



Northern Ireland
**environment
link**

FEBRUARY 2026

NIEL MANIFESTO: PRIORITIES FOR THE 2027 ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Northern Ireland
Environment Link



SCAN TO VIEW OUR FULL MANIFESTO

OUR TOP ASKS FOR 2026-30



Nature Recovery

Deliver on the commitment to have 30% of our land and seas managed for nature conservation by 2030 - the 30 x 30 target.

Set clear targets in law for the restoration of nature through a Nature Recovery Strategy, in particular, degraded ecosystems such as wetlands, and ancient woodlands in line with other complimentary policies and advice such as that from the UK CCC.



Improved Environmental Education

Embed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including outdoor learning, within national education policies, curricula, teacher education and student assessment.

Investment in teacher education and support resources to effectively implement ESD in all schools.

Strategic planning and implementation of further education for employment in nature and the environment.



Climate Action

Full and timely implementation of the Climate Change Act 2022.

Deliver on adaptation and mitigation measures that will protect and enhance biodiversity and nature recovery.



Sustainable Freshwater Management

Mainstreaming nature-based solutions to cut nutrient pollution and improve climate resilience.

Enhancing catchment-scale approaches to wetland and river restoration.

A funded plan to upgrade water and sewage systems to improve water quality and ensure sustainable water use.



Environmental Governance

Strengthened environmental regulations and enforcement through an independent Environmental Protection Agency.

Implementation of environmental principles including the precautionary principle and polluter pays principle.

Greater transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making.