

MINUTES

All Party Group on Climate Action

20 June 2025 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

[Recording](#)

Chair: Danny Donnelly MLA

Minutes: Nichola Hughes

Members in attendance: Danny Donnelly MLA (Chair), Cllr Martin Reilly, Cllr Lauren Kendall.

In attendance: Scott Charrington, Aiden Stephens, Christine Watts, Maeve Brennan, Neal Sharkey, Rebecca Cluclow, Alison Diver, Nigel McCormick, Zara Hamilton, Jessica Kee, Jonathan Hayes, Johnny Stewart, Claire Duddy, Gavin McGinty, Andrew Wilson

Apologies: Paula Bradshaw MLA, Philip McGuigan MLA, Nuala McAllister MLA, Kellie Armstrong MLA, Cllr Martin McKeever, Cllr Paul Greenfield, Cllr Bronagh Magee

Total attendees: **18**

1	Meeting admin
1.1	Welcome
	Danny Donnelly (DD), Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
1.2	Apologies
	Apologies were recorded.
1.3	Minutes of Previous Meeting
	Minutes of the previous meeting on 4 April 2025 were adopted as a true record of the meeting (via follow-up email correspondence). Proposed by Mark H Durkan MLA, seconded by Peter McReynolds MLA.
1.4	Chair's Business
	<p>The Chair noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaia Vince, environmental author and journalist, met with a cross-party group of MLAs from this APG and the APG on International Development on 22nd May. He thanked CADA for organising the meeting. NI Environmental Statistics were published on 29th May. The public's level of concern for the environment remains very high, with pollution being the top environmental concern among NI householders. Northern Ireland Climate Action Plan is currently out for consultation (closes 8 October)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient Action Programme is currently out for consultation (closes 24 July) • Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme is currently out for consultation (closes 4 August)
2	Funeral Alternatives and Burial Reform in Northern Ireland
	<p>DD introduced Scott Charrington who provided a presentation on his request for a review of sustainable funeral and burial alternatives in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Scott recently wrote to MLAs calling for a legislative review of burial practices to reduce the associated climate and environmental impacts associated with funerals and burials. A briefing note was circulated with the meeting papers.</p> <p>Discussion – see recording.</p> <p>DD thanked Scott for his excellent presentation and thanked the group for their questions.</p> <p>Action: DD to write to councils to explore options to facilitate natural burials in Northern Ireland and notify the group of any legislative or regulatory barriers.</p>
3	AOB
	<p>DD noted the meeting of the APG on Climate Action will be a site visit for members to see nature-based climate solutions in Lower Botanic, Belfast, kindly organised by Belfast City Council, on Friday, 27th June at 11am.</p> <p>No further items of business.</p>
4	Close
	DD thanked the speakers and everyone for attending the meeting. Meeting closed at 12.50pm.