

There is both a need for and major benefits to be gained for NI from early action.

The CCC NI is calling on the Northern Ireland Assembly to set legally binding regional targets. The legislative basis of the targets would allow Judicial Review if necessary and the courts' directions would be binding on the Executive.

The coalition recognises that the behaviour of people in Northern Ireland is, through climate change, having disproportionate negative impacts on those living in many parts of the developing world.

42% of our energy could come from renewable sources without a substantial increase (7%) in cost compared to continuing with our current energy mix

People accept major changes when there is an acknowledged crisis. Government can change priorities and have major influence on the public through regulation and policy.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ☒ The CCC NI is calling on the Northern Ireland Assembly to set legally binding regional targets that would complement the UK Climate Change Bill.
- ☒ Take action to support and implement EU, international and UK legislation and regulation, and recommendations, as they develop
- ☒ Promote the business opportunities for addressing climate change; through ensuring that existing businesses are able to cope with anticipated changes.
- ☒ Committees should have a clear duty to identify and recommend the most environmentally and socially sensitive pathway towards achieving this goal.
- ☒ Empower the public by giving examples of what can be done individually and collectively.
- ☒ Immediate action must be taken to prevent the economic impact of climate legislation spiralling in the near future.
- ☒ Use a target for a Carbon Neutral Government Estate of 2020 as a driver for action on climate change.
- ☒ Implement recommendations of the Environment Committee Inquiry into Climate Change.

1. UKCCC has established a **legal framework for an 80% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050** against a 1990 baseline. To ensure this is not to be breached, global emissions must peak by 2015, and then decline.
2. The IPCC has unequivocally affirmed the warming of our climate system, and linked it directly to human activity. The **recent SNIFFER report on the impacts of climate change on Northern Ireland identified a number of direct effects, mostly negative**, on human health, the economy, natural habitats and water resources.
3. Household emissions in Northern Ireland are 39% above the UK average and the **12 worst performing authority areas were in Northern Ireland**. Northern Ireland's carbon footprint is 10 tonnes in comparison to Bangladesh which is 0.2 tonnes. The implications for Northern Ireland target setting are clear, and the level of annual reduction rises with each year of delay.
4. Round table discussions at Poznan gave a shared vision on long-term cooperative action on climate change. **Ministers gave a resounding commitment to achieving an ambitious and comprehensive deal in Copenhagen June 2009** that can be ratified by all. International obligations such as the Kyoto Agreement apply to the United Kingdom as a whole and not separately to the devolved administrations.
5. UK climate bill targets include international aviation and shipping. **Carbon budgets will take their place alongside financial budgets**. Consistency of approach across the UK is likely to deliver the best outcomes. These significant reductions can be achieved at less than 1% of GDP.
6. Northern Ireland should follow the most up to date recommendations and research findings from scientists, international and national government, businesses and economists, and wider society towards informing targets and then making a commitment to meeting them, but there are still **no legally binding targets on NI as a region**.
7. The implications for Northern Ireland target setting are clear, and **the level of annual reduction rises with each year of delay**. The rate of carbon emission reduction should be an average of at least 3% per annum and aimed at ensuring that Northern Ireland contributes its fair share of emissions reduction to stabilise the world's climate.
8. A report commissioned by Action Renewables on the job creation opportunities from renewables in Northern Ireland suggested that "there is a good potential for job creation in Northern Ireland. Almost 6,000 short term and 400 long term jobs could be sustained in Northern Ireland. Renewable technology offers significant opportunities for Northern Ireland business and industry, but the **policy drivers must be there to support their development**."
9. The **Stern Review states that strong early action to mitigate climate change would cost 1% of global GDP** by 2050. The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) estimates that an 80% reduction across the UK would cost two to three per cent of GDP per year by 2050.
10. **Scotland's emissions have fallen**. Between 1990 and 2005, net greenhouse gas emissions fell by around 16%. As part of this reduction, net CO₂ emissions fell by 13% compared with a UK average decrease of 6.4%. The Republic of Ireland (ROI) currently seeks to secure a 40% improvement in primary energy consumption and a reduction of 40% in CO₂ emissions.
11. The Environment Committee conducted an **Inquiry into Climate Change which published 53 recommendations**; these should be implemented.
12. The **'Carbon Neutral Government Estate'** should provide a driver for climate change action throughout government; a realistic target of 2020 should be set for achieving this.