

# Prosperity Agreement

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Northern Ireland Environment Agency *and*  
Granville Ecopark Ltd



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26<sup>th</sup> September 2017



An Agency within the Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)



# Prosperity Agreement

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26<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## Between:

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### Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Klondyke Building, Gasworks Business Park,  
Lower Ormeau Road, Malone Lower Belfast,  
BT7 2JA.

and

### Granville Ecopark Ltd

Granville Industrial Estate, Dungannon,  
Co. Tyrone. BT70 1NJ

## In which:

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The parties agree to put in place a framework based on the following joint aspirations to move their business further towards long-term prosperity through improved environmental outcomes:

1. Seeking opportunities to explore innovative solutions to implement resource efficiency and sustainability of business in Northern Ireland.
2. Working in collaboration with the supply chain, other stakeholders and the community to influence environmental outcomes.
3. Working together to promote better regulation and secure good business practice.



David Small

Deputy Secretary and Chief Executive, NIEA



Ian Harvey

Managing Director, Granville Ecopark Ltd



## Background information

### What is a Prosperity Agreement?

Prosperity Agreements are voluntary agreements through which the NIEA and an organisation or a group of organisations can explore new creative ways of reducing environment impacts in ways that create prosperity and well-being.

This Prosperity Agreement is between the NIEA and Granville Ecopark Ltd. It aims to, through a stronger partnership between the parties, tackle environmental and economic problems facing Northern Ireland and capitalise on opportunities.

### Key environment opportunities or challenges

The agreed joint aspirations encompass opportunities and challenges that both parties agree are key to developing a better way of working to improve business and environmental outcomes. **These are expressed as six commitments:**

1. Granville Ltd will continue to seek innovative solutions to maximise energy generation from food waste and effective utilisation of process by-products.
2. Explore opportunities for innovation and trials of new technologies and working practices to deliver stronger economic and environmental outcomes.
3. Review the collection network and work with NIEA to seek to influence the environmental performance of Local Councils and local community collection arrangements.
4. Granville and NIEA will work with key stakeholders to assess how to protect and enhance biodiversity
5. Progress and develop communication and engagement with local community and other stakeholders, look for opportunities to improve company environmental performance.
6. Both NIEA and Granville commit to monitoring and promoting the Prosperity Agreement on a regular basis.

Commitment	Outcome
<p>1. Granville Eco park Ltd will continue to seek innovative solutions to maximise energy generation from food waste and utilisation of process by-products.</p>	a) Expansion of current onsite energy generation capacity by 3 - 4 MW resulting in up to 31,000 tonnes of carbon saved compared with coal powered energy generation.
	b) Diversion of 90,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill to help meet NI Landfill targets, also off-setting 47,000 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> per annum.
	c) Provision of 8,000 tonnes of bio-methane to offsite power generation, off-setting 31,000 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> compared with coal powered energy production.
	d) Up to 25,000 tonnes of digestate being sold as a quality assured product (PAS 110 accredited).

Commitment	Outcome
2. Explore opportunities for innovation and trials of new technologies and working practices to deliver stronger economic and environmental outcomes.	a) Re-use of surplus heat from engines. b) Production of heat from plastics diverting waste from landfill. c) Development of bottling capability and market opportunities for CO <sub>2</sub> . d) More effective use of liquid digestate. e) A market for bio-methane in commercial vehicles.
3. Review the collection network and work with NIEA to seek to influence the environmental performance of Local Councils and local community collection arrangements.	a) Better awareness amongst waste producers and collectors of their regulatory obligations. b) More effective regulation of the anaerobic digestate sector. c) Increased networking between Granville, NGOs and Councils.
4. Granville and NIEA will work with key stakeholders to assess how to protect and enhance biodiversity.	a) Enhanced biodiversity in local area through partnership with local council. b) Onsite biodiversity improvements.
5. Progress and develop communication and engagement with local community and other stakeholders, look for opportunities to improve company environmental performance.	a) Recognition for Granville's ongoing commitment to the environment. b) Engagement with local environment groups and community.
6. Both NIEA and Granville commit to monitoring and promoting the Prosperity Agreement on a regular basis.	a) Increased awareness of Prosperity Agreement Programme and associated benefits. b) Positive and regular communication between NIEA and Granville.

## Parties to the Agreement

### Granville Ecopark Ltd

Granville Ecopark Ltd (“GECO”) is the largest Enhanced Anaerobic Digestion Facility in Northern Ireland. GECO aims to create jobs, divert food waste from landfill, endorse environmental sustainability and strive for sustainable energy independence while utilising the products from the process to their full potential.

GECO provides a sustainable solution for the processing of 90,000 tonnes of biodegradable waste per annum. The process uses food waste to produce Biogas for electricity generation and a high nutrient fertiliser called Digestate that is used as a soil

conditioner and also spread on local land as an alternative to chemical fertiliser. The plants USP is the ability to treat packaged food waste. GECO seek to continually improve its process with the view to becoming one of the regions first zero waste recycling facilities.

GECO now work alongside a sister company, Granville Energy Supply Ltd, involving a biogas clean-up process to deal with the excess biogas produced is converted into a Biomethane fuel. This fuel is transported across Northern Ireland to power various CHP engines producing offsite renewable heat and power. GECO already fuel some of their own company vehicles with the Biomethane and will aim to grow this market for others in the future.

### **NIEA**

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is an Agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) with approximately 450 staff. The Agency is part of the wider Environment Marine and Fisheries Group (EMFG) in DAERA. The NIEA leads in advising on, and in implementing, the Government's environmental policy and strategy in Northern Ireland. Divisions within the NIEA undertake a range of activities that promote the Government's key themes of sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change.

The Strategic Objective of the NIEA is, "*To create prosperity and well being through effective environment and natural heritage management and regulation*". This objective underpins the Department's overall vision, "*A thriving and sustainable economy, environment and rural community*".

The key outcomes through which the NIEA will meet its strategic objective are:

- a) A fully compliant regulated industry;
- b) Freshwater and marine environment at "good status";
- c) A compliant crime free waste sector;
- d) Good habitat and landscape quality with species abundance and diversity; and
- e) Promote environmentally sustainable development and infrastructure.

## **Governance arrangements**

### **Life of the Agreement**

The parties have agreed that this Prosperity Agreement will operate for a period of three years from the date of this Agreement.

### **Party stakeholders**

For the purpose of this Agreement, stakeholders include Granville Ecopark Ltd

Board and employees, NGOs (e.g. RSPB), the Northern Ireland community, NIEA employees, and other government agencies, such as Rivers Agency and Invest NI.

### **Management of the Agreement**

The following framework for decision making and management of the agreement has been approved by the two signature parties.

Both parties are responsible for:

- Endorsing and directing implementation action.
- Reviewing implementation progress.
- Support appropriate resourcing.
- Interacting with their respective organisations and party stakeholders.
- Reporting and making recommendations on the progress of the agreement to both parties.

*A working group consisting of the NIEA Prosperity Agreement team and key contacts from Granville Ecopark will liaise on meeting the above areas of responsibility.*

This Agreement and progress reports will be made available to the public on the NIEA website. Both parties are accountable and responsible for the commitments made in this Agreement.

Both parties reserve the right to withdraw from this Prosperity Agreement if they believe the Agreement is no longer effectively promoting the joint aspirations, or if significant compliance issues arise at Granville Ecopark Ltd. In the event that a withdrawal or termination looks likely, both parties agree to initiate discussions about why this might occur.

## Review and reporting

Both parties will liaise on a regular basis for the first year to review progress on implementing commitments. The following years will operate on a bi-annual meeting schedule.

Both parties will assess progress against commitments and outcomes agreed annually. This review will also identify areas of focus for the following year and possible amendments

to the Agreement. Progress and results will be reported to the Granville Ecopark Board and NIEA Board and made available through the NIEA website. At the end of this Agreement the working group will undertake a full review of the outcomes of the agreement. This review will assess the success of the Prosperity Agreement and measure deliverables against those identified.

## Contact Details

### Prosperity Agreement Manager

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### Granville Ecopark Ltd

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### If you are interested in Prosperity Agreements, contact:

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