

GREEN GROWTH

- A Strategic Overview

Green Growth drivers

There is worldwide scientific consensus that global warming, which is the cause of climate change is attributable to greenhouse gases from human activities. In Northern Ireland Green Growth will be the approach taken to address climate and environmental challenges. Green Growth means radically transforming and growing our economy while protecting our natural assets. Green Growth aims to transform our society towards net zero by 2050, protect and enhance our environment and deliver sustainable economic growth.

The drivers behind Green Growth in Northern Ireland include:

The Rationale – Drivers for Green Growth



Effectively tackling the major challenge that climate change presents cannot be addressed in isolation, as our environment, our economy and our society are entirely interdependent. Strategies and plans must be aligned. Covid-19 has presented an opportunity to assess where we are and to take the necessary steps to move Northern Ireland to where it needs to be in a planned and joined up way.

Green Growth was launched by Minister Poots at the Assembly in June 2020, and will consist of a Strategy and Delivery Framework. This will be the Northern Ireland Executive’s approach to ensure Departments and delivery partners work collaboratively, to optimise our efforts to redress our environmental impact, while sustainably growing our economy. DAERA is leading the development of this multi-decade Strategy and Delivery Framework, in partnership with other Departments, Local Government and stakeholders from across the business and voluntary sectors.

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Green Growth is a holistic approach, involving all sectors of society, in transitioning to a low carbon economy. The main sectors responsible for carbon emissions in Northern Ireland are Agriculture, Energy, Transport, Residential and Waste Management. Green Growth will link together all the relevant areas of policy, strategy and actions to maintain a clear and long term focus, which will deliver sustainable outcomes for our climate, our environment and our economy.



An Inter-Ministerial Group, chaired by Minister Poots will provide oversight of:

(1) The Green Growth Strategy - led by DAERA and co-designed in partnership with other Departments, Local Government and stakeholders from across the business and voluntary sectors. The strategy extends to 2050, but, includes immediate, medium and long term actions and the flexibility to add others as appropriate. It is anticipated the Strategy will be ready for consultation in Spring of 2021; and

(2) The Green Growth Delivery Framework - consisting of a series of Foundation Programmes, and exemplar projects to create momentum and inspire other initiatives which will cumulatively deliver the necessary change.

The impact of the Green Growth strategy, its aim and objectives, and the elements within the Delivery Framework, need to be monitored, evaluated and reported on over time so that success can be measured and corrective action taken where necessary. In particular it will be important to establish baselines. Carbon emissions will be used as the primary measure for, environmental damage and health risks. This will allow us to prioritise those actions that best reduce emissions and promote productivity, environmental enhancement, and health and wellbeing. While carbon will be the primary proxy measure, other indicators for example for biodiversity, air and water quality and sustainable economic growth will also be monitored.

The outcomes we are seeking from Green Growth are long term and challenging and will require behavioural change at all levels; government, organisations, business and by the individual. This will deliver a sustainable future for all of us living and working in Northern Ireland.

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