



Supporting the transition to an inclusive, net zero-emissions, climate- resilient economy

Some insights from Belfast

Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner, Belfast City Council

NI targets and key trends

15%

of generating capacity has to be turned off.



50%

of our electricity coming from renewable sources.



Northern Ireland needs to double its renewable generation by

2030



And reduce emissions by 48% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050

What is the role of councils in delivering NI climate targets?

1. Unlocking the economic, social and environmental benefits
2. Create a value proposition for Belfast as a green city
3. Promoting place based interventions that enable a systems approach
4. Promoting behavioural change
5. Using place to foster collaboration and innovation
6. Using the Council estate and procurement to drive change

Our approach

1. Start measuring and disclosing progress
2. Develop the evidence base
3. Start building a pipeline of projects
4. Start engaging with financial institutions and the investment community
5. Strengthen coordination, collaboration, outreach

**Build a
team**



Measuring, monitoring and reporting



Belfast, one of 122 cities across the globe named as leaders in environmental action and transparency in 2022 by CDP



GLOBAL
**DESTINATION
SUSTAINABILITY**
INDEX

Belfast ranked in Top 10





Green Infrastructure Investment Opportunities

MALAYSIA
2020 REPORT



Climate Bonds

CM²
capital markets
MALAYSIA

Supported by Capital Markets Malaysia

Ireland's Green Opportunity Driving Investment in a Low-Carbon Economy



Peter Brennan

INNOVATING TO NET ZERO

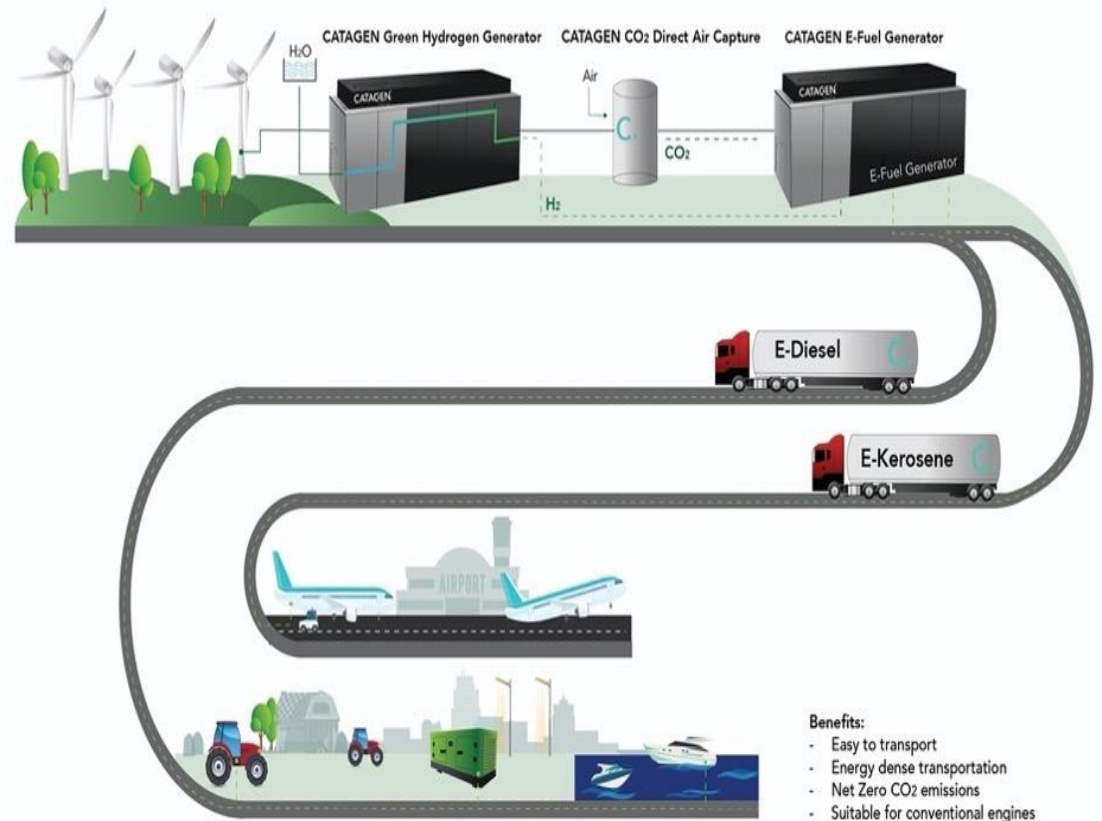


Key issue No access to subsidies as with buses and trains



CATAGEN E-Fuel Energy Vector

CATAGEN
beyond now



- Benefits:**
- Easy to transport
 - Energy dense transportation
 - Net Zero CO₂ emissions
 - Suitable for conventional engines

Financing Net Zero

Local costs less, delivers more energy savings and more co-benefits

Place-agnostic

£7bn
investment released

£1.8bn in energy savings

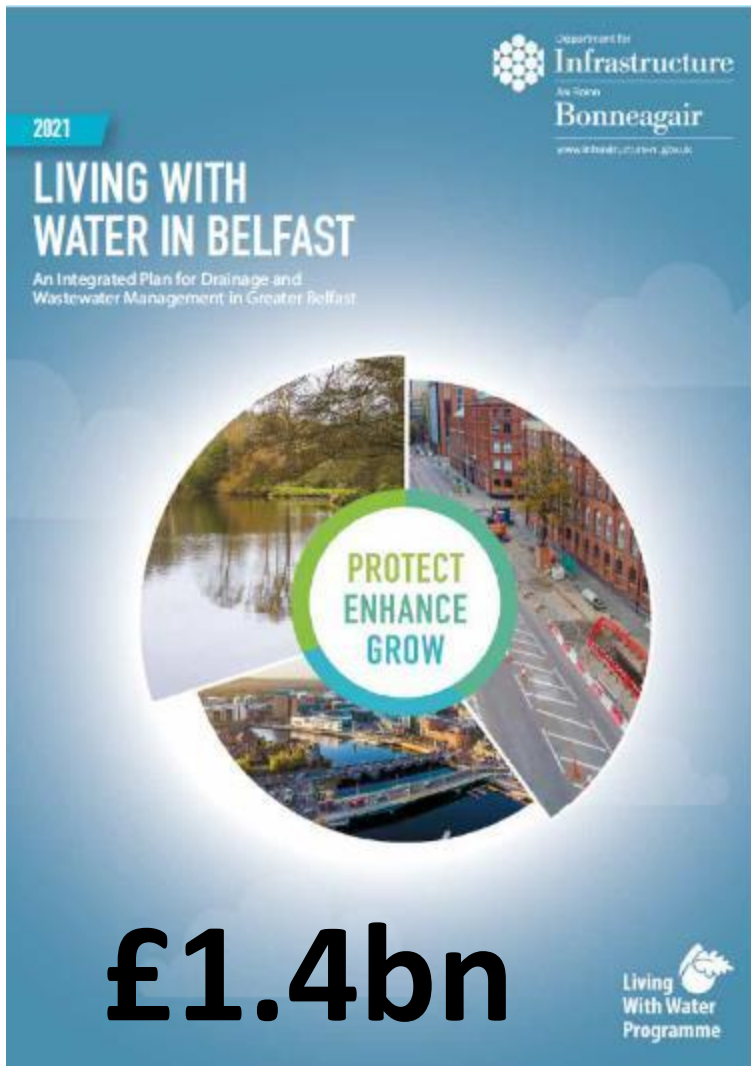
£17bn in wider social benefits

Place-specific

£2.5bn
investment released

£3.1bn in energy savings

£34bn in wider social benefits



Combines investment in wastewater and drainage infrastructure with catchment management measures to help manage surface water generated from rainfall in a more natural way.

Striking the balance between investments in **adaptation and mitigation** (heading for 2.7oC warming by end of century)



Nature- based investments
Eg One Million Trees



Benefits = £17.7 million pa

Carbon Offset Fund

Belfast City Council – Derry City and Strabane - Antrim and Newtownabbey - Mid and East Antrim - Ards and North Down - Fermanagh and Omagh District

Phase 1 Quantifying the opportunity for a regional Carbon Offset Fund that could be used to finance a pipeline of climate investments across NI

Key questions

- Current value of the offset market in NI i.e. what amount of GHG emissions are currently offset
- Who are the largest emitters
- Current trend in offsetting across NI big emitters
- Level of interest from organisations (public, private) in offsetting locally
- Types of projects
- Key barriers or enablers to offsetting locally
- Examples of best practice elsewhere



Phase 2 Scoping exercise

Potential projects

Energy efficiency, decarbonised heating supply and renewable energy, habitat restoration and other nature-based solutions that enhance resilience and sequester carbon

Key issue

Potential to capture carbon offset market (currently off-shored) for NI for place based climate investments but fund development will require seed funding to capitalise and operationalise the fund

1.5C

The level of rise where we trigger dangerous climate change

14m

Tonnes. Belfast's share of the global carbon budget 2020-50

1.5m

Tonnes of carbon per year emitted by Belfast

2030

The year we will have used up our carbon budget

42%

Decline in Belfast's emissions since 2000

66% by 2025

80% by 2030

100% by 2050

Belfast - the road to

NET ZERO

18%

13%



39%

50%



20%

19%

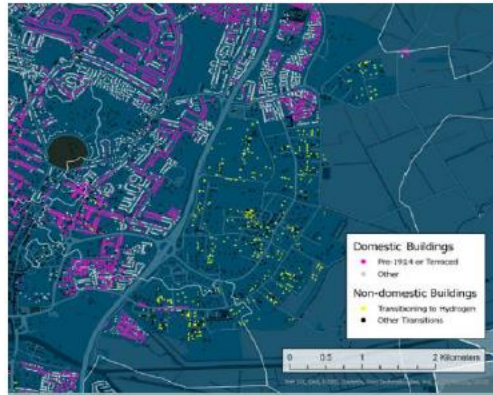


24%

18%



Hydrogen opportunity area



Domestic rooftop PV focus zone

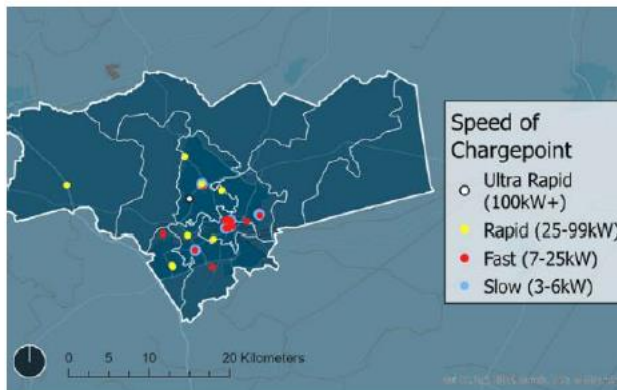


Local Area Energy Plan for Belfast



Domestic heat pump focus zone

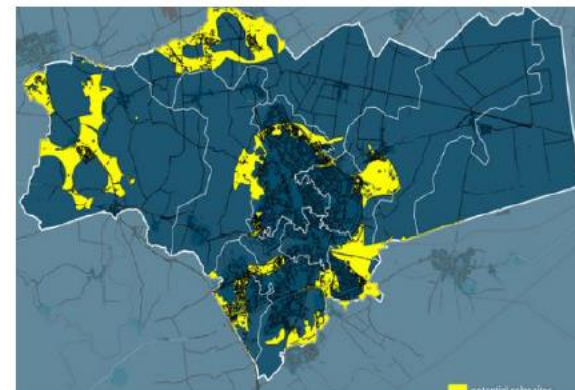
Heat network focus zone



Public EV charging hubs



Fabric retrofit focus zone



Large scale renewables opportunity areas

Belfast retrofit hub



Construction
Leadership
Council

constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk



Photo credit: Nottingham City Homes, Energy-saving Retrofit, Policy Homes

Greening Our Existing Homes

National retrofit strategy

A consultative document



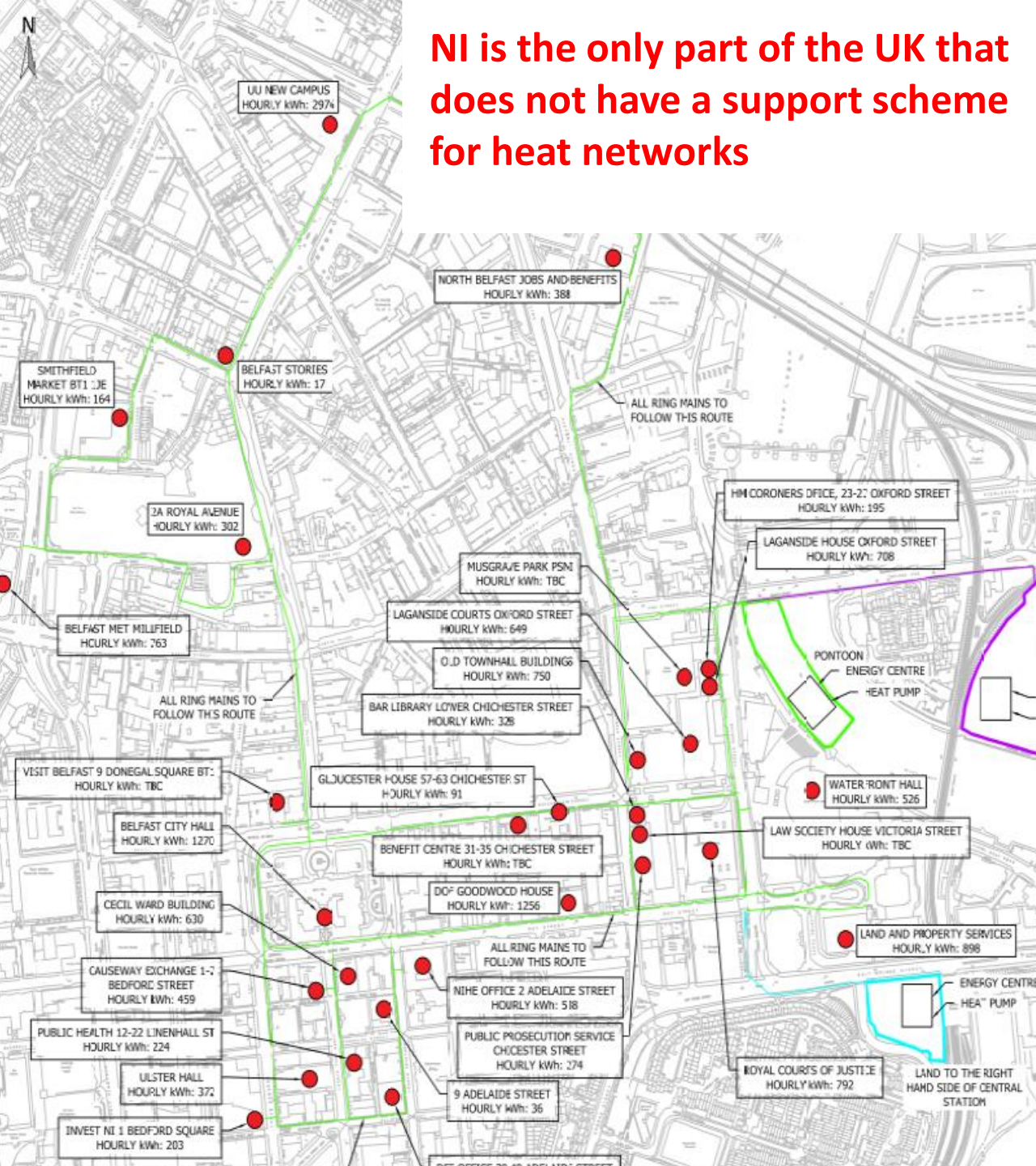
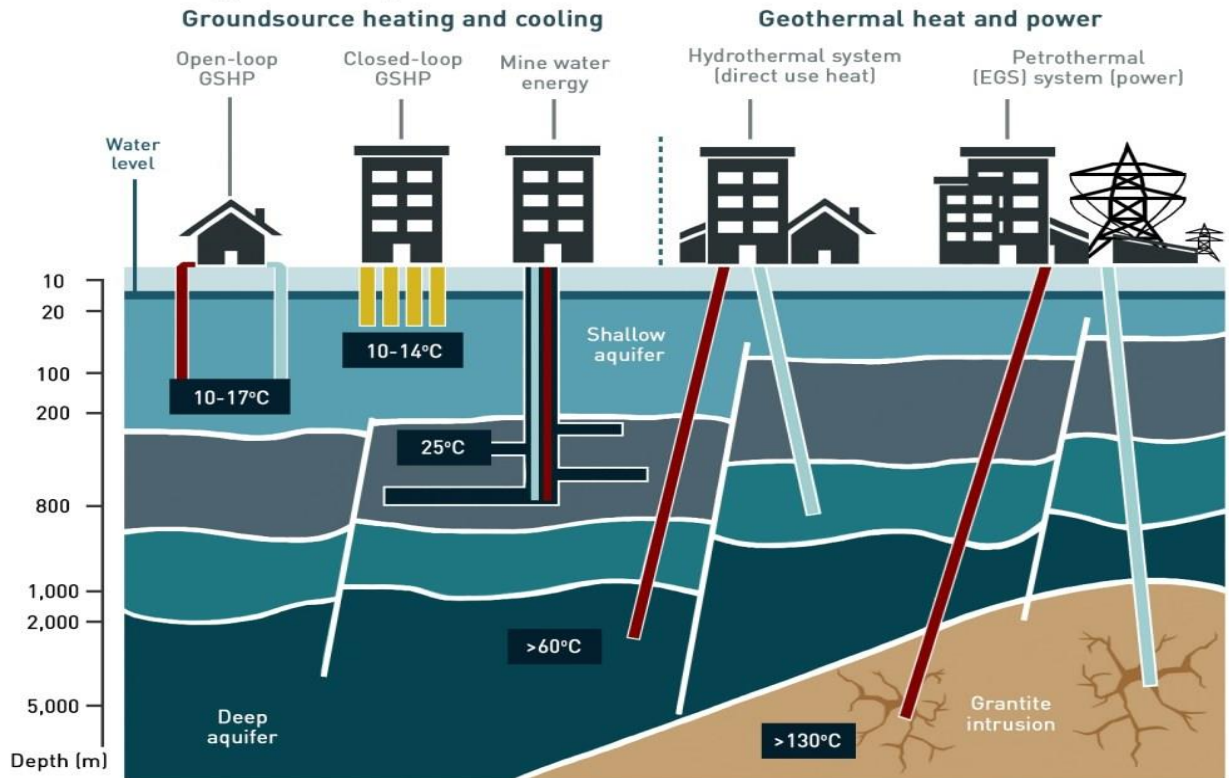
Key issue

No NI energy efficiency scheme in place for different tenures yet there is an ECO4 Barnett consequential earmarked for energy efficiency that could provide support for thousands of home owners, renters and people living in fuel poverty as well as long-term funding certainty across for the industry

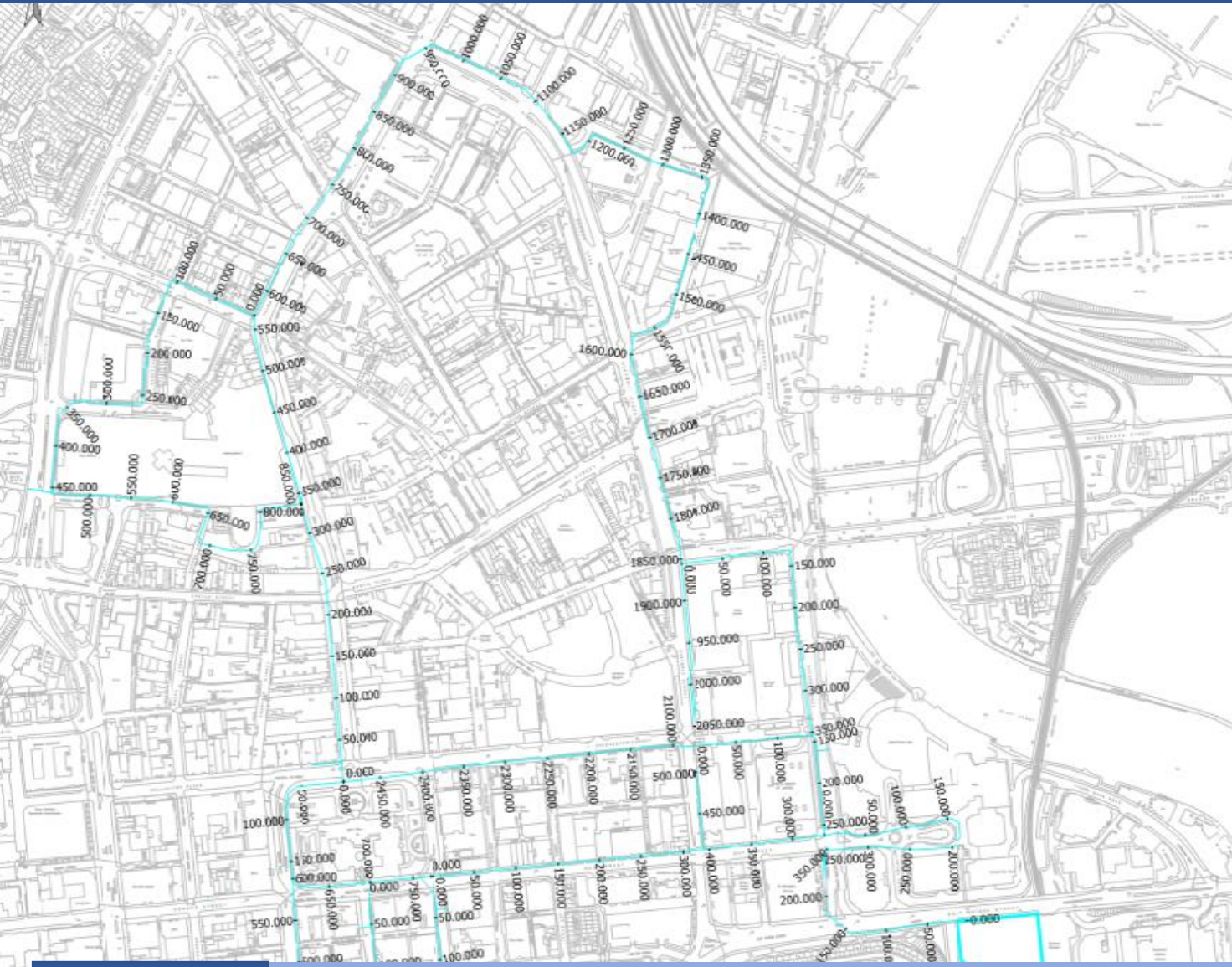
There's enough heat in the Lagan to heat the entire City of Belfast



Geothermal energy technologies



City centre heat network



Key issue

No heat network support scheme for NI and no planning requirement for new builds to connect to heat networks if available

Liverpool



Cork



Dublin



Manchester



What went well

1. Collaboration – big appetite for change and strong leadership from key anchor institutions eg NIHE, Translink, NI Water etc.
2. Net Zero Belfast – a compelling proposition for place based approach attracted funding
3. Emerging pipeline of projects, will be shaped by the Local Area Energy Plan
4. Strong interest from financial institutions and the investors

Key challenges

1. Bureaucracy – challenging to be agile and move at pace
2. Seed funding for pipeline development
3. Moving from talking to action
4. Capacity to engage across multiple sectors to ensure a whole system approach

Thank you





Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

‘The Path to Net Zero Energy’



Creating a globally competitive economy that works for everyone

The Path to Net Zero



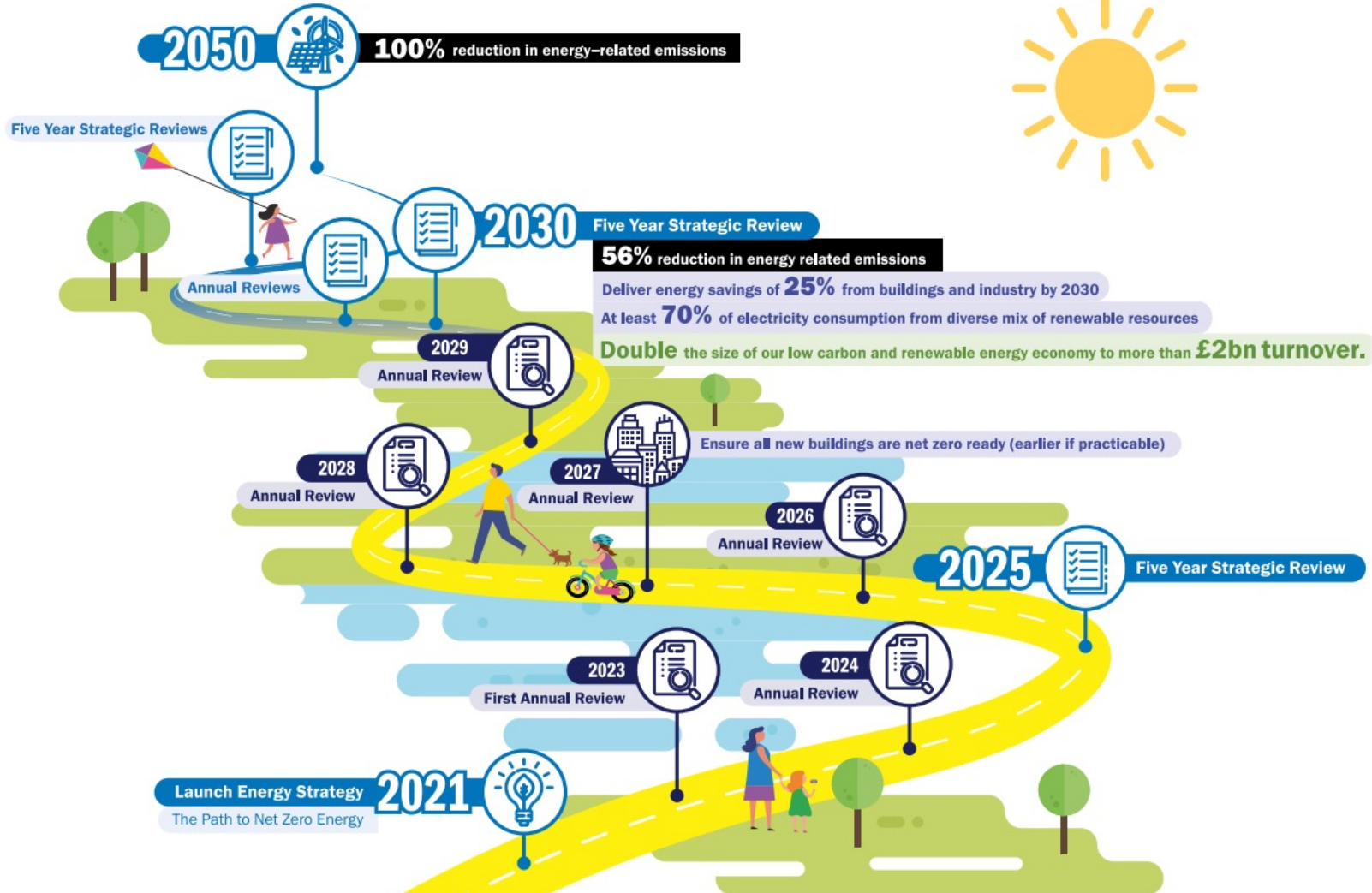
OUR VISION **Net zero carbon and affordable energy**

Draft Programme for Government Outcomes

We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment
Our economy is regionally-balanced, globally competitive and carbon neutral
We all enjoy long, active, healthy lives

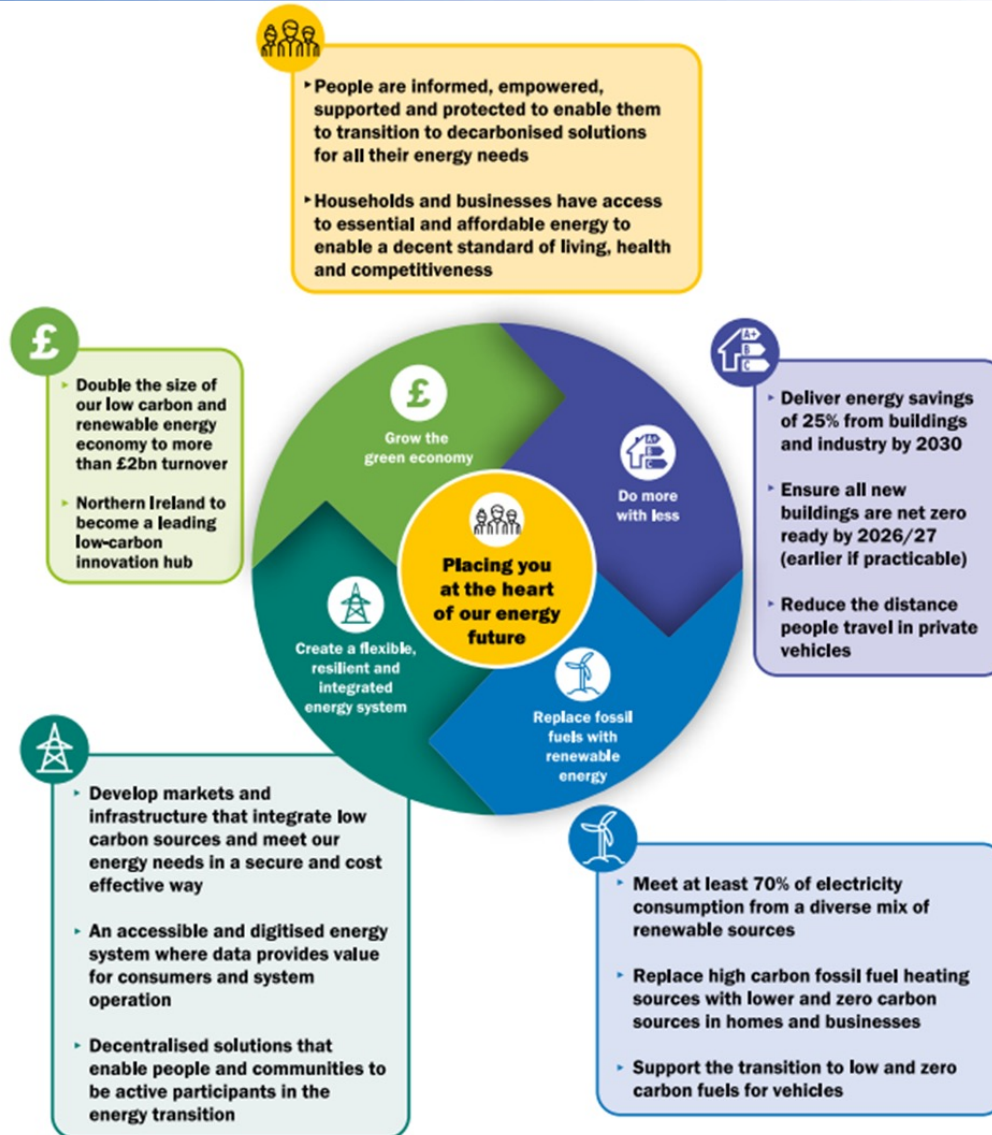


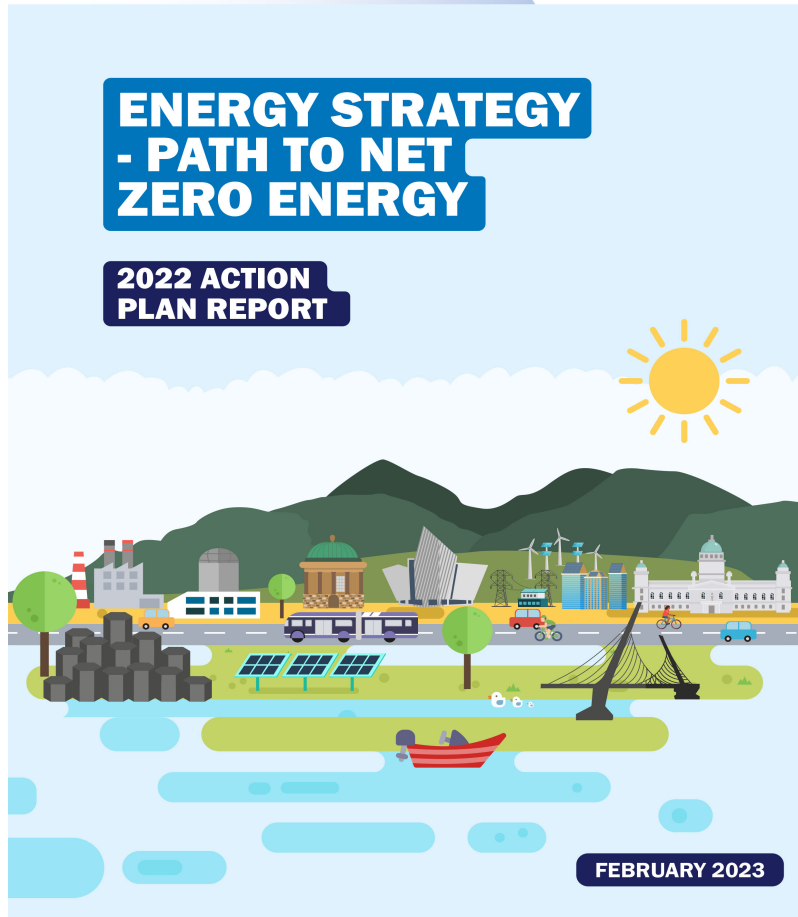
Energy Strategy Milestones





Principles





Action Plan 2022 Report

ENERGY STRATEGY - PATH TO NET ZERO ENERGY

**ACTION
PLAN 2023**

MARCH 2023



Action Plan 2023



Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

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<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/energy-strategy-path-net-zero-energy>

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