

Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland: Headlines

Air Quality

1. 2022: Publish NI's first Clean Air Strategy
2. Publish Ammonia Strategy

Water, Marine & Coastal Water Resources: Quality & Quantity

3. 2022: Publish final River Basin Management Plans
4. 2027: 70% of waterbodies at 'Good' status
5. 2031: Reduce nutrient surplus in soils and achieve sustainable management of water and soils

Neighbourhood Environment Quality / Dilapidation

6. 2023: Increase maximum Fixed Penalty Notice for litter and dog fouling offences to £200
7. 2023: Introduce Dilapidation Bill to NI Assembly
8. 2024: Publish Northern Ireland's first Litter Strategy
9. 2025: Deposit Return Scheme for Drinks Containers

Connecting to the Environment: Landscapes, Seascapes & Natural Beauty

10. 2025: 110 internationally awarded Green and Blue sites
11. 2027: Develop long term strategic ways forward for the management, planning, enhancement & protection of our landscapes & seascapes

Connecting to the Environment: Outdoor Recreation & Natural Space Provision

12. Improve the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing natural spaces, parks, recreational routes and marine and freshwaters
13. A national greenways network linking population centres and our best landscapes and habitats, encouraging active travel, understanding of and benefits for the environment, people's health and well-being and the rural and tourism economy
14. 2050: 90% of households have publically accessible quality natural space >2ha within 400m of their home and at least one site >20ha in size within 2km

Environmental Engagement

15. Environment Engagement Index: Unique to NI, annual surveys will monitor people's engagement with, and connection to, nature

The Next Generation

16. 2023: Championing a group of '30 under 30' environmental leaders
17. 2025: 50% of schools will have an Eco-Schools Green Flag

18. 2025: 160,000 pupils and students actively engaged in Eco-Schools
19. 2025: 500 Adopt A Spot Groups and 300,000 volunteers engaged in practical environmental programmes
20. DAERA will seek accreditation as world's first 'Eco-Department'

Sustainable Settlements

21. Investment in public spaces and walkways to encourage walking and cycling in our towns

Historic Environment

22. Development of a Culture Arts & Heritage Strategy that embeds environmental outcomes

Nature on Land & At Sea

23. Enhance protection for nature, deliver biodiversity gain and support landscape-scale ecosystem restoration
24. Develop and implement nature recovery plans and programmes, including nature based solutions, for protected sites, priority habitats and species, and nature recovery networks
25. Create/restore 75,000ha of wildlife rich habitat outside protected site network
26. Restore 75%¹ of 150,000ha of terrestrial & freshwater protected sites to favourable condition
27. 2022: Publish new Biodiversity Strategy 2030
28. 2022: Publish the NI Peatland Strategy and Implementation Plan
29. 2030: NI Nature Positive
30. 2030: 30% of our land & seas protected for nature (Convention on Biological Diversity '30 by 30')
31. 2030: Plant an additional 9,000ha of new woodland habitat
32. 2030: DAERA will develop specific measures to protect and enhance relevant carbon sequestration and storage habitats
33. 2040: All semi-natural peatlands conserved or restored to healthy, functioning ecosystems
34. 2050: NI living in harmony with nature

Natural Capital

35. 2022: Develop and publish an initial Natural Capital Asset Register for NI
36. Application of Natural Capital accounting framework across public sector development and action plans and integrate biodiversity values into all decision-making processes at all levels

¹ 112,000+ hectares

Agriculture

37. A new Agricultural Policy Framework Portfolio that will contribute to key environmental outcomes

Productive & Sustainably Used Seas

38. 2022: Adopt the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland
39. Publish comprehensive baseline of marine Natural Capital

Producer Responsibility

40. 2028: Increase recycling of drinks containers to 90%
41. 2030: Increase recycling of packaging to 78%

Carrier Bags

42. Carrier Bag charge increased to 25p and scope widened to carrier bags priced at £5 or less.

Chemicals

43. 2022: Publish Chemicals Strategy
44. 2025: Eliminate the use of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Environmental Regulation: Permitting

45. A new environmental permitting regime that will provide higher levels of protection for the environment

Antimicrobial & Disinfectant Contamination

46. 2025: Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance: Publish next 5 Year Action Plan

Circular Economy & Waste

47. 2022: Publish Circular Economy Strategic Framework (CESF)
48. 2023: Publish new Waste Management Strategy
49. 2035: Send no more than 10% of waste to landfill

Climate Change

50. 2022: Achieve legislative passage of a NI Climate Change Bill to deliver on NDNA commitments
51. 2050: NI's fair contribution to UK-wide 'net zero' target