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Creating inclusive and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity

Theme 1

## Our people and communities

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Making life better for all our residents

Theme 5

## Compassionate city

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Making Belfast a welcoming, caring, fair and inclusive city – leaving no one behind

# Theme 4 – Our Planet



Re-naturing the city and  
increasing resilience  
to climate change



Creating a sustainable  
circular economy



Innovating to net zero

# Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change



Street Trees and Ecological Connectivity

UPSURGE



Sustainable drainage

Living with Water Programme

Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme

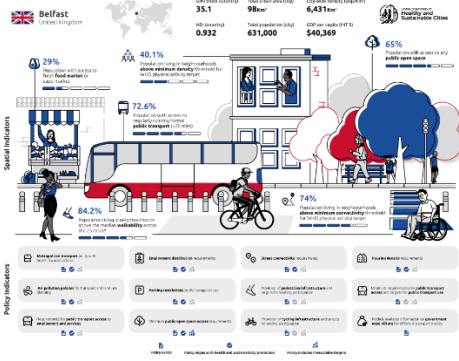
QUB Environmental Solutions Centre

- Groundswell
- SPACE Project
- Sustainable Cities Challenge




Belfast Heat Pack and Vulnerability Index

URBANARK



## One Million Trees

| Aims and Objectives   | Looking Back   | Looking Forward  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To create an inclusive structure and processes which enable tree planting and the growth of green infrastructure and biodiversity in <a href="#">Belfast</a>.</li> <li>To plant at least one million trees within the next 15 years- delivering a step change in our approach to climate adaptation and environmental <a href="#">improvements</a>.</li> <li>To protect the city and the people of the city by increasing carbon capture, reducing harms from air pollution, weather impact and loss of nature and improving health and well-being.</li> </ul> | <p>To date the programme has planted <b>91,313 trees</b> across the city and delivered a programme of engagement with schools, businesses and local communities. In <b>2021 £289,989 was secured from the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund</b>, with at least <b>£78,000 leveraged by partners</b>. The programme has initiated a business engagement and schools programme, a workshop series, established a <a href="#">number of</a> tree nurseries, delivered agroforestry projects, an online engagement platform to identify sites and delivered give a tree a home events with over <b>4,000 citizens engaged</b> so far.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current ETF funding ends in May 2024 - <b>priority identifying new programmes of funding</b> and investment to continue the partnership.</li> <li>A Tree Equity map will allow planting of trees to align with areas most in need. An opportunities assessment of <b>potential sites</b> is under development.</li> <li>Council is currently seeking funding to develop a <b>tree warden programme</b> that will focus on maintenance, monitoring and management of newly planted sites.</li> <li>Developing a <b>pipeline of potential planting</b> programmes and supporting nursery development.</li> <li>Continued engagement and dissemination of <b>research</b> - evidence base to support the delivery of climate adaptation in Belfast through tree planting and stewardship.</li> </ul> |
|    | <p>The programme has supported the adoption of a <b>Tree Strategy for the city</b> and developed an <a href="#">iTree</a> eco report identifying over <b>£16m in annual benefits of trees</b> to the city from flood alleviation, air pollution capture and carbon sequestration. The MT programme is part of a UK wide Million Trees club with the Tree Council.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Partners</b><br/>BCC, The Belfast Hills Partnership, The National Trust, The Woodland Trust, The Conservation Volunteers, Belfast HSCT, Belfast Harbour, <a href="#">DfI</a>, QUB, Lisburn City and Castlereagh Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Council, Education Authority NI, Translink, Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group, The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Department for Communities, Northern Ireland Electricity, Climate NI, Ulster Wildlife, DAERA, Choice Housing.</p>  |  | <p><b>Contact</b><br/>Alan Wardle, Belfast City Council.<br/><a href="mailto:WardleA@belfastcity.gov.uk">WardleA@belfastcity.gov.uk</a></p>  |

## Sustainability and Food

| Aims and Objectives  | Looking Back   | Looking Forward  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish a diverse, robust, and sustainable cross-sector food partnership with a long-term food strategy. Develop a range of local policies and food access initiatives to effectively promote access to sustainable and healthy food for all.</li> <li>To establish a diverse and connected local good food movement with sustainable food enterprises, backed by local catering and procurement practices; and</li> <li>To develop systemic responses to address the negative climate and nature impacts of the local food system.</li> </ul> | <p>In June 2022 a Theory of Change workshop was attended by <b>32 organisations</b>, agencies, government bodies, businesses and charitable and voluntary voices to identify a series of priorities for a new Sustainable Food Partnership.</p> <p><b>30 Stakeholder interviews</b> and desktop research was also used to inform a comprehensive baseline of work currently underway in the city.</p> <p>A <b>research report and 1 year action plan</b> was developed, and funding secured for a part time Sustainable Food Coordinator for 2 years from 2022-2024 from BCC and Sustainable Food Places to help setup and run the Partnership. A governance structure agreed February 2023. In June 2023 - new Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership launched.</p> <p>May 2023, SFP worked in partnership with QUB students to identify solutions for building better local and sustainable food options in Belfast City Centre, with concepts presented back to the Partnership.</p> <p>The Draft Belfast Agenda Refresh 2023-2027 embeds sustainable food work as a priority. <a href="#">Growing</a> sites - currently under construction (Lower Botanic) whilst a second has applied for planning permission (Binkil).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop collaborative working across the Sustainable Food Partners, Network and BCC Coordination Group.</li> <li>Secure a <b>full time coordinator</b> role to help run the SFP and develop a growing strategy.</li> <li>Adopt the Food Poverty Action Plan by Dec 2023 and establish a new city-wide Food Poverty Working Group.</li> <li>Achieve a Bronze Award for the city from Sustainable Food Places by December 2023.</li> <li>develop the evidence base of the influence that Belfast's food system has on climate change and its role in reducing emissions and building greater food <a href="#">resilience</a>.</li> <li>Develop a <b>codigned Sustainable Food Policy</b> and <b>3 year Strategic Plan</b> for the city.</li> <li>secure investment in a sustainable food programme, run a participatory budgeting programme-sustainable food</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Partners</b><br/>The Leader Social Supermarket, Footprint Women's Centre, Nourish NI, Nature Play NI, Queen's University Belfast, Bryson Recycling, Area Partnerships, New Leaf Compost, Public Health Agency, Food Ethics Council, Hgby, Organics, Binkil (Co-Char) Jiffy Belfast, Belfast Health Development Unit, Fish City, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission, Social Farms and Gardens, Ulster University, Two Sisters, Belfast Healthy Cities, L4cbe, BCC.</p>  | <p><b>Contact</b><br/>Mara Oagley (Sustainable Food Coordinator) Adaptation and Resilience Advisor, Belfast City Council.   <a href="mailto:quagley@m.belfastcity.gov.uk">quagley@m.belfastcity.gov.uk</a></p>   |  |

## Sustainable Drainage

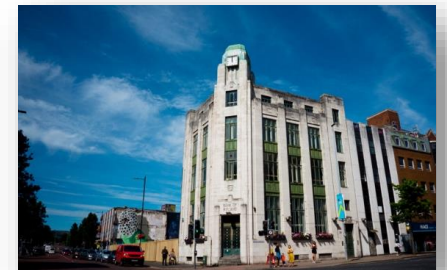
| Aims and Objectives   | Looking Back   | Looking Forward  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>This Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan seeks to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect against flooding by managing the flow of water through a catchment from source to <a href="#">sea</a>,</li> <li>Enhance the environment through effective wastewater management and provision of blue/green spaces to benefit local communities; and</li> <li>Grow the economy by providing the necessary capacity in our drainage and wastewater management systems to facilitate new development projects including house building.</li> </ul> | <p>Living With Water in Belfast, an Integrated Plan for Drainage and Wastewater Management in Greater Belfast, was ratified by the NI Executive and published by the Department for Infrastructure in November 2021.</p> <p>Living With Water in Belfast is a <b>long term</b> plan that promotes partnership working to develop and deliver integrated sustainable solutions for the benefit of society.</p> <p>Initial estimates indicate that implementation of the Plan could cost around <b>£1.4 billion</b> over the next 12 years, with over <b>£1.2 billion</b> of this needed to upgrade our Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) and sewerage networks.</p> <p>Approximately <b>£200m</b> is also needed for investment in blue/green infrastructure which includes more natural drainage solutions to help manage the flow of water through the urban areas.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate the management of such a significant programme, the <b>Living With Water in Belfast</b> study area has been divided into nine smaller catchment areas.</li> <li><b>Integrated Catchment Delivery Plans (CDPs)</b> will be developed and implemented for each of the 9 areas.</li> <li>The CDPs will include river flood alleviation projects, upgrades to sewerage networks and WwTW and integrated blue/green initiatives.</li> <li>Development and delivery of the CDPs will be taken forward by four Catchment Delivery Groups made up of officials from <a href="#">DfI</a>, NI Water, NIEA and other delivery partners.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Partners</b><br/>NI Water, Belfast City Council, NIEA, DEARA, Utility Regulator NI</p>  | <p><b>Contact</b><br/>Living With Water Programme <a href="mailto:lww@niwater.com">lww@niwater.com</a>   <a href="http://niwater.com">niwater.com</a></p>  |  |

# Creating a Sustainable Circular Economy

|                                 |  |  |                             |                              |   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Belfast Local Area Energy Plan  | Leveraging on the Belfast Region City Deal | Belfast Destination Hub - A Low Carbon Exemplar for the City | A Bolder Vision for Belfast | Belfast Harbour – Green Port | Translink - A Zero Emissions city bus fleet by 2030 |
| Electric vehicle infrastructure | Belfast Electric Vehicle Strategy          | Translink - Developing a Hydrogen Eco System                 | Eastside Greenways          | UP2030                       | Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub                       |
| Fuel Poverty                    | NIHE Retrofit Programme                    | Solar PV analysis  | Re-wind                     | LQ BID Sustainable District  | Sustainable Tourism                                 |



Training and skills for an inclusive low-carbon economy



## Translink - Developing a Hydrogen Eco System

| Aims and Objectives  | Looking Back   | Looking Forward   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To procure and place into service, within the Belfast Metro Network, 23 zero emission Hydrogen Fuel Cell double deck buses by the end of 2022.</li> <li>To install the necessary hydrogen refuelling infrastructure to facilitate refuelling of hydrogen fuel cell buses.</li> <li>To upgrade depots to enable safe and efficient maintenance of hydrogen powered buses.</li> <li>To aid, Translink's plans to target a 50% reduction in GHG emissions, per passenger km, by 2030.</li> <li>To support a net zero public transport system by 2040.</li> </ul> | <p>Translink's journey to decarbonise the fleet commenced with a pilot project involving a collaboration formed with Power NI. This project seen the provision of 3 hydrogen fuel cell double deck buses launched in December 2020, which will be powered using hydrogen generated from curtailed wind power at a wind farm in Co. Antrim.</p> <p>The project was supported by funding from the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) as well as DfI. As well as the buses, the first Hydrogen Refuelling Station (HRS) in Ireland was commissioned in 2021, as well as an upgrade to the maintenance facility to ensure safe and efficient maintenance of the buses.</p> <p>Translink have implemented a further Zero Emission Programme involving collaboration with Wrightbus on development, build and delivery of 100 Zero Emission buses, which included 20 Streetdeck Hydroliner fuel cell double deck buses.</p> <p>To support these vehicles the Project also undertook significant work to introduce a further innovative hydrogen refuelling station with Logan Energy and associated upgrades to maintenance facilities in Newtownabbey Depot.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to decarbonise Belfast's transport system through modal shift to Public Transport and Active Travel from the private car.</li> <li>Continue to work with the industry to ensure that high volumes of locally produced green hydrogen can be obtained to enable further roll out of fuel cell buses.</li> <li>Carry out further comprehensive route modelling assessments to inform the future bus technology choice.</li> <li>Continue to assess the total cost of ownership for zero, low or convertible technologies.</li> <li>Perform depot and operational assessments to determine suitability of the different zero emission technologies.</li> <li>Lead the transport transformation in NI creating public transport that attracts people from private cars for a better quality of life for all. This decarbonisation programme poses an opportunity to help position Northern Ireland as a market leader in renewable energies such as the Hydrogen economy.</li> <li>Further zero emission buses to ensure Belfast has a net zero bus network by 2030.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Partners</b></p> <p>Wrightbus, Logan Energy, Power NI</p>  |  | <p><b>Contact</b></p> <p>Ian Campbell - <a href="mailto:ian.campbell@translink.co.uk">ian.campbell@translink.co.uk</a></p>  |



## Linen Quarter as Northern Ireland's first sustainable district

| Aims and Objectives 68   | Looking Back 106  | Looking Forward 151  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop sustainable transportation options and promote active travel.</li> <li>To minimise environmental impact and promote clean energy sources.</li> <li>To promote efficient use of resources and reduce waste.</li> <li>To increase awareness of climate adaptation and mitigation.</li> <li>To enhance overall well-being and quality of life for all.</li> <li>To ensure all employees have access to fair and just compensation.</li> <li>To create a vibrant and safe social space for all.</li> </ul> | <p>Projects delivered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruiting and onboarding of a Healthy and Sustainable Manager</li> <li>Successfully organised a health week in June 2023 attended by 330 participants.</li> <li>Delivered climate awareness training for levy payers.</li> <li>LQ BID designed and installed Flaxx (Brunswick St) and parklets (Linenhall and Bedford St)</li> <li>Launched the roll out of our Cycling UK 75% subsidized accreditation fee for levy payers and accompanying social media campaign.</li> <li>Accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation. This will be followed by an implementation plan in partnership with the Living Wage foundation</li> <li>Regenerated Bankmore Square, including managed habitat.</li> <li>Summer programme filled with inclusive social activities that has been attended by 800 participants.</li> </ul> | <p>Our target for the next phase relies on stakeholder engagement and a conducive public policy that supports and prioritises sustainability.</p> <p><b>Transportation and Mobility:</b> increased Cycling Friendly Employers accreditation from Cycling UK, connected cycling lanes and more pedestrian zones for increased safe social spaces.</p> <p><b>Social Outcome:</b> develop long-term planning solutions that are tailored to the community.</p> <p><b>Challenges and Support Needed:</b> Several challenges include a lack of engagement and resistance to change. The key to overcoming these barriers lies in stakeholder engagement and prioritising sustainability in policy making.</p> <p><b>Moving Forward:</b> Greater collaboration needed to fully deliver our bold vision of a sustainable district - including local and private participation. We will continue to provide improvements while addressing environmental, social, and economic sustainability challenges. Our aim is to collectively contribute to the creation of a district that is environmentally responsible, economically viable, socially inclusive, and resilient to the future. <a href="http://www.linenquarter.org">www.linenquarter.org</a></p> |
| <p><b>Partners</b></p> <p>Power NI, Cycling UK, RiverRidge, Living Wage Foundation, GEMS NI, Belfast City Council (UP2030), Climate NI, British Heart Foundation, DfI, DfC.</p>  | <p><b>Contact</b></p> <p>Regeneration <a href="mailto:Christiaan@linenquarter.org">Christiaan@linenquarter.org</a> Health and sustainability <a href="mailto:Lawrence@linenquarter.org">Lawrence@linenquarter.org</a> High level LQ initiatives <a href="mailto:Chris@linenquarter.org">Chris@linenquarter.org</a></p>  |  |



## Sustainable Tourism

| Aims and Objectives  | Looking Back  | Looking Forward   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To measure Belfast's sustainability performance at a destination level</li> <li>To benchmark the city's performance against leading destinations globally</li> <li>To identify priority areas for improvement and development</li> <li>To put in place interventions to accelerate sustainability practices within the sector</li> <li>To build sustainability capacity, culture and buy-in across the industry</li> <li>To help to position Belfast as a responsible and sustainable destination to visit, meet and live.</li> </ul> | <p>Since 2020 Belfast has moved from 47<sup>th</sup>/48<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in the world (64.01%) across 73 destinations globally. It is the only city in Ireland to make the top 10 and only one of two UK destinations in the top 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VB is now the 3rd highest performing Destination Marketing and Management organisation in the GDS index with 93%</li> <li>Belfast's Industry/supplier performance has been transformed from 41% in 2021 to 73% in 2022</li> <li>Successful Green Tourism certification and acceleration of sustainability practices.</li> <li>80% of Belfast's hotel bedrooms will be sustainably certified in 2023 from a baseline position of 23%.</li> <li>VB won the Global GDS Innovation award in 2022 for its 'Changing the Menu, For Good' project which has raised over £20,000 for food banks and homeless charities in the city in 8 months.</li> <li>Cruise Belfast (VB-BH) developed its first cruise sustainability plan.</li> <li>Visit Belfast ICC Belfast and Eventful won the ABPCO Best Equality Diversity and Inclusion Award for the Harkin Summit in 2022.</li> </ul> | <p>We aim to improve our scores and maintain our Top 10 position.</p> <p>Key priority areas currently being scoped are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of an Isla Trace tool to allow the measurement of carbon of business events coming into the city and plan to design and reduce emissions.</li> <li>A carbon baseline study to measure the footprint of Belfast's tourism industry. The study would establish evidence based targets and roadmap to decarbonise.</li> <li>Reviewing and expanding Changing the Menu. For Good.</li> <li>Measurement and reporting of social impact across the industry.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Partners</b></p> <p>Visit Belfast, Belfast City Council, Global Destination Sustainability Movement, Green Tourism. <a href="https://www.gds.earthdestination/Belfast/2022/">https://www.gds.earthdestination/Belfast/2022/</a></p>  |   | <p><b>Contact</b></p> <p>Rachael McGuickin, Director of Business Development, Sustainability and Transformation, Visit Belfast <a href="mailto:rachaelmcguickin@visitbelfast.com">rachaelmcguickin@visitbelfast.com</a></p>   |



# Innovating to Net Zero

An aerial photograph of a city waterfront. In the foreground, there are several buildings with flat roofs, some featuring solar panels and HVAC units. A river or harbor flows through the middle ground, with a few boats and a large yellow crane visible. In the background, more city buildings and a distant shoreline are visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Delivery of  
Local Area  
Energy Plan

Net Zero Tech  
Park

Green Energy  
Project

Green  
Shipping  
Corridor Study



# Links to the sustainable development goals and indicators



# Board Membership



THANK YOU

