



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Sustainable Development Strategy

One of the most commonly used definitions of sustainable development is ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’ (Bruntland Commission 1987)

The achievement of sustainable development within an organisation is facilitated by the consideration of economic, environmental and social factors together in its decision making process.

The Northern Ireland Assembly understands that its activities have both direct and indirect economic, environmental and social impacts and therefore aims to act responsibly in everything it does to help reduce these impacts and move towards a more sustainable future.

The Assembly’s strategy for sustainable development is being developed around the following four key themes:

1. Governance for Sustainable Development
2. Sustainable Communities
3. Sustainable consumption and natural Resource Protection
4. Climate Change and Energy

### 1. Governance for Sustainable Development

We will be recognised as an organisation which lives out its values in all our activities and integrates the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development within our governance arrangements.

We will:

- promote values for the whole organisation and demonstrate the values of good governance through our behaviour;
- take informed, transparent decisions and manage risk;
- engage stakeholders and make accountability real; and
- comply fully with, and where possible exceed, all relevant environmental legislation and agreements.



## Northern Ireland Assembly

### 2. Sustainable Communities

We will engage with the people of Northern Ireland. We will create a workplace where our people are valued, engaged and skilled; and drive excellence in health and safety.

#### **Community**

We will:

- engage, involve and include the public so that participatory democracy is enhanced and they feel that they have a say in what the Assembly does;
- increase the public awareness of the Assembly's role by educating the public on the working of the Assembly; and
- communicate the meaning of sustainable development by making this policy and our intentions available to the public.

#### **Our people**

We will:

- work in a way that supports our values and ensures equal opportunities;
- strive to create a workplace in which there is mutual trust and respect and where every person feels responsible for the performance and reputation of the Assembly;
- strive to create a healthy and inclusive working environment through effective employee engagement programmes and the promotion of wellbeing;
- create a culture within the workplace which will provide all staff with the opportunity to develop their full potential;
- strive to achieve a workforce which is representative of the society it serves;
- create and maintain a safe and healthy environment for members, staff and visitors through the development of a positive health and safety culture; and
- communicate and engage staff and members on sustainable development.



## Northern Ireland Assembly

### 3. Sustainable Consumption and Natural Resource Protection

We will work with our suppliers to achieve 'more for less', through more efficient use of resources, considering life cycle impacts and delivering sustainable outcomes. We will responsibly manage our impact on the environment through the development and implementation of effective strategies for waste and resource management.

#### **Environmental impacts**

We will:

- reduce and prevent pollution where possible through good environmental sustainability practices.

#### **Supply chain**

We will:

- work with our supply chain to deliver mutually sustainable solutions that deliver value for money.

#### **Resource use**

We will:

- do 'more with less' by maximising resource efficiency throughout the Assembly's operations

### 4. Climate change and energy

We will work to reduce our impact on climate change by minimising our use of energy.

#### **Atmospheric Impacts**

We will:

- actively reduce our use of energy and subsequent emissions of greenhouse gases in our operations through the implementation of effective energy conservation programmes.

**Robin Newton MLA, The Speaker**  
Chairman of the Assembly Commission

**Lesley Hogg**  
Clerk/Chief Executive