



Department of the
Environment

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

| List of Respondents to the Pre Consultation on a NI Climate Change Bill |
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| Responses may be viewed on the Department's website at the following link: http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/climate_change/ni_climate_change_bill_pre_consultation.htm |
| 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 |

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| 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

| TABLE OF PRE CONSULTATION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| QUESTION | REPLIES RECEIVED | No. | % |
| 1. Should Northern Ireland have a Climate Change Bill? | Yes | 38 | 64 |
| | No | 14 | 24 |
| | No preference or comment | 7 | 12 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 8. To which public bodies and/or statutory undertakers should reporting duties apply? | Central Government - Yes | 26 | 44 |
| | No | 0 | 0 |
| | No preference or comment | 33 | 56 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| | Local Government - Yes | 25 | 42 |
| | No | 0 | 0 |

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|---|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| | No preference or comment | 34 | 58 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| | Statutory Undertakers | | |
| | Yes | 15 | 25 |
| | No | 0 | 0 |
| | No preference or comment | 44 | 75 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |
| 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 |
| | Total | 59 | 100 |