

# ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

**ISSUE 14: AUGUST 2021**

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## WELCOME TO THE ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

We are reviewing your responses to the options consultation and using these to inform the new Energy Strategy.

In this bulletin we're giving you a flavour of some of the broader issues around climate and energy. In the run up to the crucially important COP26 we hear from DAERA about the increasing urgency of responding to the climate challenge. We are also sharing some important energy policy developments from elsewhere in the UK.



**Thomas Byrne**  
Director, Energy Strategy

## COP26 AND ACTION ON CLIMATE

### Why do we need to take action to tackle Climate Change on a global scale?

Climate change is a challenge that permeates every aspect of modern living. The recently published IPCC report was unequivocal that current climatic changes are being made by the actions of humans. Increases in temperature of approx. 0.7°C and rainfall of approx. 6.4% have been recorded in Northern Ireland over the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Records continue to be broken, in fact this past summer recorded the highest ever temperatures in NI, twice! Annual temperatures are forecast to increase by 1.2°C by 2050 and up to 2.1°C by 2080. Sea levels are set to rise anywhere from 27cm to 58cm by 2080.

Increased temperatures are threatening core aspects of our lives such as food production, infrastructure, security, diplomatic relations, insurance premiums and jobs. We, like the rest of the world, need to decarbonise our economy to reduce

emissions of greenhouse gasses and help achieve the goal of net zero, as per the Paris agreement.

The threat and the challenges we face are immense, but not insurmountable. Combatting climate change will take both collective and individual action. We have the chance to leave a healthier world for our children and build a green economy that provides good jobs for our citizens.

### What is COP 26?

In November 2021 the UK will host the [26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties](#) in Glasgow. There are four main goals:

- **Mitigation** – securing global net zero by mid-century to keep warming below 1.5°C
- **Adaptation** – Adapting to protect communities and natural habitats
- **Finance** – Mobilise finance for communities and projects impacted by climate change



- **Collaboration** – working across governments, business and civil society to deliver climate goals

The agenda can be viewed at: <https://ukcop26.org/the-conference/presidency-programme/>

## COP26 AND ACTION ON CLIMATE *(continued)*

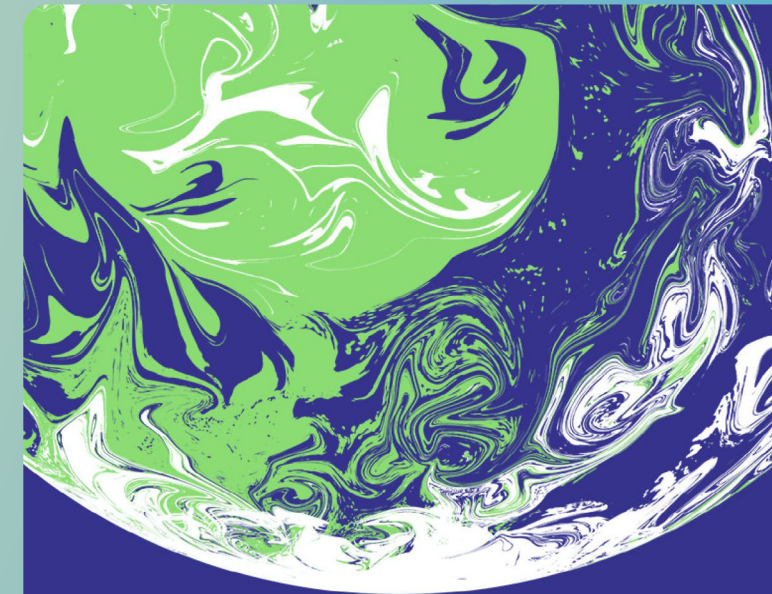
### How is Northern Ireland helping to support COP 26?

We have been working closely to support COP26 and Northern Ireland has submitted proposals to showcase the positive action taken to tackle climate change here. After a first round of shortlisting over half of the proposals from Northern Ireland are still in the mix for consideration. We expect to hear the outcome in the coming month and wish all applicants well.

Northern Ireland has made an international commitment by joining the Under2 Coalition ([theclimategroup.org](http://theclimategroup.org)). This brings together 260 governments representing 1.75 billion people and 50% of the global economy, who have committed to tackling climate change in line with the Paris agreement.

Closer to home, DAERA is working with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) to develop a carbon literacy programme targeting schools and community groups. Business in the Community, with support from DAERA and DfE, is also taking forward a project to help drive forward climate action with businesses.

Climate champions, from all walks of life, are being showcased on the [MyNI hub](#). Here you can find information on all events, such as local visits by climate leaders including Nigel Topping, the UK's high level Climate Action Champion. Keep an eye out for future events as they are confirmed.



## TAKING WORLD CHANGING ACTION

## ENERGY PUBLICATIONS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

July saw a flurry of policy announcements from Westminster, many of which will inform our own pathways in energy. We expect more announcements in the coming months, including a heat and buildings decarbonisation strategy. However, we will not wait before finalising our own Energy Strategy. Instead, we will continue to keep abreast of developments and incorporate new findings or directions as we refine policy in the relevant areas.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### [Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan 2021:](#)

vision, analysis and work programme for delivering a smart and flexible electricity system that will underpin UK energy security and the transition to net zero.

[UK Transport Decarbonisation Plan:](#) sets out UK commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system.

[UK Hydrogen Strategy:](#) sets out the approach to developing a thriving low carbon

hydrogen sector in the UK to meet our ambition for 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

[European Green Deal:](#) package of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

#### [Digitalising our energy system for net zero: strategy and action plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\):](#)

developed by the government, Ofgem and Innovate UK in coordination with the energy sector, this sets out a vision and suite of policies to digitalise the energy system.

### CONSULTATIONS

#### [BEIS/Ofgem Consultation on Proposals for a Future System Operator Role:](#)

this seeks views on proposals for the future role, organisational design and phased implementation of a Future System Operator with responsibilities across

both the electricity and gas systems.

**Closing 31 August.**

#### [NIAUR Call for Evidence on Review of Supply Licences to Facilitate Retail Market Innovation:](#)

this aims to identify whether aspects of the existing supply licence framework inhibit or prevent suppliers from innovating.

**Closing 09 September.**

### CONSULTATIONS RELATED TO THE UK HYDROGEN STRATEGY HAVE ALSO BEEN PUBLISHED:

#### [Consultation on a business model for low carbon hydrogen](#)

#### [Designing the Net Zero Hydrogen Fund consultation](#)

#### [Consultation on a UK Low Carbon Hydrogen Standard](#)

#### [Strengthening the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme \(ESOS\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**Closing 28 September 2021**

