

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE
RECOMMENDATIONS: STATUS**

Status Abbreviations

Acceptance	Implementation
Accepted - A	In place - IP
Partially accepted - PA	Progressing - P
Not accepted - NA	Not being progressed - NP
To be considered - TBC	To be considered - TBC

Recommendations	Status		Commentary
	Acceptance	Implementation	
Legislation and Policy			
1. -NI should develop its own climate change implementation strategy encompassing both mitigation and adaptation.	A	P	An adaptation strategy will be developed under the obligations set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. Minister Poots secured the agreement of his Executive colleagues to establish, and chair, a Cross Departmental Working Group on greenhouse gas emissions. It is likely that a key element of the work of this Group will be the
- Minimise any risks of outcomes that will counteract NI efforts to meet climate change objectives in the longer term.	A	P	

			development of a cross-departmental action plan.
2. - NI should introduce climate change targets but should not make them legally binding in the short term. - New primary legislation in the medium to longer term should be considered when sufficient local information is available.	A A	P P	Accept that targets should not be legally binding now as is the case with the current Programme for Government target. Minister to consider legally binding targets in next Assembly and will need to take into account the views of Executive colleagues. Requires good quality local information to be available including accurate Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory, economic and demographic information. Improvements in Inventory are progressing. We will consider this in conjunction with the Committee on Climate Change. OFMDFM response Good quality information and robust medium and long-term targets will be necessary to address climate change in a strategic way through the Sustainable Development Strategy and

			<p>Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Rapid progress in putting in place sufficient and useful information for target setting will be required to achieve this.</p>
<p>3. Northern Ireland government should consider introducing secondary legislation under the UK Climate Change Act for waste reduction schemes, household waste and a levy for single use carrier bags should voluntary measures fail to achieve the required objectives in the short term.</p>	A	P	<p>The UK Climate Change Act provisions for waste reduction schemes and household waste do not extend to Northern Ireland. The provision for a levy on single use carrier bags does apply here. However the Department has no immediate plans to legislate in this area, given the voluntary efforts by retailers and shoppers to reduce carrier bag usage.</p> <p>The Department has previously considered the option of introducing a waste charging scheme, as a means of encouraging householder recycling. At this point in time however, this has not been progressed. Instead, the emphasis is on education and communication, rather than more punitive measures. The Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste campaign aims to</p>

			<p>raise awareness of and encourage best practice in waste management. Targeting households and businesses as well as the community and education sectors, the campaign encourages taking simple steps towards better waste prevention and resource management.</p>
<p>4. Climate change should continue to be one of the areas of work covered by the British Irish Council and there should be greater co-operation on climate change between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>IP</p>	<p>Climate change continues to be part of British Irish Council agenda. Although climate change is not a mandated area within the North South institutions the Department will continue to engage with Ministers and officials in the Republic Of Ireland when it is mutually beneficial to do so.</p> <p>OFMDFM Response:</p> <p>Climate change may not be expressly mandated area for NSMC, but ‘Environment’ is, including “identification of strategies and activities which would contribute to a coherent, all-island approach to the achievement of sustainable development”. This would seem a sufficient</p>

			mandate for cooperation in this area.
5. All Departments must take due cognisance of the implications any new policies will have for climate change. This should encompass positive and negative contributions and guided by the Climate Change Strategy, be used as a mechanism to avoid perverse outcomes arising from new policies.	A	TBC	<p>Implementation to be fully considered in context of the review of Sustainable Development Strategy and in light of an agreed way forward in relation to governance arrangements . There are already several ways in which climate change is a factor in developing wider policy, eg the Sustainable Development Duty and Strategic Environmental Assessments.</p> <p>OFMDFM response</p> <p>The draft new Sustainable Development Strategy contains a commitment that, in the development of new strategies and policies, the Executive will require Departments to incorporate comprehensive ‘sustainability scans’ as one component of their Impact Assessment Process, which will provide SMART evidence of the inclusion of sustainability criteria. This provides one mechanism by which this recommendation might be implemented.</p>

Targets and Budgets			
6. Northern Ireland government should commit to Northern Ireland making a fair and proportionate contribution to the UK Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets required under the UK Climate Change Act.	A	P	<p>There is no specific requirement under the Climate Change Act to determine a proportionate contribution from the devolved administrations. The Act recognises that there are differences in circumstances between the various administrations. However, the Executive will need to consider targets in the context of renewing its Programme for Government and developments elsewhere. This requires good quality local information to be available including accurate Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory, economic and demographic information. Fairness must take account of economic and societal factors as well as environmental. The Committee on Climate Change is a potential source of this advice.</p> <p>OFMDFM response</p>

			<p>The draft new Sustainable Development Strategy gives a commitment that the Executive will publish an Implementation Plan setting SMART targets for action to achieve each strategic objective, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The draft new Sustainable Development Strategy contains a commitment that, in the development of new strategies and policies, the Executive will require Departments to incorporate comprehensive 'sustainability scans' as one component of their Impact Assessment Process, which will provide SMART evidence of the inclusion of sustainability criteria.</p> <p>Taken together, these commitments should deliver the recommendation.</p>
<p>7. - NI Executive should urgently establish its own emission targets based on sound local science. - Long term targets should be</p>	<p>A TBC</p>	<p>P TBC</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 6</p>

<p>accompanied by short and medium term annual or rolling targets which should encourage attitudinal change, reflect local circumstances for each sector and based on the most cost-effective approach for Northern Ireland.</p>			
<p>8. - Emission reduction targets should be established for each sector in Northern Ireland</p> <p>- Obtaining the necessary scientific information to inform sectoral targets should be given a top priority.</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 6</p>
<p>9. - Northern Ireland government should formally seek advice and assistance from the Committee on Climate Change in setting sectoral specific budgets, targets and action plans specific to Northern Ireland.</p> <p>- All Departments should seek the</p>	<p>A</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 6</p>

necessary sectoral advice but liaison should be led, coordinated and made locally applicable by the department with responsibility for climate change policy.			
10. Northern Ireland government should seek the assistance of the MET Office in the establishment of targets and budgets for Northern Ireland.	NA	NP	Met Office is not a source of analytical advice on carbon targets and budgets. There are however a number of possible sources for this advice. When the Minister is considering these matters the offer by the Met Office that led to this recommendation will be taken into account. However, the Committee on Climate Change or other sources of advice are likely to be more relevant.
11. The UK Committee on Climate Change should be asked to compile and submit annual reports on Northern Ireland's progress against its targets to the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly and the Executive should	TBC	TBC	There are already a number of monitoring processes, including those for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Programme for Government (quarterly) - annual reports of the Committee on Climate Change

<p>respond to the reports in the Assembly.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - annual statements of greenhouse gas emissions. <p>OFMDFM response</p> <p>Given the commitments in the draft new Sustainable Development Strategy that the Executive will publish an Implementation Plan setting SMART targets for action to achieve each strategic objective, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and that the Executive will develop robust reporting mechanisms for sustainable development to provide information in support of the management of implementation, this is a potentially powerful mechanism that is worthy of timely consideration to support development of the Sustainable Development Strategy Implementation Plan.</p>
<p>Structures and Accountability</p>			

<p>12. - The forthcoming Efficiency Review should be used as an opportunity to look at the most appropriate position for climate change policy within the Northern Ireland government structure.</p> <p>- Northern Ireland Executive should take cognisance of the approach taken in other UK jurisdictions and the need for central support.</p> <p>- In the interim period DOE should retain its remit for climate change policy.</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>A</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>IP</p>	<p>OFMDFM Response</p> <p>The Programme for Government commits the Executive to review the number of Government Departments by 2011. The First Minister and deputy First Minister announced in April 2009 their intention to bring to the Assembly proposals for the creation of an Efficiency Review Panel. The first task of the Panel will be to review the number and organisation of Departments in light of the current financial pressures and the implications of the Review of Public Administration. Terms of reference, membership and work programme for the Review Panel are being considered.</p>
<p>13. Cost-benefit analyses from a climate change perspective should be carried out on all Public Service Agreements.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>IP</p>	<p>OFMDFM response</p> <p>All PSAs, targets and actions included in the Programme for Government are subject to a sustainability assessment.</p>
<p>14. The Committee for the Environment</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>IP</p>	

<p>should retain responsibility for scrutinising climate change policy while it remains the responsibility of DOE.</p>			
<p>15. The Northern Ireland Audit Office should be tasked and funded accordingly, to assess progress on climate change objectives across government and report to the Public Accounts and Environment Committees.</p>	TBC	TBC	<p>OFMDFM response</p> <p>The draft new Sustainable Development Strategy states:</p> <p>“As a cross-cutting priority of the Programme for Government and the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland and a statutory obligation of all Departments, the achievement of sustainable development will be mainstreamed into all the activities of Government. In light of this, it is appropriate that the mechanisms for planning, management and reporting on Departmental performance should reflect efforts to progress the sustainable development agenda. We will explore ways to effectively report on Departments’ sustainable development performance, in line with established international good practice guidance.”</p>

			Tasking the Northern Ireland Audit Office appropriately to achieve this objective is a solution that can be considered as part of the development of the Sustainable Development Strategy Implementation Plan.
16. - Northern Ireland government should adhere to its commitment to achieve a carbon neutral estate by 2015. - It should urgently prepare an action plan with targets for its delivery that will avoid the high costs of offsetting.	TBC TBC	TBC TBC	DFP response The target for a carbon neutral government estate by 2015 and associated actions will be reviewed as part of the process of preparing the new Sustainable Development Implementation Plan.
17. - DOE's Climate Change Unit should remain intact whether it is housed within DOE or is moved to another Department following the Efficiency Review. - It should have the lead role in helping Northern Ireland to meet its local, national and international climate change targets by liaising with the Committee on	A PA	TBC TBC	DOE Climate Change Unit currently takes lead role with the Committee on Climate Change/NI Adaptation Programme. A NI Climate Change Strategy needs to be considered further in context of Efficiency Review and the Cross Departmental Working Group on greenhouse gas emissions. OFMDFM Response

<p>Climate Change, providing information, support and advice to all other Departments, developing and delivering a climate change awareness campaign aimed at changing behaviour</p> <p>- It should take the lead in developing the adaptation aspects of the Northern Ireland Climate Change Strategy.</p>	PA	P	<p>Terms of reference for the Efficiency Review Panel are still under consideration. It would be inappropriate at this stage to endorse a particular outcome in relation to structures or policy remits.</p>
<p>18. -The Minister for the department that has the remit for climate change policy should have greater responsibility for delivering climate change objectives.</p> <p>- That Department's role should be widened to lead and coordinate liaison with other jurisdictions and ensure the achievement of climate change targets and objectives in Northern Ireland.</p>	A	P	<p>DOE Minister is to Chair Cross Departmental Working Group on greenhouse gas emissions which will take account of these matters.</p> <p>OFMDFM Response</p> <p>Terms of reference for the Efficiency Review Panel are still under consideration. It would be inappropriate at this stage to endorse a particular outcome in relation to structures or policy remits.</p>
<p>19. - Public procurement should be seen as an opportunity for government to</p>	A	IP	<p>Northern Ireland's 3 Waste Management Groups are liaising with DFP in taking forward their</p>

<p>establish and demonstrate good practice by linking short, medium and long term emissions targets to Northern Ireland's best practice guidance.</p> <p>- Care should be taken to avoid breaching EU single market rules and perverse outcomes.</p>	A	IP	<p>procurement of substantial new waste infrastructure to reduce landfill and greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>DFP Response:</p> <p>Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) adopts current UK best practice in the procurement of building and infrastructure projects by, for example, setting requirements in project briefs and specifications to achieve:</p> <p>BREEAM & CEEQUAL assessment targets of “Excellent” for new build projects and “Very Good” for refurbishment projects;</p> <p>where appropriate, carbon emission and energy targets that are leading best practice and exceed the mandatory standards in current Building Regulations;</p> <p>compliance with carbon emission and energy targets included in the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) common minimum standards;</p> <p>the selection of building services plant,</p>
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			<p>equipment and white goods which meet the appropriate energy and carbon emissions targets set in DEFRA's "quick wins".</p> <p>DE Response:</p> <p>All DE major works in schools must, in accordance with the Government Construction Client's Group include measures to achieve a Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating of "excellent" for new schemes and "very good" for refurbishment schemes.</p>
<p>20. A new planning policy statement for climate change should be developed and produced before the end of this Assembly.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>- The Department has initiated work on the review of PPS 1. The revised document will set out the key principles behind the planning system including how planning can contribute to tackling climate change and to the promotion of sustainable development. This is the appropriate vehicle for such an important issue.</p> <p>- PPS 15 Planning and Flood Risk provides</p>

			<p>guidance and adopts a precautionary approach to development because of the risks associated with climate change and flood estimation.</p> <p>- PPS 18 Renewable Energy provides guidance on renewable energy developments that contribute to reductions in greenhouse gases and move towards a key target in the Sustainable Development Strategy that 40% of all electricity consumed should come from renewable energy sources.</p>
21. In the development of new area plans, cognisance should be taken by local government of the need to incorporate demonstrable measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	A	IP	The development of new Area Plans by local government will be subject to the provisions of the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment. This should ensure that the new councils as part of their plan preparation consider the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in bringing forward policies and proposals for their areas.
22. Before the establishment of the new	TBC	TBC	This can be considered by OFMDFM as part of

<p>councils central government should provide advice and guidance to local authorities on what they will be required to do to contribute to Northern Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions targets and how it should be done.</p>			<p>their wider advice to councils following the Review of Public Administration regardless of the current 26 or proposed 11 council model.</p>
<p>23. Local authorities should be required to set challenging and achievable targets for their own activities such as energy efficiency and renewable energy sources and to maximise the opportunities for local centralised service provision.</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>This can be considered by OFMDFM as part of their wider advice to councils following the Review of Public Administration regardless of the current 26 or proposed 11 council model.</p>
<p>24. More opportunities to address climate change should be made available through cross-border and European funding, such as Special EU Programmes Body, Rural Development and EU Life+ funding.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>This would need to be considered in context of discussions on a wider climate change strategy through the Cross Departmental Working Group on greenhouse gas emissions and in consultation with key stakeholders.</p>
<p>Costs</p>			

25. A combination of incentives and penalties should be used to influence behavioural and attitudinal change	A	IP	This is already the case in relation to emission trading schemes such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme. Any further measures would need to be considered in the context of an overall strategy.
<p>26. - The Green New Deal should be seen as an opportunity to start to address climate change issues now to avoid much larger costs in the future.</p> <p>- It should be progressed as a matter of urgency across all relevant government departments.</p>	TBC	P	<p>DETI response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A sub group of the Sustainable Energy Inter Departmental Working Group (SEIDWG) has met with Green New Deal representatives and considered their proposals. Currently draft reports by the 4 sub groups of SEIDWG are being prepared. - Invest NI believes that the work in sustainable development with which it is already engaged and the significant funding it directs contribute in no small measure to achieving the aspirations set out in the Green New Deal paper. - The Green New Deal paper describes a seven point vision to tackle the recession, rising energy prices and climate change. All have the prospect
	TBC	P	

			<p>of creating and/or underpinning jobs - either directly through the deployment of sustainable energy practices or indirectly through encouraging and enabling the production of products and services that are needed for each part of the vision to be realised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest NI actively promotes transforming the energy performance of commercial buildings through its funding of The Carbon Trust and agrees that there remains much work to be done in this area – it will continue to pursue this through the locally focused activities of the Carbon Trust. - Invest NI actively promotes and supports the uptake of renewables in industry where it is economic to do so through its funding of the Carbon Trust. It also promotes and supports the uptake of technology that would improve the efficiency of fossil fuel consumption. Invest NI agrees that continuous effort is needed to identify
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			<p>the most cost effective sustainable energy solutions for industry and it will pursue this by funding value for money energy efficiency services to industry.</p> <p>- Invest NI believes the engagement of industry with this sector warrants encouragement – but ultimately it is industry itself that must rise to the challenge of seeking suitable opportunities, identifying what it needs to exploit those opportunities and seeking assistance from Invest NI and others to help it prepare to produce a range of fit-for-market products and services.</p> <p>DFP response:</p> <p>-It will be a matter for the respective departments involved in the delivery of the programmes and services specified in the report to determine the financial implications of the recommendations relating to the Green New Deal. In addition, there is insufficient detail presented within the report to</p>
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			<p>allow for a comprehensive analysis of the financial implications of the report in relation to the Executive's spending plans for 2010/11 and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) addresses climate change through public procurement and is progressing work in several areas set out in the Green New Deal Vision. - CPD and the other Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPEs) have agreed, through the Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland (CIFNI), to the inclusion of overarching design requirements for energy and low carbon design in project specifications. - CPD has adopted a Low Carbon Design policy for construction procurement. CPD's construction procurement practitioners are proactive in advising clients on the scope for incorporating low carbon design features including Low and Zero Carbon Technologies (LZCT). LZCTs include Renewable
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			<p>Energy Technologies e.g. biomass, solar heating panels, photovoltaics, heat pumps and wind turbines. CPD subsequently includes requirements in project briefs and specifications when initial appraisals indicate that Low Carbon Design is both economically and technically feasible.</p> <p>- A key requirement of the NI Policy Framework for Construction Procurement is compliance with the Government Construction Clients Group’s Sustainability Action Plan. This sets targets for the achievement of the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) standards of “Excellent” for new build projects and “Very Good” for refurbishment projects. The carbon footprint required to meet the BREEAM standards, is more onerous than the minimum requirements of the current (2006) Building Regulations. The Low Carbon Design policy encourages designers to</p>
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			<p>go even further. Similar standards have been set under the Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Award (CEEQUAL) scheme for infrastructure projects.</p> <p>- DFP procures electricity for the government estate which can incorporate an element from renewable sources i.e. “green electricity”. Contracts have been awarded for up to 25% green electricity on large sites (e.g. Stormont Estate) with 100% green supply available for smaller buildings. This encourages electricity Generators to invest in Renewable Energy Technologies. The procurement of key suppliers such as vehicles, office equipment, ICT supply , the OGC “quick win” specifications are the minimum standards within any CPD arrangements.</p>
27. Government should prioritise options that offer relatively short payback times,	A	IP	<p>DETI response:</p> <p>- DETI is supportive of whole house solutions that</p>

<p>taking possible future oil prices into consideration and/or multiple solutions, e.g. the warm homes scheme.</p>			<p>offer energy savings for the consumer. At present the energy efficiency sub group, of the Sustainable Energy Interdepartmental Working Group, is looking at developing an energy efficiency action plan for NI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work to date has identified many opportunities to increase the penetration and scalability of energy efficiency especially for measures with short payback times, but these are heavily reliant on additional funding being available. - However, given the potential for the rise in carbon pricing and the rise in fuel costs, it is widely accepted that longer pay-back periods should be accepted thus making more schemes eligible for funding. - Recent DFP guidance in relation to value for money did refer to making sure that business cases are prepared on whole-life costing which may help to better demonstrate value for money in line with government appraisal guidelines.
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			<p>DSD Response:</p> <p>The Warm Homes Scheme is the department's primary tool in tackling fuel poverty. Officials are currently producing a consultation paper on the Review of the Fuel Poverty Strategy which will include among other things, the role of renewables and other new technologies to lessen the impact of fluctuating oil prices.</p>
Sectoral Targets and Actions			
<p>28. Building Standards should be enhanced to ensure that new houses are built to standards that will enable them to meet energy efficiency requirements within their anticipated lifetime.</p> <p>Retrofitting is a costly option that should be avoided for all but existing housing stock.</p>	A	P	<p>DFP Response:</p> <p>- The last amendment to the Building Regulations which came into operation in November 2006 introduced a whole building approach to compliance with building regulations requirements for conservation of fuel and power. The regulations require building designers/developers to ensure that the carbon dioxide emissions from any new building fall below a defined 'Target Emissions Rate' for that</p>

			<p>building. That amendment set standards that were 40% above previous standards with resulting similar % reduction in carbon dioxide emissions levels.</p> <p>- The Minister for Finance and Personnel has already advised that further amendments will be made in 2010 and 2013 to improve standards by 25% and up to 44% respectively on current standards. Further amendments will work towards low or zero carbon buildings.</p> <p>DSD Response-</p> <p>As part of the New Housing Agenda, launched in 2008, all new build Social Housing must comply with a minimum rating of level 3 on the Code for Sustainable Homes. In effect this means new social houses built today are 25% more energy efficient than before. These homes are not just energy efficient in occupation as the code for sustainable homes places specific standards during construction to make them more</p>
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			<p>sustainable and environmentally friendly in occupation and construction.</p> <p>From November 2009, the Department has incentivised Housing Associations to go even further than level 3 by increasing the level of subsidy to those Housing Associations who can build to level 4 standards.</p> <p>The Department is also working with the Housing Executive, the Home Energy Conservation Authority for NI, to bring forward a pilot site in South Belfast that will see up to 70 mixed tenure homes built to level 5 standards. This is the largest and most ambitious level 5 development across the UK and the use of renewable technologies in this scheme will be essential to meet the strict level 5 ratings. This scheme will go on site during 2010/11 and will provide important learning for the industry as we seek to achieve carbon neutral housing targets by 2016.</p>
29. Incentives should be introduced to	A	P	DSD Response:

<p>encourage improved energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives particularly where they will help to alleviate fuel poverty.</p>			<p>The Warm Homes Scheme is the Department's primary tool in tackling fuel poverty. Officials are currently producing a consultation paper on the Review of the Fuel Poverty Strategy which will include among other things, the role of renewables and other new technologies to lessen the impact of fluctuating oil prices.</p>
<p>30. Energy efficiency labelling should be extended to all electrical goods so that consumers can factor in long term running costs to their purchasing decisions.</p>	<p>Not NI decision</p>		<p>DETI Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lead on the labelling and design of energy using products is being coordinated on a UK wide basis by DEFRA. - A consultation "<i>Saving Energy Through Better Products and Appliances – a consultation on analysis, aims and indicative standards for energy efficient products 2009 – 2030</i>" was issued by DEFRA in December 2009 and closed on 10 March 2010 - http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/energy-using-products/index.htm

<p>31. Penalties should be introduced for those companies that do not measure or persistently fail to improve their energy efficiency performance.</p>	PA	P	<p>As part of the Climate Change Act 2008 government is to consider by 2012 mandating companies to report on emissions.</p> <p>The Carbon Reduction Commitment – The Energy Efficiency Scheme, implemented on 1 April 2010, already applies these principles.</p> <p>DETI response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whilst welcoming thoughts and ideas on new measures that can be put in place to induce a step change in industrial energy efficiency Invest NI believes that much preparatory work would be required to ensure that the measures proposed in the Committee’s report can be introduced equitably. - The proposal to penalise poor performers is fraught with difficulty and has the potential to deliver inequitable results – either on a site by site basis or on a measure by measure basis. A site by site basis would necessitate the
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			<p>completion of baseline surveys mentioned above and unless these are carried out in a comprehensive way there is the danger that energy savings achieved could be disputed. If penalties are envisaged on a measure by measure basis then by implication the Committee is suggesting that business invest in energy saving equipment/measures that may result in an unacceptable burden being placed on business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consumers of energy are regulated through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme and through Climate Change Levy/Agreements and in addition Invest NI is aware of an ongoing DECC investigation into the regulation of carbon emissions from SME's and it will contribute advice and knowledge to that investigation where appropriate. - Invest NI does not therefore believe that industry would welcome further regulation – nor does it believe that industry would accept the
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			prospect of penalties or incentives that could not be demonstrated to be completely equitable in their deployment.
32. Departments should be encouraged to utilise the expertise of specialist organisations like the Carbon Trust to advise them on improving their energy efficiency performance and other carbon footprint reducing activities in preference to appointing non-specialists in-house.	A	IP	<p>Departments are already free to engage with Carbon Trust provided they resource this themselves.</p> <p>DFP response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central Procurement Directorate's Professional and Technical staff have specialist expertise in the design of low carbon infrastructure and building projects. In particular a number of staff have been trained as Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) Low Carbon consultants and as CEEQUAL assessors. - CPD has engaged with the Carbon Trust on the establishment of low carbon design policies for the built environment and has sought its advice on the design and specification of key building projects.

<p>33. The Committee recommends that the capacity of the grid infrastructure needs to be strengthened to accommodate the shift in the location of power generation but this must be done in an open and transparent manner.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>DETI response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "DETI fully recognises the importance of electricity grid strengthening to accommodate much higher levels of renewable power generation, and also that there will be significant costs associated with this work which will ultimately have to be borne by electricity consumers. - The grid owner, Northern Ireland Electricity, in co-operation with the electrical system operator SONI, is in the process of preparing grid development proposals for Northern Ireland. DETI has engaged consultants to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the grid development proposals. A project Steering Group is being established to oversee the SEA work, and will include representatives from NIE, SONI, DoE Planning Service, the Utility Regulator, and the NI Environment Agency. - In addition, final grid development proposals
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			will be subject to scrutiny by both the Department and the Utility Regulator, who will be required to agree an investment programme and associated costs with the grid owner."
34. DETI should seek a practical means of overcoming barriers to renewables caused by high connection charges and low feed-in tariffs.	A	P	<p>DETI response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO), which was introduced by DETI in 2005, is the main financial support measure for helping meet the additional costs associated with developing renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland. -The NIRO continues to be very successful in encouraging renewables development. Currently almost 10% of our electricity consumption comes from renewable sources (mainly wind) – a huge increase on the 2005 level when the NIRO was introduced. - A Feed-In Tariff support mechanism does not operate in Northern Ireland and, if it were to be introduced as an alternative to the NIRO, it would

			<p>require new primary legislation.</p> <p>In order to help address this legislative gap, DETI introduced increased Renewable Obligation Certificates for certain small scale renewable generators (wind, hydro and pv) from April 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DETI has commissioned a detailed review of the economics of the operation of the NIRO in the context the Single Electricity Market and the proposals to introduce a Feed-In Tariff form of support for small scale generation in Great Britain. - Decisions on the level of support provided under any subvention measure must take account of the effectiveness of that support as well as its impact on the cost to consumer. - In relation to connection charges, there is a published Connection Charging Statement for connection to the electricity distribution system which is agreed with the Utility Regulator. A consultation on connection policy is planned by
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			the Utility Regulator in the autumn of 2010.
35. DETI should investigate the feasibility of support mechanisms for heat generated from renewables.	A	P	<p>DETI response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DETI has recently commissioned a major piece of work in the new policy area of Renewable Heat. There is much less understanding of the relative costs of energy for heat as very few statistics are currently available. - This work will therefore for the first time collate reliable data on heat and renewable heat usage in Northern Ireland and assess the future sustainable growth potential for the renewable heat sector in NI. Consideration will also be given to the possible options for incentivising the deployment of renewable heat technologies in NI in the short, medium, and longer term. - The recent draft Strategic Energy Framework set a provisional target of 10% renewable heat by 2020, this work will assess the appropriateness of that target and how it may impact on the existing NI heat markets.

			<p>- This is the first step in the development of a wider strategy for renewable heat deployment in NI. If our work indicates that a support mechanism is appropriate for NI then a legislative timetable would have to be developed, with legislation likely to be forthcoming 2011/12.</p> <p>- In the meantime DETI is examining, as part of the study outlined above, options for short term incentivisation until such times as legislation is passed.</p>
<p>36. In light of Northern Ireland's dispersed settlement pattern and the reluctance hitherto demonstrated for bioenergy plants to be built in close proximity to individual and group settlements, Northern Ireland government should reflect on the role of centralised government post RPA in planning decisions for bioenergy plants.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>As part of Planning Reform the Department has proposed that post RPA all developments which are of strategic significance to the whole or a substantial part of Northern Ireland or which would have significant effects beyond Northern Ireland would be determined by the Department and decided by the Minister. This would include regionally significant energy developments. The public consultation into Planning Reform indicates broad support for this particular</p>

		<p>proposal and consideration is currently being given by the Department to the thresholds that should be used to determine which energy developments are considered to be of strategic significance.</p> <p>Post RPA all such proposals will, as at present, continue to be assessed against the prevailing planning policy framework in place and taking account of all material considerations.</p> <p>DETI response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Committee refers to a review of renewable energy undertaken by DETI during the period of its inquiry (para 169). This work, in fact, has been on one particular element of renewables - the sustainable development of bioenergy. - DETI has been leading work on the development of the first cross Departmental Bioenergy Action Plan. The Bioenergy Inter Departmental Group includes DOE, DARD, DFP, DRD and Invest NI.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IDG recently consulted on the draft Plan whose key objectives are to raise awareness of the bioenergy sector; create an enabling environment within which it can develop; facilitate targeted support for the supply chain and continue focussed R&D. - The draft Plan has been the subject of a three month public consultation which recently closed. - The Environment Committee responded to the draft Plan and recommendations 33-36 are contained within that response. - Over 30 organisations responded with detailed comments on the draft Plan, and these responses, including the Committee's, are now being considered by the Bioenergy IDG. - It is proposed that a revised Plan, informed by the consultation responses, would be finalised and published in summer 2010.
Transport			

<p>37. The balance of funding between public and private transport in the Regional Development Strategy should be revisited with a view to making public transport more user-friendly in terms of accessibility, punctuality and cost.</p>	A	P	<p>DRD response:</p> <p>For clarification the balance of funding does not feature in the Regional Development Strategy and the Inquiry report may be referring to the Regional Transportation Strategy and the spending ratio between public transport and roads.</p> <p>In launching the review of the Regional Development Strategy in June 2008 the DRD Minister highlighted the contribution transport makes to carbon dioxide emissions and the need to do more to protect the environment. He stressed the need to focus on public transport and to reducing the need to use the car by better planning of where homes, schools and shops are built.</p> <p>In the current Regional Transportation Strategy there is a spending ratio between roads and public transport of 65:35. When the DRD Minister launched the review of the Regional</p>
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			<p>Transportation Strategy in September 2009 he said that public transport and roads are interdependent. Most people who use public transport travel by bus on roads. Improvements to roads including quality bus corridors and park and ride sites therefore benefit bus users as well as car drivers. He added that the rise in transport emissions must be tackled through changing driver behaviour, modal shift and better journey planning. He told the Assembly that on foot of significant capital investment good progress has been made on increasing rail and Metro passenger numbers and the number of cycling journeys.</p> <p>In a discussion document subsequently issued the Department stated that unlike the current Strategy the revised Regional Transportation Strategy will not propose individual schemes or funding levels but will map out the long term future for transport here. The review is ongoing</p>
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			<p>and when completed we will revise our specific Transport plans which do detail schemes and associated expenditure as necessary to implement the revised strategy.</p>
<p>38. In rural areas alternative innovative solutions should be introduced such as vehicle sharing and community transport schemes in the short term while more radical solutions to meet Northern Ireland's dispersed settlement patterns in a sustainable way should be sought for the future.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>DRD provides support through the Rural Transport Fund to 16 Rural Community Transport Partnerships to provide transport options for rural dwellers across the North. In turn these Partnerships enter into brokerage arrangements with other rural based groups and share vehicles. They also operate voluntary Car Schemes to reduce the need to use mini buses for all trips. It should be noted that this scheme is designed to improve accessibility for people living in rural areas and not to replace the use of private cars which may on occasions be the most sustainable option for the completion of particular journeys. The Department is currently taking forward a programme of reform of the public transport system which aims to create an effective, efficient</p>

			and sustainable public transport system. New organisational and governance arrangements along with the introduction of a performance based contracting system for the delivery of services will support the implementation of the Regional Transportation Strategy. The reforms aim to improve public transport for the benefit of customers and the environment making public transport people's first choice and not last resort.
Waste			
39. DOE should develop a series of measures to be delivered by local authorities that will lead to attitudinal and behavioural change in relation to waste. The introduction of penalties should be considered for persistent irresponsible behaviour in relation to separating waste streams and recycling.	A	IP	The Department and other stakeholders recognise that attitudinal and behavioural change are critical to effective Waste Management. DoE has worked with key stakeholders including District Councils, the three Waste Management Groups and the Voluntary and Community Sector to ensure that in parallel with communication campaigns such as Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and the recently launched ReThink Waste campaign -

			<p>http://www.rethinkwasteni.org - the necessary infrastructure and services are in place to facilitate behaviour change. The Department provides annual funding to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to provide advice/support on a range of recycling/re-use activities- this includes direct support to District Councils across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The effectiveness of the approach to date is demonstrated in the progress which has been made in, for example, increasing household recycling rates from 5% in 1999 to 34% in 2008/09 and in reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill by 15% between 2005/06 and 2008/09.</p> <p>Such radical changes could not have been achieved without a marked change in attitudes and behaviours. The interventions to date, therefore, have brought about a significant and voluntary change in behaviours.</p>
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			<p>From 1997 Councils have had powers to prosecute offenders through the Courts for waste offences including the misuse of waste receptacles and in 2008 the Department gave them discretionary powers to issue £100 fixed-penalty notices for misuse of receptacles offering a quicker and more cost-effective alternative for lesser offences.</p>
<p>40. Small and medium enterprises should be provided with more assistance in their waste management by local authorities.</p>	A	IP	<p>While the Department has no statutory powers to require district councils to provide assistance to SMEs, the Northern Ireland Waste Strategy 2006-2020 strongly encourages district councils to make provision, on a regional basis, for small businesses to access a civic amenity site within reasonable distance. Councils are also encouraged to include such provision in their Waste Management Plans.</p> <p>The three district council Waste Management Groups must take account of the Strategy when preparing their waste management plans setting</p>

			<p>out the arrangements for dealing with controlled waste arising in their areas.</p> <p>DETI response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest NI would draw to the Committee’s attention the fact that it funds the locally focused activities of the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme and the Envirowise Programme. These programmes aim to minimise the waste generated and maximise the use of resources by businesses. - Invest NI believes that the local authorities have a significant role to play not only within the domestic sphere but also within the retail sector and would suggest that their efforts be concentrated in these areas. Invest NI believes that it can provide the services needed to realise significant savings and achieve substantial waste prevention in industry.
<p>Land Use</p>			

<p>41. Greenhouse gas emission reduction targets should be set for the agri-food sector that acknowledge the contribution of the sector to greenhouse gas emissions but reflect the importance of the sector for the Northern Ireland Economy and preserve the many-faceted benefits delivered by the sector for society.</p>	TBC	P	<p>DARD response:</p> <p>The Executive has a target of reducing GHG emissions by 25% by 2025. Within this overall target sector specific targets have not been set. While Carbon Budgets were set in Budget 2009, responsibility for delivering these has not been assigned to Devolved Administrations. Moreover, the agriculture sector was exempted from carbon budget targets until 2018 because of the uncertainties in measurement, monitoring and reporting on Greenhouse Gases emitting from the sector.</p> <p>However, DARD is working closely with Defra and other agriculture colleagues in the Devolved Administrations on development of mitigation strategies to reduce Greenhouse Gases. The English target of a reduction of 3mtco2e per year, compared to current projections, in the third carbon budget period (2018-2022), represents an approximate 10% reduction. DARD also</p>
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			<p>contributes, via DOE, to Defra’s recently published “UK Climate Change Delivery Plan”.</p> <p>The importance of the agri-food sector to the local economy and to wider issues such as environmental sustainability is recognised and it is vital that we reduce emission levels while maintaining jobs and food production here.</p> <p>The agriculture industry needs to play its part in tackling the factors that contribute to climate change while being allowed to get on with the business of producing food.</p> <p>Agriculture’s contribution to Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) is substantial and DARD want to agree an Improvement Plan with industry. The aim of this plan will be to reduce emissions across the sector and not just primary production emissions such as methane and nitrous oxide</p>
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			that are produced naturally due to the nature of the biological process in livestock.
42. A local climate change advisory body based on the DEFRA's Rural Climate Change Forum model should be established in Northern Ireland.	PA	P	DARD response: DARD attends Defra's RCCF. Members of the RCCF have also visited AfBI Hillsborough to examine installations designed to demonstrate renewable energy and capture of Greenhouse Gases. DARD is also working closely with a range of local Stakeholders and aims to develop an agreed Greenhouse Gas Improvement Plan during 2010. As part of this process formal stakeholder engagement arrangements will be established.
43. The Rural White Paper should reflect the impact of climate change mitigation and adaptation on rural dwellers in general and address the role and responsibilities of the agri-food sector in relation to climate change targets.	A	IP	DARD response: The challenges and opportunities resulting from climate change are currently being considered by the Rural Places subgroup of the Rural White Paper Stakeholders Advisory Group.

<p>44. - AFBI Hillsborough's research facility for waste management and renewable fuels and materials should be recognised across government as a source of local climate change research.</p> <p>- Current AFBI research that identifies agricultural practices with lower emissions and greater profitability should be disseminated quickly and widely.</p> <p>- All research into reducing emissions should be accompanied by economic comparison studies.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A</p> <p>A</p>	<p>IP</p> <p>IP</p> <p>IP</p>	<p>DARD response:</p> <p>AFBI uses many channels to communicate their research findings and current work in this area. Examples include web site, host venue for renewable energy organisations and agriculture primary producers and processors, publicising opening of demonstration facilities, hosting the Defra RCCF and advertising their services at Sustainability Conferences. AFBI also bid for research contracts in both the public and private sectors</p> <p>Government officials from, for example, DETI and DOE, participate at events where appropriate. Analysis of the economic benefits or costs of GHG mitigation strategies is embedded within all research projects.</p>
<p>45. The acceptance of Publicly Audited</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NP</p>	<p>DARD Response:</p>

<p>Standard 2050 as a measure of the carbon cost of food should be postponed in Northern Ireland until it has been made sufficiently robust to protect the globe's most vulnerable habitats and provide accurate and comprehensive information about agricultural production systems.</p>			<p>Publicly Available Specification 2050 is one of a number of accredited standards that are in use to measure carbon footprints of products. Some retailers are using these tools to address their customer demands for information on carbon. DARD do not control or have influence on implementation of these standards but are fully aware of the market pressures stemming from a desire to reduce emissions which is one of the key drivers associated with the planned Greenhouse Gas Improvement Plan.</p>
<p>46. DEFRA's guiding principles for protecting biodiversity should be incorporated into Northern Ireland's climate change strategy.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Agree that any climate change strategy should consider biodiversity. The guiding principles for protecting biodiversity are very relevant for incorporation into any future climate change strategy. For example, the Department has designated a number of peat bogs as both national and European wide important sites for biodiversity. These sites are afforded protection from any detrimental activities</p>

			and act as "carbon sinks" due to their ability to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.
47. As a matter of social justice, Northern Ireland government has a duty to recognise the global impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable people and places and this should act as a driver for the delivery of the recommendations of this report.	A	IP	The Northern Ireland Executive recognises the social justice issues associated with climate change. This is reflected in our commitment to the Climate Change Act 2008 which was a world first in setting legally binding carbon reduction targets for the UK. That is also why in international climate change negotiations, the DoE Minister wrote to Ed Miliband supporting an overall global deal to reduce emissions and to support the transfer of funding and technology from the developed world to the developing countries.
Adaptation			
48.- Individual departments should have responsibility for developing and implementing climate change adaptation activities relating to their functions, in	A	IP	This is as it is under the Climate Change Act. Work has already commenced in identifying the risks posed by climate change to the UK and the devolved administrations. Once complete in

<p>accordance with the Northern Ireland Climate Change Implementation Strategy.</p> <p>- The ultimate responsibility for the delivery of adaptation plans should be centralised with whichever Department has responsibility for climate change policy and achieved by establishing transparent mechanisms for monitoring and reporting.</p>	NA	NP	<p>2011, an adaptation programme will be developed in keeping with this recommendation including appropriate delivery and reporting mechanisms.</p>
Sustainable Development			
<p>49. - Climate change should form an integral part of the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy.</p> <p>- The Strategy and/or Action Plan should include targets that will ensure Northern Ireland makes a fair and proportionate contribution to UK targets along with mechanisms for monitoring, reviewing</p>	A A	P P	<p>OFMDFM response:</p> <p>Climate Change will form an integral part of the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy and its associated Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan will ensure Northern Ireland makes a fair and proportionate contribution to UK targets, and provide mechanisms for monitoring, reviewing and</p>

<p>and reporting.</p>			<p>reporting, by fulfilling the commitments in the draft new Sustainable Development Strategy that the Executive will publish an Implementation Plan setting SMART targets for action to achieve each strategic objective, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and that the Executive will develop robust reporting mechanisms for sustainable development to provide information in support of the management of implementation.</p>
<p>50. - Suitable linkages must be established between OFMDFM and DOE to ensure synergistic delivery of climate change objectives across central government and local government. OFMDFM should lead on a communications strategy that will establish these links. - Non-Government Organisations should be invited to contribute to and participate</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A</p>	<p>P</p> <p>IP</p>	<p>OFMDFM response: The draft new Sustainable Development Strategy and its associated Implementation Plan will provide one mechanism by which this might be progressed. A facilitated engagement event for relevant Non-Governmental Organisations and other stakeholders was held as part of the extensive public consultation exercise conducted to support the development of the Sustainable Development</p>

<p>in the preparation of the strategy.</p>			<p>Strategy.</p> <p>Additionally, officials met directly with a number of organisations who requested meetings to discuss the draft Strategy, and have received written consultation responses from a number of other organisations.</p> <p>The input received through these various channels is presently being considered by OFMDFM and will be used to inform the further development of the Strategy.</p> <p>A steering group consisting of representatives of non-governmental sectors is to be used to guide the development of the Implementation Plan for the Strategy.</p>
<p>51. - Climate change objectives should be delivered at local authority level through a strengthened sustainable development duty with support and guidance from central government.</p> <p>- Areas of responsibility should reflect the</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>Guidance and support is required from OFMDFM to all councils regardless of the current 26 or proposed 11 council model.</p> <p>OFMDFM response:</p> <p>The draft new Sustainable Development Strategy contains a commitment to ensure that guidance</p>
	<p>A</p>	<p>P</p>	

<p>enforceability powers of local authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery mechanisms should be sufficiently adaptable to allow for changes that may occur as a result of the Review of Public Administration. 	A	P	<p>in relation to the existing Statutory Duty on Sustainable Development, contained within Section 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006, is appropriate in supporting our ongoing sustainable development ambitions.</p>
Cross-cutting Approaches			
<p>52. -The Green New Deal approach is welcome and recommends that government should be willing to provide its share of additional funding to support its uptake and to incorporate it into Public Sector Agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alternative approaches from other jurisdictions should be monitored and included where appropriate. 	TBC	P	<p><u>DETI response:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A sub group of the Sustainable Energy Inter Departmental Working Group (SEIDWG) has met with Green New Deal representatives and considered their proposals. Currently draft reports by the 4 sub groups of SEIDWG are being prepared. - Invest NI believes that the work in sustainable development with which it is already engaged and the significant funding it directs contribute in

			<p>no small measure to achieving the aspirations set out in the Green New Deal paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Green New deal paper describes a seven point vision to tackle the recession, rising energy prices and climate change. All have the prospect of creating and/or underpinning jobs - either directly through the deployment of sustainable energy practices or indirectly through encouraging and enabling the production of products and services that are needed for each part of the vision to be realised. - Invest NI actively promotes transforming the energy performance of commercial buildings through its funding of The Carbon Trust and agrees that there remains much work to be done in this area – it will continue to pursue this through the locally focused activities of the Carbon Trust. - Invest NI actively promotes and supports the uptake of renewables in industry where it is
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			<p>economic to do so through its funding of the Carbon Trust. It also promotes and supports the uptake of technology that would improve the efficiency of fossil fuel consumption. Invest NI agrees that continuous effort is needed to identify the most cost effective sustainable energy solutions for industry and it will pursue this by funding value for money energy efficiency services to industry.</p> <p>- Invest NI believes the engagement of industry with this sector warrants encouragement – but ultimately it is industry itself that must rise to the challenge of seeking suitable opportunities, identifying what it needs to exploit those opportunities and seeking assistance from Invest NI and others to help it prepare to produce a range of fit-for-market products and services.</p>
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