



## THE CARBON TRUST IN NI AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR

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25 JUNE 2009

The purpose of this note, prepared for the Committee for the Environment, is to:

- Outline reasons why the Carbon Trust in NI does not currently work with the public sector.
- Identify any barriers which might prevent it doing so in the future.

In 2008, **Invest NI commissioned consultants to evaluate the Carbon Trust** and other energy programmes/services. The **final report of that evaluation** included the following observations and recommendations.<sup>1</sup>

The **Carbon Trust is funded mainly by Government** to deliver programmes and services on its behalf. **Funding is sourced from Central Government in GB, but a Government Agency (Invest NI) in NI.** Annual business plans are developed by the Carbon Trust on a local basis, and agreed with each local funder.

The Carbon Trust (in the UK) developed the following **key objectives**, based upon the remit set for the Carbon Trust and the themes set out in the Climate Change Programme that it would be expected to cover:

- To **ensure that UK business and the public sector contribute fully** to meeting ongoing targets for greenhouse gas emissions.
- To improve the competitiveness of UK business through resource efficiency.
- To support the development of a UK industry sector that capitalises on the innovation and commercial value of low-carbon technologies nationally and internationally.

The Carbon Trust in NI was established in May 2002; it was mainly funded through Climate Change Levy receipts, but, since inception, Invest NI has supplemented this funding.

A **key activity of the Carbon Trust in NI was a NI Energy Scoping Study**, which established a robust analysis of final energy usage and carbon emissions in the **industrial, commercial and public sectors**. Subsequent activities have focussed on helping businesses reduce their energy usage, costs and carbon emissions, and serving as a catalyst for moving NI towards a low carbon economy.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.investni.com/evaluation\\_of\\_ct\\_energy\\_programmes\\_final\\_exec\\_sum.doc](http://www.investni.com/evaluation_of_ct_energy_programmes_final_exec_sum.doc)

The main aim of the Carbon Trust in NI was set to ensure that the work programme, to introduce low carbon technologies and practices into NI businesses as agreed with the Carbon Trust, is delivered efficiently and effectively for the benefit of NI businesses.

Over time, the **aims of the Carbon Trust in NI were developed to include identifying and improving the energy efficiency of Northern Ireland industry, commerce and the public sector.**

**Invest NI is responsible for working in partnership with the Carbon Trust in NI to help promote/support energy saving projects within the business community and public sector**, and so contribute to reducing carbon emissions, mitigating climate change. The Carbon Trust is the key programme in NI aimed at promoting and supporting energy efficiency in the industrial and commercial sectors.

2 strategies present **opportunities for the Carbon Trust in NI**, which is currently largely dependent on Invest NI for financial support:

- The DETI draft NI Strategic Energy Framework (launched in 2008).
- The forthcoming Sustainable Development Strategy for NI (currently being developed).

**Current support** allows the Carbon Trust in NI to deliver a range of activities and initiatives, but these are **constrained, to a certain extent, in that they must be consistent with Invest NI objectives**. By securing funding from other sources, the Carbon Trust in NI would be less constrained and less dependent on a single funding source.

**Future support could be expanded**; the report recommended that the **Carbon Trust in NI should be encouraged to present opportunities to other parts of Government that deliver on the Sustainable Development Strategy for NI**. This should include sourcing further funding to support the delivery of other areas of work which fall outside the remit of the support provided by Invest NI.

The conclusion reached by reading the report outlined above is that **it appears that there is no reason why the Carbon Trust in NI cannot work more with the private sector, if it chooses to seek additional funding options**; indeed the Invest NI evaluation report recommends that the Carbon Trust in NI does so.