

Easy Read version

Draft  
**Environment Strategy**  
for Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland  
Executive

[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)

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



- **Email:** [esni@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:esni@daera-ni.gov.uk)



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

# About us

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

## What do we do?

Here are some of the things we do.



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

# The Environment

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



# Programme for Government

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



# What does the strategy cover?

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

## Green Growth

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

# Sustainability

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



- The Environment Strategy is linked to these goals.

## Working Together

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

## What Will We Do To Help?

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

# Natural Environment

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

# Agriculture & Our Environment

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

# Outcomes: what we want to achieve

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

1



**Excellent air, water, land and neighbourhood quality**

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

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

**2**



## **A healthy environment and landscapes we can enjoy**

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

# Outcomes: what we want to achieve



## Thriving nature and wildlife

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



## Production and consumption that doesn't damage our environment

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

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

**5****Zero waste and a circular economy**

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

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

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

# Have Your Say

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

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

For Help Contact Lisa: 028 9056 9497



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



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