



<b>Subject:</b>	Consultation response to Northern Ireland’s Emissions Reduction Targets and Carbon Budgets the UKCCC’s Advice Report
<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
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<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the consultation response to DAERA on emissions targets, carbon budgets and the Climate Change Committee’s (CCC) Advice Report.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Note the contents of the consultation</li> <li>ii) Agree submission of the response to DAERA</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<b>Emissions Targets, Carbon Budgets and the CCC Advice Report</b>

	<p>A climate emergency was declared by the Northern Ireland Assembly in February 2020. In June 2022, the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 received Royal Assent. This Act sets out Northern Ireland’s framework for tackling climate change and reducing emissions, by setting (among other things) challenging targets to deliver net zero emissions (‘net zero’) in Northern Ireland by the year 2050. The Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is leading on the development of Northern Ireland’s first 5-year climate action plan (CAP) as required under the Act. The CAP will contain the Northern Ireland departments’ policies and proposals to meet the first 5-year carbon budget for the years 2023-27 (which is a limit on the amount of emissions Northern Ireland can emit) and it will set our longer-term pathway towards net zero by 2050.</p> <p>The main aim of this consultation is to consult on the proposed 2030 and 2040 emissions targets for Northern Ireland and proposed carbon budgets for the periods 2023-2027, 2028-2032 and 2033-2037. DAERA are also using this opportunity to seek the public’s views on the Climate Change Committee’s (CCC) Advice Report</p> <p><b>The Belfast City Council response is in broad agreement with both the targets and budgets.</b> In the absence of any other science-based targets, Council agrees with these NI level targets and budgets.</p> <p>The response has also agreed with the current advice provided by the CCC which is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to keep the current 2030 emissions reduction target in the Act of at least a 48% reduction in emissions compared to the baseline and a 2040 emissions target of at least 77%; and</li> <li>• that the first carbon budget should be set at a level that has a 33% average annual reduction, the second with a 48% annual reduction and the third with a 62% annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline.</li> </ul> <p>The Council has also highlighted some of the work that is ongoing in the city to reduce carbon emissions alongside the need for further analysis by sector at a sub-regional level as well as consideration for support for the high numbers of SME’s in the city.</p> <p>Under the waste sector contribution to net zero, Council notes that NI has an underdeveloped Energy from Waste (EfW) infrastructure and this action needs to be carefully co-ordinated in line with the development of local EfW capacity.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b>
4.1	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</b>
5.1	None.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
6.1	<a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/carbonbudget">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/carbonbudget</a> Belfast City Council Response – Word Doc attached