



The Responsible  
Business Network  
Northern Ireland

#COP26NI

# COP26 IS HERE



By Keelin McCone, Head of Environment, Business in the Community

This week sees the start of the two-week UN Climate Change Conference COP26. Taking place in Glasgow and set to be the UK's biggest global summit, COP26 is a significant milestone in the UK's push towards achieving its target net zero carbon by 2050. It affords government, businesses, NGOs, lobbyists and individual citizens a unique opportunity to campaign on climate issues. **Northern Ireland must play its part, and business is a key stakeholder.**

Much of the discussion during COP26 will consider how businesses can deliver on stretching climate targets to secure net zero by mid-century and keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Following a year and a half of disruption due to COVID-19, the prospect of facing up to the next crisis of our times might be a daunting one for NI businesses who are expected to urgently re-think the way they do business as part of the race to net zero.

As part of this, companies will need to consider, and be transparent about, the risks and opportunities that climate change and a shift to a net zero economy pose to their business.

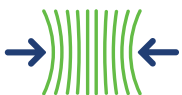
But it does bring opportunity. Green business is the key to good business that is sustainable in both an economic and environmental sense.

Now is the time to embrace the advantages of innovation in environmental management, to share climate resources and to learn from others via the COP26 NI Business Hub, and to take Business in the Community's Climate Action Pledge – a public commitment to meeting ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets by 2030.

By working together, we can deliver on our climate goals faster.

**To change everything, we need everyone.  
Are you with us?**

**COP26 will focus on the following themes:**



**ADAPTION AND  
RESILIENCE**



**NATURE**



**ENERGY  
TRANSITION**



**TRANSPORT**



**FINANCE**

## BUSINESSES COLLABORATE TO CREATE COP26 NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS HUB



The COP26 NI Business Hub, is a one-stop-shop where NI businesses can access events listings, resources and information to inspire and inform businesses to take action on the climate crisis, and be fully involved in COP26.

Business in the Community's Managing Director, Kieran Harding, said: "COP26 is the biggest global summit ever hosted in the UK and is seen as a significant milestone in the UK's push towards achieving its target 'net zero' carbon by 2050. It affords government, businesses, NGOs, lobbyists and individual citizens a unique opportunity to campaign on climate issues.

"We need to work together for a sustainable future that creates decent jobs and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth."

Visit the COP26 NI Business Hub today:  
[www.bitcni.org.uk/COP26](http://www.bitcni.org.uk/COP26)

**To access Business in the Community's COP26 app and be inspired by 26 examples from businesses that are taking action, please email: [info@bitcni.org.uk](mailto:info@bitcni.org.uk) with the word COP26.**

**COP26 NI BUSINESS HUB PARTNERS**

**ARUP**

**firmus  
energy**  
transitioning to net zero carbon

**T Translink**

Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**  
Sustainability at the heart of a living, working,  
active landscape valued by everyone

**[WWW.BITCNI.ORG.UK/COP26](http://WWW.BITCNI.ORG.UK/COP26)**



## CLIMATE JARGON BUSTER

Talking about the climate can be confusing, even daunting. This handy jargon buster breaks down some of the terminology to help you get your head around what's what.

**GREENHOUSE GASES:** Greenhouse gases include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and some artificial chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Greenhouse gases do occur naturally and warm the earth ('the greenhouse effect'). The problem we now face is that human activities – particularly burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas), agriculture and land clearing – are increasing the concentrations of greenhouse gases. These are causing the earth's temperature to rise too much.

**CARBON NEGATIVE:** Removing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than is produced throughout a business's operations – creating a negative carbon footprint for the company.

**CARBON NEUTRAL:** Achieving net-zero emissions by offsetting or sequestration the equivalent carbon it produces through its operations.

**CARBON ZERO:** An operation that has eliminated carbon and does not release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This can include some offsetting.

**JUST TRANSITION:** One of the biggest concerns about the climate journey is making sure that people and communities that stand to lose out get to benefit from the opportunities that the transition will bring, and that business helps to create jobs that help to regenerate communities and support the world's poorest people to improve their lives.

**NET ZERO:** A balance between production of manmade greenhouse gases from sources (such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation and refrigerant gases) and capture in 'sinks' (for example, forests, soil, the ocean, negative emission technologies (NETs).

**SCOPE 1 – DIRECT EMISSIONS:** This scope includes emissions from activities owned or controlled by your business, such as oil/gas for heating, fuel used in company-owned vehicles and refrigerant gas leaks.

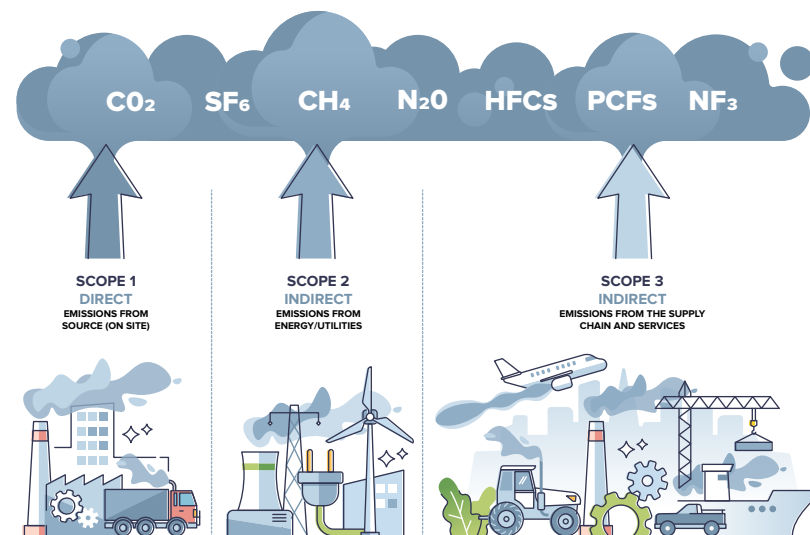
**SCOPE 2 – ENERGY INDIRECT EMISSIONS:** This scope includes associated emissions from the electricity, heat, and steam your business purchases from your energy supplier. These indirect emissions are a consequence of your organisation's energy use but occur at sources you do not own or control. For many businesses, a large percentage of this will be your electricity.

According to the GHG Protocol, almost 40% of global greenhouse gas emissions are a result of energy generation, with a large percentage used by industrial and commercial entities.

**SCOPE 3 – OTHER INDIRECT EMISSIONS:** These include indirect emissions resulting from the activities of your business. Scope 3 can be either upstream or downstream.

**UPSTREAM:** Indirect emissions including purchased goods and services; waste generated in operations; business and commuting travel; transportation and distribution.

**DOWNSTREAM:** As products and services are used and disposed of by customers including processing, use and end of life treatment of sold products.



If your business is serious about taking action on climate, and wants to protect and enhance the environment, work with us to make an even bigger impact.

[www.bitcni.org.uk/environment](http://www.bitcni.org.uk/environment)

## 10 STEPS YOUR BUSINESS CAN TAKE



### CLIMATE ACTION PLEDGE

By signing Business in the Community's Climate Action Pledge and setting and striving to achieve ambitious GHG reduction targets, Northern Ireland organisations can demonstrate their commitment and willingness to collaborate to address the climate crisis, as part of their race to net zero.

Signatory organisations commit to reduce their absolute scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by either 30% or 50% before 2030; and to work towards measuring and reporting their scope 3 GHG emissions.

Join the 25 Northern Ireland businesses that have already signed the Pledge at [www.bitcni.org.uk/climateactionpledge](http://www.bitcni.org.uk/climateactionpledge)

### CARBON LITERACY TRAINING

Are you aware of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities? Did you know that every individual, community and organisation has the ability and to reduce emissions?

Business in the Community's Carbon Literacy Training raises awareness of the core elements of Carbon Literacy and explores the opportunities, risks and challenges that climate change will present. Participants will be accredited to meet the Carbon Literacy Standard, verified independently by The Carbon Literacy Project.

Need some motivation?

[www.bitcni.org.uk/carbonliteracy](http://www.bitcni.org.uk/carbonliteracy)



Download our new guide – 10 STEPS in 10 WEEKS [www.bitcni.org.uk/tensteps](http://www.bitcni.org.uk/tensteps)

# ARUP

**ARUP** has committed to achieving net zero emissions across its entire operations by 2030, covering everything from the energy used in offices to goods and services purchased. To achieve this, the firm has set a target to reduce its scope 1, 2 and 3 global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30 per cent within the next five years from a 2018 baseline. An example of one of its actions is the creation of a carbon levy, whereby a levy of \$40USD per tonne is being applied to flights taken by employees in a bid to change behaviours across the firm. The proceeds will be used to establish an Arup Carbon Fund to find and invest in ways of reducing and removing carbon including supporting local community projects.

**firmus**  
energy  
transitioning to net zero carbon

Sustainability is a strategic priority within **firmus energy** and its modern, natural gas network is a ready-made decarbonisation solution which will help 'green our heat' in Northern Ireland by 2050. firmus' phased approach to net zero includes: maximising the number of households converting from oil to gas (reducing carbon dioxide emissions in each home by up to 48%); injecting biomethane into the network; introducing compressed natural gas for commercial vehicles; and facilitating the injection of a blend of hydrogen into the existing network, before moving towards a full hydrogen economy and net zero carbon emissions for Northern Ireland.

# T Translink

**Translink** is taking urgent action to tackle the climate crisis with an ambitious Climate Positive 2050 Strategy and a fleet decarbonisation strategy underway. With three zero emission buses already in service in Belfast and 100 more being procured (electric and hydrogen), Translink will soon have the fourth largest zero-emission bus fleet across all UK regions. This step is the start of a zero-emission fleet operating in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry by 2030, and 50% reduction in greenhouse gases across the business. Translink also has plans to decarbonise the rail network with the aim to be net zero across the business by 2040.



Launching 9 November. Search for 'The Lens UK Responsible Business Podcast', wherever you get your podcasts.



**POSITIVE ACTION COULD RESPOND TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SOLVE OTHER CHALLENGES TOO – BUILDING MORE ROBUST SUPPLY CHAINS, CREATING MORE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES, TACKLING THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS AND STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Diane Emerson, Belfast Office Leader, ARUP



**WE'VE SIGNED BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY'S CLIMATE ACTION PLEDGE AND ARE RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY, DRIVING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR HEALTHIER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT THAT WILL BE THE FIRST CHOICE FOR TRAVEL TODAY, FOR TOMORROW.**

Chris Conway, Group Chief Executive, Translink



**DURING THIS CLIMATE EMERGENCY WE NEED ALL NI BUSINESSES TO WORK TOGETHER AND TAKE STEPS TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE THROUGHOUT THEIR DAILY OPERATIONS.**

Eric Cosgrove, Director of Engineering and Sustainability, firmus energy



# THE TIME IS NOW.

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**THE IRISH NEWS**