

# TACKLING THE PLANETARY EMERGENCY AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

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**PLACE-BASED  
CLIMATE ACTION  
NETWORK**

OR... HOW TO THINK, PLAN  
AND ACT IN EXTRAORDINARY  
AND TURBULENT TIMES

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[Global Agenda](#)

[Climate Change](#)

[SDG 13: Climate Action](#)

[How to Save the Planet](#)

# It's time to emerge from our planetary emergency. Here's a plan



# QUEEN'S AND CITY COUNCIL LAUNCH BELFAST CLIMATE COMMISSION



*10 January 2020*

Queen's University Belfast and Belfast City Council have today (Friday 10 January, 2020) launched the Belfast Climate Commission, to drive action on the climate crisis.

The Executive will **tackle climate change head on** with a strategy to **address the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change**.

The Executive will **introduce legislation and targets for reducing carbon emissions** in line with the Paris Climate Change Accord.

- The Executive's strategies to reduce carbon emissions will be reviewed in light of the Paris Climate Change Accord and the climate crisis.
- A new Energy Strategy will set ambitious targets and actions for a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society.
- The Executive should bring forward a Climate Change Act to give environmental targets a strong legal underpinning.
- The Executive will establish an Independent Environmental Protection Agency to oversee this work and ensure targets are met.
- The Economic Strategy will support clean and inclusive growth and create jobs as part of a Green New Deal.
- The Executive will create a plan to eliminate plastic pollution.
- RHI will be closed down and replaced by a scheme that effectively cuts carbon emissions.

## New Decade, New Approach



# WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

The 'green new deal' as a response to the 2008 global financial crisis

Green new deal



The screenshot shows the Utility Regulator website. The logo at the top left reads "Utility Regulator" with "ELECTRICITY GAS WATER" underneath. A navigation bar contains links for Home, About us, News, Electricity, Gas, Water, Consultations, and Consumer information. The main heading is "Regulator comments on the Green New Deal". Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads "Home » News » Regulator comments on the Green New Deal". The date "12 November 2009" is circled in blue. A blue underline highlights the text: "Energy Regulator says Green New Deal is 'the big idea for coping with the recession, rising energy prices and climate change'". The main text begins with: "Speaking at today's Northern Ireland Energy Forum, Utility Regulator Chief Executive, Iain Osborne, said 'Northern Ireland needs a joined-up approach to deal with, not only the recession, but with rising energy prices and climate change. The Green New Deal for Northern Ireland is the solution.'"

## The Green New Deal and the Programme for Government

January 2012

DRAFT RESPONSE

### **Green New Deal absent from draft Programme for Government despite cross party support:**

*The Green New Deal is an ambitious investment programme which will leverage in significant amounts of private sector funding to deliver energy efficiency measures, and create several thousand jobs over a three year period. This scheme aims to reduce waste, cut bills for participating households, sustain employment through the recession and modernise our housing stock. In light of this the Executive has agreed in principle to engage and resources have been set aside accordingly. NI Budget 2011-15*

*DUP Ministers will...Commence a Province-wide retrofit programme providing a range of energy efficiency measures thereby creating jobs, combating fuel poverty, reducing carbon emissions and cutting domestic energy bills. DUP Manifesto 2011.*

*Implement the 'Green New Deal' proposals, with the potential to create thousands of green collar jobs...Provide adequate resources for the Green New Deal. Sinn Féin Manifesto 2011.*

*The Ulster Unionist Party is committed to the Green New Deal and we want to see Northern Ireland becoming less dependent on imported fossil fuels. UUP proposals for 2011-15 PFG.*

*Implementing the Green New Deal: The SDLP is absolutely committed to this sustainability and job creation plan. SDLP Manifesto 2011.*

*Alliance will support and fund the Green New Deal Group housing proposal. Alliance Party Manifesto 2011.*

*The Green Party is fully committed to delivering the Green New Deal insulation scheme. Green Party Manifesto 2011.*

The Green New Deal is a cross sectoral initiative led by:  
CBI, ICTU, Institute of Directors, NICVA, Ulster Farmers Union, Bryson Group, Energy Saving Trust, Friends of the Earth, NI Housing Executive



pharmacy

BELFAST  
YOUTH  
STRIKE  
4 CLIMATE

EMPOWER  
THE FUTURE

TO LET  
PHONE  
RETAIL  
UNIT

IF EVERYONE  
MADE A SMALL  
CHANGE IT WOULD  
MAKE A BIG  
DIFFERENCE

# WHAT IS TO BE DONE? : LOCAL GOVERNMENT & CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING



**What is to be Done?**  
Vladimir Lenin

If it is a climate emergency lets act as if it is

Local authorities experienced and able to address emergencies – flooding, fires, disorder etc...so why not apply that experience and expertise to climate action planning?

Identify and then use council powers for climate resilience and decarbonisation

Current moment – declaration of ‘climate emergency’ with no real political will or meaning behind it?

Responding to such declarations within the ‘business as usual’ framework, timescales etc.

We say and hear emergency but we do not really believe it is ... and/or its not a ‘real’ emergency that requires rapid and unprecedented action...

# LOCAL POLICY LEVERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY DECARBONISATION

## Box 1.1. Overview of devolved matters for key sectors

The balance of powers that are reserved (i.e. issues upon which only the UK Parliament can make laws):

- **Economic and fiscal:** Mostly reserved
- **Energy** (apart from nuclear): Fully devolved
- **Planning:** Fully devolved
- **Local government and housing:** Mostly devolved (including domestic and public energy efficiency and fuel poverty).
- **Industry:** Mostly reserved.
- **Transport:** Vehicle standards and taxation is reserved. Demand side measures are mostly devolved.
- **Agriculture and land use:** Mostly devolved.
- **Waste:** Fully devolved.

Source: Northern Ireland Office (2018) *Devolution settlement: Northern Ireland*.

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Assembly and Local councils to set their own carbon reduction targets – net zero emissions by 2030 for example

Baseline data and carbon reduction pathways and roadmaps needed

All policies should be ‘climate and decarbonisation’ proofed – climate version of Section 75.

Raise the necessary funds and resources – esp. staff for climate action

New national lottery community Climate Action Fund:

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund>

Need for cross-cutting high level ‘climate action team’ as per Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024 (NICCAP2) councils to

“assemble a team and required procedures” by 2021 and “plan and take action” by 2024

# Case study: The Economic Case for Climate Action in Belfast

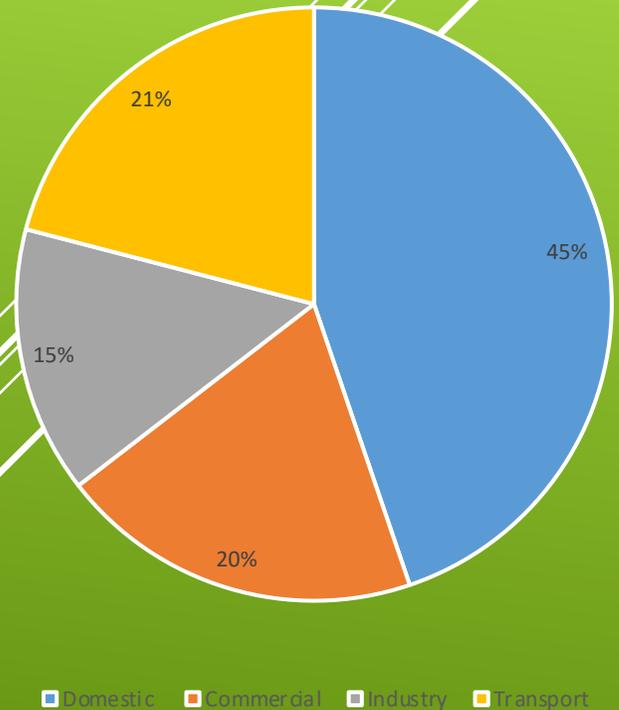
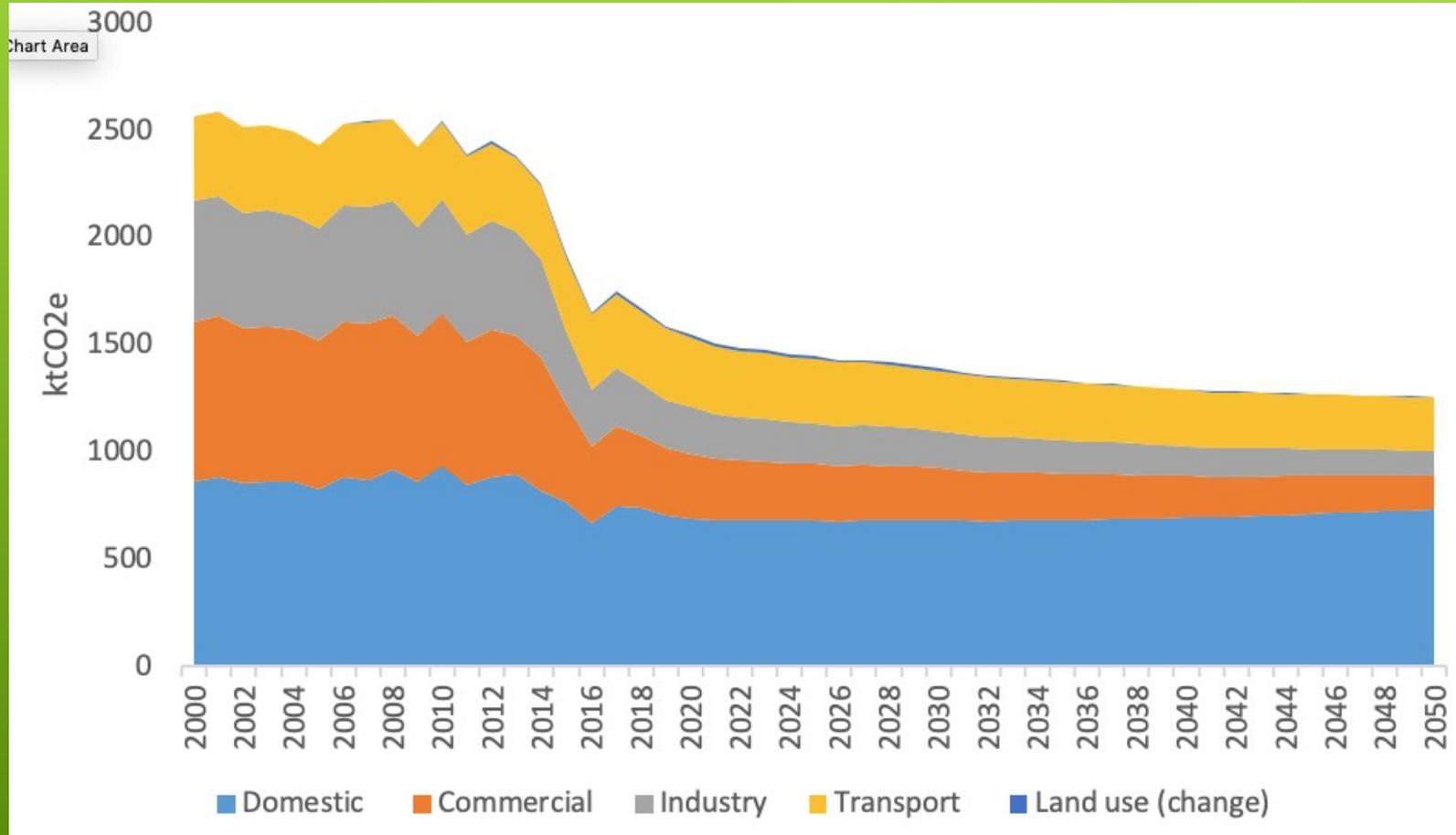
In total, Belfast's energy bill is currently £389m a year, and it is forecast to grow to £467m a year by 2030.

With investment of £180m a year through to 2030, Belfast could reduce its energy bill by £264m a year, with investments paying back in 6 years.

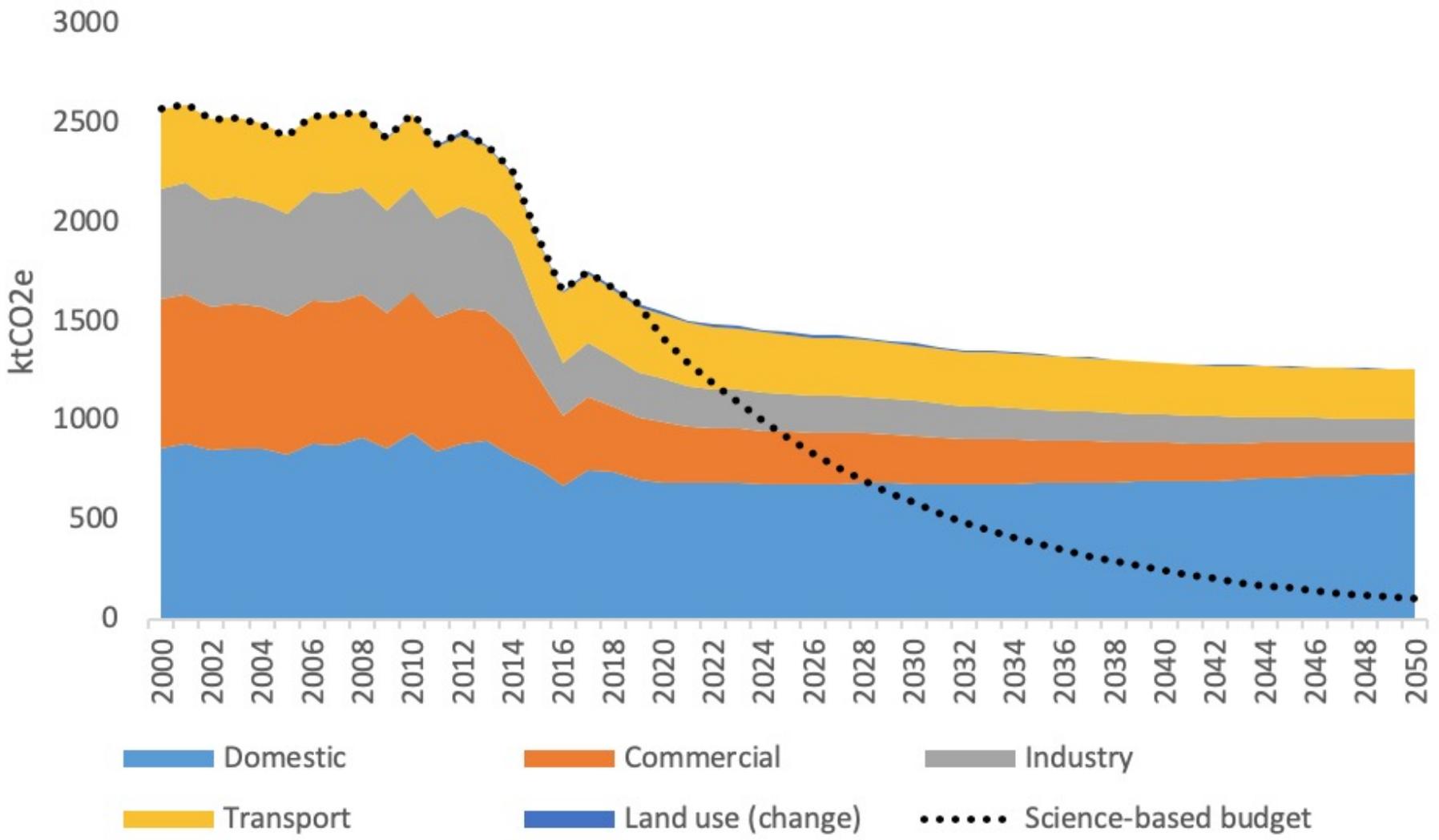
Such investments could create 5,000 years of new employment in the city.

They could also reduce congestion, address fuel poverty, tackle air pollution and improve public health.

# The Climate Case for Climate Action in Belfast



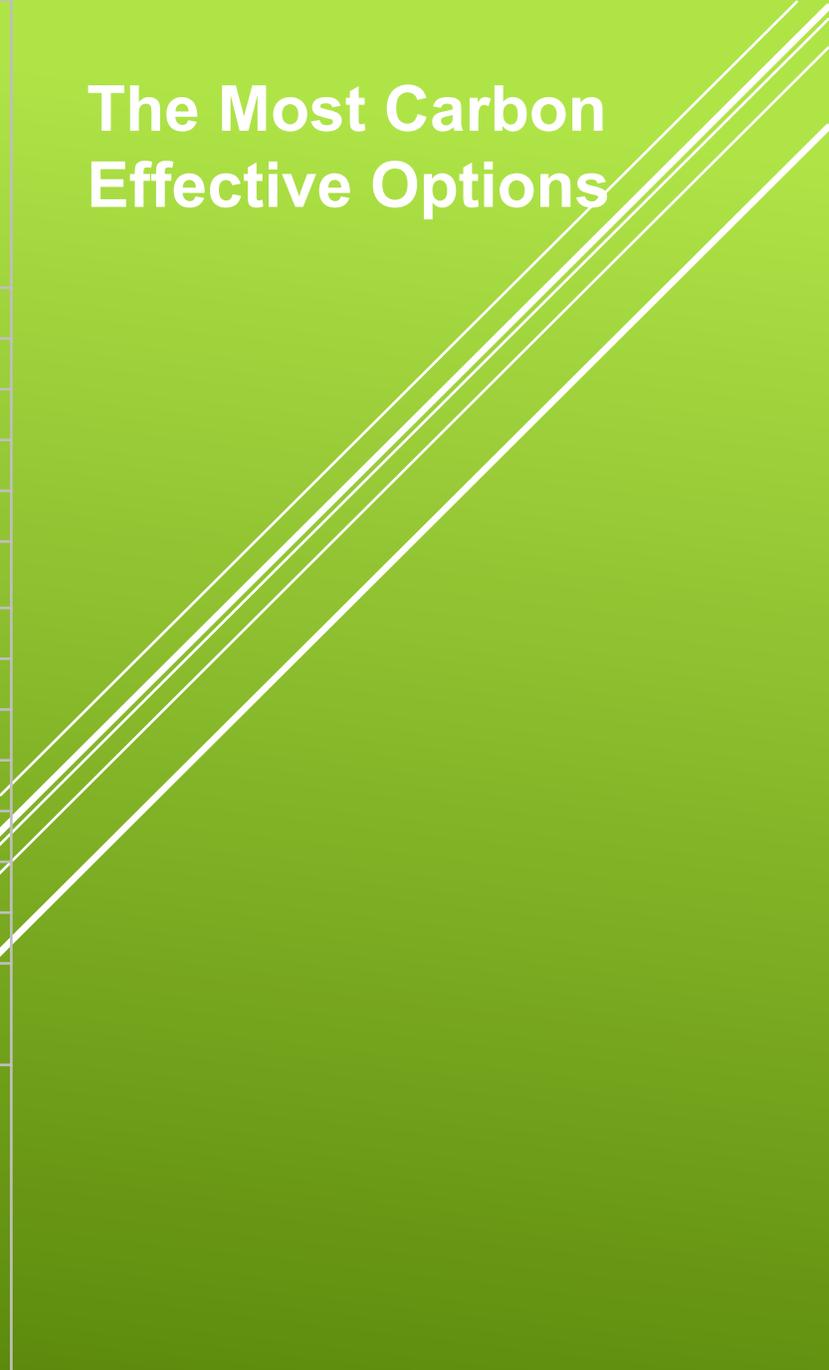
Emissions peaked at 2.5MT a year in 2001 and they fell by nearly 40% by 2018. They are expected to fall only slightly more by 2050.



A science-based target suggests they should fall by 8.4% a year through to 2050.

The 40% fall from 2001-2018 should become 50% by 2020, 68% by 2025, 81% by 2030, 87% by 2035, 92% by 2040, 95% by 2045, 97% by 2050.

Carbon Effectiveness	Potential Aggregated Carbon Savings	Category	Measure
<b>Highly Effective</b>	<i>&gt;1.6 Mt CO<sub>2</sub></i>	Domestic Insulation Improvements	<i>Cavity-Wall</i>
			-
			<i>Floor &amp; Suspended Floor</i>
			-
		Domestic Heating Provisions & Controls	<i>Loft &amp; Loft Top-Up</i>
			<i>High-Efficiency Combination Boilers</i>
			<i>Air-Source Heat Pumps</i>
			<i>Thermostatic Radiator Valves</i>
		Commercial Cooling Mechanisms	<i>Thermostat Controls</i>
			<i>SFP2.0l/s</i>
			<i>Passive Chilled Beams</i>
		Office Building Stock Fabric Condition	<i>Chiller CoP5.4</i>
			<i>Fabric Improvements</i>
		Transport Electrification	<i>Air Tightness Improvements</i>
		<i>Private-EV Penetration (100% in 2037)</i>	



Cost Effectiveness	Potential Cost Savings	Category	Measure
Highly Effective	>100 £,2018M	Domestic Building Stock Insulation	<i>Cavity-Wall</i>
			<i>Loft &amp; Loft Top-Up</i>
		Domestic Demand Reductions	<i>A++ Rated Cold Appliances</i>
			<i>A+ Wet Appliances</i>
			<i>A Rated Ovens</i>
			<i>Induction Hubs</i>
			<i>Low Energy Lighting</i>
		Commercial Building Stock Improvements	<i>SFP2.0l/s</i>
			<i>Chiller CoP5.4</i>
			<i>Air Tightness</i>
			<i>Fabric Improvements</i>
			<i>Low Energy Retail &amp; Office Cooling Systems</i>
		Domestic Heating Provisions & Controls	<i>High-Efficiency Combination Boilers</i>
			-
			<i>Thermostatic Valve Controls</i>
-			

## The Most Cost Effective Options



# BEYOND 'BUSINESS AS USUAL' POLICY MAKING – WARTIME MOBILISATION?

Rapid transitions and realistic and hopeful responses to the crisis

Further reductions in emissions could be achieved with greater coordination between national government, businesses and citizens of Belfast, and other local authorities and regions.

Community involvement – citizens assemblies, new forms of citizen participation, outreach and engagement – to include businesses, faith communities, trades unions

Positive climate action narratives: clarity and clear leadership on the inevitability of the transition beyond carbon energy and need for climate adaptation; Identifying quick wins, celebrating success and emphasising the co-benefits of climate action

Risk management, part of an inevitable transition to a new renewable/low carbon economy and society; green jobs and investment; branding and place making opportunities; health (including mental health) benefits;

# SUMMARY/TAKE AWAYS

The scale and urgency of the task requires system and structure redesign and transformation.

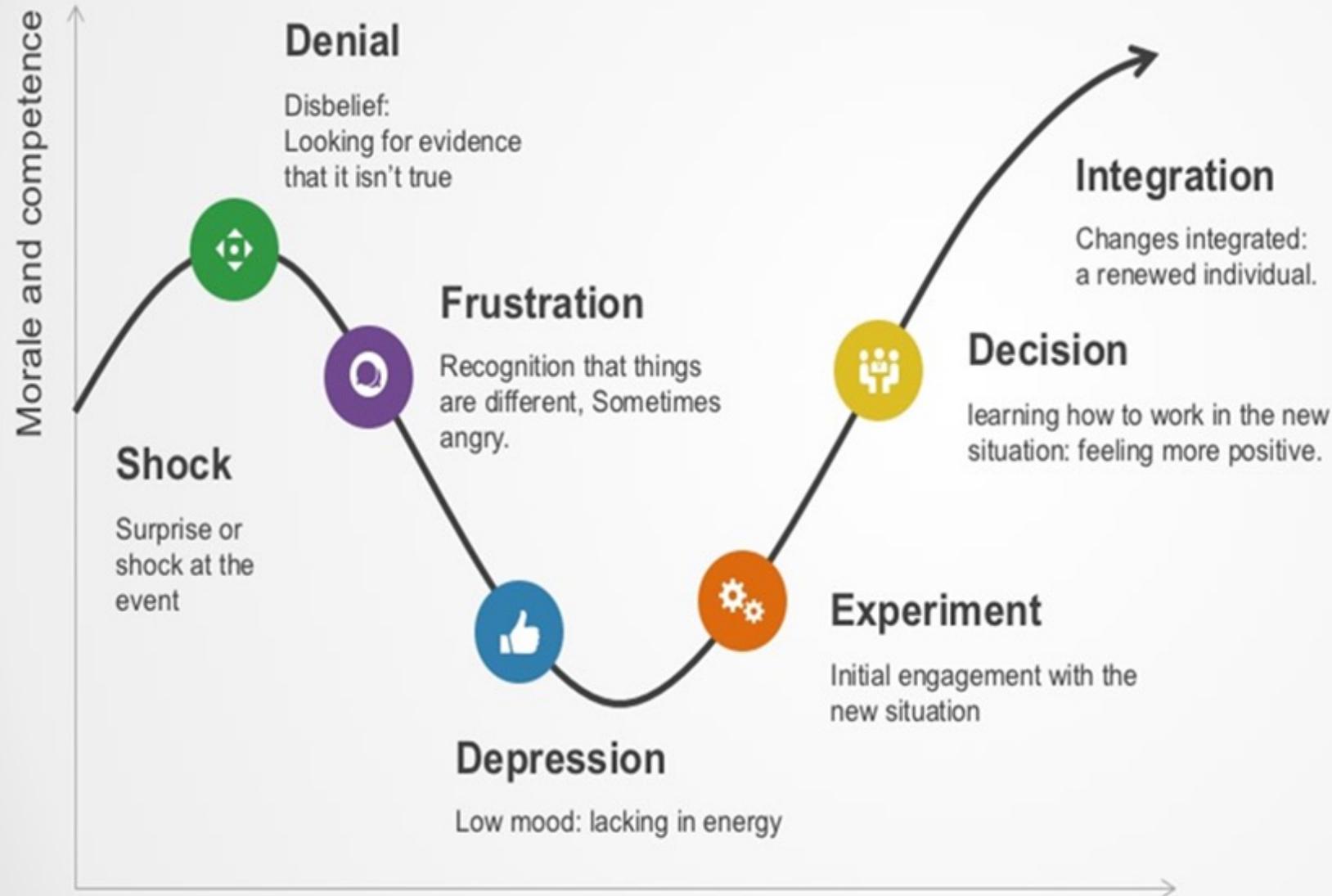
Reform and minor adjustments will not suffice

What is required is fundamental transformation of systems such as food, energy, retail, local services, transport, housing and work. This will require novel solutions.

Decarbonisation and climate resilience measures have to go hand in hand with delivering a range of co-benefits and a 'just transition', (for consumers – energy prices and fuel poverty and producers, in high GHG emitting sectors, esp. agriculture in NI)

Beyond reforming and business as usual ... redesign and transformative system changes needed ... and we have only just begun

# The Kübler-Ross Change Curve



Creative Alignment

Maximize  
Communication

Spark Motivation

Develop Capability

Share Knowledge



Make no small plans for they  
have no power to stir the soul.

~ Niccolo Machiavelli

"When there is no vision,  
the people **perish.**"



-Ps. 29:18