

## NICCIP News



### NICCIP activities

NICCIP facilitated the recent Cross-Departmental Adaptation Workshop in Hillsborough on 29<sup>th</sup> September, which aimed to introduce adaptation through the presentation of key climate projections, anticipated threats and opportunities and through group exercises, with the workshop forming an introduction to a planned approach to adaptation.

NICCIP has received increased interest, with a large number of email enquiries, over the past months, and it is hoped that the partnership will evolve to a full adaptation support service in the coming financial year. Meanwhile, the partnership is currently writing Guidance documents to introduce climate change adaptation to both public and private sectors, which will be available in February 2012.



### Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Programme update

Work is near complete on the various UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) reports, including the Northern Ireland CCRA. The UK CCRA reports have been extensively peer-reviewed by technical experts, across a range of selected stakeholders, as well as across Government Departments and the Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC). The latest technical peer review, chaired

by Martin Parry of the ASC stated that the CCRA was an "...advance on previous UK...assessments...very substantial and robust assessment...very major effort to advance our understanding of the risks of climate change".

The CCRA must be laid before Parliament by 26 January 2012. It is the first stage in a three stage process – summer next year will see the publication of an economic analysis of policy options for dealing with some of the main climate change risks and then in late 2012/early 2013, in line with our obligations under the UK Climate Change Act 2008, there is a requirement for the relevant Northern Ireland Departments to lay programmes before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Cross Departmental Working Group on Climate Change was established by the Executive in February 2011, its terms of reference included the preparation and delivery of a cross-departmental adaptation programme on climate change. An Adaptation Sub-Group was formed which will take forward and develop the Northern Ireland adaptation programme.

DOE along with NICCIP intend to launch the findings of the UK and Northern Ireland CCRA at a conference on Thursday 16th February 2012 in Greenmount College, Antrim. More details on the programme of the conference will be available nearer the event.

## Other Northern Ireland Climate Change News

### CCC Report on the Appropriateness of a NI Climate Change Act

The UK independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC) was asked by Northern Ireland's Environment Minister to provide advice on whether it is appropriate for Northern Ireland to enact its own climate change legislation, including the introduction of legally binding emissions targets. The 2008 UK Climate Change Act extends to Northern Ireland but does not specify particular targets or budgets for Northern Ireland. The Committee published its advice on 2nd November 2011.



The analysis in the report shows that there is scope to reduce emissions across sectors by up to 25% from today's levels in 2020 (i.e. a level consistent with the path to longer term required reductions). Whether or not legislation is

passed, it is crucial that the Northern Ireland Executive now puts in place a set of policies and incentives to unlock potential from: agriculture, road transport, homes, public sector and power.

Read the report in full [here](#)

#### Minister Alex Attwood's response to CCC advice

"I welcome the Committee on Climate Change Report stating that legislative targets could assist Northern Ireland deliver more ambitious greenhouse gas emissions. I believe that the North of Ireland is well placed to push itself further to achieve higher levels of reduction in emissions.... My view is that we should have statutory climate change targets and that the targets should be rigorous and challenging. I believe that this can contribute to our economic recovery by supporting the transformation to a low carbon green economy, encouraging innovation while at the same time providing greater certainty for business and thereby assisting with job creation".

Alex Attwood will soon host an event to enable the Climate Change Committee to explain the findings of its report.

#### Ulster Farmers Union (UFU) response

UFU President John Thompson said; "The report has recommended that specific legislation, with set targets, be created for Northern Ireland. However, the Union is completely opposed to this. The UFU has always stated that effective legislation cannot be brought in without accurate evidence on agriculture greenhouse gas emissions, which does not exist at present. This means that no accurate baseline for emissions targets could be set and any target set would be arbitrary. However, the report did recognise this to some extent stating there are scientific uncertainties around agriculture emissions ... The Union believes that a voluntary scheme would be more effective rather than adding yet another layer of legislation. There is already enough red tape in farming and we have seen that voluntary schemes can work well in the agriculture industry.

"However, the Union does recognise that climate change is an issue that needs to be tackled which is why we have been involved, for some time, with a stakeholder working group which has been working to develop an Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Reduction Framework for Northern Ireland. This initiative, being lead by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and supported by the wider agri-food industry, aims to improve the environmental efficiency of agriculture and tackle greenhouse gas emission with the anticipated launch before the end of 2011. Therefore making any proposed legislation redundant".

#### Latest Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory figures published for 1990-2009

The latest emission figures published in the Devolved Administrations Greenhouse Gas Inventories, 1990 – 2009, estimates the 2009 Northern Ireland emissions at 19,508 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This represents a reduction of just over 20% since the base year with over one third of the reduction being achieved in the latest inventory year. The Programme for Government sets a target of a reduction of 25% in greenhouse gas source emissions by 2025 from the base year.



#### UK National Ecosystem Assessment Northern Ireland report launched

The Northern Ireland Report of UK National Ecosystem Assessment is now available to download from the [Northern Ireland Environment Link website](#).



The report led by Professor Sue Christie of Northern Ireland Environment Link and involving over 70 scientists, is part of a UK-wide analysis of the services nature provides. These 'ecosystem services' include food, clean water, productive soils and a sense of cultural identity as well as the resilience to deal with coming changes such as shifting consumer demands for local food, the need for more renewable energy, increasing tourism and the local impacts of global climate change and economic challenges.

#### NI Coastal Zone: Indicators of sustainable development statistical report published

The first 'Northern Ireland Coastal Zone – Indicators of Sustainable Development' report has been published, and will be updated in the future to assist in the evaluation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006-2026.

Seven goals for coastal sustainability have been identified to measure progress in the development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management, covering 30 indicators. The indicators relate to data covering the period 1997 to 2007 and provide trends over time. The report can be downloaded [here](#).





### **2009 Public Perceptions of Climate Change Survey report now available online.**

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency ran a module on public perceptions to climate change in the January 2009 Northern Ireland Omnibus survey. This report summarises people's attitudes towards climate change in Northern Ireland. It covers the following issues:

- Public opinion on the causes of climate change
- Concerns about climate change
- Climate change and lifestyle
- Combating climate change

The survey report is now available online [here](#).

A repeat survey is planned for early 2012, to be published mid 2012.



### **NI Renewables Obligation Consultation**

Energy Minister, Arlene Foster recently announced the launch of a public consultation on proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO).

The NIRO supports the development of renewable electricity by encouraging suppliers to provide evidence that a specified proportion of their electricity has been generated

from environmentally-friendly renewable sources.

When banding of ROC levels was introduced in the Renewables Obligation Order (NI) 2009, it included a requirement to review banding levels every four years. This review has been carried out by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in co-operation with the Devolved Administrations.

As part of a UK-wide review, this consultation seeks views on a number of proposals to amend the levels of Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) to new generating stations from 1 April 2013.

Commenting on the consultation Arlene Foster said "The Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation has proved very successful in increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources. The UK-wide review of banding levels is important as we need to take account of any changes to technology costs, while also delivering value for money for consumers."

The consultation documents are available [here](#).



### **Defining Fuel Poverty- University of Ulster report**

Measures to tackle fuel poverty in Northern Ireland over the past decade have been effective but much more needs to be done: 'Defining Fuel Poverty: A Preliminary

Review', which was commissioned by the Department of Social Development, was launched at the Stormont Hotel by the DSD Minister Nelson McCausland.

The Review has concluded that applying a revised calculation based on total energy costs, a core of 13% of householders in Northern Ireland are in fuel poverty.

Minister McCausland said: "This 13%, around 75,000 households, are in severe fuel poverty by national standards.

"My Department (DSD) contributes significantly to reducing fuel poverty through improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock. In addition, we provide funding for the Warm Homes Scheme and have just launched a pilot boiler replacement scheme targeting those in greatest need".

Professor Christine Liddell, lead author of the review, commented: "While efforts to tackle fuel poverty in Northern Ireland have made measurable inroads, the severity of fuel poverty remains profound for many households. The Review highlights the need for a local approach to tackling fuel poverty which focuses on Northern Ireland's unique fuel poverty landscape. "



**Higher NI recycling targets**

Northern Ireland's Environment Minister Alex Attwood has revealed plans to set more challenging recycling targets for the province following the release of provisional data that shows the country has hit record recycling levels.

According to the Northern Ireland Municipal Waste Management Statistics for April - June 2011, the 41.5% figure for recycling and composting equates to an increase of almost two percentage points compared to the first quarter household recycling/composting rate achieved last year.

In welcoming the news, Attwood said: "It is heartening to see that recycling and composting rates are rising. This good news should be an impetus for more challenging targets. I plan to set them. I want this part of these islands to lead the way on emission and recycling targets. I hope to make announcements soon."



**Ready for Winter- leaflets published by NI Water and Roads Service**

For the first time Roads Service has distributed winter service advice leaflets to households and premises across Northern Ireland. The leaflet provides advice on dealing with snowy and icy conditions.



NI Water's winter preparations have also involved a heavy advertising campaign that provides essential and simple to follow advice to households, schools, businesses, farms and work premises on insulating and lagging pipes and general precautions in preparation for winter weather. The campaign has been rolled out using television, radio and print media, including a leaflet drop to every property in Northern Ireland.

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**Ensuring "Green skills" courses are available to make most of Low Carbon Economy opportunities**



Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, recently visited the award-winning South Eastern Regional College (SERC) Environmental Skills Centre in Newtownards.

The Centre's primary aim is to help businesses exploit 'Low Carbon Economy' opportunities and act as a hub for sustainable development and renewable technology. The centre

pioneers skills development in the green economy for businesses in Northern Ireland and beyond

The Minister said: "Further Education colleges play a crucial role in delivering skills which are fundamental to the success of every industry, whether it is mature or emerging. The cutting-edge skills developed here provide a huge boost to both the local community and economy, whilst also helping to drive the sustainable energy and renewable technology agenda forward. This centre is part of my Department's goal to ensure that the local workforce and economy has access to the highest standards of education.



**Training for Employment scheme with the Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland (CVNI)**

A new "Training for Employment" initiative has been launched to supplement the programme of volunteering by CVNI, supported by the Department for Employment and the European Social Fund, that has helped participants move into employment, further education and training. The skills gained by CVNI volunteers not only enhance their employability but promote active citizenship which is massively beneficial for the environment.

Training for Employment will supplement the programme of volunteering by CVNI, through which it currently supports 21,000 volunteers across Northern Ireland and contributed 34,000 work days on 400 sites to improve the environment for biodiversity across local communities.



**Launch of Ecar brand and electric vehicles website**

The Ecar project was officially launched in October. The project will see charging points installed in six towns and cities across Northern Ireland as well as near some of our major road. More information is available on the [Ecar](#) website.

## UK Climate Change News



### **CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Performance League Table published**

The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (formerly known as the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme) recently published its performance league table, which rates large organisations across the UK on how well they have reduced their carbon emissions. The league table is available [here](#).



### **Pluvial flooding risk report published**

A new study for Joseph Rowntree Foundation explored the increasing risk posed by pluvial flooding – the type of flooding most likely to increase in severity as a result of climate change. These kinds of flood are the most difficult to manage because they are hard to predict. The study assesses how many people in urban areas are at risk from pluvial flooding. It also examines the vulnerable social groups who are most exposed to this risk.

Key findings include:

- Approximately 2 million people in UK urban areas are exposed to an annual pluvial flood risk of 0.5 per cent or greater;
- An additional 1.2 million people in urban areas could be put at risk by 2050 due to a combination of climate change and population growth;
- From a social justice perspective, it is important to know the characteristics of the population at risk, not just the number of properties in an affected area, and;
- An interdisciplinary approach incorporating engineering, natural sciences and social sciences is required to better understand social vulnerability to flood risk.

The report is available [here](#).

### **New look UKCIP website**

UKCIP has updated its look to reflect changes to the organisation, name and funding. The end of the UKCIP contract with Defra on 30 September saw the start of a new stage of work for UKCIP. All UKCIP's existing tools and resources will continue to be available online, for free. In a further change, UKCIP will no longer be called the UK Climate Impacts Programme, but will simply be known by the acronym, UKCIP (pronounced you-kay-sip). The new look website is available [here](#).

### **UKCIP launch speed BACLAIIT tool:**

UKCIP has launched an additional resource to its popular BACLAIIT tool. Speed BACLAIIT is a simplified version that can be used as a first iteration for those who are not able to commit the resource required for setting up and delivering a workshop (or series of workshops) in the first instance. The tool will help business people carry out a relatively quick desk-based adaptation scoping exercise. Speed BACLAIIT is now available on the [BACLAIIT web pages](#) alongside the established workshop resources.

Latest [Climate Digest](#) of climate-related research is available on the [UKCIP website](#)



### **Time to reconsider UK energy and fuel poverty policies**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation released two papers in October addressing the question of whether UK energy and fuel poverty policy contribute towards a

socially just transition to a low carbon society. While the transition to a low carbon society will have obvious environmental benefits, concerns remain over whether it can co-exist with a socially just approach that seeks to protect low-income consumers from higher energy bills, and whether existing fuel poverty policies are working. Summaries of the two reports are available [here](#) and [here](#).



**English Local Authorities are “opting out” of climate change efforts**

Two-thirds of the UK’s local authorities are scaling back or entirely dropping action on climate change, according to research by the think tank Green Alliance. The latest [Green Alliance report](#) poses the question “Is Localism delivering for climate change?” regarding whether local government are currently taking adequate action to tackle climate change, and investigating the cause of the disparities between action levels across the UK. Key conclusions are that Localism does offer opportunities to strengthen local action on climate change, but the lack of shared responsibility for climate change is of real concern. Local authorities can and must have the freedom to decide individually how to respond, but they cannot be allowed to opt out in the way we see at present.



**UK households cutting back on energy saving**

The key conclusion of a new survey by ICM Research for the independent energy saving body the Energy Saving Trust was that nearly half of UK householders would prefer to bank money saved on greening their homes, rather than reinvesting in further energy savings measures as the cost of living rises. The study predicts that the UK will miss its 2020 target of a 34% reduction in domestic appliance electricity carbon emissions from 1990 levels by up to seven million tonnes unless attitudes to energy consumption in the home is tackled.



**Commission on Climate Change Report on Shipping Emissions**

The latest [CCC report](#) sets out analysis on what the UK’s share of international shipping emissions could be out to 2050.

Key findings of the report were that:

- There is a great deal of uncertainty around what the appropriate UK figure for international shipping emission due to the lack of data that is currently available and the extent of transshipment (i.e. docking of ships at ports on route to the UK).
- Current emissions are likely to be in the range of 12 – 16 MtCO2 but could be higher.
- The UK’s share of international shipping could account for up to 11% of total emissions permitted under the Climate Change Act by 2050 (i.e. 18MtCO2 of total 160MtCO2)



**Unlocking social norms that prevent environmentally-friendly behaviour**

A recent [Sustainable Practices Research Group report](#), commissioned by the Scottish Government, has unravelled some of ways in which behaviour could be changed to promote sustainability, which is key to climate change mitigation and management. The report’s lead author, Professor Dale Southerton, commented that “...trying to change individuals’ behaviour by changing their attitudes alone has limited value... In reality, ‘good’ environmental behaviour is often impractical because of how society works, so the focus needs to be on addressing the way that practices are organised at a societal level.”

**MAYOR OF LONDON London’s climate change adaptation strategy launched**

The Mayor of London formally launched London’s climate change adaptation strategy: “[Managing risks and increasing resilience](#)”. The strategy looks at who and what is vulnerable to extreme weather today, considers how climate change will affect the existing climate risks, or create new risks or opportunities in the future and provides a framework for action.



**Community energy action**

In October, Grassroots Innovations, an organisation that researches innovative approaches to sustainable development pioneered by community activists, published two briefings on community energy future scenarios, and intermediary perspectives, now available [online](#).



## Carbon Trust launches service to help businesses cut energy bills

The Carbon Trust has launched a business to assist UK companies to reduce energy costs and encourage them to install greener, more efficient technology.

CTIS is able to offer the service because it is being paid a flat rate commission from suppliers. The Carbon Trust, which accredits suppliers for its energy efficiency loans, hopes this certification and its reputation for independence, will make its new service attractive to cash-strapped businesses.

Carbon Trust chief executive, Tom Daley, said "The new business will help unlock £8 billion of investment into energy efficient equipment. We are confident our new business will catalyse organisations to take action and in turn benefit from implementing cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and help the UK capitalise on green growth."

Find out more at <http://goo.gl/8fNJw>

## International Climate Change News



### Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature

The [Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature](#) (BEST) project is an effort to resolve criticism of the current records of the Earth's surface temperatures by preparing an open database and analysis of these temperatures and temperature trends, to be available online, with all calculations, methods and results also to be freely available online.

The team's preliminary findings, data sets and programs were made published in October 2011. The study addressed scientific concerns raised by skeptics including urban heat island effect, poor station quality, and the risk of data selection bias. The Berkeley Earth group concluded that the warming trend is real, that over the past 50 years the land surface warmed by 0.911 °C, and their results mirrors those obtained from earlier studies carried out by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Hadley Centre and NASA's GISS Surface Temperature Analysis.



### Climate Change human migration warning

The government-commissioned [Migration and Global Environmental Change Foresight Report](#) warns of potential humanitarian disasters because of climate change. The report is the most detailed study carried out on the effect of flooding, drought and rising sea levels on human migration patterns over the next 50 years.

It says the cost of acting now would be much less than the cost of the conflicts and huge loss of life that would otherwise ensue. The report emphasised that governments and aid agencies should help the world's poorest to move away from areas likely to be hit by flooding and drought.



### New Oceans Climate Reports

Two new reports are available for download from the ICES website: the annual [ICES Report on Ocean Climate](#) and the [ICES Status report on Climate Change](#) in the North Atlantic.



### emBRACE project case studies available

The EU emBRACE project aims to build resilience to disasters amongst communities in Europe. The project are recently made a number of case studies available through their [website](#), two of which address flooding and one regarding heat-waves.

### News In Brief....

A draft [IPCC report](#), leaked to the news media, proposes that climate change will lead to more extreme events, at significant cost.

The Adaptation Sub-Committee will launch its next report – *How well is Scotland preparing for climate change* on 24th November at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Places are limited, but anyone interested in attending should contact [events@theccc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:events@theccc.gsi.gov.uk).

Health and security experts, hosted by the [British Medical Journal](#), met in London last month to discuss climate change, health and security issues. Further information can also be found on the [BBC website](#).

## Opportunities

### AquaFund grants



ADSM, a leading utility management company, have a £700m grant fund designed to enable organisations to make financial and water savings. The scheme was derived from HM Treasury's award-winning Invest to Save Budget and is predicted to reduce UK water spend by millions per annum. Details of the fund and how to apply are available [here](#).

### Northern Ireland Impact 2012 awards

Impact 2012 awards will be given to people up to the age of 25 who make a positive impact on sustainability and the environment. Project applications can be made under a range of categories, including environment, innovation, rural sustainability, leadership, awareness raising, community safety and others.

Full details on how to apply are available on the NI Direct website <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/impact-2012>.

## Future Events

### Sustainability and environmental policy forum event: 29 November 2011, NICVA, Belfast

In the first of a series of events, NICVA's sustainability and environmental policy forum will explore the issues around renewable energy and fuel poverty. Speakers on the day will include Professor Christine Liddell from the University of Ulster and Andy McCrea, Chair of the Northern Ireland Environment Link. The event will be chaired by Professor Sue Christie, Chair of the Sustainability and Environmental Policy Forum and Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Environment Link. Power NI and Bryson Energy have also been invited to deliver presentations on new ideas of working and examples of best practice.

The series of seminars focusing on the issues of renewable commodities, such as energy, food, water and transportation, will help voluntary and community organisations not directly involved in the environmental sector to recognise the connections between the environment and affordable energy and food, sustainable transport and physical wellbeing and mental health.

The event will run from 9.30am to 12.00 noon at NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB.

For further details on this event or to book a place, please go to the [NICVA website](#). For more information on any of NICVA's policy fora contact Patricia Stewart at [patricia.stewart@nicva.org](mailto:patricia.stewart@nicva.org) or call 028 9087 7777.

### **Climate Conversations Event: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012, W5, Belfast**

Climate Conversations has been developed by W5 and the British Council to build upon experiences from previous collaborative climate change programmes. The 'Climate Conversations' event on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2012 aims to inspire pupils to think long term and take action on climate change locally and globally while embedding the values of sustainable development into their lives.

The unique event will link schools through video conference and will begin with speakers from Republic of Ireland, Ghana and Northern Ireland who will highlight the issues surrounding sustainable development, climate change and food in their own country. Students from all three countries will then be able to ask questions, discuss and debate thereby gaining valuable first hand information and knowledge.

This project space will provide teachers with pre and post event resources for use in the classroom. The forum will enable you to communicate, network, share materials and develop links. Year Schools will also register with the British Council's international web community, [Schools Online](#) - where teachers will be able to communicate, network, share materials and develop links.

Audience: Teachers/ 'A' Level / Transition

To book a place, call W5 on: 028 9046 7790 or 7793, Fax: 028 9046 7707, or e-mail: [bookings@w5online.co.uk](mailto:bookings@w5online.co.uk)

### **Adaptation Northern Ireland Conference: 16<sup>th</sup> February, Greenmount College, Antrim**

DOE and NICCIP will host a one-day conference for the Public Sector to present the findings of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment. Further details will follow shortly.

### **"Practical On-farm Renewable Energy" event: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, CAFRE**

DARD has again joined forces with the UFU, and AFBI to provide practical information for farmers and the rural sector about the various renewable energy options available for their businesses. As a result of feedback from attendees last year, a follow-up event will also be held at CAFRE's Enniskillen Campus on 22 February 2012.

There will be a series of seminars throughout the day on each of the main renewable energy technologies; wind power, biomass production and utilisation, anaerobic digestion, solar hot water, micro-hydro and heat pumps. A second series of seminars will deal with many of issues facing those considering installing a green energy source. Topics covered will include the proposed Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), grid connection, planning, NI Renewable Obligation Certificates (NIROC's), marketing NIROC's as well as finance and funding options.

For further information please contact CAFRE's Enniskillen Campus on 028 66344853

### **Sustainabilitylive! Event: 22-24 May 2012, Birmingham NEC**

Sustainabilitylive! is the UK's leading sustainability event for the environmental, water, land, energy and sustainable business sectors.

With around 400 exhibitors, Sustainabilitylive! is made up of five well established events covering the whole of the environmental sectors. They are the Brownfield Expo (BEX), Environmental Technology (ET), the International Water and Effluent Exhibition (IWEX), the National Energy Management Exhibition (NEMEX) and Sustainable Business – The Event (SB – The Event).

For up to date exhibitor news, feature programme, information on how to exhibit and more visit

[www.sustainabilitylive.com](http://www.sustainabilitylive.com) or call +44 (0)20 8651 7106.

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