

#### **ABOUT US**



Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) is the networking and forum body for organisations interested in the natural and built environment of Northern Ireland.

NIEL was formally launched in 1990, completing the UK Environment Link network: Scottish Environment Link, Wales Environment Link and Wildlife and Countryside Link in England.

NIEL brings together a wide range of knowledge, experience and expertise to inform policy

development, practice and implementation across a range of environmental fields. NIEL provides a unique forum for enabling debate, assisting co-operation and delivering coordinated policy action within the voluntary environmental sector.

#### **NIEL's VISION:**

A valued, resilient, healthy environment.

#### **NIEL's AIMS:**

- 1. Contribute to the development, promotion and delivery of environmentally relevant policy.
- 2. Support and enable members and others to encourage and deliver environmental outcomes and objectives through collaboration and partnership.

#### **NIEL'S MISSION STATEMENT:**

To be a collective voice promoting the importance of environmental issues through influencing policy and developing partnerships for a healthy environment.

## THE NIEL NETWORK

NIEL represents more than 60 full members (voluntary organisations) and over 50 associate members (statutory organisations, companies or individuals).

The strength of NIEL's membership base, comprising a broad spectrum of environmental interests, positions NIEL as the recognised voice of the environmental NGO sector in Northern Ireland.

For more information on NIEL Members, check out the NIEL Website:

www.nienvironmentlink.org



























































































































































## **NIEL STRATEGIC ALLIANCES**





#### **Climate Northern Ireland**

was set up to widen the understanding and knowledge of the impacts of climate change within Northern Ireland and the adaptation actions necessary to deal with it.

#### The Education for Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)

is a networking organisation that promotes a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland.



education for sustainable development forum



#### The Northern Ireland Archaeology Forum (NIAF)

facilitates individuals and organisations to protect, study and promote the historic environment, seeking to ensure that our heritage is valued and maintained for the future.

## The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group (NIBG)

co-ordinates and monitors the implementation of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy (NIBS) and its associated action programmes. NIEL provides a secretariat service to this independent group.



#### NIEL WORKING GROUPS



#### **Stop Climate Chaos (SCCNI)**

aims to raise awareness of climate change and to change behaviour and policies to deliver local and global benefits.

# The Northern Ireland Freshwater Taskforce (FWTF)

works to ensure that Northern Ireland preserves and improves freshwater ecosystems through encouraging government and wider society to adopt a sustainable and integrated approach to water.

## The Northern Ireland Marine Task Force (NIMTF)

campaigns for better protection of our seas with the aim of creating more productive and resilient seas now and in the future.





#### The Land Matters Task Force (LMTF)

seeks to influence and inform appropriate management, planning and protection of Northern Ireland's limited land and landscape resource.

### The Planning Task Force (PTF)

aims to promote good practice in planning and develop shared policy positions to help deliver a more effective planning framework.

#### The Transport Working Group (TWG)

aims to help deliver more sustainable transport in NI by sharing good practice, discussing key issues and advocating share policy positions.

#### The Resource Efficiency Working Group

aims to raise awareness and understanding of key issues in waste management and help embed the principles of resource efficiency in both policy and practice.





## **BENEFITS OF NIEL MEMBERSHIP**



#### Partnership & Collaboration

NIEL offers a unique platform for delivering coordinated action and collaborative working amongst organisations and individuals with an interest in the environment and heritage of Northern Ireland. This is delivered through working groups and strategic alliances and by bringing members into regular contact through other meetings and events.



## Funding, Training & Professional Development

Members benefit from ongoing advice and notification of relevant funding opportunities. The Grant Tracker reporting service, provides a regular overview of available grants which are of relevance to NIEL members.

NIEL offers a range of bespoke training services which are either free or offered at a discounted rate for members.





NIEL has a dedicated policy unit with the primary aim of embedding strategic environmental priorities within government policy. Members' views are sought on NIEL submissions to significant environmental policies, strategies, legislation, inquiries and other proposals. Standardised consultation response templates and policy briefings are also offered for popular consultations to assist members with their responses.



#### **Networking & Debate**

As a networking body NIEL hosts conferences, seminars, policy briefings and other events, to raise the profile of key issues, to identify sector priorities and coordinate policy solutions. By bringing together individuals and organisations with diverse backgrounds and expertise, these events provide a unique platform for debate, discussion and idea-sharing. Members benefit directly from enhanced profiling through the NIEL network and can access other member contact details through the NIEL Directory.

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS**





The NIEL website is the information hub for the environment sector in Northern Ireland, ensuring that members can access up-to-date information and news. www.nienvironmentlink.org

The NIEL policy hub contains webpages dedicated to a range of key policy areas where members can access a growing collection of resources, facts, statistics and policy briefings/recommendations, with links to important documents, consultations, relevant members/organisations and NIEL working group web pages.

A Jobs Page listing employment opportunities within the environmental sector.

NIEL Social Media (Facebook – Northern Ireland Environment Link, Twitter - @ environmentNI and LinkedIn), ensures the NIEL network is aware of breaking news from various sources including the Northern Ireland Assembly, Government Departments, environmental journalists and key media outlets.

**NIEL News** (e-bulletin) offers a monthly roundup of relevant news stories and events from the sector. Special edition e-bulletins feature a range of topical "perspective pieces" from selected authors and are often complemented by policy briefing sessions.

The NIEL Assembly Hub is updated weekly, providing the NIEL network with convenient access to relevant Assembly Committee agendas, topics for debate in the Chamber and Assembly Research Papers. This complements NIEL Assembly News which is circulated to members on a monthly basis with a round-up of relevant environmental news and decisions by Government.

The NIEL EU Matters is an online publication which informs the NIEL network of important decisions and developments at European Union level that have relevance to the environment sector in Northern Ireland.

## **BECOMING A NIEL MEMBER**

**Full Membership** is open to voluntary organisations whose aims include promoting the conservation of the natural and built environment of Northern Ireland. Full members have the right to vote at NIEL meetings and serve on the Board of Directors. Full members are involved in a variety of activities including participating in sub-committees, working groups and providing input to NIEL policy development. Table 1 provides a list of benefits and services that are exclusively available to full NIEL members.

**Associate Membership** is open to statutory organisations, companies or individuals with an interest in the environment. Associate members can access NIEL information and selected services and may become involved in working groups. Table 2 provides a list of services and benefits that are available to all NIEL members (full and associates).

TABLE 1: NIEL MEMBER SERVICES AND BENEFITS (EXCLUSIVE TO FULL MEMBERS)

SERVICE OR BENEFIT	CURRENT LEVEL OF PROVISION
Input into NIEL Consultation Responses	Available
Input into NIEL Policy Positions	Available
Exhibition Service for Members	In development
Grant Tracker Report Service	Available
NIEL Student Matching Service (a service which matches student placements with suitable member organisations)	In development
NIEL Coordinated Centralised Volunteer Matching Service (a service specific to the environmental sector for matching members with suitable volunteers)	In development
NIEL Research Service (NIEL will provide members with 2-3 hours of desk based research on a chosen topic that falls within NIEL's key policy areas subject to terms and conditions)	Available
Annual visit from a NIEL member of staff	Available





TABLE 2: SERVICES AND BENEFITS (AVAILABLE TO ALL NIEL MEMBERS)

SERVICE OR BENEFIT	CURRENT LEVEL OF PROVISION
NIEL Website	Available
NIEL News (E-bulletin)	Available
EU Matters	Available
Assembly News	Available
NIEL Online Policy Hub	Available
NIEL Social Media	Available
Ongoing Funding Advice	Available
NIEL Members Directory	Available
NIEL Assembly Guide	Available
NIEL Image Library	Available
NIEL Conferences/Workshops/Events	Available
Conference Reports	Available
NIEL Task Forces/Working Groups	Available
NIEL Policy Specific Special Edition E-bulletins	Available
Standardised Policy Response Templates	Available
Quarterly Policy Briefings	Available
NIEL Facilities (small meeting room available for hire)	Available
A calendar of events (a page on the NIEL website dedicated to profiling upcoming member events)	Available
NIEL Training Programme (the current limited training services will be expanded into a bespoke training programme)	In development
NIEL Environmental Expertise Directory (a thematic catalogue of contact details for environmental experts from across the UK and Ireland)	In development
NIEL Database of Speakers (a catalogue of suitable speakers for addressing audiences on a range of environmental topics)	In development
NIEL Talks Programme (a series of talks to be held on a range of environmental topics)	In development
Jobs webpage (a page on the NIEL website to advertise job member job opportunities)	In development

Full members will also receive an annual visit from a NIEL member of staff as an opportunity for sharing information and ideas and to gauge member views on how the NIEL service can be enhanced.

NIEL member benefits and services are continually being developed. For information on the latest benefits and services please visit the NIEL website: www.nienvironmentlink.org



## **NIEL MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE**

As detailed below the membership fee for organisations relates to their Northern Ireland specific annual turnover.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	NI TURNOVER BANDING	FEE
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP		
1	Concession	£10
2	Individual	£25
3a	£10,000 or less	£25
3b	£10,001-£100,000	£40
3c	£100,001-£250,000	£100
3d	£250,001-£500,000	£160
3e	£500,001-£750,000	£220
3f	over £750,000	£350
FULL MEMBERSHIP		
4a	£10,000 or less	£25
4b	£10,001-£100,000	£40
4c	£100,001-£250,000	£100
4d	£250,001-£500,000	£160
4e	£500,001-£750,000	£220
4f	over £750,000	£350



## **HOW TO BECOME A NIEL MEMBER**

Please fill out a member application form. If you are an organisation please provide your turnover specific for Northern Ireland.

Membership forms can be found in this pack or can be downloaded from the website: www.nienvironmentlink.org/members/submit.php Forms should be returned to:

Northern Ireland Environment Link

89 Loopland Drive Belfast County Antrim

Northern Ireland BT6 9DW

or via email to: sandra@nienvironmentlink.org



