

High Level Summary of Responses to the

Consultation on Northern Ireland's Emissions Reduction Targets and Carbon Budgets



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

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Please note a longer and more detailed analysis document is available which delves into more granular detail across each of the consultation questions and provides further information from the engagement events.

This is available at: [Analysis of Responses to Consultation on Northern Ireland’s Emissions Reduction Targets and Carbon Budgets](#)

Background - The Climate Change Act and Carbon Budgets

In March 2022, the Northern Ireland Assembly passed the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022¹ (the Act), committing the region to net zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.

The Act requires the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to set five-yearly carbon budgets to limit emissions and keep Northern Ireland on a trajectory to meet the interim emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2040 and the net zero 2050 target. The Act also requires DAERA to review the current 2030 and 2040 emissions reduction targets to ensure they are consistent with the 2050 net zero target and, if appropriate, to amend the targets.

Carbon budgets must be set by way of regulations beginning with the periods 2023-2027, 2028-2032, and 2033-2037 (referred to as the first three carbon budgets) as required in section 27(1) of the Act. Subsequent carbon budgets must be set at least 12 years before the start of the period in question. Section 23 of the Act requires that a public consultation must be carried out to inform the carbon budgets.

This report summarises the findings of the consultation² that took place over a 16-week period from June to October 2023.

The Consultation Exercise

The consultation sought the views of the public on whether the NI Executive should follow the UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) recommendations, set out in their advice report '*The Path to a net zero Northern Ireland*'³ published in March 2023, specifically in relation to:

- The proposed 2030 and 2040 emissions reduction targets to continue the trajectory required to meet net zero by 2050.
- The first three 5-yearly carbon budgets covering periods 2023-2027, 2028-2032 and 2033-2037.
- Optional pathways and stretch ambitions required to achieve these targets and the target of net zero by 2050.
- Specific sectoral advice for Agriculture, Land use, Land-Use Change, including Forestry (LULUCF), Energy, Transport, Buildings, Business and Industrial processes, Waste, and the Fisheries sectors.

In total, 235 written responses were received to the consultation from a wide range of organisations and individuals. Of the total responses received, 134 of the respondents indicated that they were representing an organisation, including public bodies, private companies, and interest groups. 46 declared they were an individual's personal response and 55 did not provide any indication as to their status. Not all respondents answered all questions and the outcomes displayed in the tables below are based on those that answered

¹ [Climate Change Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022](#)

² <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/carbonbudget>

³ [Advice report: The path to a net zero Northern Ireland - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](#)

the question. A quantitative analysis of the response to each of the consultation questions is detailed at Annex 1.

A total of 21 sectoral workshops and stakeholder engagement events took place as part of the consultation with a wide range of attendees across a range of sectors and locations (both rural and urban). Over 700 people attended the sectoral workshops and public engagement events including representatives of environmental-NGOs, farming organisations, academics, the business community, community and voluntary groups, and representatives from the sectors that the CCC provided advice on (those areas listed in the fourth bullet point above including energy) and individual members of the public. There were three public meetings including one online. There were also three workshops which were targeted specifically at young people. The meetings with young people were facilitated by the Education Authority Youth Service, and the other public events were facilitated by the well-known business journalist Jamie Delargy to ensure an external independent voice.

Several of the events were sector specific and so were organised and facilitated in collaboration with colleagues across DAERA and with the Department's for the Economy, for Infrastructure and for Communities and we are grateful to those departments for ensuring such genuine and meaningful engagement with a wide range of informed stakeholders.

Across all of the events there was well informed and active engagement. While attendees often came from different sectors, backgrounds and organisations there was a real appetite to be involved in the discussion and to work collaboratively towards solutions. Officials across every department attended many of the events demonstrating the commitment to and cross-government approach necessary for this work to be successful. DAERA greatly appreciate the time and effort made by so many people to attend the engagement sessions and sectoral workshops and for those individuals and organisations who considered and submitted responses to the consultation. This report summarises the views expressed by respondents.

Further detail is included in the *Analysis of Responses to the Consultation on Northern Ireland's Emissions Reduction Targets and Carbon Budgets* document however across the sectoral meetings and engagement events there were emerging themes of:

- Need for effective communication and education.
- Need for behavioural change.
- Desire for increased public transport.
- Concerns around planning.
- Energy - in terms of infrastructure and independence.
- The need for a just and fair transition.
- Concerns about cost, and achievability.
- Need for investment to give confidence.
- The need for public sector leadership.
- Need for effective collaboration involving all of society.

Summary of the Quantitative analysis of responses

Questions 1 to 6: The 2030 and 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets and first three Carbon Budgets

Each of the initial five questions in the consultation document focused on the CCC's recommendations in relation to emissions reduction targets and carbon budgets.

There was an at least 70% support for each of these recommendations, as can be seen in table (1) below. There was support for the 2030 target from 78% of respondents, and for the 2040 target there were 73% of consultees in support. There was a similarly positive response to the recommended first and second carbon budgets with 73% support. The proposal for the third carbon budget also had a majority in support with 70% in favour.

Furthermore, when asked (question 6) if DAERA should continue to follow the updated advice and recommendations of the CCC in the future, there was a resounding endorsement of 78% of respondents. Across each of the first 5 questions, approximately 6% of total respondents disagreed with the CCC advice indicating that they felt the targets were not ambitious enough and should go further. A further 6% of the total respondents indicating that they felt the targets were too ambitious and not deliverable.

The Summary of Responses to the Consultation on Northern Ireland's Emissions Reduction Targets and Carbon Budgets provides a comprehensive and detailed analysis of each of the questions and the answers from the respondents, as well as summaries of the engagement events that were conducted.

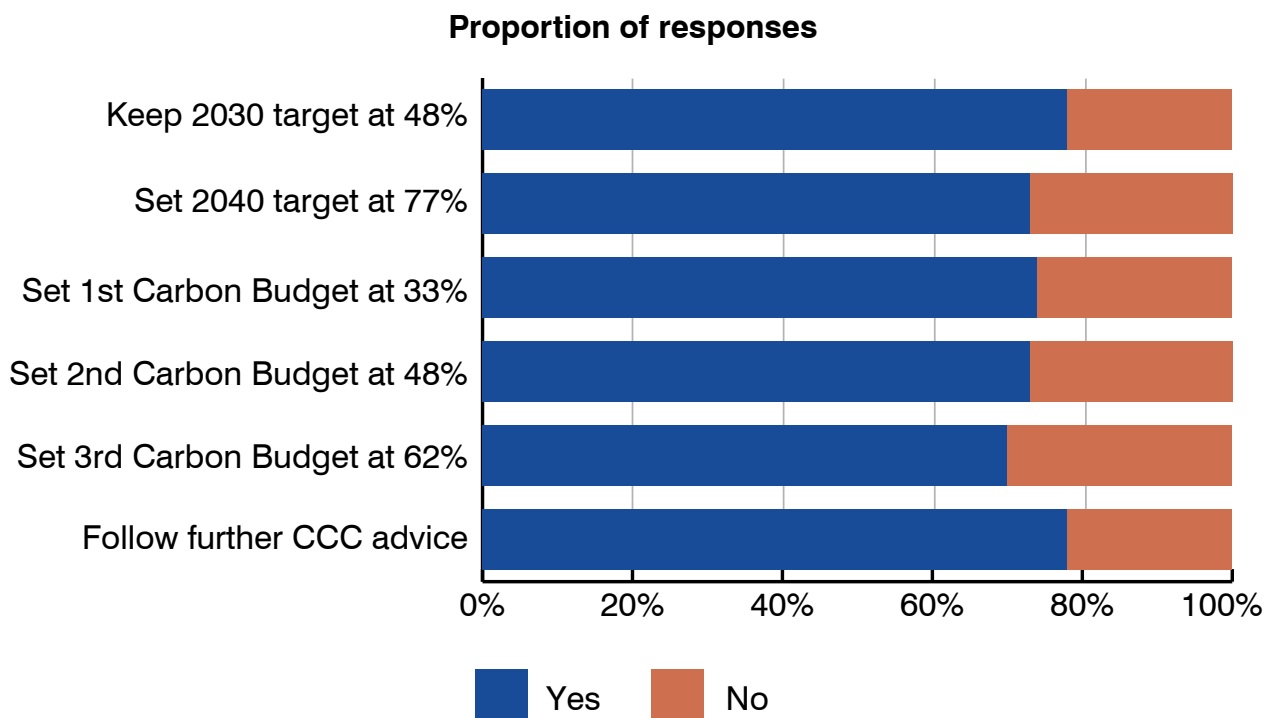


Table 1: Yes/No answers to Questions 1 to 6 of the Consultation

Overall, the quantitative responses to the consultation showed very strong support for following the CCC emissions reduction targets and carbon budget recommendations and advice.

Question 7: Summary of comments on the potential financial, economic, social, rural and equality impacts

This was the only question that respondents were not asked to provide a 'Yes/No' or a statistic-generating response. This question invited comments on the potential financial, economic, social, rural and equality impacts of the proposed carbon budgets.

This section was answered by approx. 60% of total respondents. Of those that commented on the financial assessment there were calls for the need for financial support and enhanced infrastructure to enable the move to electric vehicles and upgrading of heating. Other comments focused on the need to support businesses and for clear guidance from government.

Comments on the economic assessment tended to be sector specific with transport, heating and electricity, and energy referenced the most frequently. There were concerns about energy security with increased demand, but also a lot of comments on the potential benefits for the economy, the need for new skills and the potential for job creation opportunities and the associated boost to employment.

On social impacts, there was a focus on benefits of retrofitting buildings, potential for district heating, need for better education in respect of climate change and carbon budgets and the co-benefits of increased active travel, better air quality and improving poor housing particularly for disadvantaged communities.

On rural impacts, responses falling within this category focused mainly on impact on farmers, agricultural land and the agri-food industry. There were useful suggestions in terms of incentivisation of positive environmental farming practices, moving away from energy intensive outputs and the need to create alternative income streams for rural communities.

The responses to the equality impact assessment focused on the importance of listening to the views of ethnic minorities, women's groups, older people and especially children and young people in particular given they will be living with the impacts of climate change.

Across the engagement events 'impacts' were raised mainly during the Q&A and panel discussions and emerged in terms of concern about impact on agriculture and rural communities, the need for incentives, financial support for change and the importance of a just and fair transition. Gender and the impact on women of transition to new industries as well as investment in new skills was raised at the public events. Across several events there was reference to how many of the suggested planned actions to reduce carbon were seen as positive in terms of improved health, social and educational outcomes and could have positive equality impacts.

Questions 8 to 9(c): The updated Pathways

The next set of questions in the consultation (8 to 9C) related to the 'Stretch Ambition' set out by the CCC which would see Northern Ireland's projected 83% reduction as per the Balanced Pathway approach extended to 93% and which could be further supplemented by adopting one or more 'Speculative Options' to help meet the 2050 net zero target. Feedback was mixed on these ambitious additional measures. The table below illustrates that support was generally favourable, but at a slightly reduced level when compared with the responses to the proposed carbon budgets and emissions reduction targets.

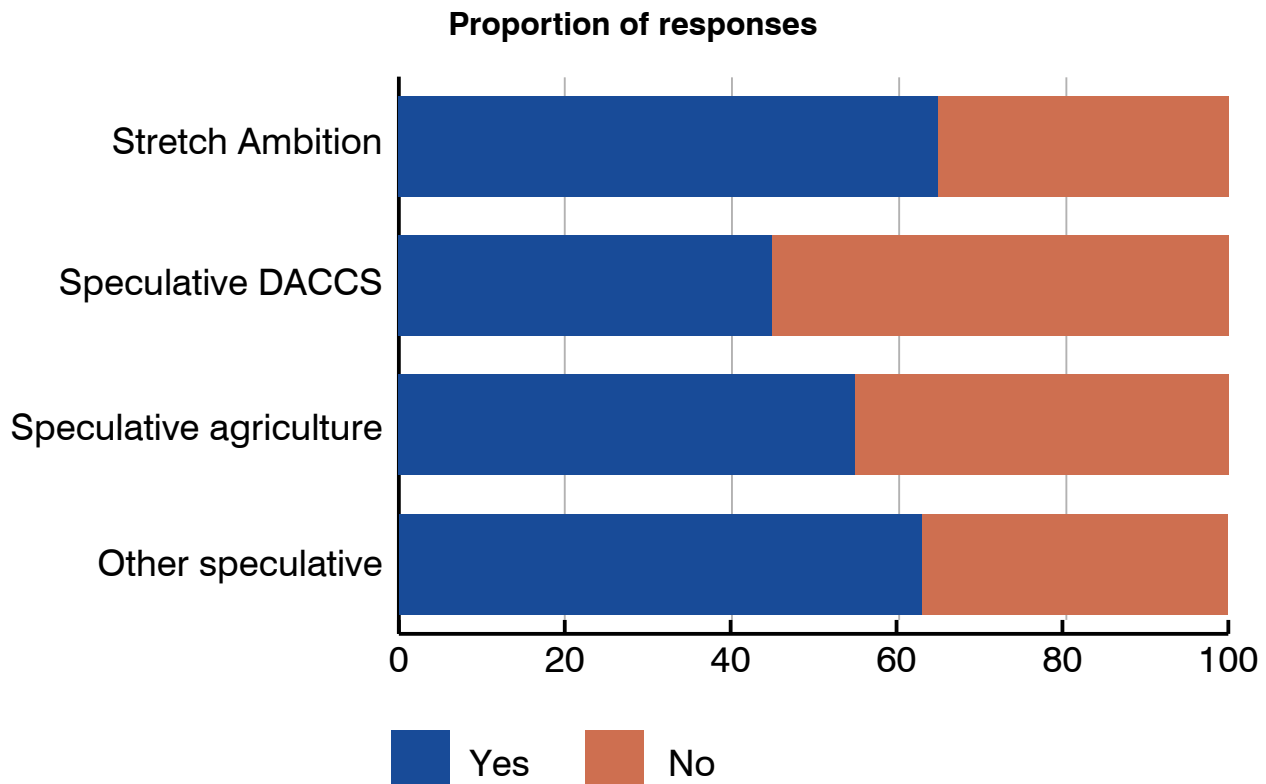


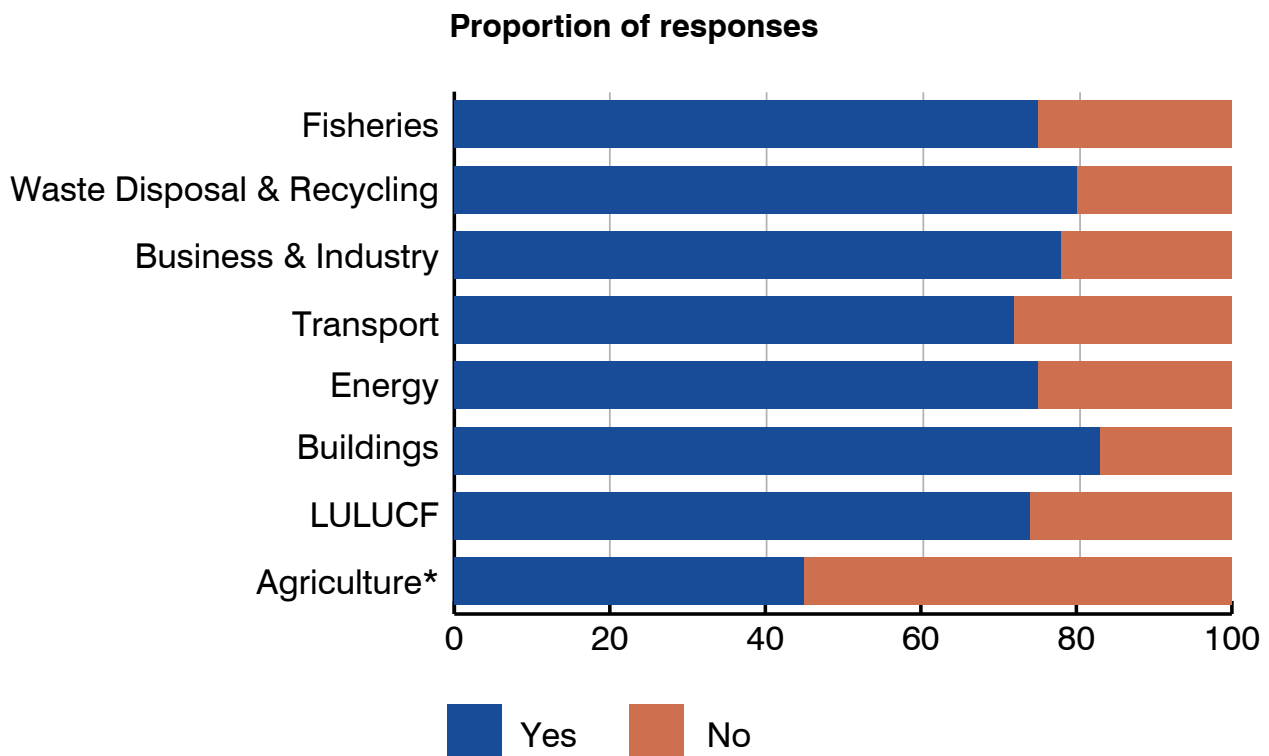
Table 2: Yes/No answers to Questions 8 to 9c of the Consultation

The Stretch ambition scenario to reach 93% reduction had the overall highest support with a majority of 63% of respondents in favour of this pathway. In terms of the Direct Air Capture with Carbon Storage (DACCS) technology which was the only question in the consultation that was not supported by the majority of respondents (43%) some concerns were that the technology did not work, while others felt it had not been proven or would not be viable at scale but might be something to consider in the future.

Of the speculative options 55% of respondents supported the speculative agriculture option with a higher number of 61% supporting the other speculative options of enhanced rock weathering and the addition of biochar to agricultural land.

Questions 10 to 17: Sector contributions to Net Zero

The remaining questions (10 to 17) in the consultation focused on the specific sectoral contributions to achieving net zero and whether the Executive should consider, align with or follow the CCC advice in relation to each of the sectors - with the exception of the question around the agricultural sector (question 10) which sought views on whether the Executive should diverge from the CCC advice and deliver the required outcomes for the first carbon budget period through the outlined actions in the agriculture section of the document.



*The question is should the Executive diverge from the CCC advice and instead consider following the DAERA proposed actions.

Table 3: Yes/No answers to Questions 10 to 17 of the Consultation

On question 10 (Agriculture sector) 42% of respondents agreed with diverging from the CCC advice. For questions 11-17 (covering all the other sectors) the majority of respondents agreed that the Executive should consider, follow or align with the CCC advice. The most supported sector pathway was for the Buildings Sector which had 84% of respondents in favour of improving energy efficiency and promoting low carbon heating. The civil service leading by example through the government estate received 82% support, and the Waste sector pathway similarly had 80% of respondents in favour of the recommended actions. A total of 79% of respondents were in favour of the Executive following the Business and Industrial processes sector advice and across Energy, Transport, Fisheries and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) there was over 70% in favour of the advice provided by the CCC.

All of the responses have been shared in full with each sectoral lead department for consideration as part of the development of the Climate Action Plan.

Summary of the Qualitative analysis of responses

Participants showed careful consideration and reasoned engagement with the consultation subject matter. Whether the consultation respondents or the event attendees endorsed the CCC's advice or otherwise, various opinions were shared that could be identified as belonging to one of several overarching themes. The themes that consistently arose were as follows:

- Agreement with the CCC advice.

'We should set the targets as per the advice from the Independent Statutory experts'.

- The proposed target and/or budget is not high enough.

'We should aim higher and move faster'.

- The proposed target and/or budget is unrealistic or not sustainable.

'Implementation requires proper [additional] funding'.

- Alternative emphasis on proposed measures or new proposed measures

'Be open to new technical developments and be flexible to them'. Responses to this question also often included reference to 'the need to consider biodiversity and nature-based approaches'.

- The [financial] impact will be too great on citizens and/or the economy.

'Compensate the agri-food and other relevant sectors according to a Just Transition'.

- Northern Ireland emissions and proposed reductions are insignificant globally.

'What is our contribution worth? Will it make a difference?'

- More information is needed.

'Greater need for education and awareness in the community'.

Summary of the feedback from Sectoral Workshops

Agriculture and Land Use and Land Use Change, including Forestry Sectoral Workshop

Interestingly, this workshop group were unlike most others in that while there was support for the CCC advice in relation to the carbon budget and interim targets they supported diverging from the CCC pathway to achieve these. Concern was raised in relation to carbon leakage, the need for an all-island approach and financial implications of change. Finding the right solutions were thought to be more important than targets.

LULUCF needs to be heavily incentivised to make it more appealing than traditional farming. There were also concerns around the capacity to deliver peatlands restoration at the pace needed. The importance of agroforestry and reforestation and the need for an integrated approach was a key concern. Biodiversity and the importance of nature in any planned action was also raised.

Transport and Infrastructure Sectoral Workshop

This event involved an interactive poll and a facilitated workshop. All attendees supported the CCC advice for the first 3 carbon budgets. There was much praise for the CCC advice report and the track record of the CCC in driving change in this area. However, there were comments that EV uptake would not meet the ambitions of the report without support, and the need for investment in public transport was significant and it was felt was well behind what is required. The need for integrated transport solutions and behaviour change were raised as well as how investment in public transport and active travel could support infrastructure and improve health and mental well-being as well as reducing emissions.

Public Buildings Sectoral Workshop

There were representatives from local councils and several government departments present at this meeting. There was consensus in getting behind the CCC report although issues were raised about planning application barriers, skills, supply chain issues and budget constraints. Many delegates stated that updates to policy, such as Building Standards and procurement policy was needed.

In this area the need to share resources, knowledge, expertise, procurement, and best practice across central and local government was a key theme. Several attendees commented that investment should be directed towards renewable energy, as the payback is short, it reduces carbon and has the potential for income revenue.

Residential Building Sectoral Workshop

This event involved an interactive poll, a panel discussion and facilitated workshops. 82% of those polled at the event were in favour of following the CCC advice. Views were expressed on education to reduce energy consumption, changing fuel sources and the need for a single source of information for the public. The role of effective communication and education was raised, and the necessity to develop the industrial and technical skills to deliver the policies which could create employment opportunities. Attendees at this event raised how there were

better health, education and economic outcomes associated with developing more energy efficient homes.

Business and Industrial Sectoral Workshop

There was a consensus that targets were good and needed and were therefore supported, but the targets set by the CCC were perhaps unrealistic with no clear pathway on how to get there. There was some concern that the targets could have negative impacts on the industry. Better collaboration between the private and public sector and between government departments was also raised to ensure planning and approvals processes helped support the transition. Some attendees also noted the need for incentivisation for the private sector to invest time and money into low carbon solutions.

Energy Sectoral Workshop

There was consensus from most delegates that the NI Executive should follow advice provided by the CCC in relation to setting the first three carbon budgets and interim targets. The role of the public sector in demonstrating leadership and encouraging positive behaviours was also raised as key to achieving net zero. Planning and planning reform emerged as an issue as was the need to review the electricity grid capacity and connection charging and the release of public sector land to developers for renewable energy installations.

Waste Sectoral Workshop

The need for data improvements in waste streams, private sector investment and standardised kerbside recycling was identified, as was a switch to a carbon-based metric in place of tonnage for waste. Many agreed with the proposals for a ban on biodegradable waste to landfill, but there were suggestions that the focus should shift from treatment of the biodegradable waste to avoidance through reduced consumption. Workshop discussion also raised the role of innovation including the potential for energy-from-waste, materials recovery facilities, and anaerobic digester capacity to enable action to meet emissions reduction targets.

Fisheries Sectoral Workshop

The targets within the CCC report were felt reasonable to all delegates. The first carbon budget was described as a “run-in” to a much larger area of work required and there was significant interest in emerging technologies and nature-based solutions as part of the process of achieving the targets. The workshops also reflected on the opportunities for reducing emissions. These included: gear improvements; fleet renewal; integrated approach across sectors; funding for research; piloting fuel-efficient equipment and machinery on-board; and a good PR campaign to explain the economic, environmental and social benefits of moving to net zero. Attendees noted that reducing emissions would have benefits of improving quality of life for those in the fishery industry, the reduction in noise and pollution and attracting local workers.

Summary of the feedback from non-sectoral engagement events

Across the non-sector workshops a real variety of issues were raised. There was general recognition across every event that the CCC are the statutory experts and that the advice on the carbon budgets and emissions reduction targets should be adhered to. That Government should 'trust' and follow the science was repeatedly raised. Across each engagement session the need for funding, incentivisation for change to give business and the public confidence and clarity was raised.

The need for better education in climate change, clear communication from Government, public sector leadership and behaviour change were also recurring themes as was the need for effective collaboration across all of society. The need for a 'fair' and just transition was raised at every event. Further detail from each of the engagement events is included in the main document however below are some of the specific issues raised.

Green Growth Forum Workshop

Themes raised included the need for additional resources and funding to drive forward climate action to reduce emissions. This will ensure certainty in terms of the direction of travel and give confidence to businesses. The group felt work is required to educate and explain what this means for all stakeholders, given the complex and over-arching nature of climate change, and that NI was not operating at the required pace. Consumers need to be included in the conversations and needed to see the benefits for them in changing their behaviour. Concern was also expressed about the ability to meet food demand in the future with increasing populations and where some countries will no longer be able to produce as much food and climate change will impact what we can grow. They recommended that decisions need to be taken based on value for money, how they are going to be financed and how green they are. Attendees also felt that banks financing policies should be based on a certain percentage of funding decisions on green options. Planning also needs to be responsive to green options.

Central and Local Government Workshop

Discussion focused on how organisations and individuals should not lose sight of the opportunities in reducing GHG emissions and tackling climate change. There was discussion around the need for Ministerial decisions to consider and balance financial, social, and economic impacts regionally and the links with the Investment Strategy. A partnership approach is required across all Government departments and councils and there is opportunity for collaboration with the private sector. The role that public sector leadership can have in encouraging change and positive behaviours was also raised.

Public Engagement Sessions and Workshops [3 events]

Attendees raised the need for collaborative working and the need for funding to deliver the targets. Discussions focused on costs and barriers to success and where the funding will come from. There was discussion on the need for better education, clearer communication and more information. Behavioural change was also raised as an important aspect to successful delivery of lots of elements of the pathways. A recurring theme was the need for additional resources

and funding to enable the necessary improvements to infrastructure, public transport, and quality of housing. More engagement with the public in making decisions and a lack of skills and funding was seen as a major hurdle in reaching net zero. Attendees discussed the need to focus on developing policies where the greatest emission reductions can be achieved such as agriculture, waste management, recycling, buildings (new build) and retro fitting of old buildings and transport. Comments were also made on the need for better active travel, greenways and improved public transport, the need to prioritise green energy, the insulation of buildings and the need to focus on areas where the biggest gains can be achieved in the shortest amount of time.

Youth Workshops [3 events]

Engagement was with young people from a variety of age groups, urban and rural locations and levels of knowledge and interest in climate change and environmental issues. Attitudes and behaviours were largely positive towards climate action. Young people talked about prioritising recycling over convenience, reusing rather than throwing out, and improving the energy efficiency of their homes. Many who were facing the impacts of the cost of living gave examples of how they knew not to waste electricity or water and use blankets and additional clothing rather than turning on heating.

The young people discussed barriers and how to overcome them. The biggest barrier to change they felt was budget. Many were users of public transport and felt it should be made more efficient including more bus lanes, reduced ticket prices to make it more accessible, improve route and timetable options, and increase capacity. They mentioned trams and electrifying railways and better infrastructure for cycling and walking as an important action. In addition, that there should be a focus on health and fitness to promote walking and cycling more. They felt that an investment in restoring peatlands and afforestation was important, with landowners being supported, educated, and incentivised. They suggested creative ways for raising funds to plant trees through apps.

They were keen that there would not be an overreliance on technology as it could “lead people into a false sense of security”. The groups were concerned with the potential impact on agriculture including job prospects, loss of business, profit, and livelihood for existing farmers. Education, support and incentives would be a large task in achieving this target. The groups felt that farmland should be used to generate more renewable energy through solar panels and wind/water turbines, and that energy generated should be used to fuel farming practices and heat systems.

On energy they suggested that people would be receptive to more education and information about energy saving measures, due to current cost of living challenges. They wanted more investment and promotion of solar panels, windmills and hydroelectricity and they wanted to see oil and gas heating systems replaced with heat pumps. The young people felt increased awareness-raising, marketing, and campaigning for energy and water saving measures at home was an important action.

In relation to waste management they raised consumerism as the biggest barrier to this sector. Young people felt that the biggest barriers in business and industry was the lack of accountability for large businesses, the continued use of single use plastic and lack of financial and advisory support for small businesses. They felt that more agile working initiatives would decrease energy consumption in large businesses.

Northern Ireland Environment Link Workshop

Attendees reflected on the engagement that had been good and comprehensive. There was a sense that departments have stepped up in preparing to tackle climate change and that issues around Lough Neagh were a wake-up call. There were comments around lack of leadership and the need for ambition, an emphasis on finding technological advances, the need for more measures for emissions reduction rather than off-setting and the need for more flexibility and increasing access to public transport. Messages to the public to promote behavioural change and community involvement was considered key.

Business in the Community Workshop

Key themes discussed were that Small Medium Enterprises need more support than larger organisations. Concerns were raised that net zero is being pushed down the priority list and that a five-year head start on Europe for car investment has been lost. New policies are needed and there needs to be an emphasis on business. Discussions on whether people understood what was meant by a carbon budget included the need to translate the targets into what it means for businesses. There were questions on whether there will be grants and incentives. There was a suggestion that policies should be set for certain organisations who have the skills, knowledge, and resources with a focus on bigger organisations for early wins.

Queen's University of Belfast Workshop

Key public awareness and understanding is needed to affect behavioural change, as many do not understand the effects of climate change and a full understanding would improve the results. The need for incentives for change was raised, as was the need for policies to work together for maximum effectiveness. Behavioural change was considered a big part in the success of decarbonising Northern Ireland. The majority felt that there should be a prioritisation of the sectors emitting the largest amount of carbon. There was total agreement that all changes made must fall under "Just Transition".

Conclusion

Both the quantitative and the qualitative feedback of the consultation responses were consistent in the endorsement of the CCC's advice report, and the proposed carbon budgets and targets contained therein. The feedback from all of the public engagement sessions and the sectoral workshops also demonstrated strong support for the CCC recommendations.

Carbon budgets and targets:

There is strong support in following the CCC advice when setting carbon budgets and the 2030 and 2040 targets. Concerns raised were mainly around costs of implementing measures, the need to avoid negative financial impact on citizens and the economy, a repeated focus on the need for incentivisation or financial support, the need for effective collaboration and the importance of fairness and a just transition.

The updated pathways:

Whilst there was also strong support in following the CCC advice recommended pathways some consultees supporting the advice sought reassurance that measures would need to be funded properly, and that the costs should not be borne by those least able to afford them.

Sector contributions to Net Zero:

The majority of respondents indicated strong support for the Executive to consider, follow or align with the CCC's sectoral recommendations, with some adding additional comments of support. Many consultees supplied information on measures they felt would improve and enable Northern Ireland to achieve the CCC's recommendations.

The consultation has provided DAERA and other departments with detailed views, concerns and ideas that will help feed into and inform current proposals and future policy. DAERA has carefully analysed and considered the issues raised.

All responses received from the consultation have been shared with all lead departments so that they are able to take on the comments from consultees on the CCC advice by sector and the proposed pathways.

Annex 1 - SUMMARY: Quantitative analysis of responses

Overall, the quantitative responses to the consultation showed strong support for following the CCC recommendations and advice.

Quantitative Analysis of Carbon Budget/CCC advice	Yes	No	No. of Responses
Question 1 - Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and keep the current 2030 emissions reduction target in the Act of an at least 48% reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?	78%	22%	216
Question 2 - Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set a 2040 emissions reduction target of an at least 77% reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?	72%	28%	217
Question 3 - Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set the first carbon budget at a level that has a 33% average annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?	73%	27%	212
Question 4 - Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set the second carbon budget at a level that has a 48% average annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?	73%	27%	207
Question 5 - Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set the third carbon budget at a level that has a 62% average annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?	70%	30%	208
Question 6 - Do you agree that DAERA should follow any updated advice and recommendations from the CCC (as a result of the publication of the Northern Ireland 2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory) when setting the first three carbon budgets?	78%	22%	203
Question 7 - Can you provide any information (relating to the potential financial, economic, social, rural and equality impacts) which will help inform the completion of the relevant impact assessments on the proposed carbon budgets? [yes or no option not available, narrative only]	N/A	N/A	143
Question 8 - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the advice provided by the CCC and choose the Stretch Ambition Scenario?	63%	37%	190

Quantitative Analysis of Carbon Budget/CCC advice	Yes	No	No. of Responses
Question 9 (a) - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should choose the Speculative Direct Air Capture with CCS (DACCS) option to reach net zero?	43%	57%	185
Question 9 (b) - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should choose the Speculative Agriculture option?	55%	45%	179
Question 9 (c) - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should consider other speculative options such as (1) enhanced rock weathering and (2) addition of biochar to agricultural land?	61%	39%	171
Question 10* - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should diverge ⁴ from the CCC sector advice to deliver the required outcomes for the first carbon budget period and that these can be achieved through the actions outlined in the agriculture sector summary?	42%	58%	168
Question 11 - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the LULUCF sector advice provided by the CCC?	70%	30%	173
Question 12 (a) - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should consider the CCC advice on residential buildings, and develop a plan to improve energy efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, taking account of the capacity and capability of the low-carbon heating sector in Northern Ireland?	84%	16%	193
Question 12 (b) - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) should lead by example in the government estate and phase out the use of fossil fuel boilers as per the CCC advice?	82%	18%	199
Question 13 - Do you think that additional measures (over and above those in the Energy Strategy) should be taken to ensure alignment with the CCC's advice?	72%	28%	193
Question 14 - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the transport sector advice provided by the CCC?	74%	26%	195

⁴ *The question is should the Executive diverge from the CCC advice and instead consider following the DAERA proposed actions. This is a different format to all other questions in the consultation that asked if departments should follow the CCC advice.

Quantitative Analysis of Carbon Budget/CCC advice	Yes	No	No. of Responses
Question 15 - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the Business and Industrial Processes sector advice provided by the CCC?	79%	21%	180
Question 16 - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the Waste sector advice provided by the CCC?	80%	20%	181
Question 17 - Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the Fisheries sector advice provided by the CCC?	74%	26%	164



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**Agriculture, Environment
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