

NIEA Presentation

NIEA Chief Executive Terry A'Hearn recently addressed NIEL members outlining his vision for the environment and heritage in Northern Ireland. His talk revolved around the importance of integrating economic and environmental priorities and recognising that our environment and heritage are central to driving future well-being and prosperity. He was accompanied by two guest speakers with vast experience in global businesses; Paul Tebo, former Global Vice-Chair of Dupont and Bob Welsh, former CEO of VicSuper. Both business experts recalled their experience of working in partnership with the NGO sector to create a more sustainable, environmentally sensitive and profitable business model. By drawing on the knowledge and experience of NGOs, this partnership model allowed businesses to improve environmental practice through, for example, reducing waste and energy consumption. The key message from the meeting was that the economy and environment should be viewed as complementary rather than mutually exclusive. Furthermore, leadership, inter-sectoral collaboration and immediate action were identified as pre-requisites for developing an economic and business model in Northern Ireland that recognises and values the contribution that the environment makes to society.