

ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

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WELCOME TO THE ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

The Energy Strategy Options Consultation has now closed and I would like to personally thank everyone who took the time to engage with us over the consultation period and provide a response to this.

We have received more than 280 responses and we're taking the time now to give you a brief flavour of our engagement, the consultation responses received and what our next steps will be as we work towards publication of the strategy later this year.



Thomas Byrne

Thomas Byrne
Director, Energy Strategy

OPTIONS CONSULTATION

There was significant interest in, and an excellent response to the Energy Strategy Options Consultation. We are pleased that despite continuing Covid-related restrictions, we were able to connect with a wide range of people and received even more responses than the 161 submitted to the Call for Evidence.

During the 12-week consultation period, there were:

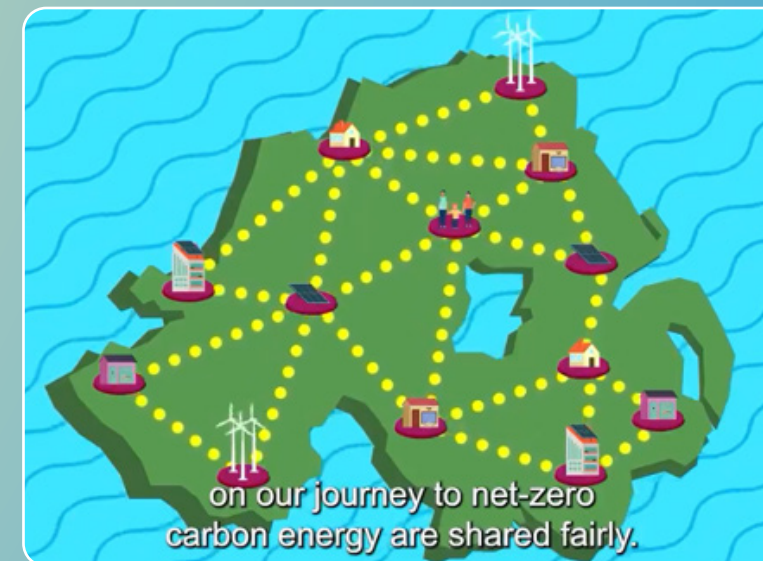
- 7,839 views of the consultation page
- Over 5,600 views of the Energy Strategy Animation video
- 3,870 downloads of the Policy Options Consultation paper
- 1,109 downloads of the Consumer friendly paper

Promotion and engagement

To spread the word and encourage as wide a range of responses as possible, the Options Consultation was supported through multiple communications activities. This included a Social Media campaign, events, presentations, information videos and an animation. Outside of our own 'Have Your Say' events we met with around 30 groups including Councils, business associations, the energy and renewable industry, consumer groups, housing representatives and youth groups, to answer questions and discuss the content of the strategy.

There was widespread promotion of the consultation from other organisations, including local councils, government departments, business, voluntary and social economy groups, and the energy industry. All of the activities aimed to encourage people to visit the consultation section of the Departmental website and submit a response.

To take part in our consultation visit our website:
<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/energy-strategy-ni>
#OurEnergyFuture #HaveYourSay #TakePart



'HAVE YOUR SAY' EVENTS

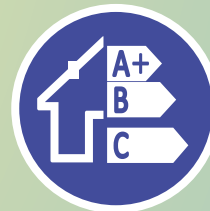
The consultation period was extremely busy for the Energy Strategy team as they talked to people through a wide variety of events and presentations. Over 250 participants attended five Energy Strategy 'Have Your Say' events. The sessions were held online and were based on each of the five Options Consultation Themes:



Placing you at the heart of our energy future



Grow a green economy



Do more with less



Create a flexible and integrated energy system



Replace fossil fuels with indigenous renewables

Each session included presentations on the relevant theme and, most importantly, the opportunity for you to 'have your say' through interactive breakout rooms. The breakout sessions allowed participants to provide direct feedback on the emerging Energy Strategy. These discussions were hugely valuable to the consultation process and will feed into the options consultation review.

Consultation Responses

- 282 formal responses received
- There was a good mix of rural (27%), urban (31%) and semi-urban (23%) respondents (remaining 19% provided no answer)
- There were responses from throughout Northern Ireland, with most originating from County Antrim (approximately 33%)
- Approximately 30% responded as Domestic Energy Consumers
- Approximately 20% responded as Business Energy Consumers
- A full consultation report will be published alongside the Energy Strategy later this year.

NEXT STEPS

Feedback to the consultation includes a number of responses that highlight the urgency of clear direction from government on decarbonisation.

We remain committed to publishing an Energy Strategy this year. However, given the breadth of issues covered, some of the underpinning policies require further research, evidence building and consultation. We therefore also intend to publish an Action Plan outlining the programme of work for the development of detailed policy on key topics, alongside an Energy Evidence Programme and detailed Statistical Methodology report.

Stakeholder engagement

We are extremely grateful to those who have not only responded to the consultation but actively engaged in working groups, the

Expert Panel and other stakeholder groups to support this work so far. As we finalise the strategy we will assess how to best continue to engage with all stakeholders to ensure an effective transition from development to implementation.

In the words of TS Eliot –
‘the end is just the beginning’!



Energy Strategy

Action Plan

Consultation Report

Energy Evidence Programme

Statistical Methodology Report