

MINUTES

All-Party Group on Climate Action

24 April 2026 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

[Recording](#)

Chair: John Blair MLA

Minutes: Nichola Hughes

In attendance: John Blair MLA, Cllr Kurtis Dickson, Councillor Bronagh McGee, Cllr Ciaran McQuillan, Cllr Elizabeth McGowan, Simon Miskelly, David Templeton, Maria Roantree, Colin Duff, Patrick Keatley, Brian Rankin, Gary Wright, Adrian Blythe, Paul Doherty, Emma Stubbs, Lana Moore, Ian Gordon, Claire Evans, Simon Todd, Brenda Roddy, Martin Campbell, Joanna Patton, Joanne McCollam, Tony Giffin, Olivia Dath, Juls Hanvey, Jacqueline O’Hagan, Marie-Louise Gaile, Jamie Rea, Johnny Stewart, Finbar Lunney, Kellie Sprott, Gavin McGinty, Malachy Campbell, Shakheera Ross, Odhran Crolly, Catherine Wales, Declan Allison, Robert Walsh, Darran Moody, Grace McGurk, Cathal Lee, Karl McGowan, Jonathan Hayes, , David Cowdrey, Tara Grace Connolly, Sara Lynch, Anne Artt, Catherine Hunter, John Coates, Emma-Louise Kells, Peter McKinstry, Kirsty Pinkerton, John Burke, Joseph Jordan, Mark Compston, Donna Knowles, Ronan Casey, Eileen Curry, Jennifer Stephens, Michelle Farmer, Ciaran Coleman, Scott Howes, Nicholas Hanrahan

Apologies: Paula Bradshaw MLA, Nuala McAllister MLA, Cllr Roisin Lynch

Total attendees: **65**

1	Meeting admin
1.1	Welcome
	John Blair (JB), Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
1.2	Chair’s Business
	<p>JB noted the following developments since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Environmental Protection Agency blocked by DUP - February 2026 • Publication of Northern Ireland's Third Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3) — March 2026 • Publication of a Peatland Strategy Delivery Plan for Northern Ireland – April 2026 • Lough Neagh water quality crisis — ongoing • Conflict between the U.S and Iran pushing oil prices to record levels - ongoing

1.3	Apologies
	The Chair noted apologies.
1.4	Minutes of Previous Meeting
	Minutes of the previous meeting on 12 November 2025 were adopted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr Roisin Lynch, seconded by Cllr Jay Burbank.
2	Harnessing Geothermal Energy: The Case for Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage
	<p>Dr Simon Todd (ST), Managing Director of Causeway Energies delivered a presentation about the role geothermal energy can play in decarbonising heating, outlining the opportunity, challenges and solutions.</p> <p>JB thanked ST for his presentation. Q&A followed. See recording.</p>
3	Turning Excess Green Energy into Affordable Warmth
	<p>Dr Patrick Keatley (PK), Chief Executive at EnergyCloud presented a mechanism for harnessing excess renewable energy for affordable warmth.</p> <p>JB thanked PK for his presentation. Q&A followed. See recording.</p> <p>A report, Unlocking Flexibility: How to Engage Households in Demand Side Response was shared by The MCS Foundation.</p> <p>Action: APG to circulate EnergyCloud’s letter to MLA’s with APG members.</p>
4	AOB
	<p>JB noted meetings would be biannual due to secretariat staffing constraints, with the next meeting scheduled for Friday 25 September at 11 am – 12pm.</p> <p>JB offered to host an information / drop-in session on today’s theme (decarbonisation of the energy sector) for elected members at Parliament Buildings, to raise further awareness.</p> <p>No further items of business.</p>
5	Close
	JB thanked the speakers and observers for attending and Sustainable NI for facilitating. Meeting closed at 12.05pm.