



Department of the  
**Environment**

[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

**Synopsis of Responses to the Department's  
pre-consultation seeking views on the need for  
a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill**

June 2013

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## **Introduction**

On 25 March 2013 the Department issued a pre-consultation paper to key stakeholders seeking views on the need for a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill. The period for response closed on 24 May 2013.

The pre-consultation invited comment on the value of an overall Bill in the context of its potential elements including a statutory target (or targets) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; the creation of a new independent climate change committee; and the introduction of new statutory duties on public authorities to promote and report actions to reduce emissions and on their adaptation measures.

## **Summary of Responses**

The Department received 59 responses to the pre-consultation document representing a wide spectrum of organisations and individuals. A list of respondents is provided at Annex A. Of these responses, 8 were received after the closing date but were accepted. 55 respondees provided substantive comment and 4 expressed no preference or provided comment on a specific issue only. A table summarising all the responses has been provided at Annex B.

The responses received have been grouped under the headings of the 11 questions which were posed in the pre consultation document. Please note that respondents who do not favour legislation, generally, did not directly answer the questions dealing with the content of a Bill, but rather addressed the perceived impacts a Bill might have. The full text of all the individual responses can be viewed through the link provided at Annex A.

## **Next Steps**

A full analysis of the responses will now be completed to inform policy proposals that will be shared with the Environment Committee and submitted to the Executive for agreement. If there is Executive agreement that a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill is appropriate, the Department will

undertake further public consultation on the final policy proposals and draft legislation.

## Annex A

<b>List of Respondents to the Pre Consultation on a NI Climate Change Bill</b>
<b>Responses may be viewed on the Department's website at the following link:</b> <a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/climate_change/ni_climate_change_bill_pre_consultation.htm">http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/climate_change/ni_climate_change_bill_pre_consultation.htm</a>
Agriculture and Forestry Greenhouse Gas Implementation Partnership
Agri-food Strategy Board
Alliance Party
Armagh City & District Council
Ballymena Borough Council
Belfast Healthy Cities
Biomass Energy Northern Ireland
Bradley, Mr Jonathan
Business in the Community Northern Ireland
Collins, Mr Brian
Confederation of British Industry
Consumer Council
Cookstown Borough Council
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
Day, Mr Graham
Disability Action
EDF Energy
Electricity Association of Ireland
ESB
Freight Transport Association
Friends of the Earth
Green Party NI
Hughes, Mr Connal
Institute of Public Health in Ireland
Institution of Civil Engineers
Kitchen, Professor Jim
Labour Party NI
Larne Borough Council
Limavady Borough Council
Mabanaft Ltd
Manufacturing NI
Morrow, Sharon
National Trust
North Down Borough Council
Northern Ireland Electricity Limited
Northern Ireland Environment Link
Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission
Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Northern Ireland Regional Council of the Cooperative Party
Northern Ireland Renewable Industry Group
NRG Solutions
Oxfam Ireland
Perver, Mr Chris
Quarry Products Association (NI) Ltd
Reid, Mr Graham
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Ireland
Skinner, Mr Gary
Southern Health and Social Care Trust
SSE Renewables
Stop Climate Chaos NI
Sustainable NI
The Law Society of Northern Ireland
Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
Ulster Farmers Union
Ulster Wildlife
United Kingdom Independence Party
World Wildlife Fund

## Annex B

<b>TABLE OF PRE CONSULTATION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES</b>			
<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>REPLIES RECEIVED</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
1. Should Northern Ireland have a Climate Change Bill?	Yes	38	64
	No	14	24
	No preference or comment	7	12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
2. Is a long term target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Northern Ireland necessary?	Yes	35	59
	No	4	7
	No preference or comment	20	34
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
3. Is an interim target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Northern Ireland necessary?	Yes	34	58
	No	4	7
	No preference or comment	21	35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
4a. Should long term targets be set in primary legislation (the Bill) or in subordinate legislation?	Primary	22	37
	Subordinate	8	14
	No preference or comment	29	49
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
4b. Should interim targets be set in primary legislation (the Bill) or in subordinate legislation?	Primary	18	31
	Subordinate	12	20
	No preference or comment	29	49
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
5. Should provision for an independent advisory body be included in a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill?	Yes	17	29
	No	12	20
	No preference or comment	30	51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
6. Should provision for reporting on adaptation measures by public bodies be included in a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill?	Yes	28	47
	No	1	2
	No preference or comment	30	51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
7. Should provision for reporting on mitigation measures by public bodies be included in a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill?	Yes	27	46
	No	2	3
	No preference or comment	30	51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
8. To which public bodies and/or statutory undertakers should reporting duties apply?	<b>Central Government -</b> Yes	26	44
	No	0	0
	No preference or comment	33	56
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>Local Government -</b> Yes	25	42
	No	0	0

	No preference or comment	34	58
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>Statutory Undertakers</b>		
	Yes	15	25
	No	0	0
	No preference or comment	44	75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
9. Should provision for reporting on an adaptation programme to the Assembly be included in a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill?	Yes	25	42
	No	1	2
	No preference or comment	33	56
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
10. Can you provide evidence on the impact the introduction of a Bill may have on economic structure, employment, performance and competitiveness relevant to Northern Ireland?	Yes	18	31
	No	0	0
	No preference or comment	41	69
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
11. Do you have any comments in respect of the issues raised in this pre-consultation document or are there any important issues you feel have not been adequately covered?	Yes	42	71
	No	0	0
	No preference or comment	17	29
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>