

**Environmental
Hustings
Report**

March 2011

Environmental Hustings

Thursday 31 March 2011

10am - 12.30pm

NICVA

“People care passionately about their environment, and increasingly recognise how crucial its protection is to economic progress as well as quality of life. As our political process matures environmental matters will increasingly be a determiner in how people vote. This event demonstrated to our politicians how important the environment is to their constituents”.

Political Representatives



Stephen Farry



Philip Weir



Steven Agnew



Daithí McKay



John Dallat



Danny Kinahan

The order for first response was rotated between the political parties for each question.

The responses in this booklet were noted on the day and have been approved by the speakers as representing the views expressed at the event.

Environmental Hustings

Over 60 people representing environmental groups from across Northern Ireland came together at an environmental hustings event on the 31 March 2011 to challenge the political parties to outline their green credentials in advance of the May 2011 Assembly Elections.

The event was organised by Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) as a follow up to the publication of their 2011 Assembly Environmental Manifesto. It provided an opportunity for each of Northern Ireland's political parties to answer questions and set out their policies with regard to Northern Ireland's environment.

With environmental organisations representing well in excess of 100,000 voters, delegates were keen to hear what environmental commitments and assurances the political parties could give if their party were returned to serve in the next Assembly.

Party spokespeople were questioned on a range of environmental issues including the Green New Deal, Climate Change, Planning and Transport and their responses have formed the basis of this report which we hope will assist voters with environmental concerns in making their electoral choices.

Format

The event commenced with an introduction by the Chair. The spokespeople from each political party were invited to make a brief (3 minutes) opening remark before responding to questions from the floor from delegates on environmental issues.

Questions & Answers

After the politicians' opening comments, members of the audience were invited to ask questions. The questions were grouped into categories and discussion time allocated for each grouping. These groupings were drawn from the issues highlighted in NIEL'S 2011 Assembly Environmental Manifesto. The questions allowed the political spokespeople the opportunity to explain, justify, or elaborate on their Parties' policies on specific environmental issues. The delegates were given a maximum of **30 seconds** to ask their question and the politicians had a maximum of **one minute each** to respond. The Chair ensured that the 'running order' for responding to each question was rotated between the political parties.

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***Please Note:** As the DUP representative had to leave the hustings at the end of Category 1 questions, no further DUP responses were recorded after this point.

Outline the reasons why people who care for the environment should vote for your party in the 2011 Assembly Elections



Alliance has a strong track record of standing up for the environment, both in Council and in the Assembly. We combine a strong commitment to green issues with the strength in our mandate to make a difference. Alliance led efforts to obtain unanimous backing for the Green New Deal in the Assembly. We have twin responsibilities in Northern Ireland both to protect our local environment and also to make our contribution to wider global efforts to combat climate change. In the next Assembly, Alliance will be the strongest voice in areas such as an independent Environment Protection Agency, pushing for a Marine Bill, lobbying for enhanced tree coverage.



The DUP will continue working towards having a Government estate that is carbon neutral, and increase significantly the number of schools involved in the Eco-schools programme. We should play our part in making a fair share reduction in greenhouse gases. We want to increase substantially our woodland cover. The DUP will protect biodiversity and prevent species decline and habitat destruction. We are keen to see recent loss of wildlife arrested by 2020 and support the retention and restoration of native forests. We want to reverse the continuing decline in farmland birds. The DUP is keen to facilitate the expansion of allotment provision.



The Green Party did not have to be dragged kicking and screaming to face the reality of climate change; we led the way by exposing the problem and offering the solutions. We did not have to be convinced of the merits of the Green New Deal because we helped create it. The Green Party is not simply the political wing of the green movement, we are a part of the green movement. Only the Green Party recognises that environmental issues are inextricably linked to social and economic concerns. Accept no substitutes; if you want green policies vote Green Party 1.



Sinn Féin elected representatives have a proven track record in regards to the environment, from a community level upwards. We will continue to ensure that the environment is a top priority in all tiers of government and in the Assembly and across local councils. Sinn Féin will ensure climate change, well-being and sustainable development are at the core of government. Sinn Féin commitments include: continuing to support the Green New Deal; development of a long-term renewable energy strategy; supporting implementation of a Marine Act; promoting a 'growing-your-own-food' culture by supporting allotments and community farms; continuing the policy to double the amount of forestry; and ensuring the plastic bag levy legislation is completed in the next mandate.



People should vote SDLP if they really care about the future of our environment and are aware of just how low down the pecking order the DUP, SF and Alliance parties have placed on the environment when drawing up their 'budget'. The environment is our greatest natural asset worthy of ring-fenced investment and not dependant on the sale of plastic bags as the budget suggested. The SDLP not only supports 'green policies' but seeks to ensure that the money is in place to deliver. Where there is damage to the environment there invariably is corruption and the SDLP has, through the Public Accounts Committee exposed corruption wherever it exists.



The UUP, leaders on most environmental issues – including climate change, marine and rivers management, plastic bag legislation, planning - want to ensure that living within our resources is embedded in a future 'Programme for Government', linking all departments into joined up environmental thinking. We will fight for all areas of government to work as effectively as possible to deliver key environmental targets. We must use our volunteers' skills, co-ordinated through our NGO's, and ensure a responsible approach with a timed delivery plan and rigorous checks to make sure it is delivered. The UUP will push the New Executive to develop renewable energy resources so that our new-builds and refurbishments make the most of these resources.

Category 1

Climate Change

Approximately 99% of Northern Ireland's primary energy needs are met from imported fossil fuels, which costs us over £2 billion a year - a clearly unsustainable situation. Northern Ireland needs to develop a low carbon economy and we need the Northern Ireland Executive to develop a costed action plan to ensure that happens. WWF and the other members of SCCNI believes that as part of that move to a low carbon economy, a Climate Change Act that at least matches the targets for greenhouse gas emissions in the UK Climate Change Act of 2008 is needed, something which more than half of our MLAs previously signed up to. Will your party support the introduction of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act?



Of course we need a Climate Change Act. We can also address fuel poverty as well as reduce emissions – e.g. through insulation. We believe that legislation is absolutely critical to this.



Yes, we are supportive of a Climate Change Act, but it all depends on a budget for delivering changes in emissions.



Yes, we would support this 100%, and have pushed strongly for a Climate Change Act. Even though Northern Ireland is a small region, we are all in it together, and we should not hide behind UK targets and achievements on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Yes we would support a Climate Change Act, because we need targets and incentives, and we have no excuse for not doing it. Ireland is well placed to develop renewable energies, with potential for wind and wave energy that we should take advantage of.



Yes we would support a Climate Change Act, and we have a definite commitment to this because Northern Ireland has biggest carbon footprint per capita in the UK. Need to deal with some issues to help lower emissions.



We are not convinced that a Climate Change Act is required. It is not always necessary to legislate. A lot of work has already been done in this area. We believe offshore renewables have great potential. We believe that it is not necessary to be over bureaucratic. We put the “economy up front and centre”. We try to balance pro-environment policies with pro-economy ones.

Category 1

Climate Change

Supplementary

What action would you propose to deal with the very large carbon footprint of Northern Ireland's homes? Does your party recognise the inequity of funding for micro generation of renewable in Northern Ireland compared to GB and how would it rectify this situation?



We believe that investment in the grid and alternative energy sources is needed. We also need incentives to encourage people to take up renewable sources.



Legislation is important – few new homes are efficient because it is voluntary at the moment, but this should be compulsory. It is a myth that it is expensive to build energy efficient homes; Habitat for Humanity are building low cost, energy efficient homes in Northern Ireland.



Houses should be more efficient, and we also need to address the issue of fuel poverty. We should provide incentives, grants and low rates to help encourage these schemes.



Feed-in tariffs are needed, to provide people with an incentive to make their own energy. This needs to be looked at. New developments should have ability to use renewables, and this is a planning issue.



We are keen to promote renewable energy sources – anaerobic digestion, wind turbines, etc. There are gains to be made from energy efficiency. We need an enhanced grid to allow people to make own energy and connect to main grid. We have concerns about feed-in tariffs, and potentially placing an extra burden on Northern Ireland households in difficult financial climates.



The Government needs to support homes more. We believe that legislation is needed, and that incentives are required.

Category 1

Green New Deal

The first phase of the Green New Deal has support from all parties and all sectors in society to deal with fuel poverty, climate change, energy security and maintain or create thousands of jobs. Do you agree that the next Assembly should fully fund this initiative in line with its business plan?



100% support it. We were the ones who were right behind it from the start.



It's very exciting. All parties are supportive of it. It's on the agenda now and it's in the Budget. However, it still needs to be more fully funded to address the economic issues it outlines.



Yes. We support the Green New Deal fully as it addresses a whole host of issues affecting Northern Ireland. We will seek modifications to the Northern Ireland Budget in order to better fund the scheme.



We support the basis of the Green New Deal and wish to fund it further if money becomes available. We do have concerns with some of the practicality issues, for example, lending against homes. As a result, the funding issues are yet to be resolved and associated legal matters clarified.



Yes. We are totally committed to it. The SDLP would like to see three times more money allocated to the Green New Deal. Of particular importance is the educational aspect of the scheme. Even if we look to less developed countries in Africa for example, there are examples of low impact farming showing us how it can be done. The Green New Deal is a cross-departmental issue.



Full support from us. There do remain some gaps in the detail of the more technical aspects however, we can change the Budget if these are addressed.

Category 1

Transport

With 80% of the DRD budget allocated to road building, alongside reductions in public transport and active travel budgets, what plans does your party have to increase people's travel choices, both for longer distance travel and those 65% of journeys under 5 miles, in a world with ever increasing oil prices and dwindling supplies?



I personally believe that large groups should be walking to school and the culture of people in rural areas need to change as most have 2 to 3 cars sitting outside the house. I would welcome change to the DRD budget to get more people on trains and buses and having high standard services. Electric cars should be introduced and have electric charge points across Northern Ireland, first in Belfast and then rolled out. This needs funding and we need to work with car companies to put it in place.



The balance of funding is all wrong especially in rural areas and in relation to public transport verses road infrastructure, it is time to change. Since the introduction of the Transportation strategy 2002 public transport has got worse. We need to protect our public transport and bring investment which hasn't come.



Increase of cycle lanes, economy has improved- Scottish example of Wright bus creating new jobs and providing buses to the Scottish transport. We need to use our transport system effectively, as people equal revenue. We are committed to a review and the provision of more money for park and ride schemes and car sharing.



I struggled to get into Belfast this morning on the motorway like many others. The decentralisation is a must, however the only department that is committed to this is Department for Social Development, which is unfortunate. I think we would have the public behind us as many can't arrive in Derry from Belfast before 9am. The money for transport has evaporated and we also believe the rural transport strategy has to be changed.



We must get a better transport system, which is better for the rural population. This change needs to be long term and we need to get the railway system back up and running.



There needs to be a rebalance in the current spend on private and public transport, as less than 20% of Northern Ireland's population is using public transport. There needs to be an increase in spending on the overall transport system. We can see that there is potential from other European countries for example in Stockholm around 80% of population use public transport. Cutting funding towards cycling is not logical.

Category 2

Planning

With regards to the Executive's high commitment to the economy & growth, what is your party's view and priority on protecting and enhancing Northern Ireland's environment? Is it 'development first at all costs' as appears to be advocated within PPS24?



We find that investors object to the time taken to make planning decisions here – we need a fast track system, but believe that the environment shouldn't be compromised. I have observed that investors in the United States want to invest in Ireland because it is "green", with a certain lifestyle and environment here. So, overdevelopment and environmental degradation is counter-productive to investment if it compromises this image.



We believe that while an improved policy is needed, we are seriously concerned about PPS24. This could overrule other legislation.



On reading PPS24, I am "terrified" at prospect of development at all costs. Development has to fit, and has to be balanced.



We fear that PPS24 will put economic considerations above all others including protection designation such as ASSIs, but it should not be the case. This is a very dangerous policy.



We are concerned about the implications of PPS24. However, we believe that we need more emphasis on building of renewable energy sources, and ways around NIMBY-ism that can hold up development of these.

Category 2

Green Infrastructure

The UK signed up at Nagoya to the target that: By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes. This is just one of many areas where Northern Ireland is not meeting international legislative or policy requirements. How do your parties intend to ensure that enough resources are in place to at least meet our international obligations and avoid infraction procedures?



We haven't engaged with EU policy properly. An independent all-Ireland environment agency could be key to solving this issue with non-compliance.



The recent visit to Brussels was helpful. We have no set link to Europe. This needs attention and be put in place as soon as possible.



Greater awareness of the obligations under EU directives is important. Recently there was a fish kill in the River Quoile and we looked into it and found that the DOE gives un-reviewed licenses for discharge. Water quality and regulation needs improving with greater investment. The Green Party believes that water charges will provide the money needed, whilst a free allowance of 90 litres per person per day will ensure that families have enough water to meet their basic needs.



In many cases the EU legislation flies under the radar here in Northern Ireland. I agree with the UUP on this one, that higher importance needs to be given to EU directives in committees.



The idea that "the info is coming though from the EU" is a red herring. We need to do better. We have had £60million in fines from the EU for farming payment infractions and there has also been major public policy failure regarding water charges.

Category 2

Green Infrastructure

Supplementary

Failure to meet the 2010 target to halt biodiversity loss has no doubt contributed to the decline in many species. Particularly in light of the financial crisis and the perception that the natural environment was close to the bottom of the last Assembly's list of priorities, how does your party propose that we meet the 2020 deadline to halt biodiversity loss in the 2011-2015 Assembly?



Need more input from NGOs to parties to find out what the issues are – “tell us what you want”.



We believe that there should be a biodiversity duty for councils. Biodiversity loss needs to be addressed at all levels. Planning is the key issue – a major part of problem is inappropriate development. Government needs to listen to NGOs to find out what the concerns are.



The Assembly needs to halt in biodiversity loss. The causes of species loss need to be addressed.



We have had some small successes, and amendments to harmful Bills have been won. The key is habitat protection, and this is a big planning issue. Habitats need to be restored.



Funding cuts have been harsh – e.g. the loss of the Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Advisory Committees. There is no support for voluntary organisations, and this should be addressed

Category 2

Environmental Performance

Does your party support the proposed Environment Bill to bring together government targets on climate change, waste, land management and environmental protection? Do you believe that there is sufficient support from the entire Executive to allocate sufficient resources to ensure the delivery of major environmental outputs?



All governmental departments need to meet the targets of climate change, which is a major challenge. There is too much emphasis on the environment department to do it all and therefore we believe that everyone has to address it.



We will support targets however it will need to be supported by resources. This is a five party Executive and we all have relative policy positions with minor exceptions. However it is the DUP that needs to change its views on the environment over the next four years.



It is the Department Minister that controls the agenda and often there are 3rd party deals with vetoes which push through legislation, which is frustrating. We must work together to meet these targets and be sustainable. We believe that the draft Sustainable Development Strategy doesn't go far enough.



We are disappointed at the DUP exit (from this event). I have experience from being on the Environment Committee, and talking about issues such as the George Best Belfast City Airport. We voted against the Budget for environmental and economic reasons, as the recovery plan was nonsense. The issues of waste and climate change are serious and need to be addressed. My constituency already has 4 super dumps.



Yes we agree with these targets however we also believe that there isn't sufficient support. We think the environment should be on the agenda of every committee and department. However legislation should not be rushed through. We want to see this change.

Category 3

Marine Environment

Northern Ireland is alone in the UK in that it does not have a Marine Act. Could the representatives confirm that their parties will support the inclusion of the Marine Bill for Northern Ireland in the next Programme for Government?



Yes, this should have been done long ago, and should now be progressed. We also need to allow offshore renewables to proceed.



Yes, absolutely support this. There has been a loose commitment from the government at the moment, but needs to be taken up more strongly in future.



We believe that it is very important that we have a Marine Bill. We also need to invest in coastguards, and I have recently campaigned to save the coastguard services in some areas. The marine environment should be a priority for government.



Yes, the party supports a Marine Bill for Northern Ireland.



Lots of work has already been done, let's finish the Marine Bill in the first year of the new Assembly. We share our marine environment, so this needs a combined all-Ireland and UK approach.

Category 3

Marine Environment

Supplementary

The UK has committed to an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas by 2012. Northern Ireland will not be able to meet this target. Why is this not a priority for Government?



We believe that it is essential to have protection of our marine environment as it attracts people to visit Northern Ireland.



If we are to make progress, Northern Ireland must address this issue on a North/South/East/West basis.



We want to see our marine areas protected but there are tight financial cuts ahead.



We should be working on this on a North/South/East/West basis. The Green Party does this in our own policy. The Northern Ireland executive needs to do this and we believe in working together.



We believe we should be doing our own thing but we do support protection.

Category 3

Woodland

The Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development has committed to doubling woodland cover in Northern Ireland over a 50 year period. Given that in the last three years little progress has been made to achieve this goal, will the party spokespersons outline how their manifesto commitments will address the issue?



In Northern Ireland we have a woodland cover of only 6% while the EU average is around 31%. This is an embarrassing statistic. When woodland is destroyed or used for timber, it must be replaced, while education is very important in encouraging respect for our natural heritage.



We would encourage grant schemes for planting. Also, we feel that existing woodland should be opened up for greater public access.



Many trees and areas of woodland have no protection at present. Developers need to be held to account when they are found not to be respecting the law when it comes to those that are protected. Going forward, biodiversity corridors are something we feel is important in respect to developing woodland in Northern Ireland.



Farmers are custodians of the countryside and so important to targets regarding woodland. They should be encouraged into providing emissions offsets tied into the grant aid. Councils also have a role to play in creating more carbon sinks in their areas.



Targets on woodland should be a legislative requirement.

Category 3

Freshwater

Under the Water Framework Directive, all water bodies in Northern Ireland must reach at least Good Ecological Status by 2015, yet DOE Plans published in 2009 revealed that only 27% of water bodies were of good or better status. Given the current deficit in resources available to improve water quality, could the political representatives explain how their parties will ensure Northern Ireland meets European freshwater standards.



We are pushing for funds and we support the creation of partnerships between all the stakeholders. We also need to provide financing for NGOS - It's got to be achievable.



We agree with most of what the other parties are saying. It is very easy to say we need money but Northern Ireland Water has the responsibility for most of our fresh water and it is failing. The proposed mutualisation of Northern Ireland Water will raise money but we oppose privatisation. We will listen to experts as politicians don't have all the answers.



We believe that councils should play a greater role. This issue like others needs investment. We support a council reshuffled as 26 will have 26 different officers, this reshuffle will produce cost savings which are needed. We can't deliver on issues if we don't have the money to do so.



We believe that we need to face up to water charges. The mutualisation of Northern Ireland Water will create additional income as currently Northern Ireland Water is subsidised from the Executive. This is not sustainable and we have to bite the bullet for both financial and environmental benefits.



We support an authority that will preserve rivers and lakes, as it has value in the community and we also think that mutualisation does not necessary mean change.

Category 4

Waste

Some cities in Europe are recycling well over 70% of their waste, but Belfast failed to reach its target of 35% last year. Does your party support the introduction of a 70% recycling target for 2020 to drive recycling, improve resource efficiency and reduce the costs of waste disposal?



We do not support incineration of waste – it is a simple solution to a complex problem. Incineration provides no motivation to reduce waste or to find other ways of disposing or using it. We support the 70% target.



We support the target of 70%. Achieving zero waste needs to be emphasised – especially waste from packaging in supermarkets. Public areas (e.g. shopping centres) need to have recycling facilities available.



We believe that in Northern Ireland we need to reduce the amount going to landfill.



We support the target. However the industry needs to be better regulated.



We need more ideas – it is very hard to get to 70%, and very expensive. We need to keep reviewing progress, and always look for new ways to reach targets.

Category 4

Environmental Education

The Eco-Schools programme has a proven record of reducing carbon emissions and helping schools and councils save money as well as helping young people understand their environment and lead more sustainable lifestyles. This is a classic case of integration across government departments to deliver benefits for all – Education, Environment and Sustainable Development. Does your party support the target of 85% of Northern Ireland schools to be actively engaged in the Eco-Schools programme by 2015, and how can this be funded given the difficulties of Departments working together?



Schools and education are vital. We educate our kids and, importantly, they educate parents. This is an area where money has been well spent. Administrations fail because they do not think long-term, however, this Eco-Schools programme is a great example of where such a long-term approach has worked.



Why not 100% of schools by 2015? Collaboration is a major problem in government here in Northern Ireland and in the Department of Education in particular. Sustainable development is central and requires cross-cutting work to be done by all Departments.



100% in support as well. Environmental education is about getting back to basics and can inform all other areas of education in process.



We fully support the Eco-Schools project but as has been said, we can do better.



We have full support for this target. I recently attended an eco-week at Carrick Grammar and it was very impressive. They had a dedicated teacher driving the enthusiasm for the project. We need to build on that good practice with, for example, organic growing schemes. It's all about learning by doing. Unfortunately, we struggle with environmental education with one Department for "environment" and another for "education".

Category 4

Environmental Partnerships

The added value of involving local people in delivering environmental improvements through partnerships with government, NGOs, landowners and businesses offers major opportunities for leveraging increased funding for the environment and delivering additional health, social and economic benefits across departments. How can the new Programme for Government take advantage of this?



There has been a failure in public administration. We believe the specific powers of community planning as envisaged under the RPA should be the central focal point in encouraging partnerships. We also think that local communities have to agree with targets for well-being and encouraging them to be a part of it is the only way to deliver.



We also believe that the environment is not exclusive to one Department, everyone in society has a responsibility, again that is why we did not support the Budget. We would be in support of this approach.



Currently we have restricted funding. We need more people in the communities in which they live to be involved and carry out local work.



We think that communities should lead the way. There are examples of this in Northern Ireland such as transition towns in Belfast, Carrick and Hollywood, we should be learning about their best practice and rolling it out across Northern Ireland. Taking in what works and what hasn't. There is also potential again to see what is happening abroad.



We think it is vital. Residents within their own communities need to take pride in them, as many have anti-social behaviour and criminality. This should help build relationships between generations and make people like youth offenders proud of their communities. We believe that this should be developed throughout all governmental departments.

Category 4

Environmental Partnerships

Supplementary

Does your party recognise the urgent need for cross-party co-operation in addressing environment and sustainability issues through a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill with meaningful, doable targets; and will you and your party personally take the lead wherever possible in practical action, in your community?



I recently switched to a more fuel efficient car.



I use fewer bags and recycle more. I have also engaged with community groups to help promote recycling.



I have had a vegetarian/vegan diet for years. Whilst I recognise that not everyone will make this step I think in the environmental movement we need to lead by example by reducing our meat consumption. This helps cut down on greenhouse gas emissions from livestock. I also re-use bags or use cotton bags.



I take care of food waste by composting at home. I also car-share.



I plan my day properly so that I can cut down on journeys. I use car-share whenever possible, and turn off appliances at home.

Economic Growth

Growth at any cost is unsustainable. How do you square that with your party, especially in light of Prof. Tim Jackson's report last year entitled 'Prosperity Without Growth'?



Long term change in our behaviour is needed. We have started at the wrong place – environment is the starting place.



We need to have a sustainable economy, and a move from a culture of growth to a steady-state economy is required.



A cultural change is needed. We must be sustainable at all levels. We believe that the economy should not come first, at the expense of the environment.



In order to encourage changes in behaviour we need to show that sustainability is about doing things differently and is not about a reduction in standards of living. If we frighten people they are less likely to change.



In Northern Ireland we have been a “nation of wasters” – we need to change our attitudes towards consumption and waste. Global issues will dictate our local politics and policies.

Reusing Housing Stock

What is your policy for re-using old housing stock – this would produce less waste. Would you encourage more recycling of buildings as opposed to new builds?



We should be encouraging, but we aren't – we should be doing more with what we have but we still build things that are unsympathetic to our environment. There is a lot of embedded carbon in concrete so there is a significant environmental cost of new builds.



Currently houses 'stick out on hills' in the countryside and it is a wonder how they get the planning permission- we fully agree that existing old buildings should be re-used and the community needs to be involved.



VAT exemption on old buildings - Naomi Long is currently pushing for this approach.



We should be recycling our old buildings- but it's difficult- it's a big issue.



We cannot force people to live in old buildings - but new planning should help with zoning in the future.

Environment Portfolio

If you had the opportunity would the environment portfolio be a priority for your Party in the next mandate?



Should be number one priority but Health and Education will always win.

Alliance

Yes, would like it to be.



Environment should be a cross cutting issue across the Executive.



I would love it to be, but I imagine our first choice would be Finance and Education.



We would like the choice, however DETI is now possibly more important given the Green New Deal and its responsibility for energy.

Attendees

Steven	Agnew	The Green Party
Declan	Allison	Friends of the Earth
Peter	Archdale	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Clare	Bailey	
Barbara	Boardman	Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland
Malachy	Campbell	SCCNI/WWF
Will	Chambré	Chambré Public Affairs / Campaign for the Protection of the Countryside NI
Peter	Christie	Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute
Sue	Christie	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Claire	Cockerill	WWF
Patrick	Cregg	Woodland Trust
John	Dallat	SDLP
Colum	Delaney	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Richard	Devlin	NIMTF/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Ben	Diamond	NIMTF/Ulster Wildlife Trust
Samuel	Douglas	Kingspan Renewables Ltd
Maria	Duggan	
Stephen	Farry	Alliance Party
Neil	Halliday	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Cormac	Hamill	Cave Hill Conservation Campaign
Suzie	Hamilton	Oxfam Ireland
Rita	Harkin	Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
Isabel	Hood	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership Advisory Committee
Ian	Humphreys	Tidy Northern Ireland
Ian	Hunter	Stratagem NI
Pat	Jess	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Sean	Kelly	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Sandra	Kilpatrick	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Danny	Kinahan	UUP
Ian	Lamont	Ulster Society for the Protection of the Countryside
Shirley	Lewis	Baglady Productions
Patricia	Mackey	Sustainable Northern Ireland
Orla	Maguire	Belfast City Council
Robbie	Marshall	Ulster Angling Federation
John	Martin	FWTF/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Paddy	McAteer	Ulster Society for the Protection of the Countryside
Anthony	McCluskey	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Ronan	McColgan	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Colm	McGinn	Transition Omagh
Daithi	McKay	Sinn Fein
Iona	Meyer	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Chris	Murphy	Wildlife Holidays
Patricia	Nevines	Talnostry Avian Care Trust
Karen	Nicholson	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Shane	O'Hare	Concern
Leah	O'Neill	Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
James	Orr	Friends of the Earth
Steven	Patterson	Sustrans
Diane	Ruddock	The National Trust
Robert	Shearman	Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland
Mark	Simpson	
Nicola	Simpson	
Dave	Thomas	Christian Aid
Heather	Thompson	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Rebecca	Volley	
Philip	Weir	DUP
Ruth	Wilson	Antrim Borough Council
Lucinda	White	The Gibson Institute/NIEL
John	Wright	Green Action

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