

# DAERA Update on Key Climate Change Work Streams

**APG on Climate Action  
6 October 2023**

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# Climate Change Act NI 2022

Act



Passed Final  
Stage in the  
Assembly

Received Royal  
Assent on 6th June

Net Zero  
**2050**

Sets a target of net zero  
greenhouse gas emissions  
by 2050.

Public  
Body  
Reporting

Carbon  
Budget

**5**  
years

Climate  
Action Plan

Northern  
Ireland  
Climate  
Commissioner

Sectoral Plans

Just  
Transition  
Commission

Just  
Transition  
Fund for  
Agriculture

## Consultation on:

Northern Ireland's 2030 & 2040 Emissions  
Reduction Targets & First Three Carbon Budgets  
&  
Seeking views on Climate Change Committee  
(CCC) Advice Report: The path to a Net Zero  
Northern Ireland

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# Purpose of the Consultation

1

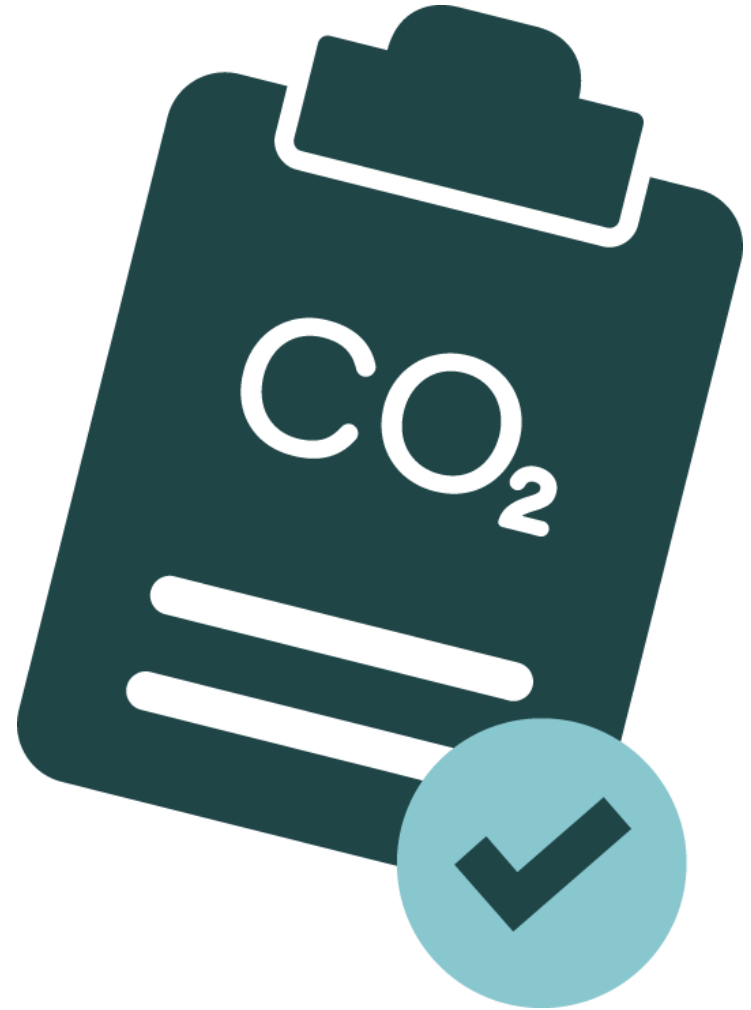
**2030 & 2040  
Targets &  
First Three  
Carbon  
Budgets**

2

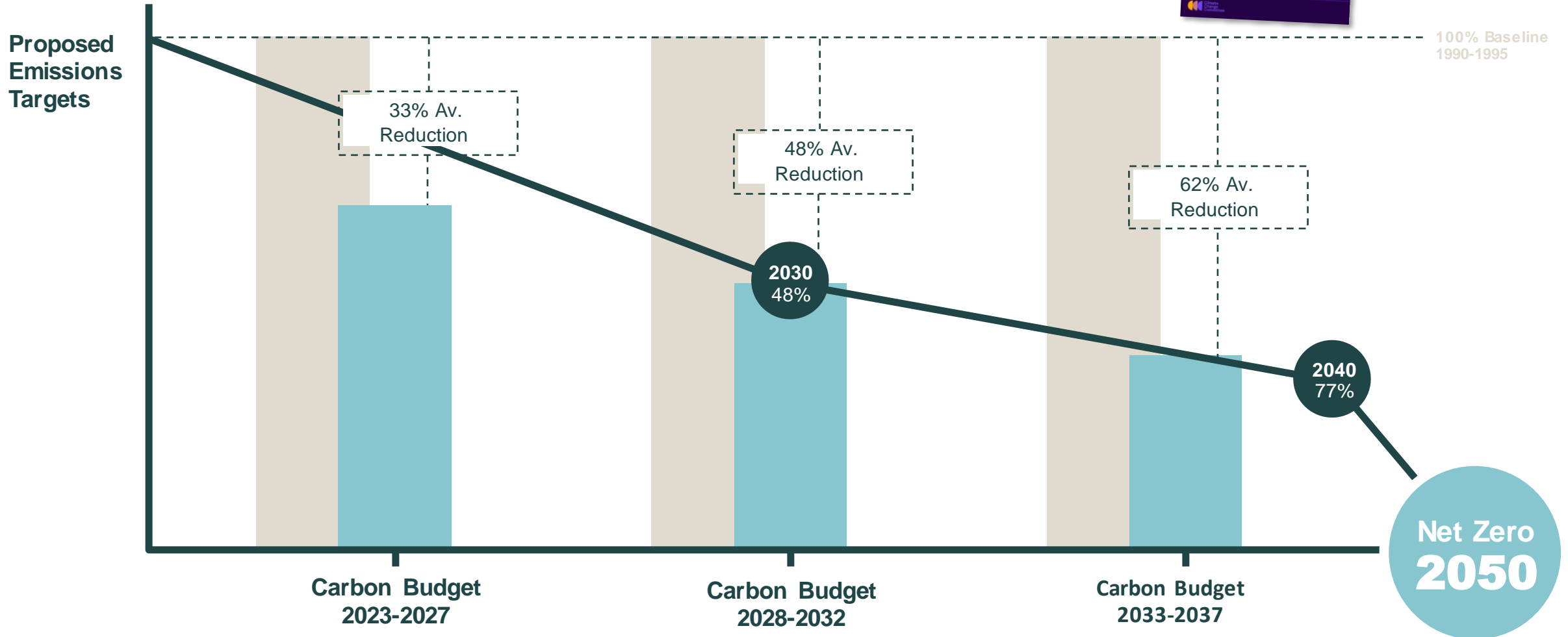
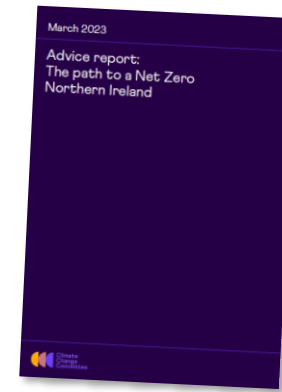
**Seeking  
views on  
CCC Advice  
Report**

# What is a Carbon Budget?

A carbon budget provides a limit on the maximum total greenhouse gas emissions which should not be exceeded for a defined budgetary period, in order to help meet overall and longer-term emission reduction commitments.



# The Journey - Budgets & Targets



# First Carbon Budget (2023-2027)

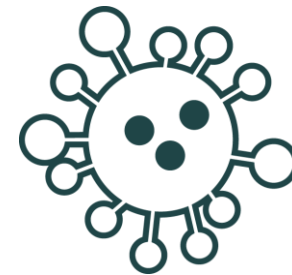
The maximum total  
greenhouse gas emissions  
for this five-year period is  
93.8MtCO<sub>2</sub>e

1MtCO<sub>2</sub>e  
=  
1 million  
tonnes of  
CO<sub>2</sub>e

1 million tonnes  
of CO<sub>2</sub>e =

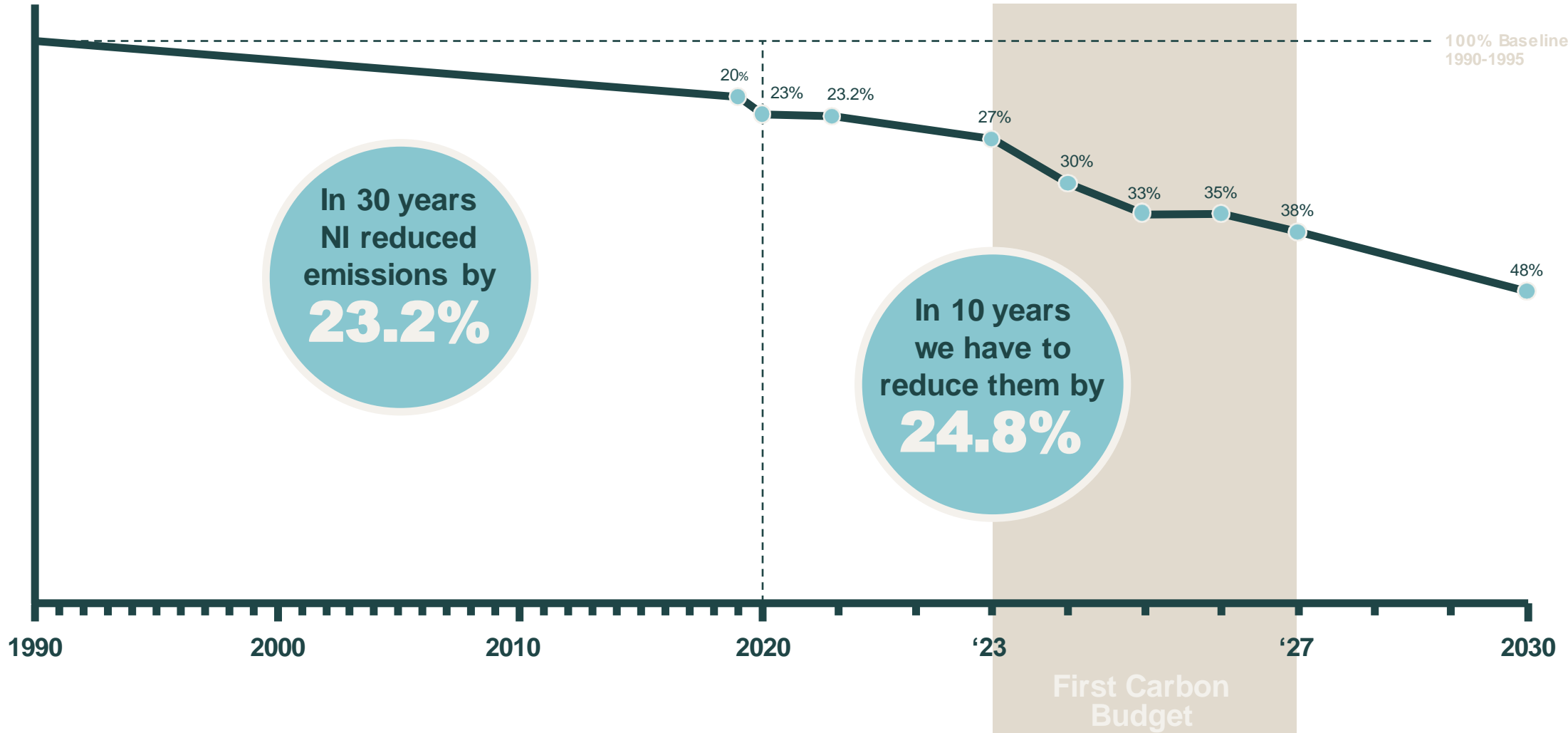


≈ **80%**  
Renewables



**2020**

# First Carbon Budget (2023-2027)





# CCC Pathways to Net Zero by 2050

## Updated Balanced Pathway

83%

Decarbonising electricity generation.

New car and van sales to be zero-emissions in early 2030s.

All new heating appliances to be zero-carbon by 2033.

A reduction in livestock numbers of almost a third.

Significant increase in peatland restoration and afforestation.

## Stretch Ambition

93%

Increasing annual afforestation rates to reach 3,100h by 2035 & 4,100h from 2039 until 2050.

Including engineered removals, sequestering carbon from solid biomass and scaling up anaerobic digestion.

## Speculative Pathway

100%

Direct air capture with carbon capture and storage;

Halving livestock numbers by 2050. Significant technology improvements in agri. sector.

Major dietary changes across the UK

Enhanced weathering on croplands;

Addition of biochar to agricultural land;

Purchasing removals from elsewhere.

# CCC Near Term Actions (by 2030)

## Agriculture

Emissions to fall  
**21%**

Reduction in livestock by 2030, 22% dairy cattle, 17% beef cattle 18% sheep, pigs and poultry.

## LULUCF

Emissions to fall  
**22%**

Afforestation to increase from 540h/yr to 2,000 h/yr by 2030.

All peatland extraction sites restored by 2035.

## Transport

Emissions to fall  
**43%**

Scale-up of plug-in vehicles' new car sales from 10% to 100% within the next decade.

Increased journeys made by walking, cycling and public transport.

## Buildings

Emissions to fall  
**33%**

Improving efficiency of existing residential and public buildings.

The public sector should lead by example.

## Energy

Emissions to fall  
**51%**

Deployment of new renewable electricity generation required at scale with appropriate energy storage and decarbonised back-up solutions.

## Business & Ind

Emissions to fall  
**46%**

Industry to reduce fossil fuel use by 45% by 2030.

Necessary to develop carbon capture policy to identify the best approaches.

## Waste Management

Emissions to fall  
**43%**

Reducing landfill emissions by proposing options to reduce or eliminate biodegradable waste from entering landfill sites.

## Fisheries

Emissions to fall  
**33%**

CCC has provided advice for the UK shipping sector. This includes developing a clear timeline and roll-out plan to achieve zero-carbon shipping clusters by 2030.

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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# Climate Action Plan

- DAERA is the lead department, working on behalf of the NI Executive to produce Northern Ireland's first Climate Action Plan. Climate Action Plans will be produced every 5 years and will align with carbon budget periods.
- Significant work has taken place within DAERA, with members of the Green Growth Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) and with other Departmental representatives to scope and set the direction for the Climate Action Plan, in the context of our climate change legislation.
- The purpose of the first Climate Action Plan will be to help ensure that the first NI Carbon Budget for the **2023-2027** budgetary period is achieved. It is a detailed and strategic framework for measuring, planning, and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- The Climate Action Plan must also set out how interim targets (for 2030 and 2040) and the overall target for net zero will be achieved by 2050.

# Climate Action Plan

- As well as outlining a series of targets and budgets for carbon reduction with associated reporting requirements, the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 contains provisions relating to other environmental metrics e.g.
  - *The Climate Action Plan associated with the carbon budget should include measures which will contribute to achieving public health and biodiversity goals.*
  - *Proposals and policies shall as far as is practicable, support nature-based projects that enhance biodiversity, protect and restore ecosystems, and seek to reduce, or increase the removal of, greenhouse gas emissions or support climate resilience.*
- In providing input, all NI departments are required to have regard to or take into account:
  - *the desirability of coordinating with UK, ROI etc.*
  - *the just transition principle.*
  - *the special economic and social role of agriculture.*
  - *the desirability of using nature-based projects.*
  - *the risk of carbon leakage and the desirability of eliminating or minimising that risk.*

# CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

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# Climate Change Committee:

- Established under section 32 of the Climate Change Act 2008 as Statutory Advisors to the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on matters relating to climate change.
- The CCC comprises of two Committees and a core team of support staff headed up by Chris Stark.
- Appointments to the Climate Change Committee (CCC) and Adaptation Committee (AC) are Public Appointments which require the agreement of all 'National Authorities' to proceed. DAERA under the Climate Change Act 2008 fulfill the 'National Authority' role (s95 / s96).

# CLIMATE ADAPTATION

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# Climate Adaptation:

- The latest CCC independent assessment was published in June 2021 which was used to inform the development of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) which was laid in Parliament in January 2022.
- In response to the latest CCRA, under section 60 of the Climate Change Act 2008, Departments are required to set out their policies and proposals in response to the risks. This is done through an adaptation programme known as the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP).
- The current second NICCAP (NICCAP2) covers the period Sept 19 – Sept 2024 with the third NICCAP (NICCAP3) due in September 2024.

# PUBLIC BODY REPORTING

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# Public Body Reporting:

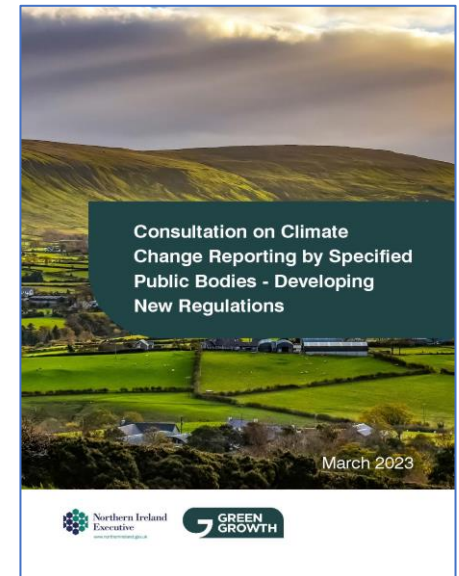
- Section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 requires DAERA to make regulations which will place climate change reporting duties on specified public bodies.
- The duties, that may be imposed on specified public bodies, include preparing reports containing:
  1. an **assessment** of the **current and predicted impact of climate change** in relation to the body's functions;
  2. a **statement** of the body's **proposals and policies** for **adapting** to, or **mitigating** the effects of, climate change in the exercise of its functions;
  3. a **statement** of the **time-scales** for **implementing** those proposals **and** policies along with **progress made** in comparison to any previous reports prepared under the regulations.

# Public Body Reporting:

- DAERA undertook pre-consultation workshops with public bodies in the last quarter of 2022.
- DAERA launched a public consultation on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (closure was extended to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023).
- 127 consultation responses were received.

## ***Next steps.....***

- Analysis of consultation responses is underway.
- Publication of synopsis of responses after completion of analysis.
- The regulations are required to be operational before 6th December 2023.



# JUST TRANSITION COMMISSION

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# Just Transition: What is required?

- Each NI department must have regard to the just transition principle and objectives when deciding its policies and proposals
- Each CAP must explain how the proposals and policies in the CAP take account of the just transition principle
- DAERA required to establish a Just Transition Commission
- The Commission will provide advice to NI departments on how to ensure that all proposals, policies, strategies and plans required under the Climate Change Act comply with the just transition principle

## The Just Transition Principle:

- Seeks to ensure that the substantial benefits of a green economy are shared widely across all sectors
- While also supporting those who may stand to lose out the most

# The Just Transition Commission:

Independent body – oversight and advisory role:

- Oversee the implementation of just transition elements of the Act
- Provide advice to departments
- Broad representation

Progress and next steps:

- Developing business case - identifying potential structure, deliverables, reporting and funding requirements etc
- Assessing the potential content of regulations
- Developing proposals and draft regulations for consultation during 2024
- Likely to be an Advisory or Executive NDPB
- Likely that Chairperson and members recruited via the Public Appointments process

# NORTHERN IRELAND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2023-2027



Northern Ireland  
Executive

