

Northern Ireland Assembly News – November 2021

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Assembly Business

[COP26: Climate Emergency](#)
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Ministerial Statements

[Environment Strategy](#) – The Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs made a statement to the Assembly regarding Northern Ireland's first overarching environment strategy and announced that, following Executive endorsement, he will launch a formal public consultation on a draft environment strategy for Northern Ireland on Thursday 11 November.

[Green Growth Strategy](#) - The Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs presented the draft green growth strategy to the Assembly. DAERA, on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive, has been leading the development of the green growth strategy which includes 10 commitments, which will 'set out how we balance climate action, clean environment and our economy'.

[British-Irish Council: Transport](#) - The Minister for Infrastructure made a statement to the Assembly on the British-Irish Council ministerial meeting of the transport work sector held on 22 October.

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Committee Business

['Decarbonisation of Road Transport in Northern Ireland': Committee Report](#)

The Assembly debated and agreed a motion that: *the Assembly approve the report of the Committee for Infrastructure on its inquiry into the decarbonisation of road transport in Northern Ireland; and calls on the Minister for Infrastructure and her Executive colleagues to implement the recommendations contained in the report.*

[Climate Change \(No. 2\) Bill: Extension of Committee Stage](#) – Members agreed to a motion submitted by the AERA Committee to extend the Committee Stage of the Bill until 28 January 2022.

[Small-Scale Green Energy Bill: Extension of Committee Stage](#) – Members agreed to a motion submitted by the Committee for the Economy that the Committee Stage of the Bill be extended to 28 January 2022.

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Private Members' Business

[Hunting of Wild Mammals Bill](#): First Stage - Mr Blair introduced the Hunting of Wild Mammals Bill a Bill to prohibit hunting wild mammals with dogs; to prohibit trail hunting; to prohibit terrier work; and for connected purposes.

[Onshore Fracking \(Prohibition\) Bill](#): First Stage - Ms A Murphy introduced the Onshore Fracking (Prohibition) Bill, which is a Bill to prohibit onshore hydraulic fracturing.

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Adjournment Debate

[Water Quality and Safety at North Down Coastal Bathing Areas](#)

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Answers to Written Questions

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Current/ future status of CNCC](#)

[Update - A litter strategy for Northern Ireland by 2024](#)

[Actions to protect and restore water habitats](#)

[Introduction of a ban on the sale of peat compost](#)

[Departmental plans to become the world's first eco-department](#)

[Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#)

[Commencement order for the Environment Act 2021](#)

[Appointment of NI Non-Executive Director of the Office for Environmental Protection](#)

[Breakdown of expenditure to date on the Green Growth Strategy](#)

[Plans to develop bio-methane produced on farms into an energy source](#)

[Habitats Regulations](#)

[The Wildlife Order](#)

[ASSI Protection](#)

[Asbestos Disposal](#)

[Role of newly appointed Clean Air Champion](#)

[Steps taken to address microplastic pollution of waterways](#)

[New Green Growth and Climate Action division within DAERA](#)

[Adequacy of flood defences in Northern Ireland](#)

Minister for Communities

[Measures to ensure the maintenance of listed and historic buildings](#)

Minister of Finance

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#)

Minister of Health

[Cost of air pollution to the health service](#)

Minister for Infrastructure

[Discharge of untreated sewage into Northern Ireland's rivers and seas](#)

[Long-term plans for pop-up cycle lanes](#)

[Proposals for converting buses from diesel towards electric power](#)

Minister of Justice

[Role in implementing the Aarhus Convention on access to justice in NI](#)

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Oral Answers to Questions

Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs

[Islandmagee Gas Storage Project – Departmental & ENGO Concerns \(Topical Question 1\)](#)

[Islandmagee Gas Storage Project](#)

Minister for Communities

[Social Housing: Green New Builds](#)

Minister of Finance

[Multi-year funding for climate mitigation](#)

The Executive Office

[COP26: Implications for Northern Ireland](#)

[Climate Crisis: Mitigation Action](#)

Assembly Committee Meetings November 2021		
COMMITTEE	DATE	AGENDA
AERA	4 November Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of Marine Licensing Order ○ Draft NI Environment Strategy (Pre-Consultation) • Oral Evidence for the Climate Change No.2 Bill from NILGA, Environmental Justice Network, RCN & Belfast Climate Commission
	11 November Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Environment Strategy for NI - Written Briefing: DAERA Consultation • Climate Change No.2 Bill - Oral Evidence Session – UWT, Chartered Institute of Waste Management, Sustainable NI and FSB
	25 November Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise Public Finance Scrutiny Unit - Oral Briefing - Costs of Emissions Targets • Future Agricultural Policy - DAERA Oral Briefing - Framework Portfolio
Economy	3 November Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee received a briefing from the Utility Regulator and Consumer Council on the cost of Energy
	24 November Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings on the Small-Scale Green Energy Bill from Renewable NI & Dr Patrick Keatley
Infrastructure	24 November Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing – Proposals to Extend the Payment of Subsidy to NI Water in Lieu of Domestic Water Charges • Briefing from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) – Whole Life Carbon Assessment