

MINUTES

All-Party Group on Climate Action – Annual General Meeting

2 October 2026 | 11:00 am – 11:30 am

Virtual

Chair: John Blair MLA

Minutes: Nichola Hughes

Members in attendance: John Blair MLA (Chair), Dr Steve Aiken MLA, Connie Egan MLA.

In attendance: Cllr Lauren Kendall, Nichola Hughes (Sustainable NI), Beth Aiken, Jess Kee.

Apologies: Kellie Armstrong MLA, Harry Harvey MLA, Philip McGuigan MLA

1	Meeting admin
1.1	Welcome
	John Blair (JB), Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
1.2	Chair's Business
	JB placed on record his thanks to Sustainable NI for organising the meetings of the APG.
1.3	Apologies
	Apologies were recorded from Kellie Armstrong MLA, Harry Harvey MLA and Philip McGuigan MLA.
1.4	Minutes of Previous Meeting
	Minutes of the previous AGM on 30 September 2025 were adopted: Proposed by Dr Steve Aiken MLA; Seconded by Connie Egan MLA.
2	Election of Office Bearers
	JB stood down as Chair and handed over to Nichola Hughes (NH), Sustainable NI, who oversaw the nomination process until a Chair was appointed. NH declared the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary vacant. Nominations for Chair: John Blair MLA

	Proposed by: Connie Egan; Seconded by Steve Aiken. John Blair accepted the nomination. No other nominations. Motion carried. John Blair confirmed as Chair of the APG on Climate Action. JB resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting. Nominations for Vice-Chair: • Dr Steve Aiken MLA Proposed by: John Blair; Seconded by Connie Egan. Steve Aiken accepted the nomination. No other nominations. Motion carried. Steve Aiken confirmed as Vice-Chair of the APG on Climate Action. Nominations for Secretary: No nominations were made at the meeting. To ensure cross-party representation among the office bearers, JB will engage with Daniel McCrossan MLA following the meeting regarding the position of Secretary. Action: JB to engage with Daniel McCrossan MLA regarding the position of Secretary. <i>Note: Daniel McCrossan MLA accepted the nomination of Secretary, confirmed by email on 14 October 2026.</i>
3	Topics / Priorities for the Year Ahead
	JB noted that a call for topics for site visits and/or speakers for meetings had recently been issued to stakeholders. Requests received to date, in no particular order, were: • NI Housing Executive – Geothermal Heat Networks: decarbonising the supply of heat in urban homes (links to the consultation that closed on 1 October). • Ulster Wildlife – Peatland Collaborative Network: site visit to a restored peatland, to coincide with the opening of An Creagan Centre (peatland education / exhibition space), Co. Tyrone, in Spring 2027. • Local Government Civil Contingencies – BRIC Project: strengthening community resilience and the launch of the ‘5 Steps to Be Ready’ campaign. • Ulster University ○ PhD research on solar PV site location: use of remotely sensed data to produce accurate models identifying optimal areas (rooftops and fields) for the positioning of solar panels. ○ PhD research on designing a policy framework for closing the circularity gap in tourism Members were invited to put forward further suggestions. The following were raised: • Steve Aiken: site visit with SONI to discuss renewable energy on the grid. • Nichola Hughes: unlocking the potential of the National Wealth Fund to drive decarbonisation and sustainable outcomes in Northern Ireland. JB proposed:

	• holding the Peatland Collaborative Network request as a site visit in Spring 2027; • combining the NIHE and Ulster University (Solar PV) requests at a single meeting, given they both relate to energy and the built environment; • hosting the BRIC Project close to the launch of its campaign on resilience and civil contingencies in the context of a changing climate; • Identifying a project or speaker to discuss the energy and cost of living crisis and practical solutions this winter; • Linking the PhD research on closing the circularity gap in tourism with a local practical example of good practice in the tourism sector. Members agreed all proposals.
4	AOB
	JB invited members to raise any other items of business. No further items of business. Members confirmed that Friday at this time suits. JB noted the date of next meeting is Friday 20 November 2026, 11:00 am.
5	Close
	JB thanked everyone for attending. Meeting closed at 11:20 am.