time for Change

Creating a more sustainable future for Northern Ireland
Our status
Sustainable NI is a non-profit organisation which works with government and others to advance sustainable development in Northern Ireland.
SNI is evolving. Established in 1998, we are now a registered charity (Charity No NIC103426) as well as a company limited by guarantee in Northern Ireland (Company No NI038784). We are governed by a Board of Trustees comprising academics and representatives from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors.
We have put environmental and social goals at the heart of what we do and are diversifying our funding base. Delivering for governments and public bodies is the cornerstone of our approach.

Our partners
SNI works with and supports government, local authorities, businesses, and others; acting as a catalyst for positive action to build a sustainable and resilient society. For a full list of our partners, please see www.sustainableni.org/our-partners

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Our vision
A world where prosperity is achieved in ways that are good for people and the planet.

Our mission
Building a sustainable and resilient society by inspiring, influencing and informing.

Inspire
We inspire individuals and organisations by sharing stories of success

Influence
We influence policy and practice by providing technical and strategic support

Inform
We share knowledge about how to address common sustainability challenges

Our values
SNI aspires to excellence in everything it does. We pride ourselves on being:

Knowledgeable
we focus on understanding the global and national issues around sustainability and sharing that knowledge with key stakeholders

Collaborative
we work closely with partners to co-design and deliver solutions to common sustainability challenges

Transformative
we put sustainability at the heart of society in Northern Ireland, transforming how people think, live and work

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We live on one planet with finite natural resources and a finite capacity to cope with pollution and waste. However, we currently use more natural resources than the Earth can sustain.

If everyone in the world lived like we do in Northern Ireland we would need three planets to support us.

Meeting growing demands for food, water, energy and avoiding dangerous levels of climate change will require step change in the way we use resources and moving away from the current ‘take, make, use and discard’ model upon which our economy is based.

Whilst economic growth is important, we cannot grow the economy at the expense of the environment, or people’s health and wellbeing. Growth is a means not an end in itself.
An urgent step change is needed

The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015 by the UK and the other 192 Member States of the United Nations, represent a unique opportunity for both people and planet, but only if all sections of society get behind them. Collective action is key.

The transition to a low-carbon, resource efficient economy will create a range of opportunities for Northern Ireland - it will help boost economic growth through innovation, job creation and increased productivity whilst also tackling issues like climate change, energy security and fuel poverty. Research shows that a shift to a more circular economy in Northern Ireland could create more than 13,000 new jobs while investment in sustainable energy alone could be worth up to £1 billion and create an extra 33,124 high value jobs. This will help deliver a better quality of life for citizens and overall enhance social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

Acting to deliver change

Sustainable NI is a leading source of information and advice on sustainable development policy and practice in Northern Ireland

We have earned a valuable reputation for:
- providing authoritative guidance on strategy and policy development
- delivering effective campaigns and support tools for local government
- bringing sustainability actors together through our networks and events

SNI’s overall focus is on advancing sustainable development objectives in collaboration with others. We work in partnership with governments, businesses and the community sector to deliver transformative change. We do this by providing information, tools and practical advice to help organisations adopt more sustainable policies and practices.

Over the next 5 years, we will continue to employ our skills and experience to help others deliver the change needed locally.

Our strategic aims

1. Comprehensive policy development - contribute to the development, promotion and delivery of policies relevant to sustainable development
2. Secretariat support for sustainable development forums and networks - facilitate stakeholder forums which support collaborative action on sustainable development
3. Increase knowledge and awareness of sustainable development - gather and share information on sustainable development policy and practice to enable partner organisations to deliver positive change
4. Increase action on sustainable development - encourage and support individual and sectoral action on sustainable development
5. Effective governance - ensure the efficient, effective and accountable operation of Sustainable NI for the delivery of the strategic plan

These objectives will be delivered across priority areas where we think we can make the biggest impact.
Our priorities for action

PRIORITY 1: Climate Action
Supporting the shift to a low-carbon climate resilient economy

We will advise organisations to future proof planning and investment decisions.

PRIORITY 2: Resource Management
Reducing waste through responsible consumption and production

We will encourage organisations to use resources more sustainably and support initiatives that contribute to the circular economy and the achievement of waste and recycling targets through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

PRIORITY 3: Public Procurement
Promoting public procurement processes that are socially and environmentally responsible

We will deliver change in this area by encouraging public authorities to embed responsible procurement as a central principle in their procurement policies and strategies through training, toolkits and sharing of good practice.

We will advise organisations to future proof planning and investment decisions.

PRIORITY 4: Sustainable Food
Making healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of Northern Ireland

We will deliver change in this area by encouraging the wider benefits of sustainable food systems and, where possible, supporting the establishment of sustainable food partnerships and programmes in towns and cities across Northern Ireland.

We will advise organisations to future proof planning and investment decisions.
Our approach to delivery

We believe implementing the three I’s can deliver the step change needed for the future. As illustrated, this approach can deliver improved sustainability performance, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

How to get involved

There are various ways you can join us in creating change, for example:

- Join our network by becoming a partner organisation
- Work with us to deliver change
- Make a donation to further our charitable aims

Please contact us at info@sustainableni.org and let’s start delivering positive change together.

What we offer

We provide a wide range of services, practical guidance and creative solutions that help organisations review, improve, measure and report sustainability performance.

Advice & support
Bespoke technical and strategic advice and support for your organisation

Benchmarking
Independent assessment of sustainability performance and compliance

Networking
Events and networking opportunities to showcase your work on sustainability

Training
Access to training opportunities across a range of topics facilitated by experts

Tools & resources
Access to sustainability tools, case studies and templates

Policy & advocacy
Access to the latest news, events and policy analysis and a voice to lobby government on key policy issues