

**Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

Climate Change No.1 Bill

Call-for-Evidence Summary Report

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Mandate 2017-22

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1. **Overview**

This report summarises the feedback received from members of the public and stakeholder organisations in response to the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs’ (AERA) call-for-evidence to support its scrutiny of the Climate Change (No.1) Bill that has been sponsored by a Private Member.

It encompasses an analysis of the information gathered via engagements carried out between May and July 2021 and synthesises the key points in order to assist the Committee in their deliberations and considerations of the Bill.

1. **Call-for-Evidence Activities**

The Committee facilitated a number of different activities in order to attract a wide range of views and perspectives from stakeholders given the significant and cross-cutting nature of the proposed legislation, as well as its potential impact on all sectors of the local economy and for future generations.

This report encompasses the information collated via:

* Responses to the Committee’s **call-for-evidence template** that was made available on the Citizen Space platform between 20 May and 15 July 2021
* Other **free-format written submissions** sent to the Committee’s public email address during this time period including over 1,000 responses sent via the Friends of the Earth (FOE) website
* The headline messages and feedback arising from **stakeholder events** conducted on 17 June 2021 with representatives from various organisations
* **Focus Groups** facilitated by the Assembly’s Education team with 16 primary and secondary schools in June 2021

1. **Key Messages and Themes**

**POLICY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Vast majority of respondents support the aims of the Bill and the introduction of Climate Change legislation for NI which is considered to be long overdue**

**2045 NET ZERO TARGET**

**Some respondents welcome an ambitious target as a means to drive change and others express strong concern about the practicality and implications, given that it is not in line with UK CCC advice, and the potential ruinous impact on the local agri-food sector**

**CLIMATE ACTION PLANS/SECTORAL PLANS**

**Most respondents consider this as a credible and effective pathway to meet the emissions targets as they will facilitate accountability and sectoral engagement. The need for cross-policy harmonisation and adequate resourcing was highlighted strongly**

**JUST TRANSITION**

**Universal message from stakeholders was that this needs to be central to the legislation and mechanisms to mitigate Climate Change, in particular for the local agri-food sector which is likely to be impacted significantly**

**CLIMATE COMMISSIONER**

**Overwhelming support for establishment of an independent body to hold local government accountable with appropriate and sufficient powers. Need to ensure clear lines of responsibility for this Office to the Assembly and to other entities such as UK CCC**

1. **Responses Numbers and Participants**

The Committee received a very high number of responses to its written call-for-evidence with 1,230 members of the public, 1,145 of which were made via the FOE website, and 77 organisations providing a return.

There was a broad spectrum of sectors reflected in the organisational returns. The full list of responding entities is included at Appendix 1 and the volume of responses by sector is displayed in the below chart:

**Please note –** responses from individual farm owners have not been included as organisational returns

In relation to the stakeholder events held on 17 June 2021, in total there were 44 participants: the morning session provided an opportunity for representatives of key stakeholder organisations to discuss the issues and the evening event was organised specifically for representatives from youth organisations including the Young Farmer’s Clubs of Ulster, the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People and Belfast Climate Commission.

1. **Responses to Call-for-Evidence Template**

This section summarises the main themes arising from the responses to the questions put to stakeholders via the Committee’s call-for-evidence template that was made accessible on the Citizen Space platform.

In total there were 126 responses - 79 from members of the public and 47 organisational returns.

**The Policy Objectives**

* ***What are your views on the overall policy objectives?***

One hundred and sixteen respondents answered this question with a majority (55%) providing a broadly positive view on the objectives and aims of the proposed Bill.

Respondents who considered the Bill positively cited that the introduction of Climate Change legislation was long overdue, highlighting the discrepancy between Northern Ireland (NI) and the rest of the United Kingdom in terms of a legislative framework in this area:

*“Since the introduction of the UK Climate Change Act in 2008, greenhouse gas emissions have only fallen by 9% in NI (2008-2016), compared to a 27% reduction for the whole of the UK, suggesting that voluntary contributions from Northern Ireland won’t be enough. The proposed Bill will play a key role in closing the legislative gap”* **– Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

*“All other jurisdictions in the UK have embedded Net Zero into legislation and NI has to move swiftly to catch up”* – **Renewable NI**

Around a fifth of respondents welcomed the ambition and scope of the Bill, particularly in relation to the aim to deliver a net-zero economy by 2045 as a means to mitigate the negative effects of Climate Change and the demonstrable impact to the environment that has been manifest in recent years.

Thirty-nine responses, the vast majority of which were from individuals and organisations associated with the Agri-Food sector, articulated a broadly negative view of the Bill’s policy objectives.

However, it must be noted that most of these respondents were not against the principle of Climate Change legislation per se, but were concerned about particular aspects of the proposed Bill, specifically:

* The **2045 net-zero target is not in accordance with advice** provided by the UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) as to what is achievable and reasonable for NI;
* That this target, if legislated for, could have a **significant and detrimental impact on the local agri-food sector** due to a need to reduce ruminant livestock numbers drastically;
* There could be **unintended, adverse climate impacts** associated with importing food products from elsewhere to off-set local downturn in production – “carbon leakage”; and
* The Bill has not been subject to a **rural or economic impact assessment**

*“The CCC have estimated that for NI to reach net zero by 2050, it would require a ‘substantial reduction in output from Northern Ireland’s livestock farming sector that goes beyond even the more stretching scenarios.’ The legally binding net-zero carbon target in the Bill goes even further by requiring NI to reach net zero by 2045 and so the impact on the livestock sector and wider agri-food industry will be even greater. It does not make sense to offshore our agricultural production to less efficient and more carbon intense areas. This just results in carbon leakage and is a naïve policy, which could result in an increase in global carbon emissions, while unnecessarily damaging our local agricultural sector as well as the wider rural economy and society”* – **Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association**

A number of respondents, 16%, reflected the need for there to be a fair and Just Transition for local communities to support Climate Change mitigation and a further 6% of respondents made specific reference to strengthening obligations around Adaptation reporting in the Bill.

* ***Do you think that the Bill will meet these objectives?***

There were 119 returns to this question broken down as follows:

The primary issues of concern for the majority of respondents who answered “No” or “Unsure” were that:

* The net-zero emissions target of 2045 is unlikely to be achievable given that it is not based on the current advice of the UK CCC
* There may be a lack of will, determination and capability within local government and relevant bodies to deliver the actions necessary to meet the Bill’s aims

*“The CCC advice is clear that not all parts of the UK are required to get to net zero emissions for the UK to meet its 2050 net zero target which is in line with the Paris agreement. The UK targets are amongst the most stringent in the world. Advice to NI outlines that a 82% reduction target reflects a fair contribution to the overall UK Net Zero 2050 target. All other regions within the UK are following CCC advice and have set targets in line with that advice. The ‘at least 82%’ target is still a very challenging target for Northern Ireland and will require significant changes across all sectors including agriculture to meet this target”* – **Ulster Farmers Union**

*“I hope that the bill will meet these objectives, but I am sceptical about the political establishment in Northern Ireland working together to achieve the objectives”* **– Member of the Public**

Proportionally, organisations were more positive than members of the public in terms of their outlook on the Bill’s objectives – 45% of organisations felt the Bill would meet its objectives, compared to only 27% of individuals. It should be noted that 48% of individuals who considered the Bill would not meet its objectives were members of the farming community.

**Declaration of a Climate Emergency**

* ***What are your views on declaring a Climate Emergency?***

A slim majority (56%) of the 117 respondents who answered this question felt that this was a positive aspect of the Bill and that the declaration would serve as a driver to mitigate the negative effects of Climate Change. However, many of those who were in favour articulated the need for action to support the declaration in order to avoid it simply becoming a rhetorical statement:

*“Declaring a climate emergency provides a public focus and attention to the problem which must be addressed. However, declaring an emergency is not sufficient on its own; this must be backed by taking meaningful action to address the emergency”* ***–* The Royal Town Planning Institute**

*“By using the declaration of a climate emergency to underpin what is contained in the rest of the Bill, it is easier to be ambitious in subsequent policy”* – **Member of the Public**

Of the 44 respondents who reflected a negative or ambivalent view on declaring a Climate Emergency the prevailing sentiment was that this is (or may be) unnecessary and is not a feature of similar legislation in other jurisdictions.

There was significant disparity between organisations and members of the public in terms of perception of declaring a Climate Emergency. The vast majority of organisations were supportive, whilst there was more division of opinion between individuals as shown below:

A number of respondents suggested that this aspect of the Bill could be amended to expand the declaration to include a “Nature” or “Biodiversity” emergency which would reflect the full extent of the impact of Climate Change on the local environment **and** ecosystem(s).

**Net-zero Target**

* ***What are your views on the target set out in the Bill to achieve a Net Zero carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the year 2045?***

This issue was one of the most divisive in terms of respondent opinion with an equal split between those who felt that the 2045 net-zero target was a positive aim, and those who were opposed:

* Broadly Positive view: 52 (46%)
* Broadly Negative view: 52 (46%)
* Unsure: 8 (8%)

A high number of respondents were critical of the proposed 2045 net-zero target because it is not in line with the advice provided by the CCC in terms of what is a credible pathway for NI to reduce its carbon emissions, and subsequently, expressed concern about the consequences for the agri-food sector should it be pursued:

*“Given that expert opinion is that 2050 would be a difficult target for achieving net Carbon zero I strongly oppose the 2045 target. Those who support the Bill are unable to outline how the target can be achieved without severe economical and societal implications. The indicators are that attaining the 2045 target will severely decimate the complete rural economy. More worrying is the prospect of not achieving the 2045 target but leaving a trail of economic and societal devastation across NI particularly in rural areas” –* **Member of the Public**

*“The ‘Net-Zero’ target date of 2045 is very challenging and is unlikely to be achievable without very significant implications for Northern Ireland agriculture. Such implications are likely to be particularly severe for Northern Ireland’s grass-based livestock farming and the many communities that depend on it”* **– Yara International Limited**

Conversely, respondents who were positive about the target felt that the highly ambitious net-zero date was necessary in order to drive forward meaningful change and that it was reasonable for NI to “stretch” in terms of Climate Change mitigation, given its status as a net-carbon emitter:

*“It is important that NI sets a target for net zero GHG emissions. The current target for the UK is for net zero by 2050 but more recent evidence suggests that this date may need to be brought forward….there may be less than ten years left before global temperatures reach the 1.5oC target in the Paris Agreement given that in 2020 global temperatures were found to be as much as 1.28 (±0.08)°C above the pre industrial average and global temperatures are rising at 0.18oC per decade. This increases the urgency of the need to act.”* **– Northern Ireland Environment Link**

*“A person in Northern Ireland produces the equivalent of 10.3 tonnes of CO2 annually compared with a UK figure of 6.8 tonnes of CO2 per person so currently we have more than an equitable share even in a UK and global context”* **– Climate Northern Ireland**

Similar to the perspectives on declaring a Climate Emergency, there was disparity between organisations and individual respondents with the majority (66%) of organisations viewing the net-zero 2045 target favourably, compared to 55% of individuals having a negative perspective. The sectoral breakdown of organisations reflecting Broadly Positive and Broadly Negative views on the net-zero target outlined in the Bill is shown below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sector** | **Broadly Positive** | **Broadly Negative** |
| Academic/Policy Development | **3** | 1 |
| Agri-Food | 2 | **6** |
| Anti-Fracking | / | / |
| Business/Commercial | 1 | **2** |
| Construction | 1 | 1 |
| Energy Sector | **4** | 1 |
| Environment Sector | **3** | / |
| Local Government | **3** | 1 |
| Professional Body | **3** | / |
| Voluntary Sector | **2** | 1 |
| Wildlife and Nature Conservation | **3** | 1 |

* ***Do you think the net-zero target and timescale to deliver outlined in the Bill are achievable?***

Respondents were asked two related questions: whether the net-zero target for NI and the timescale to deliver the target set out in the Bill are achievable. There was a very strong correlation in the responses to these questions with a fairly even split between those who felt that the target and timescale were deliverable and those who considered these to be impractical:

* ***Do you think that the timescale outlined in the Bill to achieve Net Zero should be revised if circumstances change?***

The overwhelming majority of the 114 respondents to this question, 73%, felt that the timeline to deliver the net-zero target should be revised if required.

However, the rationale for having flexibility to change the timescale differed significantly depending on the outlook of respondents on the Bill’s objectives and consideration of the net-zero target:

* 46% felt it was important to have flexibility in order to adapt to future emerging science, technology and policy with regards Climate Change
* 21% considered that the timescale should be changed immediately before enactment to reflect the advice of the UK CCC
* 30% felt that the timescale should only be revised forward, i.e., to be more ambitious in terms of NI’s delivery of a net-zero economy

**Climate Action Plans**

* ***What are your views on the Climate Action Plans?***

The majority of the 116 respondents to this question considered Climate Action Plans (CAPs) to be a positive concept to help deliver a pathway to meet the net-zero emissions goal.

Just under two-thirds of respondents were Broadly Positive in their view of the CAPs, considering that they would help to ensure accountability and provide a clear focus for direction and performance-management of policies to deliver the emissions targets.

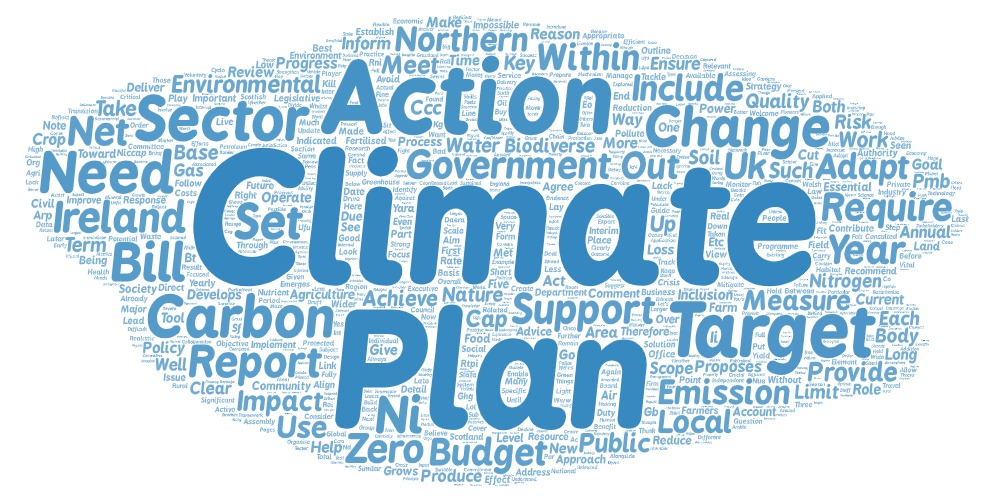
Respondents highlighted the need to ensure that public bodies engaged in widespread and active consultation with communities and different sectors of the economy when developing CAPs in order to ensure stakeholder buy-in and consensus as to what could be achieved. It was also felt that routine reporting of progress against the CAPs would help to drive improvement and to identify businesses/sectors that may be under-performing, and therefore where targeted supported could be provided.

Around 20% of respondents made specific reference to the fact that the proposals for the CAPs contain specific targets in terms of water, soil and air quality and reflected that this was a very positive aspect of the proposed legislation, harmonising the need to support biodiversity, as well as environmental, health.

However, other stakeholders highlighted that inclusion of these targets inappropriately extended the scope of the Bill and that these issues may be better addressed through other legislative/policy means:

*“There are already multiple targets, policies and legislation in place on water, biodiversity,  
soils and nitrogen. There is no explanation of how the* [Bill] *targets fit with requirements,  
reporting mechanisms and targets of other environmental legislation...  
There needs to be clear justification for the requirement for annual targets for these  
aspects to avoid over-reporting and duplication. It is vital that resources and actions are  
focused on delivering improvements to our environment rather than just reporting their  
condition. Targets will not lead to environmental improvement without the necessary  
policies, support, research and actions by multiple stakeholders”* **– Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association**

The below word cloud depicts the most frequent terms used by respondents in terms of their views on the CAPs:



Fourty-eight percent of respondents to this question believed the CAPs would be effective with 23% stating they would be ineffective and 29% being unsure.

**Office of a Climate Commissioner**

* ***What are your views on the establishment of a Climate Commissioner?***

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide their views on the creation of an independent Climate Office for NI, led by a Climate Commissioner who will have an extensive reporting and advisory role as outlined in the Bill.

The majority of respondents, 63%, had a Broadly Positive view of the proposed Climate Commissioner, citing that independent oversight of the legislation and policies to achieve the emissions target was essential in order to ensure accountability and scrutiny of public bodies.

The predominant concerns of respondents who reflected a Broadly Negative view of the proposed Climate Commissioner (32%) were the additional costs associated with establishment of this Office and its necessity, given that the UK CCC currently provides an advisory and reporting function on Climate Change progress for jurisdictions in the UK.

* ***What powers should the Climate Commissioner have?***

The overwhelming majority of respondents who articulated a Broadly Negative view on the establishment of a Climate Commissioner considered that there should be no powers designated to the Office.

However, those who were in favour of the role felt that the outlined powers in the Bill in terms of reporting on the progress of the emissions targets, making recommendations and access to persons/documents were appropriate. In addition:

* 34 respondents felt that the Commissioner should have some sort of enforcement power to penalise organisations failing to deliver on their responsibilities in terms of Climate Change (32%)
* 29 respondents considered that it would be useful for the Commissioner to have an active role in the development of CAPs (28%)

A number of respondents expressed strongly the need to ensure accountability of the Climate Change Office and Commissioner and that a clear framework was needed in this regard to govern what, if any, interaction the Office would have with the CCC:

*“The legislation must strike an appropriate balance between ensuring the Commissioner has all the powers they reasonably require to discharge their functions, and ensuring that there are effective, coherent and accountable governance mechanisms in place in overseeing the Commissioner and their office”* **- CBINI**

*“Powers should be appropriate and fit for purpose. The Commissioner should be required to consult, listen and act according to a specific set of guidelines, The office should not be given a free hand and should be answerable and accountable to the Assembly regularly”* **– Member of the Public**

**Sectoral Plans**

* ***Do you agree with the proposal to have specific sectoral policies associated with the Climate Action Plans?***

The vast majority of respondents were broadly supportive of the concept outlined in the Bill to have specific sectoral policies incorporated into each 5-yearly CAP, with 72% agreeing with this proposal:

* ***What impact do you think that these sectoral plans will have in terms of helping to achieve the Net Zero target?***

Most respondents acknowledged that there would be a differential impact on each industry/sector depending on their needs and capabilities to deliver the CAP targets.

It was widely recognised that some sectors will be able to make the transition towards carbon-neutral practice more easily than others and that these industries may need to “lead the way” in the short-term while an appropriate infrastructure is established to support other sectors to engage in climate-friendly activities in the years ahead. Relatedly, a fifth of respondents specifically recognised the challenges for the local agri-food industry in terms of engaging with Climate Change mitigation.

A high proportion of respondents reflected that it was important to ensure that public policy and strategies are harmonised in order to avoid duplication, confusion and uncertainty for businesses. For example, it was articulated that the upcoming development of the Energy Strategy by the Department for the Economy should not overlap with any new policies enacted through CAPs.

*“Specific sectoral policies will help to ensure the transition process is undertaken, as it should be, across all sectors. Sectoral plans must complement (and not compete with) one another in order to ensure the Northern Ireland economy, and indeed society, moves forward together on this”* **– Member of the Public**

*“Others may make a more gradual transition, such as farming, so as to not decimate the industry and threaten the workers who rely on it. However, differentiated progress cannot be used as an excuse for inaction and sectors that have more gradual targets still need to work hard to meet these. Sectors must take the plans seriously”* **– Member of the Public**

* ***How do you think the above sectors might be affected by the proposals?***

There was a wide range of views expressed by respondents regarding their consideration as to how different sectors of the local economy could be impacted by sectoral plans to work towards the emissions target outlined in the Bill.

A significant proportion, 42%, of the 113 respondents to this question reflected that all industries are likely to be challenged by the plans and that there will be a responsibility on all sectors to change their practices to become carbon neutral.

The majority of respondents specifically highlighted the potential issues for the local agri-food sector and that this industry in particular will face challenges given NI’s status as a net food producer for the UK and its high proportion of ruminant livestock farms (56% of respondents).

*“There will be devastating impacts to the agri-food sector in Northern Ireland. 100,000 jobs are under threat and a £5.2billion sector could be devastated. Livestock numbers will have to be reduced by at least 50% according to experts in the Climate Change Committee to meet net zero by 2050 and therefore even further reductions will be required to meet a 2045 target. Family farms like ours and others will be destroyed by Climate Action Plans that will have to deliver the 2045 target”* ***–* Member of the Public**

A key message from most respondents was that there should be adequate, structured and planned support for sectors to adopt new approaches to tackle the effects of Climate Change – a **“Just Transition.”** This was highlighted as essential in order to mitigate the potential economic and social impacts of change on all industries, including the agri-food sector:

*“Fundamental changes will be needed across all areas of the economy, but with the right support and investment in place, many of these changes will be of benefit to individual sectors as well as the environment. For example, in the agricultural sector, productivity should not be at the expense of the environment. For decades agricultural policy has asked our farmers to intensify their methods and move away from traditional, mixed approaches which better supported the health of the land….We want to see the development of a long-term vision for a healthy, productive countryside, that supports and is supported by, a resilient, profitable farming sector, that produces nutritious high-quality local food for our supply chains”* **– The National Trust**

*“All sectors will and should be affected, as we cannot continue with 'business as usual' and expect to meet our international and national obligations under the Paris Agreement, or respond appropriately to the Climate Emergency. The government will need to plan and provide appropriate support to enable a just transition to a zero-carbon future”* – **Ulster Wildlife**

*“Achieving these high ambition climate targets…. will require profound changes in each of these sectors – the plans will need to not only drive and support such transition but ensure that it is just – with economic sectors and regions of Northern Ireland negatively affected supported”* **- Brexit & Environment, Environmental Governance Island of Ireland Network**

The salient points highlighted by respondents in relation to how different sectors of the economy may be impacted are summarised below:

**ENERGY**

* Decommission NI fossil fuel plants
* Exploit opportunities for wind, tidal and wave power
* Opportunity for significant private investment with improved planning processes
* Build on success of renewable electricity production
* Incentivise domestic carbon-friendly heating

**BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL**

* Reform of waste management processes to encourage “re-use” and/or recycle strategies
* Incentives/tax relief for businesses engaging in carbon neutral activities
* Opportunity for economic boost, investment and profitability associated with NI being a “green-based economy”

**TRANSPORT**

* Develop infrastructure to support electric vehicles
* Increase use of carbon neutral fuel for HGVs/lorries
* Incentivisation schemes for e-travel
* Reduction in frequent flying and use of commercial airlines
* Promotion of “green” transport infrastructure i.e. cycling, walking routes

**LAND USE**

* Encourage and expand reforestation using indigenous species
* Restoration of peatlands and wetlands for carbon sequestration
* Reducing commercial peat extraction
* Conservation of protected spaces for nature and wildlife

**CONSTRUCTION**

* Decarbonisation of building materials and incentivisation of use
* Retrofitting buildings for carbon efficiency
* Planning application and approval to have carbon neutrality “built in” at outset
* Use of smart power technologies and roll-out of same

**AGRI-FOOD**

* Reduction in livestock numbers, leading to unprofitability
* Job losses and negative effect on rural communities
* Change payment scheme to incentivise eco-friendly practices
* Diversification of income
* Healthier land/eco-system leading to better profits and output

**Resource Implications**

* ***What do you think the resource implications of the Bill will be?***

Respondents were asked for their views on what the resource implications could be for the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, the NI Executive and specific sectors of the economy associated with the proposed Bill.

The vast majority of respondents identified that there will be a need for increased public expenditure to support industries to engage in activities to mitigate Climate Change.

Around 40% of respondents considered this to be a negative impact on public resources and expressed concern as to how the funding would be secured. Some respondents specifically highlighted the need for the NI Executive to demonstrate financial commitment for Climate Change measures through the establishment of multi-year budgets to support the Bill.

* ***What do you think are the most important issues for the government when making funding plans to help achieve the aims of the Bill?***

The most commonly highlighted issue by respondents to this question was that the local government must ensure a Just Transition framework for communities and industries is in place and adequately supported:

*“All gov funding plans should be in the context of the net zero transition (they need to overtly align with it) and should put green recovery at the heart of investments in the coming years as part of this”* **– Edinburgh Climate Change Institute**

*“Key funding consideration will include the need for transparency, cost effectiveness and equitability across the economy and society to deliver a ‘just transition’ to a zero-carbon economy”* **– Dalradian Gold Limited**

*“The key industries affected and required to provide the solutions in terms of reduction in emissions targets need support to transition.” –* **Firmus Energy**

*“The Bill should not cause undue hardship to any one section of the community – a fair and just transition to de-carbonisation of our economy and society should be central to any policy making”* **– Rural Community Network**

Other considerations that respondents felt were important when developing funding plans include:

* Providing education and awareness to different organisations, businesses and industries as to how they can develop “green strategies” (22%)
* Investing in training, skills-development and courses to support the workforce to take on jobs that will emerge as part of the green economy in future years (23%)
* Establishing dedicated funds/grant schemes for different industries to invest in new technologies that will provide the capability to deliver carbon neutral practices more quickly and easily (20%)

**Access to Specialist Advice**

* ***Appropriateness of access to specialist advice as outlined in the Bill***

Respondents were asked for their views on the detail included in the Bill that the UK CCC would provide advice to the Commissioner when they report annually on progress made against the CAPs.

The overwhelming majority of respondents to this question, 68%, felt that this was appropriate with only 10 respondents having a negative view.

* ***Are there other sources of expertise that may be needed to inform progress to achieve the Net Zero target?***

Eighty-eight respondents replied to this question and a range of additional organisations were suggested as being potentially useful for the Climate Commissioner to consult with in terms of accessing specialist advice. The most commonly suggested entities were:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Entity** | **Count** |
| ROI Climate Change Advisory Council | 13 |
| Green/Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations | 11 |
| Local Universities | 10 |
| Local Businesses/Industry Representatives | 8 |
| Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change | 5 |
| Tyndall Centre | 4 |

**Responsibility on Public Bodies**

* ***What are your views on the roles and responsibilities placed on public bodies as set out in the Bill?***

There was a comparatively low completion rate for this question on the call-for-evidence template. Of the 82 respondents who did provide an answer, a large proportion (49%) considered that public sector leadership was important in the development of policies and proposals to mitigate Climate Change.

Just under 40% expressed a view that there should be a greater obligation put on public bodies with regards engagement in Climate Change mitigation plans, reporting on progress against these and holding them to account.

Of note 24 out of the 39 organisations who responded to this question were in favour of more stringent and express duties for public bodies to be included in the Bill.

Relatedly, a number of respondents advocated that in addition to Climate Change mitigation, public organisations should be mandated to report on **Adaptation** to facilitate accountability for their strategies to ensure that the areas under their remit are appropriate for, and resilient to, the changed climate.

* ***Lead Government Department***

The majority of respondents to this question, 57%, believe that there should be an allocated lead department in local government with ultimate responsibility for delivering the aims of the Bill (62 of 108 responses). Of these, almost two-thirds stated that The Executive Office should be responsible:

Respondents generally felt that given the wide-ranging, and cross-cutting, nature of the Bill, as well as the profound implications for Climate Change on the local economy, society and environment, it was appropriate that the burden of responsibility should sit with The Executive Office as the lead government department.

* ***What are your views on the implementation of a carbon usage-tracking scheme?***

A very small minority of respondents raised an objection to the proposition outlined in the Bill that DAERA would be responsible for delivering a scheme to track carbon usage. The majority (53%) were broadly in favour of this, although quite a high proportion of respondents felt that there was insufficient information about this proposal to enable them to make an informed comment.

**Transboundary Considerations**

* ***What are your views on how the Bill addresses Transboundary Issues?***

Just under 70% of the 101 respondents to this question acknowledged the fact that Climate Change is a cross-border issue and cannot be adequately addressed by countries acting in isolation and the majority of respondents considered that it was very important that institutions in NI engage and co-operate with entities in neighbouring jurisdictions including Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland, as well as other countries, to co-ordinate Climate Change policy.

Specifically, 45% respondents noted the need for close working with entities in ROI in order to harmonise plans on an “all-island basis.”

* ***Do you think that there should be a transboundary approach to Climate Change?***

Respondents replied to this question as follows:

* Yes: 75 (70%)
* No: 12 (11%)
* Unsure: 20 (19%)

Several stakeholders reflected that the CCC’s recommendation of an 82% emissions reduction target by 2050 for NI takes account of Transboundary Considerations given the UK’s reliance on the NI Agri-Food sector for produce, thereby mitigating the need for imports, and the associated carbon outlay associated with transport and shipping:

*“The Bill refers to transboundary issues with a focus on the import of carbon products and fails to address the fact that Agri-food production in Northern Ireland reduces the need for food production in GB and thus by feeding the whole of the UK we are carrying a carbon footprint on behalf of the UK. This is recognised by the Climate Change Committee in the setting of a fair target for NI to contribute to the UK’s overall emissions target. If we are carrying the carbon footprint of producing food for the UK, the rest of the UK will find the necessary mitigations in turn to compensate for their consumption of carbon goods, to deliver net zero carbon overall.*

*We agree there should be a UK Carbon Balance Sheet that recognises the Carbon footprint of our exports to GB is a transfer out of our inventory of Carbon from Northern Ireland, as a transfer to the other regions of the UK”* **– Poultry Industry Federation of Northern Ireland**

**Rural Impact Assessment**

* ***Do you think it is important to assess the impact on rural communities of the proposals provided for in the Bill?***

There was almost universal agreement of the need to ensure an appropriate and adequate assessment is conducted in terms of the impact on rural communities arising from the outworking of the Bill with 93% of respondents stating this was important (6% unsure).

* ***What do you think is the best way to consider the potential rural impacts?***

There were a range of views expressed by respondents in terms of how best to engage rural communities in plans to mitigate Climate Change. The most frequently cited measures were to ensure these communities are actively consulted with in the development of the CAPs and that rural impact assessments are carried out by public departments before launching specific sectoral plans that will have influence in these areas:

A very high number of respondents again emphasised the need to facilitate a Just Transition for rural communities and some suggested that the shift towards a new farm payment scheme that would incentivise eco-friendly practice may be a method of supporting this.

*“Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas identified in the assessment, adequate financial and social support may be required to mitigate any unintended negative consequences brought about by the introduction of the legislation. This could be means tested or weighted, whereby the level of support is proportionate to the impact of regulations introduced”* **– Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council**

*“The Climate Action Plan and any sectoral plans will decide which aspects of rural community will be impacted, for example, agriculture, land use, or transport. Thus, these plans should be accompanied by a Rural Needs Impact assessment with the cooperation of public authorities who are subject to the Rural Needs duty. The Assembly should also put this aspect under scrutiny with regard to these plans”* **– Centre for Cross Border Studies**

*“Climate Action Plans should be rural proofed to ensure that they do not adversely impact upon already marginalised rural communities and Rural Impact Assessments should be carried out on CAPs”* **– Member of the Public**

**Additional Information**

* ***Are there any other measures not included in the Bill that you think should be included?***

In addition to suggested amendments to some of the salient aspects of the Bill, for example the potential revision of the net-zero target, respondents highlighted a number of areas that could be added to, strengthened or expanded upon within the proposed legislation, including:

* **Just Transition** – a key message reflected by most respondents was that there should be a framework to assess the likely impact on different sectors of the economy in shifting towards carbon-neutral practice and to support industries to do so.

Whilst the Bill does contain “Just Transition” principles, a very high number of respondents considered that these could be strengthened and provision could also be made for the establishment of a “Just Transition Commission”, similar to what is legislated for in Scotland

* **Climate Adaptation –** as reflected earlier, a number of respondents considered that the Bill should be expanded to include a specific requirement on government to ensure Climate Adaptation processes are legislated for, with inclusion of a specific definition and possible responsibility on Public Bodies
* **Financial Assessment –** respondents articulated a concern that the Bill has not been subject to a financial costing exercise and highlighted that some reports predict there to be an estimated additional cost of £900m to NI in order to deliver net-zero by 2045. It was felt that there was a lack of information as to how this would be resourced
* **Greenhouse Gas Accounting –** a specific area highlighted by representatives and members of the agri-food sector was that the Bill does not take into account granular considerations in terms of GHG emissions/sequestration. For example, a concern frequently highlighted was that, currently, carbon sequestration from agricultural land is not “credited” to individual farms, but is rather cumulatively allocated to the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) inventory.

Further, a number of respondents suggested that it would be useful to consider whether biogenic methane should be treated separately within the emissions targets of the Bill, given its status as a “short-lived” GHG

* **Planning System –** a number of industry and energy sector representatives highlighted that the current capacity restraints and processes in the local planning application and approval system are a significant constraint in terms of progressing with investment and implementation of infrastructure to support Climate Change. It was recommended that this be addressed in order to accelerate the delivery of these initiatives to help meet the overarching emissions goal
* **Land Use –** a frequently highlighted issue was the need for a comprehensive review and strategy for land use in NI in order to ensure that space is identified and nurtured to support Climate Change and carbon sequestration. Broadly this would include measures to enhance reforestation, restore peatland and wetland and protect land for native wildlife
* **Public Engagement –** a key message reflected by a number of participants was the need for a robust system of continuous public education and awareness in relation to Climate Change and the measures being introduced as part of the Bill to mitigate its negative effects. It was suggested that creation of a “Citizens Assembly” could be a useful forum to help facilitate this which could act as a de facto consultative body in terms of the development of CAPs and specific sectoral policies
* ***Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the Climate Change Bill?***

There was a diverse range of views expressed by respondents when they were given the opportunity to provide their own comments on the Bill, with some considering that the introduction of the legislation was long-overdue and necessary to mitigate the damage to the environment and others reflecting a concern about the implications of the net-zero 2045 target and the potential ruinous effect(s) on the local agri-food sector.

This range of opinion is reflected in the two comments below:

*“The proposed Bill would have a devastating impact on my rural family business which depends on the agriculture sector and producing high quality local food. It is scandalous to think that this Bill could have the effect of leaving hundreds of local businesses and jobs unsustainable and simply causing more food to be flown thousands of miles from other countries with much lower environmental and food safety standards, all while going against expert advise and resulting in net harm to the environment.”* **– Member of the Public**

*“The Bill represents an opportunity to change how we do things in Northern Ireland – we must work together to tackle climate change. Most of the consequences of climate change and ecological destruction are felt across society and need to be dealt with cross-departmentally. I welcome the Bill and hope it will be implemented in full.”* – **Member of the Public**

1. **Other Written Responses**

In addition to the returns via Citizen Space, the Committee received 36 submissions in “free format” – 30 from organisations and 6 from individual members of the public.

Broadly the key themes and messages arising from these responses reflected the feedback collated through the call-for-evidence template:

* The majority of respondents were broadly positive about the aims and objectives of the Bill
* Most returnees supported the declaration of a Climate Emergency
* There was a difference of opinion regarding the 2045 net-zero target with some respondents considering this to be an effective way of driving change through an ambitious target and others expressing concern that it was unworkable and not in line with the advice provided by the UK CCC
* There was broad support for the establishment of an independent Climate Commissioner to hold public departments to account
* The concept of establishing CAPs with specific sectoral targets was well-received as a potentially effective pathway to deliver net-zero
* It was acknowledged that there will be a differential impact on sectors of the economy in terms of their ability to reduce carbon emissions
* The significant challenges for the local agri-food sector were recognised and it was felt that this industry in particular would require support
* Just Transition principles should be at the heart of Climate Change policy and future frameworks
* A number of stakeholders advocated that there should be a greater requirement for public institutions in terms of developing Climate Change mitigation plans and reporting on these:

*“The Minister would welcome provision for public bodies to be required to report on their climate change actions as this would create wider accountability for climate change targets”* **– Department for Infrastructure**

* It was strongly advocated that multi-year budgetary planning is essential to deliver the emissions targets and support implementation of the CAPs. Some stakeholders noted the potential need for investment for public bodies in order to ensure that there are appropriate resources in place to meet reporting and monitoring responsibilities set out in the Bill
* CAPs/sectoral plans must be subject to Rural Impact Assessments
* Capacity constraints in the local planning system must be addressed so as to encourage and accelerate large-scale investment from private companies in terms of green infrastructure
* Transboundary considerations are important as Climate Change is a global issue and the entities established via the Bill should work with colleagues in neighbouring jurisdictions

Some specific considerations highlighted by organisations that provided a free-format return include:

* Inclusion of **gender budgeting and gender proofing principles** within the Bill, particularly in relation to future growth in green technology, a sector that has been predominantly dominated by a male workforce
* Specific Just Transition funding/support in relation to **domestic heating systems** and appliances, particularly given the disproportionately high levels of fuel poverty in NI
* The local agri-food industry is, by international comparison, very high-performing in terms of carbon footprint and the sector is actively **engaging in a series of programmes to improve its emissions** for example through genetics optimisation, modification of feed and more efficient livestock management
* There are **pre-existing all-island networks and arrangements** in certain sectors, for example in relation to rail and road travel, and therefore it is important to ensure alignment between jurisdictions in terms of “green travel” to maximise benefits for the environment
* Focus should be directed to **addressing emissions from fossil fuel extraction and use**, as opposed to biogenic methane from ruminant livestock, given that, whilst it has a potent warming impact, biogenic methane is a comparatively “short-lived” GHG and is removed from the atmosphere as part of the natural carbon cycle
* The application of a net-zero target for NI, which is currently deemed by the UK CCC to be unachievable, could cause a **competitive disadvantage** in the context of the Free Trade Arrangement recently signed by the UK government with Australia. Presently, there is no net-zero target in Australia which could potentially lead to greater food imports from there to NI on a cost-basis, should the local agri-food sector be compelled to significantly reduce livestock holdings.

Similarly, the legislative framework in New Zealand separates biogenic methane from other greenhouse gas emissions which effectively reduces the impact on its agri-food industry – this could lead to a situation where agri-food from New Zealand is more attractive from an economic perspective to that produced in NI

* Facilitating more **extensive powers and autonomy to local government**
* The **public health impact** of Climate Change for example in terms of the increasing prevalence of respiratory conditions caused by exposure to ever-decreasing air quality and the mental health impact of climate disasters such as torrential storms, floods and fires
* The proposal for the new Climate Commissioner to report on the progress of the CAPs on an annual basis may be too granular and a **longer timeframe** may be more appropriate to allow for changes to take effect

One responding organisation fundamentally disagreed with the principles and rationale for the Bill, outlined that concerns around Climate Change have been exaggerated both nationally and internationally, and articulated that there are more pressing economic and societal issues that should be addressed.

The most comprehensive free-format response was provided by DAERA that included extensive comments regarding the drafting of the legislation. This feedback is included at Appendix 2 which summarises all suggested amendments, additions or queries with the wording of the Bill.

In terms of the Bill itself, DAERA highlighted a major concern regarding the net-zero target and the timescale to deliver this by 2045. As reflected by other stakeholders, DAERA expressed that this was not in line with the UK CCC guidance and is not currently supported by any credible pathway for emissions reduction in NI. The likely detrimental impact on the agri-food sector should this target be pursued was highlighted, as well as the need for additional investment to deliver expansive carbon-capture technology (estimated to be £900m)

*“In every scenario…the CCC have constructed…Northern Ireland would not get to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 never mind by 2045. The CCC have categorically stated several times, that a net zero target for Northern Ireland cannot be recommended…. For Northern Ireland to achieve net zero…it would require a very substantial reduction in output from Northern Ireland’s livestock farming sector and/or Northern Ireland having a much greater than equitable share of all UK greenhouse gas removal technologies…. The impacts and potential costs of one or both of those outcomes would be very significant and it will likely result in offshoring of carbon without a reduction in overall global emissions”*

DAERA also highlighted issues regarding the proposed establishment of a Climate Change Commissioner for NI and whether the anticipated costs of such a role, estimated to be approx. £2m per annum, would deliver value for money given the rather limited functions of the Commissioner as outlined in the Bill.

Further, given that the CCC already provides many of the services anticipated to be undertaken by the Commissioner, and the potential role of the soon-to-be-established Office for Environmental Protection, the necessity of having a local position was questioned, and the need to ensure clarity of role distinction between the Commissioner and these other bodies was highlighted.

The importance of undertaking Rural Impact Assessments on all future CAPs/sectoral plans was considered to be vital, in order to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the consequences for rural communities and that mitigation(s) could be identified.

In terms of access to specialist advice, DAERA considered that the Bill should give greater prominence to the CCC as the competent authority in relation to provision of advice when setting emissions targets and revising them as needed.

DAERA also reflected that the Bill in its current form is unclear with regards the explicit roles, duties and expectations of government departments. Whilst it is implied that each Executive Department will be responsible for consulting on, developing, implementing and resourcing sectoral plans within its policy scope, this could be more clearly articulated in the legislation.

With respect to transboundary considerations DAERA reflected that:

*“The most effective way of addressing climate change issues is for each country to play its part in reducing emissions. An important aspect of achieving this is to focus actions and measures on improving the environment. In this regard, the Department does and would support further efforts to work with the Republic of Ireland and other parts of the UK in taking forward actions which result in positive environmental outcomes”*

1. **Responses from Friends of the Earth Website**

In addition to the Citizen Space and free-format returns, the Committee received 1,145 emails sent via the FOE website from individuals providing feedback on the Climate Change Bill.

These were generic, identical messages, the vast majority of which were unamended, that expressed support for the key aspects of the Bill:

“I’d like to show my support for the Climate Change Bill and respond to the consultation on it.

I believe Northern Ireland needs this strong climate legislation because we have a responsibility to ensure that the planet continues to be habitable for generations to come and this is urgent.

Northern Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions are higher than the UK average, and are falling more slowly. Northern Ireland is lagging behind and isn’t pulling its weight in the fight against climate breakdown. A climate change law with strong and legally binding greenhouse gas reduction targets is needed if Northern Ireland is to do its fair share.

I support the Climate Change Bill for the following reasons:

1. A central theme is the principle of a just transition to a low-carbon future that ensures all sectors of Northern Ireland’s society make sustained cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. A just transition will protect the vulnerable, create jobs, improve health and well-being, and make sure we all do our fair share.

2. The Bill sets a clear, strong, and achievable target in line with what is required to achieve the goal of the Paris Agreement. Net-zero carbon by 2045 is the minimum we should be aiming for. Anything less is shirking our responsibility to act decisively.

3. The proposed independent climate commissioner will ensure ministers and departments introduce policies and plans to reduce emissions. Without the scrutiny of the commission, it is likely Northern Ireland will continue to lag behind.

4. The current Assembly’s declaration of a Climate Emergency will lapse when the next Assembly is elected. I support the Bill’s declaration of a Climate Emergency, so that future Assemblies will have a responsibility to act until the emergency has passed.

5. The proposed Climate Action Plans are a key element of the Bill. The 2045 net-zero target establishes the direction of travel, but the Climate Action Plans will set out the route. If we are to keep global temperatures below dangerous levels we must make rapid cuts in emissions out to 2045 based on strict carbon budgets. The Climate Action Plans will set those emissions cuts. Without the guidance set by the Climate Action Plans there is a real risk Northern Ireland’s response to the climate emergency will remain unfocused and inadequate.

6. Emissions reductions for specific sectors built into the Climate Action Plans will be crucial to driving effective and targeted emissions reductions policies. The sectors listed in the Bill are the most significant contributors of greenhouse gas emissions, so it makes sense to make particular reference to them.

7. The Climate Change Committee is a recognised expert body and its advice should be sought and taken into account. The advice and recommendations from the Committee may be limited by UK Government policy, however, consideration should also be given to other scientific research, technical and technological developments, and policies of other countries, particularly Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

8. The Climate Change Bill recognises the interconnectedness of climate impacts and other environmental problems. The proposed guaranteed environmental protections are welcome.

9. Climate breakdown and environmental damage don’t respect borders. Northern Ireland shares an island with the Republic of Ireland. Transboundary impacts must be included if our move to a low-carbon society is to be fair.”

1. **Stakeholder Events**

The AERA Committee arranged two stakeholder events on 17 June 2021 for representatives from various organisations to come together within a structured forum and discuss some of the salient aspects of the Climate Change Bill.

At each event participants were divided into cross-organisation virtual breakout rooms to consider three questions before providing feedback to the group at large.

The table below summarises the key feedback arising from consideration of the questions at each stakeholder event and the views of participants:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Morning Event - Representatives from Stakeholder Organisations** | |
| **Question** | **Key Points** |
| **1.Is it possible to reach the net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2045 as set out in the Bill?** | * Ambition of target is welcome, but likely to have detrimental impact on agri-food sector * Just Transition should be central to ensure industries are supported * A dedicated pathway for the agri-food sector to mitigate emissions is essential * Urgent action is required– this needs to be “front-loaded”, i.e. impactful action taken immediately * A target is needed to drive change * Split view – nothing technically preventing net-zero in NI but is this practical and achievable? * New innovations will emerge in the coming years to support Climate Change mitigation * Emissions targets need to be based on credible evidence, informed by advice from respected bodies in the UK, ROI and globally |
| **2.How will the plan to reach this target impact on different sectors of our economy?** | * All sectors will be affected, but differently * Concern about the detrimental impact on agri-food * Opportunity for agri-food to diversify activities, engage in nature-based solutions and to protect the health of the land * Farming communities require support through grants, payments and subsidy * Big opportunity for investment/job growth in relation to retrofitting of buildings, sustainable transport and infrastructure * Short-term economic outlay required for long-term gain * The cost(s) of inaction far outstrip any additional cost associated with incentivising change * Opportunity to use nature-based solutions to improve the biodiversity health of local ecosystems * Innovation, imagination and collaboration with other regions important to deliver projects that will have most impact * Economic and Rural Impact Assessments must be carried out for all plans and policies |
| **3.Do we need a Climate Change Commissioner and if so, what powers should they have?** | * Independent role essential to hold authorities to account * Regular, annual reporting may be resource intensive but worthwhile to monitor progress * Specific role for NI important to understand local context of businesses and government and the associated challenges * Commissioner could play a key role in liaising with bodies in the ROI and beyond to support Climate Change mitigation locally * Powers of investigation and reporting are important but these could be strengthened to include provision for enforcement |
| **Evening Event - Representatives from Youth Organisations** | |
| **Question** | **Key Points** |
| **1.The Bill plans to achieve balance between the greenhouse gases released by our society and the amount taken in from the atmosphere (net zero) by 2045. What do you think of this?** | * Ambition and optimism are needed * NI is a net emitter of greenhouse gases and so should strive to be more aggressive in terms of emissions reduction * Accurate measuring and monitoring will be crucial * Science and advice indicate that achieving an 82% reduction for NI by 2050 is the best that can be delivered * “Admirable but unrealistic” * There is a moral responsibility for the NI Executive and Assembly to act * There is an opportunity to lead the way in Climate Change and overcome damage caused by the incentivisation of intensive farming in recent decades through a new payment scheme that rewards nature-friendly practices |
| **2.How will key areas such as farming, transport and energy be affected by this plan?** | * All sectors will have to change, but can they do it quickly enough to meet the 2045 target? * Some sectors will need more time than others * Climate Change poses a greater threat to farming than mitigation * Stopping all subsidies and investment in fossil fuel extraction will encourage development of renewable energy * “Green” travel with better walkways and cycle paths that are maximised for carbon sequestration * Transition to sustainable farming practices is important and encouragement to move away from conventional means * Public education and awareness essential to change consumptive behaviour, supported with recycling and re-use schemes * Transport should be incentivised and supported to strive for lower emissions and electric methods * A green recovery and Just Transition may support employment for future generations * The role that farming communities play in carbon sequestration must be recognised |
| **3.How should the government monitor progress against this target and do you think an independent Commissioner would help do this?** | * Independent role to have oversight of the Climate Action Plans is essential and would be beneficial * 5-yearly action plans with annual reporting would provide opportunity to check progress and make changes where necessary * Commissioner should be informed by science and expert advice and be free from political influence * The Commissioner cannot be unregulated and there must be oversight of its functions |

1. **School Focus Groups**

The Assembly Education Service supported the Committee’s call-for-evidence by facilitating focus groups with pupils at both primary and post-primary level in order to gauge feedback on the Climate Change Bill from the generation that could potentially be most profoundly impacted by harmful effects to the environment and any mitigation strategies that are adopted.

Around 300 pupils took part representing 16 schools from various constituencies as shown below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Constituency** | **Primary** | **Post Primary** |
| **North Antrim** | 1 | 2 |
| **Newry & Armagh** | / | 2 |
| **Upper Bann** | / | 2 |
| **North Down** | 1 | / |
| **North Belfast** | 1 | / |
| **East Belfast** | 1 | / |
| **Foyle** | / | 1 |
| **Fermanagh & South Tyrone** | / | 1 |
| **West Tyrone** | 1 | / |
| **Lagan Valley** | 1 | / |
| **Mid Ulster** | 1 | / |
| **South Antrim** | 1 | / |

* There was universal consensus that Climate Change is a very important issue with 100% of participants agreeing with this, citing the potential impact on wildlife and expert opinion that things will only get worse if action is not taken
* The vast majority of young people felt that setting an emissions target was important in order to help plan and measure progress
* Over half of the pupils considered that the 2045 net-zero target set out in the Bill was a good idea but at least 25% considered that this would be “too soon” for some industries and that older people may be reluctant to change

*“This will be difficult for farmers ... They will need to make a lot of changes”*

*“It’s important to have a target so we have something to measure our efforts against”*

*“It’s too ambitious…Do we have the technology to reach this target?”*

*“2045 is quite far away – there are shortages of food and water already’”*

* Participants were asked about how society should tackle Climate Change, with the majority of pupils stating that government direction was essential, along with greater use of renewable energies and public awareness:
* Pupils recognised the profound impact that Climate Change mitigation may have on our livelihoods and all participants reflected that change was necessary

*“Government needs to encourage people to make small changes in their life – walk instead of drive, drive electric cars, eat more local food and think about what they buy and throw away”*

* Most focus groups considered that having an independent Climate Change Commissioner is a good idea and that this individual could be supported by a committee of experts
* When asked about resource allocation, the vast majority of participants considered that at least 5% of public funding should be allocated to tackle Climate Change with most supporting expenditure of between 10% and 20%
* There was broad agreement from pupils that measures, plans and processes that have worked elsewhere should be adopted locally to tackle Climate Change and that it was important to work together with other countries, but it was also acknowledged that it is crucial to tailor policy for NI’s unique circumstances

**Appendix 1 – Participating Organisations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Sector** | **Engagement** |
| ABO Wind NI Ltd | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| Antrim and District Angling Association | Wildlife and Nature Conservation | Written Submission |
| Belcoo Frack Free | Anti-Fracking | Written Submission |
| Belfast Climate Commission | Environment Sector | Stakeholder Event |
| Belfast Hills Partnership | Wildlife and Nature Conservation | Stakeholder Event |
| Breastival | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission |
| Brexit & Environment, Environmental Governance Island of Ireland Network | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| CBINI | Business/Commercial | Written Submission |
| Centre for Cross Border Studies | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| Chartered Accountants Ireland | Professional Body | Written Submission |
| CIWM Northern Ireland Centre Council | Business/Commercial | Stakeholder Event |
| Climate Northern Ireland | Environment Sector | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Code Monitoring NI | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission |
| College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise | Academic/Policy Development | Stakeholder Event |
| Commoning Possibilities - Garvagh People's Forest Project | Wildlife and Nature Conservation | Written Submission |
| Community Gardens Ireland | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission |
| Consumer Council | Business/Commercial | Written Submission |
| CPL Industries | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs | Public Department | Written Submission |
| Department for Infrastructure | Public Department | Written Submission |
| Dalradian Gold Limited | Business/Commercial | Written Submission |
| Derry City & Strabane District Council | Local Government | Written Submission |
| EAUC - Alliance for Sustainability in Education | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| Ecojustice Legal Action Centre | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, University of Edinburgh | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| Energy Saving Trust | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| Evangelical Alliance | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission |
| Farmers for Action | Agri-Food | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Federation of Small Businesses NI | Business/Commercial | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Fermanagh & South Tyrone Ulster Unionist Party Association | Political | Written Submission |
| Fermanagh and Omagh District Council | Local Government | Written Submission |
| Firmus Energy | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| Forest of Ancestry | Wildlife and Nature Conservation | Written Submission |
| Friends of the Earth | Environment Sector | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Historic Environment Stakeholder Group | Environment Sector | Written Submission |
| INFACTNI | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission |
| Letterbeen and Mullaghdun Partnership | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission |
| Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council | Local Government | Written Submission |
| Logistics UK | Business/Commercial | Written Submission |
| Love Leitrim | Anti-Fracking | Written Submission |
| Mid and East Antrim Borough Council | Local Government | Written Submission |
| Mineral Products Association NI | Construction | Written Submission |
| National Energy Action | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| National Trust | Wildlife and Nature Conservation | Written Submission |
| Nature Friendly Farming Network | Agri-Food | Written Submission |
| Newry, Mourne and Down District Council | Local Government | Written Submission |
| NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Group | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| NI Commissioner for Children and Young People | Academic/Policy Development | Stakeholder Event |
| Northern Ireland Agriculture Producers Association | Agri-Food | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Northern Ireland Environment Link | Environment Sector | Written Submission |
| Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA) | Agri-Food | Written Submission |
| Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association (NIGTA) | Agri-Food | Written Submission |
| Northern Ireland Local Government Association | Local Government | Written Submission |
| Northern Ireland Meat Exporters’ Association | Agri-Food | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event Stakeholder Event |
| Northern Ireland Women's Budget Group | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| Poultry Federation Northern Ireland | Agri-Food | Written Submission |
| Queen’s University Belfast | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| Renewable Energy Systems | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| Renewable NI | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health | Professional Body | Written Submission |
| Royal College of Psychiatry | Professional Body | Written Submission |
| Royal Society for the Protection of Birds | Wildlife and Nature Conservation | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Royal Society of Ulster Architects (RSUA) | Professional Body | Written Submission |
| Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Ireland | Professional Body | Written Submission |
| Rural Community Network | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Social Farms & Gardens | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission |
| Southern Organisation for Action | Voluntary Sector | Stakeholder Event |
| SSE Limited | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| Style Records NI | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission |
| Sustainable Northern Ireland | Environment Sector | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Sustrans Northern Ireland | Academic/Policy Development | Stakeholder Event |
| System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) | Energy Sector | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| The Association for Consultancy and Engineering | Construction | Written Submission |
| The Federation of Housing Associations | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| The Gathering | Environment Sector | Written Submission |
| The Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland (LMC) | Agri-Food | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| The Stove Industry Alliance | Energy Sector | Written Submission |
| Ulster Farmers Union | Agri-Food | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Ulster University | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| Ulster Wildlife | Wildlife and Nature Conservation | Written Submission/Stakeholder Event |
| Windwatch NI | Voluntary Sector | Written Submission |
| Women's Policy Group/Women's Resource Development Agency | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| Women's Support | Academic/Policy Development | Written Submission |
| Yara UK Limited | Agri-Food | Written Submission |
| Young Farmer's Clubs of Ulster | Agri-Food | Stakeholder Event |
| Youth Action NI | Voluntary Sector | Stakeholder Event |